



## OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER 2014-2020 PROGRAMME



**Note of the Meeting of the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group**  
In the Committee Room 3, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Stornoway  
with video-conference to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Barra Comhairle office

**on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 10.00am**

**Present:** Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Chairperson  
Ian Fordham, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private) (Vice Chairperson)  
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)  
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private)  
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)  
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)  
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)  
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)  
Murdina Naylor, Tagsa Uibhist (Private)  
Rachel Mackenzie, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)  
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)  
Cllr. Iain Macaulay, Princes Trust (Private)  
Cllr. Norman Macdonald, Vice Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)  
Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)  
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)

**In attendance:** Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (KM)  
Charlene Macmillan, Outer Hebrides LEADER Finance and Project Officer (CMM)  
Catherine Myles, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project Support Assistant  
Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DMD)  
Pete Middleton, EMFF Officer

**Apologies/  
Absent** Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)  
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)  
Hector MacLeod, Third Sector Hebrides (Private)  
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)  
Helen Sandison, Private  
Michael Smith, Mossend Residents Association (Private)  
Sarah MacLean, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)  
Bill MacMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)

	Action for:
<p><b>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from Alistair MacLennan, Cllr. Donald Crichton, Hector MacLeod, Lorna Macaulay, Helen Sandison, Michael Smith, Sarah MacLean and Bill MacMillan.</p> <p><i>Representation from 5 Public and 10 Private members of the LAG were present.</i></p>	
<p><b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p><u>Item 4:</u> Co-operation Projects - Tighean Innse Gall – Hard to Treat/ Hard to Advise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matt Bruce</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF</b></p> <p>The note of the meetings on 30.05.17, 15.06.17 and 25.07.17 were agreed to be a true and accurate reflection. It was agreed that actions arising from previous minutes had either been completed or would be taken later in the agenda.</p>	
<p><b>4. PROJECTS</b></p> <p><b>a) Decisions to be ratified</b></p> <p>Project 15/P00050: TIG - 'Hard to Treat Hard to Advise' <span style="float: right;">£5000.00</span> Decision: <b>APPROVED</b></p> <p>The TIG cooperation project seeking £500 preparation costs was previously scored by the LAG and the decision to approve was ratified by email. The LAG are awaiting the report from the project which should be submitted in the coming weeks.</p> <p><b>b) Enquiries</b></p> <p>The LAG received a report detailing the Expressions of Interest received to date. Officers are quickly responding to EOI's that are deemed ineligible following the reprioritisation by the LAG of the remaining funding. Officers are actively developing a number of Co-Operation projects and work is underway on the Youth LAG funding available.</p> <p><b>c) Potential Applications to October Funding Round</b></p> <p>The LAG were presented with a detailed list of 13 applications which were like to proceed in line with the deadline on October 11. The LAG were also informed that Project 15/P00032 from Grimsay Community Association which was approved at the meeting on 30 May 2017, had notified LEADER that they were unsuccessful in securing their match funding in time for the deadline on their offer of grant. In line with audit guidelines, the LAG agreed that the offer of grant should therefore be revoked and the funding returned to the LAG for reallocation.</p>	

<p><b>5. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</b></p> <p>Kathlene Morrison presented the Co-Ordinator’s update on activity since the previous meeting on 25 July 2017. Following completion of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar’s Internal Audit the report was presented and no significant issues were highlighted. The report did however raise a concern over non-attendance by LAG members at meetings and it was agreed that a membership review would take place.</p> <p>Domhnall MacDonald provided a brief update on the Accountable Bodies meeting he attended on 21 September.</p> <p>The Chair provided an update following his participation I the Scottish Rural Action conference held in Dunfermline. He also recorded the formal thanks of the LAG to recently departed Development Officer Eilidh Johnson.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEADER Team to circulate attendance record to LAG</li> <li>• LAG agreed to review LAG member attendance and membership</li> </ul>	<p>CM CM</p>
<p><b>6. EMFF AND FLAG UPDATE</b></p> <p>Pete Middleton presented a report updating the LAG on the progress of the EMFF programme to date. 40% of approved funding has been allocated to projects to date. There is a much greater emphasis required from applications to demonstrate the benefit of any proposed project to the local fishing community and Pete explained the application process.</p>	
<p><b>7. FINANCIAL UPDATE</b></p> <p>a) Report to CnES P&amp;R Committee – Over-commitment Request</p> <p>Charlene Macmillan presented a report detailing the project finance position to date. A total of 21 projects equivalent to a commitment of £1.4 million had been supported to date leaving £874, 889.03 remaining to be allocated. Charlene advised that it was too soon to say whether any current projects are likely to underspend and what impact this would have on funds available for allocation. The Chair commended the LEADER team and the LAG on their performance in relation to other LAG areas, stating the positive impact Outer Hebrides LEADER funding has clearly had in relation to leveraging in other funding to the area.</p> <p>The LAG also discussed scoring the projects submitted to the October round and agreed that all LAG members would score each project subject to any conflict of interest restrictions.</p> <p><u>Actions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEADER Team to circulate details of deadlines in advance of projects being sent out for scoring</li> </ul>	<p>KM</p>

<p><b>8. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY REVIEW</b></p> <p>The Chair, Alison MacCorquodale, Duncan MacInnes and Ian Fordham met following the LAG meeting on 25 July to review the Local Development Strategy and a paper was presented to the LAG. It was agreed that the majority of the LDS remained relevant and no significant changes were required. The group agreed however, that owing to the fact the LARCs does not currently allow the LAG to capture all its monitoring and evaluation requirements, a change request would be submitted to Scottish Government to rectify this. A paper was presented to the LAG for noting.</p> <p><b>ACTION – Submit Change Request to the Scottish Government on behalf of the LAG</b></p>	KM
<p><b>9. YOUTH LAG / STRATEGY</b></p> <p>Charlene Macmillan presented a paper to the LAG updating them on the progress in relation to the formation of a Youth LAG. A meeting was held with Erica Clark, CLD, and Roseann MacLeod, Bridge Centre, along with members of the Youth Council to discuss the concept of the Youth LAG and how it could work in practice.</p> <p>The LAG agreed to ring-fence £100 000 for Youth LAG projects with an intervention of 90%.</p> <p><b>ACTION - Charlene and Catherine will continue to develop the strategy and fund on behalf of the LAG and will report back to the next meeting.</b></p>	CMM and CM
<p><b>10. ONLINE PLATFORMS</b></p> <p>The LAG were given a brief demonstration of LARCs, the online system for LEADER applicants. The LAG had the opportunity to see how they can utilise the system in assessing projects.</p> <p>In addition, the LAG viewed the newly launch Outer Hebrides LEADER website. They were show the LAG members log in area where all project appraisal and scoring documents will be shared in future rather than being emailed to individual LAG members.</p>	
<p><b>11. AOCB</b> 2018 Proposed LAG Meeting Dates</p> <p>A schedule of meetings for 2018 was presented to the LAG and the LAG agreed on this. This will now be posted onto the website and meeting requests sent out.</p>	CM
<p><b>12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 @ 10am in the Stornoway Comhairle offices (Committee Room 3) with v/c to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Castlebay.</p>	