



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 21st August 2019 at 10.30am

Present:

Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Chairperson
Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private) Vice Chairperson
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public) (DM)
Cllr. Norman MacDonald (Public)

In attendance:

Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (KM)
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:

Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
Bill McMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)
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)
Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DM)

	<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.</p> <p><i>Representation from 2 Public and 7 Private members of the LAG were present and a quorum was achieved.</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 15th May 2019 were presented and approved by the LAG.</p>	
<p>4. PROJECTS</p> <p>a) Note of Projects approved and conditions</p> <p>The late paper of approved projects and conditions was presented. The Chair thanked LAG members for their scores but reiterated the importance of keeping to deadlines for the return of scores.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• 15/P00106 Decision: REJECT LEADER Grant: £29,056.91</p> <p>The LAG reviewed the reasons for the rejection of this project and agreed to ratify the decision not to award funding. A letter will be sent to the applicant and the other partners will be informed.</p> <p>• 15/P00107 Decision: APPROVE LEADER Grant: £74,613.33</p> <p>This decision was ratified by the LAG and final approval will be dependent on the scoring outcome of the two partner LAGs, Shetland and Highland LEADER.</p> <p>• 08/P00051 Decision: APPROVE LEADER Grant: £9,212.50</p> <p>This decision was ratified by the LAG and final approval will be dependent on the scoring outcome of the partner LAGs, Shetland, Orkney and Fife LEADER.</p> <p>b) Change Requests</p> <p>A table of project change requests completed since the previous LAG meeting was presented for noting.</p> <p>c) Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>• 16/P00091 –</p> <p>Charlene presented an updated regarding the project being led by Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER. Only five of the original twelve partner LAGs have proceeded with participation. A revised proposal seeking a slight increase in funding but with greater local activities was approved by email by the LAG Chair and Vice Chair, and ratified by the LAG.</p> <p>• Scottish Rural Network -</p> <p>The LAG were informed that the Scottish Rural Network were in Lewis recently and attended the open day of the Gravir Housing Renovation project on 14th August, along with the LAG Chair and Vice Chair. Whilst here they also visited and filmed short case studies of LEADER projects including Gravir Housing Renovations, Balallan Old School, Uig Sands restaurant and the Skiff project in Arnol. These will be available on their website and social media platforms.</p> 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15/ P00057 - The LAG were informed about a number of ongoing issues with project P00057. It may be that the overall grant made to the organisation could be reduced as part of a review of the project’s progress against agreed aims, milestones and targets. • 15/P00013 - A proposal from project P00013 was submitted for consideration by the LAG and approved. The LAG were pleased to see the project having proved so successful that they require additional capacity to meet demand. 	
<p>5. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</p> <p>KM presented an update report for noting. The notes of the LEADER Staff Group meeting hosted in Stornoway on 26-27 June were presented. The LAG Vice Chair and Cllr Donald Crichton attended and the experience was positive, with a number of projects highlighted and visited. The LEADER team have been ensuring the social media presence is regularly updated and ongoing issues with the website are being resolved with the developer.</p> <p>The official opening of the Tarbert Marina Hub was well attended and it was noted that the marina is operating at full capacity already. The Horgabost pontoon (funded in the previous LEADER programme) has been moved to Tarbert to prevent damage and is adding to the capacity for the Tarbert Marina.</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. All applicants are being contacted regarding reviewing project spend and re-forecasting to ensure any potential underspend is reallocated well before the deadline of end of December 2019. At present the over-commitment allocation from CnES is not being fully utilised.</p> <p>The LAG-led project paper from April 2019 was re-circulated for discussion, along with a list of Expressions of Interest. The LAG agreed that accommodation EOI’s would not proceed but a number of others would be contacted to establish whether they were still requiring funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CnES will be proceeding with the LAG-led project on identifying gaps in future local development and work has begun on this; • Kathlene will follow-up with CnES and HIE regarding scope to progress the erosion and flooding project; • Outer Hebrides Tourism may have scope to support the work around a food and drink strategy and this will be further explored; • Stornoway Port Authority is looking at destination management for the cruise ship industry and a further update will be provided after their next meeting on 9th September; • The Chair agreed to mention the concept of support for innovative transport links at the next relevant OHCPP meeting; 	<p>KM</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kathlene will try to identify potential partners for any Men’s Sheds ventures; It was agreed that colleagues in community learning and development could be approached regarding any further support for young people-centred projects; The Rural Tourism and innovation Fund Round 2 projects that were unsuccessful in securing funding would also be reviewed to see whether any suitable applicants could be identified. 	
<p>7. CELEBRATORY FILM</p> <p>A total of nine bids were received for the film commission and these were independently scored by a LAG member and two officers. Final collated scores would be submitted to CnES procurement section on 21st August and the contract would be awarded the week commencing 26th August.</p>	
<p>8. AOCB</p> <p>The LAG endorsed the setting aside of up to £5000 to facilitate two celebratory events (one in for Lewis and Harris, one for Uist and Barra) in 2020 to launch the celebratory films and highlight the impact of this and previous LEADER programmes. A guest speaker would be identified in due course.</p>	
<p>9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next LAG Meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 13th November 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	