



# OUTER HEBRIDES LEADER 2014-2020 PROGRAMME



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

on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 10.30

### Present:

Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private) Chairperson  
Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Vice Chairperson  
Kathleen Stewart, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)  
Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)  
Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)  
Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)  
Calum Mackay, Community Land Scotland (Private)

### In attendance:

Kathlene Morrison, Outer Hebrides LEADER Co-ordinator (KM)  
Charlene Macmillan, Outer Hebrides LEADER Project and Finance Officer (CM)  
Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DM)

### Apologies/ Absent:

Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)  
Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)  
Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)  
Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (Public)  
Cllr. Donald Crichton, Chair of Sustainable Communities Committee CnES (Public)  
Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)  
Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)  
Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private)

	<i>Action for:</i>
<p><b>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</b></p> <p>Project 15/P00103 gave a brief presentation, providing an overview of their Project and the impact it has had. LEADER funds were awarded to this co-operation Project between communities in Scotland and Ireland to share and develop experiences and methodologies that can make their islands smart, dynamic and sustainable. Some of the outputs to date include providing training sessions, knowledge transfer opportunities and exchanges with Irish partners, supporting and empowering young people to have a voice on local issues, providing employment, hosting sessions throughout the pandemic, 6 x Podcasts and developing the 'Uist Beo' online Instagram and website.</p> <p>Additional funding was also provided to explore a COVID response methodology in these communities.</p> <p>Project links –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://codel.scot/smart-islands">http://codel.scot/smart-islands</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://codel.scot/uist-beo-feasibility-study">http://codel.scot/uist-beo-feasibility-study</a></li> </ul>	

<p>The Project applicants left the Meeting once the presentation was finished.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the Meeting and noted apologies from Neil Campbell, Johanne Ferguson, Donnie MacDonald and Donald Mackinnon.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Calum Mackay to his first LEADER LAG meeting as a secondary nominee for Community Land Scotland.</p> <p><b><i>A quorum was not achieved with 6 Private members and 1 Public Members present at the meeting.</i></b></p> <p>Lorna Macaulay Left the Meeting.</p> <p><b><i>Action - As a quorum was not present, any decisions taken will be ratified electronically by circulating Minutes to the LAG via email for comment/ approval</i></b></p>	<b>KM/ CM</b>
<p><b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p> <p>The LAG Members were reminded that their annual Declaration of Interest Forms are due for submission.</p> <p><b><i>Action – LAG members to submit their updated Declarations of Interest for the 2021/2022 period to LEADER staff</i></b></p>	<b>LAG</b>
<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 14/04/21</b> – this was agreed to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. <b>Approved in principle, to be verified by quorum.</b></li> </ul> <p>All Actions within the minutes had been addressed and/ or are in process.</p>	
<p><b>4. CO-ORDINATORS REPORT</b></p> <p>It was noted that staff continue to work from home and there has also been additional recruitment at SG level to the Rural Communities Team.</p> <p>The Business Plan has been updated to reflect COVID pandemic and resulting restrictions, noting any requirements that couldn't be met, along with the increase in the funding received by the Programme.</p> <p><b>Any suggestions for amendments/ approval on Business Plan to be relayed before submission to SG</b></p> <p>The Change request policy was updated to reflect Programme extension to allow Co-ordinator approval in the first instance.</p>	

