



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 13th November 2019 at 10.30am

Present:

- Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Chairperson
- Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism
- Sarah Maclean, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
- Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
- Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (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)
- Bill McMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)
- Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)

In attendance:

- Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (KM)
- Charlene Macmillan, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project and Finance Officer (CM)
- Catherine Myles, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project Support Assistant (CMY)

Apologies/ Absent:

- Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
- Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)
- Alistair MacLennan, Federation of Small Businesses (Private)
- Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)
- Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)
- 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 9 Private members of the LAG were present and a quorum was achieved.</i></p>	
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>Matt Bruce declared an interest in an Expression of Interest received from Point and Sandwich Trust.</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 21 August 2019 were presented and approved by the LAG.</p> <p>It was noted that on item 6 of the previous agenda, all pre-existing project opportunities had been followed up by LEADER team staff. A number of new project enquiries had also been received and were being responded to.</p> <p>KM provided an update on the revised application and approval process introduced by the Scottish Government LEADER Delivery Team. The revised process means that the ‘over-commitment’ allocation from CnES will no longer be able to be used locally. It was noted that the revised process would be discussed at the next AB meeting with the LAG wishing to record their dissatisfaction with any change which would impede the local decision-making processed utilised to date. The Chair requested a briefing be prepared for him in advance of the next AB meeting.</p>	<p>KM</p>
<p>4. PROJECTS</p> <p>a) Note of Projects approved and conditions The LAG ratified the project decisions taken since the previous meeting relating to P109 and P033. The request for additional funding for P061 would be submitted to Scottish Government for appraisal in the coming days.</p> <p>b) Change Requests 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"> • 15/P00010 – There has been a delay in the final task associated with the completion of this project. An extension is going to be necessary to change the end date from February 2019 to spring 2020. • 15/P00104 – This project has experienced significant delays and a high level of internal staff turnover. Completion has been delayed and is likely been delayed further. • 15/P00057 – Completion of this project has been delayed however the final claim is expected shortly and completion should happen early 2020. 	
<p>5. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</p> <p>KM presented an update report for noting. KM explained the change in the position regarding the ‘overcommitment’ funding of £50,000 from CnES and that this would no longer be available for projects due to the changed approval process introduced by Scottish Government. The staff team continue to work on progressing eligible enquiries to ensure the fund reaches its target of being fully committed by 31 December 2019.</p> <p>The LAG took the decision not to review the intervention rate for projects at this time.</p>	

<p>The Comhairle Internal Audit report was presented and the LAG indicated that when the report was presented at Committee, the opportunity should be used to highlight the importance of retaining local decision making processes when assessing applications. The 2018/19 Annual Accreditation Report was also presented for noting.</p> <p>The LAG were reminded that they are required to return completed Declaration of Interest forms by 29th November to ensure compliance with Internal Audit.</p>	LAG
<p>6. FINANCIAL UPDATE</p> <p>The LAG were presented with the current financial update for noting and at present the programme is fully committed however staff will continue to look for opportunities to overcommit the fund to offset against anticipated project underspend.</p>	
<p>7. BUSINESS PLAN</p> <p>The current Business Plan requires its annual update to ensure its representative of current processes and the current staff complement. The LAG are to contact Kathlene with comments or questions as soon as possible.</p>	LAG
<p>8. POST 2020</p> <p>The Scottish Government is seeking responses to a consultation on the replace of European Structural Funds in Scotland after the EU-exit. The LAG want to submit a collective response with reference to other Comhairle and OHCPP views. It was agreed that a workshop would be arranged in January and a Doodle Poll would be circulated to identify a suitable date.</p>	KM
<p>9. AOCB</p> <p>An update regarding progress of the production of the celebration films was provided and filming was underway. Work was progressing on the planning of a launch event for March 2020. A schedule of meeting dates for 2020 was presented and agreed.</p>	
<p>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next LAG Meeting has been scheduled for 5th February 2020 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	