



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 20th February 2018 at 10.00am

Present: Ian Fordham, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private) (Vice Chairperson)
Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Chairperson
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
Hector MacLeod, Third Sector Hebrides (Private)
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private)
Murdina Naylor, Tagsa Uibhist (Private)
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
Cllr. Iain Macaulay, Princes Trust (Private)
Sarah MacLean, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)
Bill MacMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)

In attendance: Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (KM)
Catherine Myles, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project Support Assistant (CM)
Ameena Camps, Outer Hebrides LEADER Development Officer, Uist and Barra (AC)
Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DMD)

**Apologies/
Absent** Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
Michael Smith, Mossend Residents Association (Private)
Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)

	<i>Action for:</i>
<p>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from those listed above. A quorum was achieved.</p> <p><i>Representation from 4 Public and 12 Private members of the LAG were present.</i></p>	
<p>2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIRPERSONS</p>	



<p>Neil Campbell chaired this section of the meeting. Ian Fordham was nominated as Chairperson with no one standing against him. He accepted the nomination and was duly elected. Colin Gilmour was nominated as Vice Chairperson and with no one standing against him, he accepted the nomination and was duly elected. A vote of thanks was offered to Colin for his service to the LAG in his preceding two years as Chair.</p> <p>Ian Fordham chaired the meeting from this point on.</p>	
<p>3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>No declarations of interest were noted. All LAG members were asked to submit updated Conflict of Interest forms to Catherine Myles if they have not already done so within the previous 12 months.</p>	<p>LAG</p>
<p>4. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF</p> <p>The minutes of the LAG meetings on 26 September and 28 November 2017 were ratified. There was a note of a change to the recorded Declaration of Interest for Donnie Macdonald on the November minutes. The minutes have been updated accordingly and published to the Outer Hebrides LEADER website.</p> <p>Given that the two previous LAG meetings were inquorate a discussion was had on revising the quorum level and it was agreed that it would be lowered to ten for all future meetings.</p>	
<p>5. PROJECTS</p> <p>a) Expressions of Interest/Enquiries and Pipeline Applications</p> <p>The current list of enquiries and pipeline projects was presented to the LAG. There has been an increase in Expressions of Interest, particularly following the publicity surrounding the Youth LAG fund.</p> <p>b) Project updates and issues</p> <p>A paper was presented with an update on the status of the projects which were approved in November 2017.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects 00035 <i>Grinneabhat Taigh Ceilidh</i> and 00059 <i>Urras Dulchas Shiabost</i> have withdrawn • Project 00054 <i>Gharadhs Growing Spaces</i> requested a deadline extension to 29 March 2018 which the LAG agreed • Project 00057 <i>Winter Season Development</i> requested a deadline extension to 9 March 2018 which the LAG agreed <p>In addition, a written update from Project 00005 <i>Hebrides Dance and Wellbeing Studio</i> was presented outlining some of the delays the project has experienced. Colin Gilmour declared at interest at this point. The LAG agreed that a further update would be required by 31 March 2018 to confirm that the project will make progress and that any additional costs would be matched by the applicant.</p> <p>The LAG discussed the ongoing delays surrounding project 00020 <i>Rosinish Heritage</i></p>	

<p><i>Trail.</i> The LAG agreed that the applicant would be given a deadline of 31 March 2018 to either confirm they could resolve the outstanding issues and proceed or withdraw from the LEADER grant.</p>	
<p>6. YOUTH LAG FUND UPDATE</p> <p>Catherine Myles presented a verbal report on the success of the Youth LAG launch events held across the Outer Hebrides in January. It was noted that a number of EOI's had been received following the launches, with several proceeding to application stage. It was still too early to know how many applications were likely to be received by the 7th March deadline.</p> <p>The LAG agreed to convene a quorate sub-group to ratify the scoring decision of the Youth LAG at a date to be agreed. The following members volunteered for the task: Colin Gilmour, Bill Macmillan, Neil Campbell, Matt Bruce, Andrew Ross and Ian Fordham.</p> <p>Catherine to email confirming a date.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>7. FINANCIAL UPDATE</p> <p>a) Scottish LEADER Programme Info</p> <p>Catherine presented the report detailing the current financial position of the Programme in relation to committed funds and those available for allocation. In addition, a list of pipeline applications for the general round which closed on 14 February and those for the Youth LAG Fund which is closing 7 March were presented. A table outlining estimated project underspend was also presented which is currently estimated an overall underspend of 1.1% which is subject to change as projects complete.</p> <p>Colin Gilmour congratulated the LAG on its performance and a discussion followed on how the Outer Hebrides Programme was utilising LARCs in comparison to other LAG areas.</p> <p>Donnie Macdonald requested information regarding the split of match funding for projects between private and public organisations.</p> <p>b) Reallocation of Funds</p> <p>Further to the request which was submitted to Scottish Government in January no response has yet been received.</p>	<p>CM</p>
<p>8. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</p> <p>Kathlene Morrison presented her final Coordinators report before finishing for a period of maternity leave commencing 16 March 2018. A discussion was had on some issues surrounding State Aid in relation to farm and crofting diversification projects.</p> <p>Domhnall MacDonald updated the LAG on discussions within the Accountable Bodies group, particularly in relation to potential reallocation of funding between LAG areas. The LAG discussed their wish to seek additional funding should it become available and Ian Fordham agreed to work with staff to draft a letter to the MSP regarding the Programme.</p>	<p>Ian Fordham</p>

<p>A minute of the most recent Scottish LEADER Staff Meeting was noted with the next meeting scheduled for Shetland in May.</p>	
<p>9. POST BREXIT/COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT</p> <p>This has been added to agenda as a standing item going forward. Kathlene presented a report which was noted by the LAG and indicated she had been able to supply Comhairle CEO, Malcolm Burr, with information on the LEADER programme to inform discussions taking place within the Standing Council for Europe.</p>	
<p>10. TRAINING</p> <p>Kathlene shared the updated Technical Assessment document and explained its relationship to the LAG scoresheet document.</p>	
<p>11. AOCB None</p>	
<p>12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 17th April 2018 @ 10.30am in the Stornoway Comhairle offices (Committee Room 3) with v/c to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Castlebay.</p>	