

Tourism strategy aims to boost overnight visitor spend to £510m

A strategy aimed at making Aberdeen City and Shire a sustainable tourism destination, whilst enhancing the region's outstanding assets, was launched at Cruden Bay Golf Course recently.

The Aberdeen City and Shire Tourism Partnership, which is made up of representatives from the tourism industry, both local authorities, VisitScotland and other stakeholders, have fed into this regional strategy, which is about driving growth and maximising the contribution Aberdeen City and Shire can make to delivering the new national strategy 'Tourism Scotland 2020.'

Tourism is one of Scotland's most important sectors and is a priority for Aberdeen City and Shire Economic Futures (ACSEF), worth an estimated £340 million to the region every year.

In addition to this, the day trip market is estimated at over £300 million annually. The strategy draws out an aim to grow the overnight visitor spend to at least £440-£510 million by 2020, generating an additional £100-£170 million for the area.

Markets that offer the greatest potential to grow are targeted in the document and include: golf, nature, heritage and activities; business tourism and events and festivals/culture/arts.

Amongst items highlighted at the launch was the new Aberdeenshire Coastal Path, which will extend from St Cyrus in the south of Aberdeenshire to Logie Head, just east of Cullen - a distance of 146km/91 miles. The route comprises cliff-top path, beach and road/track sections and links around 30 settlements.



Provosts of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, Cllr Jill Webster and Cllr George Adam, pictured at the launch of the tourism strategy.

Copies of the strategy can be downloaded from the Aberdeenshire Council website at http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/support/publications/atp_strategy.pdf

Grampian Food Forum Innovation Award Winners 2013 announced

The richness and diversity of the north-east larder was celebrated at the Grampian Food Forum Innovation Awards recently.

During the day, over 60 entries from 23 food and drink companies were sampled and assessed by the judging panel which was made up of Lorna Murray, Local Food Sourcing and Technical Manager for Asda and Simon Cousins, series producer of BBC Scotland's Landward.

Full story and list of winners on p5.



From left to right, judges Peter Bruce, Simon Cousins and Lorna Murray.

Welcome to Network



While the cold weather has kept spring weather at bay, the activities across Aberdeenshire to support and promote economic development have continued apace.

In May, we held our first Rural Summit in the beautiful setting of Haddo House. We had a fantastic line up of prominent speakers presenting on the theme 'Aberdeenshire's Future Harvest from Land and Sea' and it was clear that the area has great future prospects to grow and diversify its rural economy.

Also in May, we launched the exciting placemaking project where we will work to build pride across Aberdeenshire using our creative industries as the catalyst. We cannot underestimate how important it is for Aberdeenshire to market and place itself on the global stage and we can only do this successfully if everyone who lives and works here is an ambassador for the area too.

I am asked regularly about how the council can help to improve the broadband speed in Aberdeenshire. While it takes time, we are working in partnership with the Scottish Government to fund improvements to our rural areas and to find innovative ways to ensure remote communities are not left high and digitally dry.

A recently published survey of tourist views about Aberdeenshire indicated that while over 60% of visitors had booked their stay in Aberdeenshire online, almost 40% were dissatisfied at the availability of a broadband or wi-fi service in the area when they arrived. From both a social and economic perspective, we must improve everyone's ability to access the internet.

Finally, I hope you find time to experience one of the many festivals and events taking place over the summer. We often forget about the amount of effort, commitment and volunteer time that goes into organising these occasions – so thanks to all those helping to make Aberdeenshire a great place to be this summer.

Belinda Miller, Head of Economic Development for Aberdeenshire Council

Film set to showcase north-east fishing heritage

A short film based in a Banffshire fishing village at the turn of the 20th century is the latest project to benefit from the Aberdeenshire European Fisheries Fund (AEFF).

Whistle My Lad, written by Julian Nicholson and directed by Richard Burke, is set in a small, isolated fishing village in 1911 and tells the story of a romance between a young fisher-girl and boy and their bid to escape the stifling world in which they live.

Shooting on the film, which will focus on the heritage of fishing communities in the north-east, began in April in various locations across Aberdeenshire, including Crovie, Gardenstown and New Aberdour.

The film will be shown at a number of community hubs in the local area post production and be used by partner agencies, including Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership, to promote the coastal area as a highly distinctive and quality spot.

