

**Note of the Meeting of the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group**  
In the Committee Room 2, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Stornoway  
with video-conference to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Barra Comhairle office

**on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at 10.30am**

**Present:** Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Vice Chairperson  
Ian Fordham, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private) (Chairperson)  
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)  
Bill MacMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)  
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private)  
Calum Mackay, Community Land Scotland (Private)  
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)  
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)

**In attendance:** Donna Matheson, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (DM)  
Catherine Myles, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project Support Assistant (CMY)  
Charlene Macmillan, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project and Finance Officer (CM)  
Ameena Camps, Outer Hebrides LEADER Development Officer, Uist and Barra (AC)  
Joe MacPhee, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative

**Apologies/ Absent**

Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)  
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)  
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)  
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)  
Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)  
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)  
Cllr. Iain Macaulay, Princes Trust (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.</p> <p><b><i>Representation from 2 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 projects 093 Gravir Housing Renovations and 097 Former School House Renovation.</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 22.08.18 were presented and approved by the LAG.</p>	
<p><b>4. PROJECTS</b></p> <p><b>a) Note of Projects approved and conditions (round 18/19)</b> The paper of approved projects and conditions was presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 093 Gravir Housing Renovations – as Matt Bruce had declared a conflict of interest for this project a quorum was not achieved to ratify the scoring decision at the meeting and this would be done by email following the meeting. The LAG discussed how the project proposed to determine the eligibility of potential residents. Matt Bruce explained that TIG’s intention was to formulate a policy which favoured local residents in a selection process.</li> <li>• 096 Between Islands Co-Operation – The LAG approved this project and it now remains with the Orkney and Shetland LAGs to score on 31 October and 7 November respectively. The LAG agreed to the sharing of their anonymised scoring summary sheet being shared with the other LAGs.</li> <li>• 097 Former School House Renovation – the LAG approved this project.</li> <li>• 101 Gateway to Locheport – the LAG approved this project and discussed the importance of the applicant ensuring the facility was open on a year-round basis.</li> </ul> <p><b>b) Change Requests</b> A table of project change requests completed since the previous LAG meeting was presented for noting.</p> <p><b>c) Updates</b> <b>005 Hebrides Dance and Wellbeing Studio</b> – The LAG noted progress was being made on this project and were pleased to learn that groundworks would be commencing in November.</p>	<p>DM</p>
<p><b>5. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</b></p> <p>The LAG noted the co-ordinator’s paper. Donna reminded the LAG of the revised dates for project commitment which has been extended until 31 December 2019. There was however a decision amongst Accountable Body representatives that LAGs should endeavour to be fully committed for Co-Operation projects by 31 March 2019 and general projects by 30 June 2019.</p> <p>The Ex-Post inspection on the Lochs Shed project on 28 September was successful. The Annual Confirmation Certificate was also submitted to RPID.</p>	

<p>The LAG discussed the topic of programme evaluation and as work is underway regarding a possible coordinated, national evaluation, it was agreed that a further update would be provided at the December LAG meeting.</p>	DM
<p><b>6. FINANCIAL UPDATE</b></p> <p>Charlene presented the financial update. Following an application deadline on 22 October there are a number of projects in the pipeline which exceed the amount of remaining grant funding available.</p> <p>Joe MacPhee reminded the LAG that the £50,000 amount of extra funding that the Comhairle was prepared to underwrite the programme by was an absolute maximum and should not be exceeded.</p> <p>The LAG agreed that new applications, other than those for Co-operation should be commenced at this time however Expressions of Interest can continue to be submitted. The LAG further agreed that all applications to Round 20 must be taken to the December LAG meeting for discussion prior to ratification of scores.</p> <p>There are a number of pipeline Co-operation enquiries which are still in development and Donna agreed to undertake further publicity for the programme.</p> <p>The LAG noted the paper presented showing the position of all Scottish LAG areas forecast to 29/03/19.</p>	DM
<p><b>7. LAG</b></p> <p><b>a) Quorum</b> As the LAG membership has decreased to sixteen a new quorum of 8 has been approved although should LAG membership levels change, as per the programme Business Plan, the quorum will always be 50% of the membership.</p> <p><b>b) Resignation</b> The LAG noted the resignation of Hector Macleod and Sarah Maclean. The Scottish Crofting Federation will contact Donna should they wish to nominate a replacement for Sarah.</p> <p><b>c) 2019 LAG meeting</b> The LAG agreed to reduce meetings to quarterly from February 2019. A revised schedule would be presented at the next LAG meeting.</p>	CMY
<p><b>8. AOCB</b></p> <p><b>Accountable Bodies Meeting Update</b> – The LAG noted the AB meeting notes from 4 October.</p> <p><b>Process Evaluation of LEADER</b> - The LAG noted the paper and its recommendations.</p>	

<p><b>NCRA Blueprint</b> – The LAG noted this paper.</p> <p><b>Chairs Group update-</b> The notes from this meeting were circulated as a late paper and the LAG noted their support for the letter suggested for sending to Fergus Ewing MP.</p> <p>Ian Fordham reminded the LAG that the Tourism Sub-group was overdue in its review of the Tourism Accommodation policy and would convene a meeting to revise it and present it to the LAG for review at the December LAG meeting.</p>	<p><b>Ian Fordham</b></p>
<p><b>9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 @ 10.30am in the Stornoway Comhairle offices (Committee Room 2) with v/c to Comhairle offices in Balivanich and Castlebay.</p>	