



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 5th February 2020 at 10.30am

Present:

Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Chairperson
Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
Bill McMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (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)
Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DM)

Apologies/ Absent:

Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
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)
Sarah Maclean, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)
Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private) Vice Chairperson

	<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>Due to having only 2 Public and 2 Private LAG members in attendance, a quorum was not achieved. As per the guidelines noted in the LAGs Business Plan referring to such situations, Members agreed to discuss the agenda items and ratify any decisions by email.</i></p>	
<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None</p>	



<p>3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Item 5 – Internal Audit are conducting their follow up review – if not already done so please complete and return updated declarations of interest forms.</i> <p><i>ACTION – If not already done so the LAG are to return any uncompleted Declarations of Interest Forms.</i></p> <p><i>The previous minutes could not be approved at this meeting due to a quorum not being present.</i></p>	LAG
<p>4. PROJECTS</p> <p>a) Change Requests – members noted the paper.</p> <p>b) Project Updates</p> <p><i>A number of project updates were discussed and some require LAG agreement and these include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>16/P00091 - Rural Youth Project – A stakeholder event will take place on the 16th March and LAG members are invited. Charlene has send notification out on this and therefore please respond as necessary.</i> <i>15/P00053 - An Lanntair Winter Festival – As An Lanntair are currently forecasting an underspend of £10k they have requested an extension to 30th October 2020 (initially 30th September) to allow them additional time to spend their existing LEADER grant. They also requested that some of the underspend is focussed on offering more Gaelic events – which was included in the original LEADER application – however these would be hosted in the summer months.</i> <p><i>Whereas the original application was to host all events in the Winter months LAG members present agreed that the change should be approved as it is allows the applicant to host the events in the original application, allows for maximum spend whilst also still enabling more activities and events to be on offer to the public.</i></p> <p><i>ACTION – LAG to approve extension to 30th October 2020 and allow An Lanntair to host this Gaelic event in July 2020.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>15/P00065 - Island Life Group –</i> <i>The project was initially approved in 23/07/18 and has yet to submit any claims and therefore the LAG are asked for their support to engage with the applicants to urge them to submit a claim before the grant is revoked. Members present agreed that a letter is to be sent to the Senior Applicant from the LAG Chair to request a</i> 	LAG

<p>completed claim be submitted by 6th March 2020.</p> <p>ACTION – LAG to agree that a letter is sent to the applicants from the LAG Chair requesting that a completed claim is submitted by 6th March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15/P00102 -Ardvourlie Woodland Observatory – additional funding request <p>The North Harris Trust are requesting an additional £1000 of LEADER funding to support increased interpretation panel costs at the Ardvourlie Woodland Observatory. These are costs already included in the original LEADER approval and would be within the revised Scottish Government guidelines of additional funding awards.</p> <p>LAG Members present agreed to approve the request following agreement from the wider LAG.</p> <p>ACTION – LAG members to inform if they wish to approve the additional funding request.</p>	<p>LAG</p> <p>LAG</p>
<p>5. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE</p> <p>KM provided a summary of the report focussing on the revised guidelines of how LAGs are to approve any future overspend.</p>	
<p>6. PROGRAMME FINANCIAL UPDATE</p> <p>The LAG were presented with the current financial update for noting.</p> <p>From the 31st December 2020 LAGs are no longer permitted to approve funding to any new projects. Consequently, the Financial update provided an overview of any potential underspend and how officers are monitoring the situation and working with project beneficiaries to reduce the potential of this occurring.</p>	
<p>7. POST 2020</p> <p>Following the LAGs Ad Hoc meeting on the 15th January 2020 to discuss and formulate the LAGs response to the Scottish Government consultation on the replacement of European Structural Funds in Scotland after the EU-exit a draft had been presented to the LAG prior to the meeting. KM noted that additional LEADER related statistics would be added however, no other additional amendments were received.</p> <p>The response will be submitted by the deadline on 12th February 2020.</p>	<p>KM</p>
<p>8. Films and Event -</p>	

<p>The Lewis and Harris Film Launch and LEADER celebration event will take place on Thursday 19th March 2020 in the Lews Castle, Stornoway. Invites are being sent and members are asked to inform officers if there are any other specific individuals who they would like to attend.</p> <p>A separate Uist and Barra event will also be held mid-April (potentially w/c 20th April) and this will be hosted in the LEADER funded TrixPix Studio's in Uist.</p> <p>Further information on both events will be circulated to LAG members in due course.</p>	
<p>9. AOCB</p> <p>The Chair thanked Catherine Myles, on behalf of the LAG, for all her work with the LEADER Programme since 2016 as she will be leaving her post on Friday 13th March 2020.</p>	
<p>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next LAG Meeting has been scheduled for 6th May 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	
SIGNATURE	
DATE	