Richard Burke said: "I am delighted to receive financial support from the Aberdeenshire European Fisheries Fund to contribute towards the production of this short film.

"The coastal scenery is an integral part of the film and our international BAFTA award-winning crew look forward to bringing the story to life and highlighting how picturesque the local surroundings are.

"This will be a beautifully filmed, artistic production which will be entered for



Cannes and other film festivals and the team then aim to shoot a full length feature film in 2014."

"Whistle My Lad Ltd would like to thank the AEFF and Aberdeenshire Council for their support.

Ten projects have now successfully applied for a share of the £1.1m AEFF funding, with over £600,000 still to be committed during a further three rounds of funding this year.

Further information on all past projects and forthcoming rounds can be found at www.aeff.co.uk or by contacting AEFF Co-ordinator, Ann Marie Macaskill on (01467) 628278 or by email on annmarie.macaskill@abedeenshire.co.uk

Be part of the Picture

Be Part of the Picture, Aberdeenshire's creative Placemaking programme, has been making its presence visible across Aberdeenshire and beyond, thanks to its eye-catching logo.

Cllr Jim Gifford, Leader of Aberdeenshire Council, features above, handing over a **Be Part of the Picture** tote bag containing Deans of Huntly shortbread and oat biscuit products to Regina Lindsey, Director of Economic Development at Greenspoint District, a large Business Area which is part of the Texas Enterprise Zone Program. Councillor Gifford was part of a successful delegation from Aberdeenshire attending the OTC, the world's largest oil and gas trade event, taking place in Houston, USA.

Be Part of the Picture will run through to 2014, delivering a range of creative engagement projects, exploring and sharing what people value about our area, and promoting information about Aberdeenshire's many achievements.

Residents and visitors have already started posting their photos, fascinating facts and



thoughts about what makes Aberdeenshire such a great place to be on the **Be Part of the Picture** project website and Facebook pages, with the archive of responses looking set to grow over the coming months. Keep an eye on the Gallery section of the website - who knows where that logo will pop up next?

For more information on the programme and how you or your organisation can "be part of the picture" in Aberdeenshire, please visit; www.bepartofthepicture.com connect with the project on Facebook or contact Lorraine Grant, Programme Executive on lorraine.grant@aberdeenshire.gov.uk tel 01224 664873

BP helps drive museum programme

A development programme that ranges from a road safety initiative to energy efficiency measures is underway at the Grampian Transport Museum at Alford, thanks to financial support from BP.

The company has donated £20,000 to help the museum introduce a series of programmes and activities aimed specifically at children and young people.

In addition to the driving initiatives, they include increasing the number of projects at the museum's Young Engineers Club and using the museum's Collections Centre as a venue for skills training workshops and hosting school visits. The museum will also work with Aberdeenshire Council to support the authority's Curriculum for Excellence.

The road safety project will work with a range of partners to develop a road safety facility, including use of its road circuit, which can be used by schools and driving schools.

The ambitious programme of activities being planned by the museum, which opened as an educational charity in 1983, is part of its 2010-2015 development plan which has identified a number of capital and project developments at the 15-acre facility.

The Grampian Transport Museum is considered one of the north-east of Scotland's top 10 visitor attractions and

includes an impressive range of transport exhibits, from travelling chariots of the 1800s, to some of the fastest cars ever made. It runs an extensive programme throughout its opening season and updates its exhibits each year.

Mike Ward, curator at Grampian Transport Museum, said donations from companies such as BP were essential in helping the museum meet its aims and objectives.

"The provision of seed funding from BP has taken us a step closer to achieving our objectives for 2013," he said. "While we are a museum which looks at our past, our focus is also very much on the present and the future and it is important that we continue to attract the next generation of young visitors through our doors.

"That means not only providing a modern facility which they want to visit but one which gives them the chance to experience an exciting and extensive range of activities.

"We really hope other business will now follow BP's lead and come on board to support the museum and to ensure that it remains a first class facility which will not only benefit our young people but will retain its place as an important tourist attraction for our region.

"In particular we will now be looking for business support to help us move ahead with building the new reception area."



Young Engineer: Nicholas Webb (16) works on a miniature Alchin Traction Engine. As a member of the Young Engineers Club he has worked on both full size and miniature steam engines at the museum and now wants to turn his hobby into his career.

