



OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER 2014-2020 PROGRAMME



Note of the **AD-HOC Meeting** of the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group

In Technical Services Conference Room, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Stornoway
with video-conference to Comhairle offices in Castlebay

on Friday 16th June 2017 at 14:00

Present: Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) (Chairperson)
 Ian Fordham, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private) (Vice Chairperson)
 Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private)
 Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
 Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)
 Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
 Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)
 Bill McMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)
 Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
 Sarah MacLean, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)

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In attendance: Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator
 Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative

Apologies/ Absent Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
 Carola Bell, Community Energy Scotland (Private)
 Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)
 Deidre Steele, Storas Uibhist (Private)
 Hector MacLeod, Third Sector Hebrides (Private)
 Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
 Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)
 Murdina Naylor, Tagsa Uibhist (Private)
 Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)
 Michael Smith, Mossend Residents Association (Private)
 Gayle Findlay, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private)

	Action for:
<p>1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the Ad Hoc Meeting and noted apologies as shown above.</p> <p>The Chair explained that this ad hoc meeting was in response to the issue raised at the</p>	



last LAG meeting on the 30th May to discuss the future funding priorities of the programme.

Representation from 2 Public and 8 Private members of the LAG were present. Therefore a quorum was not achieved. As per the Business Plan the LAG were able to continue with the meeting to all discussions to take place and will email the note of the meeting, including the proposals, to all LAG members to enable them to be ratified electronically by email. The LAG agreed that at least 12 members will be required to agree the proposals by email to allow them to be carried.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 15/00009 – Matt Bruce

3. NOTE OF THE LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

The draft note of the last meeting was provided to members for reference however will not be agreed until the next scheduled meeting of the LAG on the 25th July 2017.

4. LAG FUNDING PRIORITIES

At the LAG meeting on 30th May 2017 the LAG were provided with an overview of the financial position of the OH LEADER 2014-2020 Programme. A discussion was held regarding the allocation of the remaining uncommitted LEADER funding and which areas of the Local Development Strategy were currently under-represented. The LAG agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair consider the various options available to disburse the remaining funds and these were to be presented to the LAG for discussion and a decision.

Following their meeting the Chair and Vice Chair proposed that as some of the Outer Hebrides LEADER priorities had been supported the LAG could specifically target the lesser and not yet supported themes by focussing on the following types of projects:

- Sectoral:

- **Renewables**
- **Crofting** – *to ensure the allocation is committed*
- **Tourism** – *projects that can clearly demonstrate they will provide compelling reasons to visit the Outer Hebrides outwith the peak season (i.e. in October to April) and accommodation projects in specific areas where there is a lack of 1 night accommodation for users of the Hebridean Way (areas to be defined by the Hebridean Way project team) and ensuring displacement is taken into consideration.*

- Geographic –

- Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership Identified **Targeted Areas** – North Uist, Benbecula, Stornoway West and Barra – *boundaries to be clearly defined.*

- Target Groups:

- **Young People** (up to 25 years old)
- Women and Older People also to be considered

- Co-operation Projects

- no restrictions to ensure that the minimum requirement of allocated funding is committed

- LAG Commissioned Projects

- in accordance to the LDS's aspirations the LAG can commission projects to support specific themes.
- Funding ring-fenced for the activity, e.g. Youth LAG or activities.

The LAG agreed with the above and added the following:

- As per the LEADER ethos **Innovation** is to be added as a key requirement of applications and given a heavier weighting in criteria.
- The Intervention Rate and the maximum grant amount remains as it is currently.
- A final call for Applications is set with the deadline being 11th October 2017
- All applications submitted must have match funding in place
- The above priority sectors are publicised

Members agreed that whilst projects from the geographic areas stated above are prioritised projects from other areas will also be accepted.

With regards to the Youth LAGs proposals members agreed that a paper is brought to the July LAG meeting to investigate and discuss this further including proposals to ring-fence up to £100k towards the project. This is ever more relevant given that 2018 is the Year of Young People and it was proposed that this funding can be targeted at assisting young people in job creation and reasons to stay or return to the islands.

The LAG agreed that Young People are classed up to the age of 25 years old. However in accordance with other EU funding Young Crofters are classed up to 41 years old.

The two applicants who have already submitted applications (009 and 035) would be allowed to continue their application however if they do not resubmit by the 16th August application deadline then they will have to rework their applications and some activities and costs may become ineligible in accordance to the above priorities (e.g. accommodation). These are the only two applications allowed to come forward in the August round.

It was agreed that EOI 169 will be able to come forward in accordance with the revised priorities.

As per the LAG meeting project 15/P00049 has submitted their application and is the only application permitted to progress for a decision at this time.

<p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Proposals above to be adopted and publicised by the LAG if agreed.</i> • <i>Proposals to be circulated to all LAG members electronically for ratification of the decision by email return responses.</i> • <i>Paper on Youth LAG to be brought to the July LAG Meeting</i> • <i>Proposal of revised criteria weightings to be brought to the July LAG Meeting (e.g. Innovation, geography given a heavier criteria.</i> 	<p>ALL ALL KM KM</p>
<p>5. AOCB</p> <p>The Chair is attending the LEADER and EMFF Chairpersons Meeting on Tuesday 20th June in Stirling and will make colleagues aware of the OH LEADER LAGs current funding and financial status to reiterate the LAGs position of wanting to attract further funding to the area and showing that the LAG does have capacity and demand to commit further funding to projects.</p>	
<p>6. Date of Next Scheduled LAG Meeting</p> <p>Tuesday 25th July at 10am, Committee Room 3, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, with v/c links to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Castlebay</p>	



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