



OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER 2014-2020 PROGRAMME



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 13th February at 10.30am

Present:

- Ian Fordham, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private) (Chairperson)
- Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Vice Chairperson
- Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
- Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
- Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
- Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)
- Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private)
- Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
- Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)
- Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)
- Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)
- Bill McMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)

In attendance:

- Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism
- Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (DM)
- Charlene Macmillan, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project and Finance Officer (CM)
- Ameena Camps, Outer Hebrides LEADER Development Officer, Uist and Barra (AC)
- Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DM)
- Catherine Myles, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project Support Assistant (CMY)

Apologies/ Absent:

- Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)
- Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
- Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)
- Michael Smith, Mossend Residents Association (Private)
- Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)

	<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. Rob MacKinnon from Outer Hebrides Tourism was also in attendance as he will be taking over Ian Fordham’s seat on the LAG shortly.</p> <p><i>Representation from 4 Public and 8 Private members of the LAG were present.</i></p>	



<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None were noted.</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 5th December 2018 were presented and approved by the LAG.</p>	
<p>4. PROJECTS</p> <p>a) Note of Projects approved and conditions The late paper of approved projects and conditions was presented:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/P00103 Decision: APPROVE LEADER Grant: £26,209.80 <p>Subject to other Co-operating LAGs funding decisions the LAG agreed to approve the Project 'in principle' and accept the conditions of grant provided.</p> <p>b) Change Requests A table of project change requests completed since the previous LAG meeting was presented for noting. Colin Gilmour noted that the LAG should endeavour to closely monitor change requests to ensure projects do not risk delaying completion or consistently underspending as the programme nears its end.</p> <p>c) Updates 15/P00065– This project has experienced a significant delay in commencing and request a further extension to their delivery timescale. They also wish to remove the staffing costs from the agree budget. The LAG agreed the project may be extended but with an end date no later than 30 June 2020.</p> <p>15/P00081– This project has also been extremely slow to start but have indicated the event is scheduled to be held on 28 June 2019.</p> <p>15/P00091 – The interim letter of offer has already been extended to 28/02/19. The applicant has not secured any of their match funding package and have indicated they may be able to scale back elements of the project costs. Several potential match funder's deadlines are well beyond the timescales required by LEADER. The LAG noted that should the project be unable to proceed it was likely the funding could be reallocated without issue. The LAG agreed that no further extension beyond 31/03/19 would be granted and the offer of funding would be revoked if the interim offer conditions had not been satisfied by this date.</p> <p>15/P00100 – the applicant failed to meet the interim offer conditions by their deadline on 04/02/19. They have indicated they have the required evidence of match</p>	

<p>funding but have thus far failed to present this to LEADER. The LAG agreed that should this not be supplied by 28/02/19 the offer of funding would be revoked.</p> <p>15/P00102 - The interim letter of offer has already been extended to 28/02/19. The applicant is still attempting to secure match funding. The LAG agreed that no further extension beyond 31/03/19 would be granted and the offer of funding would be revoked if the interim offer conditions had not been satisfied by this date.</p>	
<p>5. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</p> <p>KM provided an overview of the Co-ordinators update paper which was noted by the LAG. The completed mid-term evaluation report was also presented.</p> <p>KM provided an update on a workshop attended on 08/02/19 regarding plans for a UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Consultation is still ongoing about how the fund will operate and whether it will commence in January 2021.</p> <p>The LAG noted that this would be Ameena Camps last meeting as she would be leaving LEADER in March 2019 and a vote of thanks was offered.</p>	
<p>6. FINANCIAL UPDATE</p> <p>The LAG were presented with the current financial update for noting. An appendix was presented with forecasted underspend for several projects which have consistently underspent against their milestone projections.</p> <p>The LAG discussed various ways of dealing with any underspend or funds returning to the LAG for reallocation should any projects fail to proceed.</p> <p>The LAG were reminded that they have the capacity to commission LAG-led projects and the possibility of a project to develop a new Local Development Strategy was mooted and will be explored further should funding become available. Colin Gilmour suggested a sub-group be convened to look at possible LAG-led project ideas and would be joined in this by Bill McMillan and Neil Campbell.</p> <p>The LAG also agreed that in the event of the Outer Hebrides being a non-lead partner on any co-operation projects, the LAG would score such projects as opposed to only ratifying the decisions of the lead LAG.</p> <p>An infographic of the geographic spread of LEADER commitment to date was circulated for noting.</p>	CG
<p>7. CHAIRPERSON NOMINATIONS</p> <p>Nominations for Colin Gilmour to succeed Ian Fordham as LAG chair were received, along with Matt Bruce as Vice Chair. They were both duly elected.</p>	

<p>8. AOCB</p> <p>a) Press Release</p> <p>The LAG noted the press release that was issued in December. It was discussed that after the next Comhairle Sustainable Development Committee meeting, the press release should be refreshed and recirculated with the infographic. It was agreed that Colin Gilmour would attend the next SD committee meeting on May 1st with KM to present an update about LEADER.</p> <p>As part of the tie-in with the 25 year anniversary of LEADER in March more information would be shared and circulated on our website and social media channels.</p> <p>DM provided an updated following the recent Accountable Bodies meeting, stating that a lot of work was being undertaken by the Scottish Government LEADER delivery team in the run-up to the Brexit deadline in March. HIE suggested we share the www.prepareforbrexit.com website on social media.</p> <p>A vote of thanks was made to Ian Fordham at the outgoing Chairperson and he was wished the very best for his relocation to the mainland.</p>	<p>KM</p>
<p>9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The Next LAG Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 15th May 2019 at 10.30am, in Committee Room 3, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Stornoway with video conference links made available to CnES offices in Balivanich and Castlebay.</p>	

CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
LAG MEMBER	
SIGNATURE	
DATE	