Tim Smith, Vice President for Communications and External Affairs for BP, said: "The museum's development plan will not only help to expand the learning opportunities available to young people in the north-east of Scotland, but it will potentially have a positive economic impact through increased visitor numbers to the museum and the area generally."

Diving firm sets sail with tours on the Moray Firth thanks to council support

Dive tours operator, North East Sea Adventures has launched a new service with boat tours of the Moray Firth and has received support from Aberdeenshire Council to enable the project to set sail.

The new service will allow people to spot wildlife such as dolphins and gannets as well as taking in the beauty of the picturesque beaches and caves of the Moray Coast holding hidden stories of pirates and past plunderers.

North East Sea Adventures received assistance through Aberdeenshire Council's Support for Aberdeenshire Business (SAB) scheme to help the company develop marketing materials for the business.

The company also received an interest free plant and equipment loan to purchase the ancillary equipment it required to furnish the boat.

North East Sea Adventures owner, Chris Hollingdale, said: "We have historically offered diving trips and training but quickly realised we could be offering so much more as the Moray Firth is such an amazing part of the world to explore.

"With support from the council we can now provide people with wildlife spotting, adrenaline fuelled tours or serene under water dives for those who want to experience the Moray Firth and all it has to offer.

"We are excited about the launch of this new service and look forward to sharing our passion for the Moray Firth with our visitors."

Chair of Banff and Buchan Area Committee Councillor John Cox said: "It is excellent to see this local business flourish with the help of the Support for Aberdeenshire Business scheme.



"Banff marina is a key tourist destination and to see companies such as North Sea Adventures expand is a key part of the council's economic development strategy."

The Support for Aberdeenshire Business scheme offers loans of up to £25,000 and development grants of up to £15,000 for businesses meeting the eligibility criteria.

For more information, visit www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/support/finance/sab.asp

Provost shows support for key Aberdeenshire industries



Aberdeenshire Provost, Jill Webster, is continuing to get hands-on with the area's key industries, with visits to the Glenshee Ski Centre and Adamston Farm, near Huntly.

Following on from her tour of the Peterhead and Fraserburgh ports to gain an insight into the local fisheries industry, she then turned her attention to winter sports and farming.

Provost Webster spent a day with staff at the Glenshee Ski Centre near Braemar to find out more about what the facility has to offer.

The visit, which took place in March, is part of a major drive by the Provost to promote Aberdeenshire's most vibrant and successful industries on a local and international level.

Covering 2,000 acres, and offering 22 lifts and 36 runs, Glenshee Ski Centre offers the most extensive skiing and snowboarding facilities in the UK.



It is one of two ski centres in Aberdeenshire – the other being The Lecht near Strathdon – and only five in Scotland.

The stunning scenery, 40km of pisted runs and modern facilities attract thousands of skiers and snowboarders from across the country, and further afield, every winter season.

Visitor numbers for this season are on track to be at least 40% higher than the previous year.

The Provost said: "We are extremely lucky to have two great snowsports facilities right on our doorstep in Aberdeenshire. I have been visiting Glenshee for many years and it is great to see how the business has expanded into the impressive facility it is today.

"I am very pleased to have been able to find out more about what it takes to run such a successful centre and manage thousands of skiers and snowboarders who want to take advantage of the incredible landscape to have some fun."



Mr Davidson said: "It is great that the Provost is taking an interest in local industry and it was good to have a chance to meet her and tell her more about the ski centre. I look forward to working with her more in the future."

More recently, the Provost marked the arrival of spring by taking part in lambing at a farm near Huntly.

The Provost assisted farmers at Adamston Farm, Drumblade, in delivering twin lambs.

She also learned more about what was involved in sheep farming and helped to mark the sheep and their lambs ready for their return to the field, trim their hooves to prevent infection and bottle feed a young lamb.

While at the properties, she took the opportunity to ask the farmers what the council could do to provide support to the agricultural industry in Aberdeenshire and heard about the need to encourage more young people into farming.

The Provost said: "The visit was a fantastic opportunity to get a real hands on look at how farming works in Aberdeenshire and how much hard work is involved in such an essential industry.

"After spending time at Adamston Farm I have even more respect for Aberdeenshire's farmers and have seen how important it is to encourage youngsters to join the agricultural trade and keep our farms running.

"The council is keen to support Aberdeenshire's agricultural industry and I will do what I can to take forward the issues we have discussed this week."

