



## OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER 2014-2020 PROGRAMME



### Note of the Meeting of the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group Virtual Meeting, online via 'LifeSize'

on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 10.30

#### Present:

Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private) Vice Chairperson – **Acting Chair**  
Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Chairperson  
Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private)  
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)  
Bill McMillan, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)  
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)  
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)  
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)  
Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation – (Private)  
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)  
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)

#### 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)

#### Apologies/ Absent:

Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)  
Iain MacLennan, Skills Development Scotland (Public)  
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)  
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)

	<i>Action for:</i>
<p><b>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted any apologies.</p> <p><i>A quorum was achieved with 8 Private members and 3 Public Members present at the meeting.</i></p>	
<p><b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>No Declarations of Interest were declared.</p>	
<p><b>3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Note of Meeting on 20/06/20</b> – The number of public attendees in Item 3 to be correctly updated. The remainder of the Minute was approved</li> </ul>	

## 4. CO-ORDINATOR UPDATE

### **Letters from CnES and Response**

Correspondence received from Fergus Ewing MSP was circulated to the LAG.

### **Film Launch**

The commissioned LEADER Films have been launched 'online' this week, with one video a day being released at midday, until Saturday. The response received has been positive so far and LAG members are encouraged to share widely through their networks.

### **Funding Gaps Strategy**

Siar Management hope to have completed the Strategy in September, however given the fluid nature of the local economy as a result of COVID-19, it is suggested that whilst the report be available in September it is not formally released until a full month later to allow for any further changes in the current climate to be included.

**Scottish Infographic** – The first Scottish LEADER wide infographic has now been compiled by the OH and is in circulation; providing the highlights on the Scottish LEADER 2014-2020 Programme. It has been agreed that there will be a 'series' of infographics with the next one being created by a different LAG area and available in due course.

## 5. PROGRAMME FINANCIAL UPDATE

CM provided an overview of the financial report and LEADER staff went through any notable updates to Projects following on from the current COVID-19 situation.

It was noted that a few projects may request additional funding to support overspend and/ or COVID-19 recovery, however it was likely to be minimal and be reallocated with other anticipated project underspend.

It was noted that Domhnall MacDonald, OH LEADER Accountable Body representative, was invited to attend an impromptu meeting with Scottish Government where it was made known that there is the possibility of an additional circa £1.1M in uncommitted funding available from the transition period between 2007-13 and 2014-20 LEADER Programmes. It is anticipated that this money will be accessible in a 'challenge fund' format however no further information on when this may be available has transpired leaving tight timescales to be met once the fund does become available.

The LAG were informed that the Head of the LEADER Delivery Team in Scottish Government, Gillian MacDonald, will be vacating her current position and the Head of the Department, Shiree Donnelly will assume her duties.

## 6. PROGRAMME EVALUATION

The brief for the 2014-2020 Programme evaluation will be circulated to the LAG towards

<p>the end of this week, with any responses requested via email.</p> <p><i>Action – Kathlene to circulate evaluation brief</i></p>	<b>KM</b>
<p><b>7. POST 2020</b></p> <p>It was raised that the Retained Agricultural Bill – which includes the 5% element of which LEADER is part of - will be going through UK government legislative process to be approved and retained post Brexit. This allows SG or UKG to then review it post Brexit and therefore retain the Bill as it is now and operate it post March 2021, which includes the LEADER/CLLD element</p> <p>It was noted that this is separate from the Shared Prosperity Fund which is more related to ESF rather LEADER.</p>	
<p><b>8. AOCB</b></p> <p>Concern was noted with regards to the timescales involved in the current Programme completing and the delay in any additional funds being drawn down from SG.</p> <p>The impact COVID-19 has had on the availability of existing and future capital funding was also raised as it is capital assets that will be key in delivering COVID recovery in communities.</p>	
<p><b>9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The next LAG Meeting has been scheduled for <b>18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at 10.30am</b></p> <p>The acting chair ‘thanked’ everyone for their attendance and ended the meeting.</p>	

CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
<b>LAG MEMBER</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE</b>	
<b>DATE</b>	