

Coast to Capital Board Meeting No. 31 22 September 2016	Ref No. 31.12
Report Title: Rural Economy Committee Progress Report	
Report by: Lindsey Simpson	
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Recommendation

The Board is asked to **note** the contents of this paper

Background

1. The Rural Economy Committee aims to provide increased focus on the economic development of Coast to Capital's extensive rural area and to identify the opportunities for expansion in the rural economy. Given the size and nature of the rural economy, this will be essential, if we are to meet our aims for increased growth in productivity and jobs. As well as comprising the majority of the land, the rural area contains over a fifth of the businesses and 15% of residents in Coast to Capital. It is responsible for 27% of Coast to Capital's output.
2. The Rural Economy Committee meets quarterly and has twenty members, drawn from a wide range of organisations including businesses. Representatives from the Environment Agency and Natural England provide expert input on technical areas such as climate change.

Rural Economy Committee: progress

3. Following the successful launch of the Coast to Capital Rural Statement in July 2016, work has now begun on the action plan to deliver the priorities under the three areas of:
 - The rural economy
 - Rural people and communities
 - Rural environment and sustainable development.
4. The draft action plan will be presented to the next meeting of the Rural Economy Committee in October. Some revision of the priorities may be required to take account of recent developments such as the results of the EU Referendum and its impact on rural policy as well as the expected announcement on airport expansion.

Summary of priorities

