

# Beyond the Farm Gate

## Rural Development Funding and the Scottish Voluntary Sector

May 2008



### SRDP Briefing 2: Helping rural communities to access funding

The Scottish Government has contracted with the Crofters Commission and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) to provide a technical support service for rural community organisations to help them access funding from a range of sources including the new Scotland Rural Development Programme (SRDP).

The Crofters Commission previously ran the Crofting Community Development Scheme, and will build on that scheme's success in the Crofting Counties, covering almost all of the Highlands & Islands. SCVO will deliver the service in the rest of Scotland.

Rural Communities already have access to advice from their local Councils for Voluntary Service, local authorities and a range of other sources including the SCVO-run Rural Gateway. But with recent changes, the funding landscape has become both more complicated and richer with opportunities for community groups. For this reason, the service (whose name is still to be finalised) has been funded to complement and add value to existing sources of information and support and to help rural community groups identify and make the most of funding opportunities.

Scotland is divided into eleven SRDP areas (see map) and SCVO will have responsibility for providing this service in seven of these:

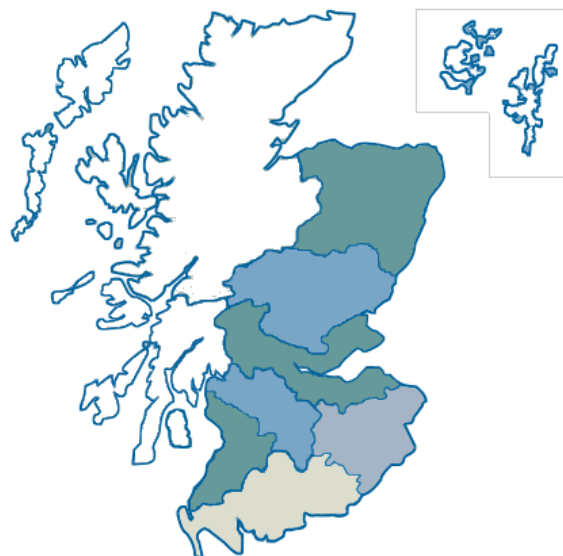
- Grampian & Moray
- Ayrshire
- Forth
- Clyde Valley
- Tayside
- Dumfries & Galloway
- Borders

They will also have responsibility for a small part of Highland. SCVO project staff will work closely with LEADER LAG staff and RPAC Case Officers and liaise with local CVSs to promote the service and highlight funding opportunities through events, roadshows and briefings. They will provide support in person, by phone and by email for groups who request help in identifying appropriate funding, developing applications and building local development strategies. For applicants to the SRDP Rural Priorities scheme, they can assist with the early stages of getting a Business Reference Number, and also with the online application process.

The service will be launched in early summer, but staff are already working on the development of resources, contacts and schedules to ensure it hits the ground running. More detailed information will follow this initial short briefing, but please feel free to get in touch if you want to find out more or let us know of any events or issues we should be aware of.

Overall management responsibility for the service will lie with Norman MacAskill, SCVO's Head of Rural Policy, ([norman.macaskill@scvo.org.uk](mailto:norman.macaskill@scvo.org.uk)) and the service will initially be developed and run by the following members of SCVO staff, working out of SCVO's Inverness and Glasgow offices:

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The 11 SRDP Regions: Unshaded areas will be covered by the Crofters Commission, shaded ones by SCVO