

Subject Area: EU Programmes

Clients: Aberdeenshire Council and North Lanarkshire Council

Study: Preparation of Local Development Strategies and Business Plans

Date: March 2014 – ongoing

Description: EKOS is currently supporting two Local Authorities in Scotland to work alongside their Local Action Group's to develop a Local Development Strategy (LDS) and Business Plan for 2014 to 2020. The LDS and Business Plan will be used to access European Union funding from the new 2014/2020 Programming period (e.g. European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, European Maritime and Fisheries Funds).

For Aberdeenshire Council, we are preparing an integrated strategy for North Aberdeenshire that focusses on the priorities for both rural and fisheries areas, including larger settlements. For North Lanarkshire Council, The Kelvin Valley and Falkirk LEADER initiative is based on a newly designated geography that encompasses parts of rural North Lanarkshire, East Dunbartonshire, and Falkirk Local Authority areas.

To date, the studies have involved detailed socio-economic analysis, strategy and policy reviews, and community and stakeholder engagement. The focus of the engagement process was to undertake a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) analysis for each area and to seek views on priorities and potential project ideas.

Outputs: A first draft of the LDS' for 2014/2020 have been submitted to the Scottish Government for review.