To keep up-to-date on the Provost of Aberdeenshire's activities, follow her **Twitter feed: @ProvostAbdnshre**



2013 Grampian Food Forum Innovation Awards

... continued from front page.

Heading up the panel was Peter Bruce, managing director of Entier Limited Aberdeen's premier catering and hospitality company.

Commenting on the high standard of entries seen, Peter said: "It has been a great honour for me to be involved in the Innovation Awards.

It has not been an easy decision for the judges to select the winners as there were so many fabulous products from great companies who demonstrated passion for what they do and what they produce."

Over 200 guests from the food and drink industry attended the awards dinner, which was held at the Marcliffe Hotel and Spa in Aberdeen, to hear the winners announced.

The category winners were presented with their trophies by Colin Henry, Business Development Director, Entier Limited.

The 2013 Grampian Food Forum Innovation award winners

Award winners:

Best New Retail Product Award for businesses with more than 25 employees, sponsored by Grampian Food Forum

First Baxters Food Group - The Audrey Baxter Relish Range
Second Donald Russell Ltd - Fondant Puddings Selection
Third Dean's of Huntly Ltd - Mary Steele Speciality Biscuits

Best New Retail Product Award for businesses with up to 25 employees, sponsored by Grampian Food Forum

First Ola Oils Ltd - Ola Aioli
Second Castleton Farm Shop - Castleton Farm Handmade Jam
Third Berry Scrumptious - Gourmet Berry Fudge
H C Kincardine Kitchen - Kincardine Kitchen Savoury Range

Best new Foodservice Product Award for businesses with more than 25 employees, sponsored by Grampian Food Forum

Winner Mackie's of Scotland - Damson & Oat Dairy Ice Cream

Best new Foodservice Product Award for businesses with up to 25 employees, sponsored by Grampian Food Forum

Winner Mackintosh of Glendaveny Ltd - 500ml Rapeseed Oil Range

Packaging Award, sponsored by Anderson's Packaging (Aberdeen) Ltd

Winner Dean's of Huntly Ltd - Mary Steele Speciality Biscuits

Commitment to Healthy Eating Award, sponsored by The Rowett Institute of Nutrition and Health

Winner Pulsetta by Plenta Foods Ltd - Pulsetta Rolls

Local Independent Retailer of the Year Award, sponsored by SAC Food & Drink and Taste of Grampian

Winner Mitchells

Grampian Food & Drink Entrepreneur 2013 Award, sponsored by Johnston Carmichael

Winner Robert Chapman, Farmlay Eggs

Investing in Skills Development Award sponsored by Skills Development Scotland

Winner Dean's of Huntly Ltd

The Most Successful Product from the 2012 Awards sponsored by SAC Food & Drink and Aberdeenshire Council

Winner Ola Oils Ltd - Ola Chilli Jam

Judges' Choice Award, sponsored by the Marcliffe Hotel and Spa

Winner Cocoa Ooze Limited - Cocoa Ooze Ice Cream



Inverurie Library forms links with local businesses for film club

Inverurie Library has formed partnerships with local businesses in the area, highlighting both the facilities within local libraries and the opportunities for businesses across Aberdeenshire.

Inverurie Library Film Club held its inaugural screening as part of the World of Words Book Festival in September 2012

and now shows films on the first Tuesday of every month, with ice-cream supplied by a local dairy.

The proceeds of ticket sales from the first film club event were donated to Inverurie Events, a charity run by volunteers to promote events in the Inverurie area.

Network librarian Julia McCue said: "We had discussed the idea of having a film club but when the library expanded in 2012 and a large screen was installed into the upper floor of the library, it seemed an ideal opportunity to establish the film club and get the community involved.

"Local businesses have also been a vital link to the success of the World of Words Book Festival and indeed here at Inverurie Library we value the relationship we have with our business neighbours and are thankful for their support."

Inverurie Events was assisted with the World of Words event alongside The Philosophy Café (another collaborative project between the library service and the University of Aberdeen).

Some of the money from the film event and all of the activities during the book festival was donated to the Inverurie Christmas Lights Fund and around £1,200 was raised in total.

Secretary of Inverurie Events, Neil Baillie, said: "Our aim is to promote the town and the library has been a great help with our first Inverurie Book Festival which we hope to run again this year.