<p><b>A table of all Change Requests since the previous LAG meeting was provided and agreed in principle along with the Change Request Policy.</b></p> <p><i>Action – Forward any comments/ approval for Business Plan before submission to SG</i></p>	<p><b>LAG</b></p>
<p><b>5. PROGRAMME FINANCIAL AND PROJECT UPDATE</b></p> <p>There have been minimal changes to the Project financials since the previous LAG Meeting; however the additional the funding for Administration and Animation during 2021/2022 has now been added to the overall Programme budget, bringing the total to just over £3.3M with an anticipated underspend of 1.2%.</p>	
<p><b>6. CHAIR'S UPDATE</b></p> <p>The Chair noted that SG appear content with the current structures in place in relation to participating in communication with the LAG Chairs group with AB's supporting the delivery of a Programme.</p> <p>It was noted that there is a strong feeling of the potential for the LAG to have a future, with funding available to support actions in the current financial year.</p>	
<p><b>7. ACCOUNTABLE BODY UPDATE</b></p> <p>The AB's Meeting took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April and future Meeting to be held on 22nd June. It was noted that things are continuing to move along with looking at future CLLD schemes and work on that continues.</p>	
<p><b>8. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS – POST MARCH 2021</b></p> <p><b>8.1 CLLD Workshop</b></p> <p>SG Held a CLLD Workshop at which KM and CG were present at, with a full report on the outcomes of the workshop provided.</p> <p>It was also noted that the role of development worker/ animateur is crucial with lots of projects unable to continue without that support.</p> <p>There were linked themes about the need to facilitate the 'voices of the less heard' and how do we target that going forward, in support of current SG aims including tackling inequalities and inclusive growth, with these less heard communities being disadvantaged by remoteness and rurality making them not best placed to respond.</p> <p>Community empowerment and responding to needs and how to facilitate these were also discussed, realising that practical tools are required to enable this such as Participatory Budgeting. It was suggested this needs to be looked at to enable communities to have a fuller say in what they're doing and how to manage any funds.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Place based principle was referenced a lot and accepting that one size does not fit all for a future Programme as island needs are different from rural mainland needs with some discussion on whether it is rural or peri-urban?</p>	

**Colin Gilmour left the meeting**

## **8.2 Outer Hebrides Response to CLLD Options Paper May 20.05.21**

LEADER Staff went through current admin processes noting the positives and negatives, suggesting what should be retained or not, and submitted this to SG. Only 14 LAGs from 21 have responded to this.

## **8.3 Outer Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland Joint Proposal**

OH, Orkney and Shetland are submitting a joint proposal to SG for transition funding to test change during 2021/2022. A draft proposal of discussions with Orkney and Shetland LAGs has been created and are still going through the proposals as there are many to do be done in the year so likely these will be split further into 3 or 4 different projects.

The OH Youth LAG was mentioned in the Scottish LEADER programme evaluation as a benchmark that should be included in future programmes, and the Joint Islands proposal presented to the LAG aims to capitalise on this and look at embedding this with the inclusion of mentoring young people. Other LAGs in Scotland are also interested about this.

It aims to look at Participatory Budgeting and taking the principles of this and making it more community led and not issued by ABs. Splitting money again into wellness, mental health and utilising graduates in each place to take the work forward in each area and using the work done to be included in their assignments due to short timeframe. The work would be contracted and there will be the need for 3 or 4 graduates in each area to explore how things work in their area and what works well/ does not in each island.

Actual project Financial costs have not yet been forecasted as awaiting on SG feedback to ensure they approve the proposal in principle.

It was noted at the Staff LEADER Group Meeting that the 3 island groups proposals would fit with National Islands Plan and the Islands Growth Deal and other strategies within SG and locally. The Islands draft submission, a proposal from North and South Aberdeenshire and one other LAG are all that have been received to date, so OH are ahead which is positive and have something to work upon.

A loose timeline was presented by SG stating that finalised criteria assessment for funding would be confirmed w/c 7 June and the call for bids towards the £3M would be sought by end of June. LAGs were informed that it doesn't have to be just LAGs that apply for the £3M funding but this information has not been released formally yet and should find out more about the available funds in the next couple of weeks.

<p><b>Agreement from the LAG was shown with regards using graduates and it was suggested that graduates local to the areas are used for them to fully understand the landscape of the areas.</b></p> <p>It was also noted that as Orkney and Shetland are FLAG areas also, if there is any project that the OH FLAG wish to test for fishing communities that it too can be included in the proposal also.</p>	
<p><b>9. AOCB</b></p> <p>9.1) Proposed 2021/2 LAG Meeting Timetable</p> <p><b>The LAG approved the Proposed 2021/22 LAG Timetable however agreed that due to the imminent submission deadlines that a meeting should be held towards the end of June. However, that members should also be expecting electronic updates in the meantime.</b></p> <p>There were no other matters raised.</p>	
<p><b>10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The date of the next meeting is scheduled for <b><u>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am</u></b></p> <p>The Chair Thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the Meeting.</p>	

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