



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 15th May 2019 at 10.30am

Present:

Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Chairperson
Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private) Vice Chairperson
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)
Bill McMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)

In attendance:

Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (DM)
Charlene Macmillan, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project and Finance Officer (CM)
Joe MacPhee, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (JM)
Catherine Myles, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project Support Assistant (CMY)

Apologies/ Absent:

Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)
Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism
Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DM)

	Action for:
<p>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies from those listed above. The Chair welcomed Donald Mackinnon to his first meeting.</p> <p><i>Representation from 2 Public and 5 Private members of the LAG were present but a quorum was not achieved.</i></p>	
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None were noted.</p>	

3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF

The minutes of the LAG meeting on 13th February 2019 were presented and **approved** by the LAG. Under matters arising an update was provided regarding project P00091. Following a teleconference in February the applicant undertook to try and secure the remainder of the match funding package. No further update has been supplied by the applicant and they have been informed that the funding is no longer allocated to them however it is yet to be formally withdrawn on LARCS.

4. PROJECTS

a) Note of Projects approved and conditions

The late paper of approved projects and conditions was presented:

- **15/P00105** **Decision: APPROVE** **LEADER Grant: £2,801.70**
 This project commenced on 7th May and the applicant is going to be in Stornoway for claims training on Friday 17th May.
- **11/P00135** **Decision: APPROVE** **LEADER Grant: £43,129.00**
 This project is waiting for the outcome of scoring by the remaining participant LAG areas before it can receive an offer of grant.
- **15/P00104** **Decision: APPROVE** **LEADER Grant: £24,604.70**
 This project is waiting for the outcome of scoring by the remaining participant LAG area before it can receive an offer of grant.
- **16/P00091** **Decision: APPROVE** **LEADER Grant: £34,891 (TBC)**
 This project is waiting for the outcome of scoring by the remaining participant LAG area before it can receive an offer of grant. The final grant amount offered will be dependent on how many LAG areas approve the project and have the funding available to support it. Charlene has requested clarification on a number of queries raised by the LAG is awaiting a response from the applicant. The Chair suggested a condition of an offer of grant should be included regarding a subsidy for participants from the Outer Hebrides due to the additional travel expenses required to join mainland activities.

b) Change Requests

A table of project change requests completed since the previous LAG meeting was presented for noting.

c) Updates

- Retention Periods of Structural Projects
 Projects undertaking capital works have been contacted to gauge whether retention/snagging periods are likely to impact on the applicant's ability to complete their project by 31 July 2020 and claim in full by 31 August 2020. Two out of eight affected projects are likely to have retention periods beyond 31 July 2020. KM will work with the applicants affected to determine how to

<p>overcome this and the LAG agreed that officers could exercise discretion in considering possible end-date extensions on a case-by-case basis being mindful however that all costs must be paid to applicants in full by 31 December 2020.</p> <p>KM indicated that two applicants had been in touch regarding an increase in project costs to seek an increase to their existing offer of grant, should any additional funding remain available for allocation. After a discussion, the LAG agreed that additional funds of up to £10,000 could be made available to each applicant.</p>	
<p>5. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</p> <p>KM presented an update report for noting. The presentation to the Comhairle’s Sustainable Development Committee on 1 May was well received and the committee were very supportive of the efforts of the LAG to support lobbying work ongoing in relation to securing a successor to the LEADER programme. A copy of the report to the committee was presented.</p> <p>Colin Gilmour provided an update following his attendance at the Chairs group meeting in Stirling on 7 May. Discussion centred on a successor to the LEADER programme and it was agreed that it would be important to ensure the focus was broader than just agricultural investment and work would be done to link with enterprise organisations. A Rural Challenge Fund was mooted but this was tied into broader discussions regarding the Shared Prosperity Fund. A recommendation was made to form a Rural Economy Action Group however at present this is limited to being internal to Scottish Government and it was felt this should be broadened out to include external representatives also.</p> <p>KM provided an update on the Accountable Bodies meeting held on 30 April where discussion focused on the reallocation of cooperation funding. KM was awaiting a response from SG LDT regarding the retention of Outer Hebrides cooperation allocation for pipeline projects. KM indicated that the programme was on track to hit its 5% cooperation allocation target and there were more pipeline projects being worked on which would exceed the target should they be approved.</p> <p>Finally it was noted that the Outer Hebrides would be hosting the next LEADER staff meeting. As the Chair would not be available to make a welcoming address, it was agreed the Vice Chair would attend.</p>	
<p>6. FINANCIAL UPDATE</p> <p>The LAG were presented with the current financial update for noting, although the allocation figures will change in light of the most recent project approvals. Staff continue to monitor projects for potential underspend and several change approvals have resulted in some project costs decreasing.</p> <p>A) LAG-led projects</p> <p>A note of the LAG sub-group which met on 8 April to discuss potential LAG-led</p>	

<p>projects was presented. Bill Macmillan indicated that work is progressing around discussions on a food and drink strategy.</p> <p>An EOI has been received from the OHCPP regarding a marketing project and a meeting is scheduled with their representatives on 20 May.</p> <p>KM will continue working on a proposal regarding the development of a successor Local Development Strategy and a paper will be put to the next OHCPP meeting on 23 May.</p> <p>Neil Campbell suggested that should any work progress in relation to a strategy for the cruise ship market that rural communities be consulted in advance of this in relation to the impact on infrastructure which is, in many cases, already under strain. HIE are holding a Destination Management workshop in the Outer Hebrides in November 2019.</p> <p>B) Co-Operation Fund Update</p> <p>A paper was presented detailing the current position in relation to cooperation allocation and pipeline projects.</p>	<p>KM</p>
<p>7. AOCB</p> <p>a) Celebratory Film</p> <p>A proposal regarding the commissioning of a series of celebratory films about the LEADER programmes in the Outer Hebrides was noted by the LAG. They agreed that funding of up to £20,000 could be made available for this work and Donnie MacDonald volunteered to work with the officers to refine the proposal and make it ready to go through procurement.</p> <p>Joe MacPhee mentioned new documentation that would be forthcoming in relation to the Islands Deal and indicated that information would be needed from the LAG regarding projects supported to ensure the impact of LEADER was highlighted as part of ongoing negotiations.</p>	
<p>8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The Next LAG Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 21st August 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	



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SIGNATURE	
DATE	