"We have also been building a physical 'events diary' which is in Inverurie Library and allows people and organisations to add notes of events happening in the area. The calendar is also available on the 'What's Happening' page of www.inverurie4u.com.



"Our relationship with the library has helped us link projects together for the benefit of the whole town and involve many other businesses. It has been a real benefit and I would say to anyone to contact their library with ideas for an event or activity to see how it can help."

Mitchells Dairy of Inverurie currently supplies the film club at the library with ice-cream on a sale or return basis showing the potential libraries offer for local businesses tapping into new markets.

Partner Judy Whyte, of Mitchells Dairy, said: "I encourage local businesses to work closely and support their local library.

"The library forms an important part of any local community and many such as Inverurie have facilities that businesses can use as well as regular events that you can get involved in too.

"We have found that offering ice cream benefits both the film club and our business as we can provide products to a new market, so it has been great all round.

"The dairy has also worked with the library on an Easter window competition in the town which is another great example of businesses working together to promote the library."

If you are a local business with an idea for an event or wish to discuss how your local library can help your business whether it is supplying books, supporting an event, providing research material or meeting space please contact principal libraries officer Sharon Jamieson on 01651 871210.

Did you know the library service also offers many digital services? For instance your employees might be interested in downloading e-books, audiobooks, music or videos, find out more at: <http://bit.ly/10L8GsZ>

New cycling strategy to lead the way on improving infrastructure in Formartine



A cycling strategy will be the top priority for a new working group looking to pave the way for cyclists across Aberdeenshire.

As a result of community consultation, Formartine Community Planning Group has formed a group to investigate the development of cycling infrastructure across the area.

Ideas currently being discussed include the creation of a cycleway linking the Meadows Sports Centre in Ellon to the town centre, following the River Ythan, while improved bicycle parking and storage is being investigated for Meldrum and Turriff.

The group includes members of the Ythan Cycling Group and other community planning partners such as Formartine Partnership Limited, Aberdeenshire Council environmental planning and transport strategy teams.

The initial aim of the new group is to create a cycling strategy which will guide improved cycling opportunities in Formartine. Ideas are still at a formative stage, but the strategy is expected to outline how the group will source funding for the projects while investigating the feasibility of these ideas and others.

Chair of Aberdeenshire Council's Infrastructure Services, Councillor Peter Argyle, said: "The cycling strategy is an exciting project that demonstrates the importance of consultation with the community.

"People in Formartine have identified that they would benefit from better cycling infrastructure, and the group will now work hard to develop this strategy for the benefit of all."

For more information on the strategy, please contact Formartine Community Planning Officer Mark Mitchell on 01358 726406 or email mark.mitchell@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Aberdeenshire LEADER funding fully committed

Over 140 projects have benefited from a share of £4.72 million of Aberdeenshire LEADER funding since 2008, with almost 100 of those projects now complete.

The LEADER budget is now fully committed, but should further funds become available in 2013, this information will be posted on the Aberdeenshire LEADER website and a call for new applications issued.

Following an evaluation of the current programme, work will commence during 2013 towards the Aberdeenshire LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the next programme which will cover the period 2014-2020.

While the new programme is likely to have a stronger economic focus, the key LEADER principles of local delivery through a bottom up approach to rural development will remain.

Work will begin in the near future to consider priorities for Aberdeenshire's rural and coastal communities that will help to shape the Local Development Strategy.

Meanwhile, current LEADER projects continue to deliver community benefit, such as the innovative transnational co-operation project Yes-Comm-Act led by Team Huntly. This project is undertaking a series of activities relating to cultural heritage, training and confidence building



The Yes-Comm-Act project looks to promote the exchange of cultures.

through exchange and collaboration with three Local Action Groups (LAGs) in Finland and one in Italy.

A group from Team Huntly attended the inaugural event of the co-operation project held at Parkano, Finland, where the Finns experienced for the first time Scottish cultural music and dance. During the visit Team Huntly participants learnt about Finnish music and dance and also timber building construction.

Complimenting the project Vicky Thomson, EU Rural & Fisheries Programmes Team Leader, said: "Co-operation, networking,

exchange of ideas and practices are very much part and parcel of the LEADER approach and much valued by Finnish LAGs.

"The Team Huntly transnational project involves many young people who will experience and learn from the rich heritage of each other's communities. Throughout this process there is great scope for skills development and learning about other cultures."

