



# OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER 2014-2020 PROGRAMME



## APPENDIX ii

### ADHOC MEETING -

**Note of the Meeting of the Outer Hebrides LEADER Local Action Group**  
Virtual Meeting via MS TEAMS

**on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 11.00am**

#### Present:

Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private) Chairperson - MB  
Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Vice Chairperson -CG  
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private) - AR  
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private) - EM  
Kathleen Stewart, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public) - KS  
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public) - JF  
Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private) - DMN  
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private) - DMS  
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public) - DMD

#### In attendance:

Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (KM)  
Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DM)

#### Apologies/ Absent:

Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)  
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)  
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)  
Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)  
Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private)  
Charlene Macmillan, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project and Finance Officer (CM)

	<i>Action for:</i>
<p><b>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>This Adhoc meeting was convened to discuss the LAGs response to the Options Paper issued by the Scottish Government on the Future Community Led Local Development Programme. Consequently, all normal LAG business will be reviewed at the next LAG meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were noted from Alison MacCorquodale, Cllr. Donald Crichton, Neil Campbell, Rob MacKinnon, and Charlene Macmillan.</p> <p><b><i>A quorum was achieved with 6 Private members and 3 Public Members present at the meeting.</i></b></p>	
<p><b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest</p>	

<p><b>3. OPTIONS PAPER</b></p> <p>The LAG discussed the paper that the Chair had circulated, and comments were sought from each LAG member on the following questions which are highlighted in blue:</p>	
<p><i>Are we happy with a group similar to the current LAG backed up by the Comhairle as the 'Accountable Body'? (any amendments – size, animation, scoring, membership, etc)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CG – Agreed that the next LAG should continue with the Local Authority having oversight of the financial and audit administration of the programme instead of seeking an alternative body or becoming a separate entity.</li> <li>• DMS - Agreed that LAG should continue as it is currently with the Local Authority continuing to be the Accountable Body for the forthcoming programme as the Comhairle are supportive of the work of its work and the relationship works well.</li> <li>• KS – Agreed that the LAG should continue with the Comhairle being the financial Accountable Body (AB) for the next programme.</li> <li>• JF – Agreed that current LAG and AB structure works well. Also suggested establishing subgroups to support more grassroots development on specific topics.</li> <li>• DMD – Agreed with the AB and LAG structure.</li> <li>• EM – Agreed that the LAG should continue to be supported by the AB for its administration as it reduces risk and experienced in the role.</li> <li>• DMN – Agreed and suggested subgroups on topics and projects. Added that it is worth revisiting the member groups of the LAG and if they are still relevant, need refreshed or if there are any relevant sectors which are not currently represented.</li> <li>• AR – Should look at the LAGs membership and refresh it but also bearing in mind what size of LAG would be sustainable.</li> <li>• MB – Agreed that the size of the next LAG needs to be considered to ensure it is manageable, representative, and how it is assembled.</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Of the above 8 bullet points, how many would you feel suited for a new funding stream now, or what new objectives would be good?</i></p> <p>It was discussed that there is a need to ensure that new funding is targeted at the correct sectors and objectives and not duplicating what is already available.</p> <p>EM – the Barra and Vatersay Area Forum has been active during the pandemic and would be interested in being more involved in the local areas' community development proposals.</p>	

KS – Population should be included as an objective as it is a key area to target throughout the islands.

DMN – The Funding Gaps Study stated that specialist business advice support was required and therefore the LAG could work with Business Gateway and Highlands and Islands Enterprise to deliver this.

JF – The Green Recovery agenda is also a high priority and should be included. This could involve many opportunities for the LAG to support including Carbon Credits Schemes and developing peatlands, etc.

DMD – In respect of the Cultural and Gaelic heritage objectives the Creative Industries sector should be incorporated into that going forward and can include gaming, media, publishing, and graphic design. The pandemic has enabled these sectors to be evolve and become more accessible to home-based workers as it is now easier to access the required technologies. The Outer Hebrides would be well-placed for delivering and enabling these sectors to thrive and should be at the forefront of attracting new developments in the Creative Industries sector. Comunn Eachdraidh Nis were provided as an example as they offer computer development and aids to the community to support rural development.

DMS – Added that with Brexit there is now an issue with immigration and barriers to attract workers to the islands for some sectors, like the fishing industry. Consequently, Population retention is crucial to retain the uniqueness of islands communities and so need to ensure there is local employment available.

CG – Population should be a strategic objective, as should Green Recovery and Inclusive Growth in its widest context. Innovative initiatives could be developed to achieve these higher level objectives.

Members agreed that there needs to be both rural and island proofing in any new programme and that ‘one size may not fit all’ and therefore a programme which can be tailored to suit local needs is imperative.

*Do you approve the idea of progressing a ‘Youth LAG’ concept to involve and financially support projects involving young islanders (maybe aged up to 30)?*

Members were supportive of the proposal as it could stimulate entrepreneurship and skills. Also assist in retaining young people on the islands to develop their communities.

EM stated that the Barra and Vatersay Area Forum would be interested in supporting the project locally with a pilot and at pre-planning stage to establish a structure. AR added that the North Uist Development Company would also be supportive.

DMD reiterated that this will support young people to become more confident in their skills as they are experiencing this in the media sector.

<p>AR added that the next programme needs to ensure that it supports local collaborative working and that these groups are not working in silo's but contributing to a joint strategy and are represented on the LAG.</p>	
<p><b>4. AOCB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KM asked members to forward her any further comments by close of business on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May to ensure that the LAGs comments are forwarded to the Scottish Government to be included in feedback to the LAG Chairs meeting which is taking place on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May and the CLLD stakeholders workshops on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>It was agreed that the date of the next meeting was <b>rescheduled</b> to <b><u>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021 at 10.30am</u></b></p>	

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