



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 April 2018 at 10.30am

Present: Ian Fordham, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private) (Chairperson)
Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Vice
Chairperson
Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private)
Murdina Naylor, Tagsa Uibhist (Private)
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
Cllr. Norman Macdonald (Public)
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)
Bill MacMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)
Michael Smith, Mossend Residents Association (Private)

In attendance: Donna Matheson, 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

Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)
Hector MacLeod, Third Sector Hebrides (Private)
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)
Cllr. Iain Macaulay, Princes Trust (Private)
Sarah MacLean, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (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>Representation from 3 Public and 9 Private members of the LAG were present.</p>	
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Bruce - 15/P00037 – Point & Sandwick Coastal Community Path • Bill Macmillan - 15/P00062 CETUS Feasibility Study and 15/P00073 Save a Penny <p>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>3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF</p> <p>The minutes of the LAG meeting on 20.02.18 were ratified.</p> <p>LAG members were again reminded of their obligation to ensure they had updated their Declaration of Interest and Confidentiality Agreement paperwork. Several remain outstanding and should be submitted as soon as possible.</p> <p>It was agreed that the response received from Fergus Ewing MSP to the letter from the LAG would be circulated.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">LAG</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DM</p>
<p>4. PROJECTS</p> <p>a) Note of projects approved/rejected</p> <p>A late paper was circulated noting the results of Funding Round 15 which were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 037 – Point and Sandwick Coastal Community Path -£57,076.10 – APPROVED No further project conditions to be added other than those in the paper circulated. • 061 – Grimsay Boat Story - £78,884 – APPROVED The LAG discussed the proposed staffing arrangements for the project and agreed that a further condition be added to the interim letter of offer seeking to clarify the employment status of the project workers. • 062 – CETUS: Feasibility Study - £15,464 – APPROVED No further project conditions to be added other than those in the paper circulated. • 073- Save a Penny - £32,422.39 – APPROVED The LAG highlighted some concerns about the readiness of the project to proceed, in particular in relation to the match funding package and the level of community engagement. Development Officer Ameena Camps responded to several questions and the LAG agreed that a further condition be added to the interim letter of offer regarding engagement with Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020. <p>b) Project change requests and updates</p> <p>A paper was presented with a number of change requests and updates.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">DM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DM</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 005 – Hebrides Dance Studio – the project continues to experience delays in gaining final planning permission. The LAG requested a further update on the outcome of the planning application at the June 2018 meeting. • 020 – Rosinish Heritage Trail – Following communication from the applicant to indicate their intention to discontinue the project, a de-commitment process has been initiated by LEADER and a refund request for any grant money paid out to date will be issued. • 034 – Balallan Community Hub Redevelopment – The LAG agreed to the applicant’s request to increase their project costs and match funding accordingly owing to increased construction costs during the tendering process. The lower intervention rate will result from the increase and the LEADER grant amount remains unchanged. • 054 – Garadh’s Growing Spaces – Although a final offer of grant is yet to be issued, it is anticipated that the total project costs will have decreased from those originally agreed. The LAG agreed to the resultant intervention rate change once the final match funding package was known in June. • 057- Winter Season Development – The applicant made a request to reduce the overall project costs due to difficulties in securing match funding. As the project has significantly reduced in terms of costs and that a <i>final extension</i> was previously granted a decision was taken to remit the re-scoped project to the LAG Tourism Sub-group for assessment. This group will then feedback to the wider LAG group, who will make the final decision on the revised project. • 063- Stoneybridge Campsite – this project is on hold until further notice to allow time to resolve issues with the crofting assignation process. 	<p>Ian F., Alison M., Colin G.</p>
<p>5. YOUTH LAG FUND UPDATE</p> <p>The Youth LAG funding deadline passed on the 7th March and nine applications were received. The LAG agreed to change the scoring process to allow the Youth LAG to provide input via a feedback form (presented at the meeting) after having read individual project plans rather than undertaking a complete scoring process. The LAG will score each project by 17th May 2018.</p>	
<p>6. FINANCIAL UPDATE</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 table showing the breakdown of match funding for projects was presented for noting.</p> <p>Following the approval of four Round 15 projects a further £183,847.59 has been committed. At present the Youth LAG fund is oversubscribed although this may be subject to change as officer undertake their due diligence checks.</p>	

<p>The LAG discussed how to best promote the remaining funding and agreed to publicise the cooperation fund again. Discussion was held regarding intervention rates and it was agreed that these would remain unchanged.</p>	
<p>7. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</p> <p>The Coordinator's update was presented by Donna Matheson having now taken over the role during Kathlene Morrison's maternity leave. The LAG noted their congratulations to Kathlene following the safe arrival of baby Finn.</p> <p>The LAG noted that an internal Comhairle audit process would be getting underway in May and an update would be presented at the next LAG meeting.</p>	
<p>8. CO-OPERATION PROJECTS</p> <p>A list of current cooperation projects was presented for noting. The LAG discussed several local opportunities although none have yet progressed to application stage.</p>	
<p>9. AOCB</p> <p>Terms of reference for the upcoming internal Comhairle audit were shared. Domhnall MacDonald noted that no further update had been made regarding the possible virement of funds between the Co-Operation fund and the General fund.</p> <p>Ian Fordham and Domhnall MacDonald provided feedback following their participation in the NCRA workshop on April 3rd and indicated they were awaiting next steps and full feedback following the completion of the roadshow.</p>	
<p>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>20th June 2018 @ 10.30am in the Stornoway Comhairle offices (Committee Room 3) with v/c to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Castlebay.</p>	