For more information on the LEADER programme, contact Vicky Thomson, EU Rural & Fisheries Programmes Team Leader, on (01467) 628383 or visit www.aberdeenshireleader.org

Aberdeenshire LEADER Case Study: Boyndie Visitor Centre



An Aberdeenshire social enterprise initiative has been revamped after receiving funding of almost £70,000 from the Aberdeenshire LEADER scheme in 2011.

The Boyndie Trust, a successful charity established in 1999, provides specialised work placement training for unemployed adults, most of whom have special needs.

Duncan Leece, General Manager of The Boyndie Trust Ltd, said: "LEADER funding

has enabled us to develop and deliver major changes at the centre. Firstly we have substantially increased the car park which will enable us to welcome increased number of visitors. We have created a dedicated retail space subdivided into mini shop units, creating a small shopping mall effect.

"In addition we have developed a modern multi-functional training/meeting suite out of under-used workshop areas. Outside we have been able to revitalise our garden centre to provide a modern fresh inviting area. The overall development has been an incredible learning opportunity for students that attend our training programmes.

"These improvements will enable us to take advantage of new business opportunities, increase visitor numbers and spend, and generate more profit

thereby becoming more financially sustainable. It will allow us to update our work placements, matching these to the current needs of the area."

Welcoming the project's success, Alasdair Cunningham, LEADER Projects Officer, said: "It's great to see the project bursting into life. The facilities are so diverse and provide a great visitor experience. The addition of the shopping mall with traditional small shop fronts creates the feel of shopping in a country village!

"When visiting the project it is clear to see by the faces of the students involved that the upgrade to the learning facilities in the state of the art workshops is enhancing their learning experience."

For more information, contact LEADER Project Officer Alasdair Cunningham on (01467) 628262

Evening of fine dining and conversation at latest Food Forum event



Guest speaker for the evening, Edward Murray (left), and head chef at the Holiday Inn Aberdeen West, Robert Blair.

The north-east food and drink industry once again came together to enjoy an evening of fine dining and conversation in Westhill earlier this year, as part of the most recent Grampian Food Forum event.

Members of the Food Forum's Dining Club met at the Holiday Inn Aberdeen West to enjoy a meal of local produce prepared by award-winning chef Robert Blair and his team of chefs at the hotel.

Robert, Grampian Seafood Chef of the Year 2012, served a menu featuring a selection of seafood, including north-east langoustine, while the guest speaker for the evening was Edward Murray who co-owns The Gardener's Cottage with fellow chef Dale Mailley.

Housed in an historic building at the foot of Calton Hill in Edinburgh's World Heritage Site, The Gardener's Cottage is committed to creating and serving excellent food using the best seasonal, local produce, Edward explained.

Elizabeth Mathie, co-ordinator of the Grampian Food Forum, said: "Once again, the Dining Club turned out to be a very enjoyable evening for all involved, with excellent food, a very informative speaker and interesting company."

Guests also heard from Brian Pack, chairman of Taste of Grampian, about some of the developments for the 2013 event, which takes place on Saturday, June 1.

New to the annual food and drink festival this year, will be a Seafood Pavilion to inform visitors about the variety of local and under-utilised seafood, by allowing them to sample and buy produce, as well as learning how best to prepare and cook it.

Further Dining Club events will take place later this year. To receive further information about these or other Grampian Food Forum activity, please contact grampianfoodforum@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

Aberdeenshire Council Economic Development

About Economic Development

Economic Development within Aberdeenshire Council serves and supports local businesses and community initiatives throughout the area, as well as promoting Aberdeenshire and its diverse capabilities in new and existing markets. A team of experienced Business Development Executives and Industry specialists is strategically located in area offices to provide support and information on a wide range of topics including all aspects of business and trade development, financial assistance, European initiatives and marketing. The primary programme for assisting local companies is the flexible Support for Aberdeenshire Business (SAB) scheme. Aberdeenshire Council is also the lead authority for Business Gateway which supports start-up and growing businesses. In addition, Aberdeenshire Council promotes industrial and commercial development through the provision of sites and factories, with units currently available in a number of locations throughout the area. Economic Development services are listed and explained on Aberdeenshire Council's website, www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk

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Produced by Aberdeenshire Council GDT21319 May2013

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