



# 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 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2018 at 10.30am**

**Present:** Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Vice Chairperson (by phone)  
Ian Fordham, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private) (Chairperson)  
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)  
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)  
Bill MacMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)  
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private)  
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)  
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)  
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)  
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)

**In attendance:** Donna Matheson, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (DM)  
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

### Apologies/ Absent

Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)  
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)  
Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)  
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)  
Hector MacLeod, Third Sector Hebrides (Private)  
Cllr. Iain Macaulay, Princes Trust (Private)  
Sarah MacLean, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)  
Michael Smith, Mossend Residents Association (Private)  
Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)

	<i>Action for:</i>
<p><b>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from those listed above. Colin Gimour phoned into the meeting to allow agenda items 3 and 8 to be taken with a quorum.</p> <p><b><i>Representation from 4 Public and 6 Private members of the LAG were present.</i></b></p>	



<p><b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>Matt Bruce declared an interest in the EOI submitted by Tighean Innse Gall in relation to a possible Co-operation project.</p>	
<p><b>3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF</b></p> <p>The minutes of the LAG meeting on 17.04.18 and 20.06.18 were presented and approved by the LAG.</p>	
<p><b>4. PROJECTS</b></p> <p><b>a) Pipeline projects (round 18)</b> As of 5pm on 21<sup>st</sup> August when the current funding round closed the following applications had been received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 087 Islewear Croft Studio</li> <li>• 088 Innovation Centre</li> <li>• 093 Gravir Housing Renovations</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Funding Deadlines</b> The LAG agreed a new funding deadline of 21<sup>st</sup> September and monthly thereafter should further rounds be required.</p> <p><b>c) Change Requests</b> A table of project change requests completed since the previous LAG meeting was presented for noting.</p> <p><b>d) Pair Trust Request</b> This request was void by the time of the meeting having been resolved earlier.</p> <p><b>e) Updates</b> <b>005 Hebrides Dance and Wellbeing Studio</b> – The LAG noted progress was being made on this project and requested a further update at the October meeting.</p>	
<p><b>5. CO-OPERATION</b></p> <p><b>a) Budget Flexibility</b> The LAG were informed that following a decision at Scottish Government it has been agreed to lower the minimum co-operation spend amount from 10% to 5% of the LAG allocation.</p> <p><b>b) Projects</b> There are two pipeline co-operation projects at this time. One from TIG and the other from An Lanntair. Neither have been submitted formally yet but are anticipated for further rounds.</p>	

<p><b>6. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</b></p>	<p>The LAG noted Donna Matheson’s report highlighting developments since the June LAG meeting. Donna indicated that publicity would be issued in due course highlighting the work of the programme in 2018.</p> <p>An ex-post inspection of the Lochs Shed project is due to take place in October.</p> <p>The LAG were informed of the return to work following maternity leave of Charlene Macmillan which is expected on 25 September.</p>
<p><b>7. FINANCIAL UPDATE</b></p>	<p>Catherine Myles presented the report detailing the current financial position of the Programme in relation to committed funds and those available for project allocation, along with a table with projected underspend and the Admin and Animation spend to date.</p> <p>Nine projects have completed and twenty-six remain in progress. There remains £311,760.71 for allocation to general projects and £153,883.30 for co-operation.</p> <p>The LAG discussed how to deal with any potential underspend from the Admin and Animation budget however it was deemed too soon to consider changing that allocation in light of the lack of commitment from Scottish Government to guarantee A&amp;A spend at this time. It was decided that this could be reviewed should the LAG be over-subscribed in future funding rounds for project spend.</p> <p>The LAG noted a paper setting out the national spend forecasts from all LAG areas and were pleased with the progress of the Outer Hebrides.</p>
<p><b>8. LAG</b></p>	<p><b>a) Quorum</b> The LAG discussed the quorum and agree to reduce it to a minimum of eight for scoring and meeting decisions on the proviso that the LAG membership reduced to sixteen.</p> <p><b>b) Resignation</b> The LAG noted the resignation of Murdina Naylor and thanked her for her service to the LAG over the years. It was agreed that officers would once again contact LAG members who are not attending meetings or scoring projects to encourage them to remember their duties under the Business Plan to participate or relinquish their seat on the LAG.</p>
<p><b>9. AOCB</b></p>	<p><b>NCRA Update</b> – Donna Matheson provided an update regarding the lobbying work undertaken by the NCRA and the LAG noted consultation response submitted by</p>

DM

<p>Murdo Mackay on behalf of the Comhairle.</p> <p><b>Accountable Bodies Meeting Update</b> – The LAG noted the AB meeting notes and agreed that they did not intend to seek reallocation of funds from other LAG areas at this time.</p> <p><b>Staff Group Meeting Minutes</b> - The notes of the staff meeting held in Shetland in May were noted.</p> <p>The LAG agreed to receive projects for scoring as they became available.</p>	
<p><b>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 @ 10.30am in the Stornoway Comhairle offices (Committee Room 2) with v/c to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Castlebay.</p>	