



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 30th June at 10.30am

Present:

- Matt Bruce, Lewis and Harris Horticultural Producers (Private) Chairperson
- Kathleen Stewart, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (Public)
- Duncan MacInnes, Western Isles Fishing Association (Private)
- Lorna Macaulay, Harris Tweed Authority (Private)
- Calum Mackay, Community Land Scotland (Private)
- Johanne Ferguson, Scottish Natural Heritage (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)
- Domhnall MacDonald, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Accountable Body Representative (DM)

Apologies/ Absent:

- Colin Gilmour, Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership (Private) Vice Chairperson
- Neil Campbell, Community Land Scotland (Private)
- Donald Mackinnon, Scottish Crofting Federation (Private)
- Donnie Macdonald, MG Alba (Public)
- Eoin MacNeil, Co-Cheangal Innse Gall (Private)
- Andrew Ross, North Uist Development Company (Private)
- Rob MacKinnon, Outer Hebrides Tourism (Private)
- Alison MacCorquodale, Tourism Outer Hebrides 2020 Leadership Group (Private)

	<i>Action for:</i>
<p>1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted apologies. Calum Mackay was welcomed to the meeting as Neil Campbell’s secondary, although going forward it is likely that Calum Mackay will now be the primary contact for Community Land Scotland representation on the LAG.</p> <p>Apologies were received from the absent members.</p> <p><i>There were 4 private members and 3 public members in attendance. A quorum was not achieved and so all decisions will be circulated via email for ratification</i></p> <p><i>Action – circulate draft Minutes for quorate feedback on all decisions discussed</i></p>	<p>CM/ KM</p>



<p>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
<p>3. REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NOTES OF THE LAST MEETINGS AND MATTERS ARISING THEREOF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note of Meeting on 02/06/21 – this was agreed to be a true and accurate reflection of the meeting. Approved in principle, to be verified by quorum. <p>Matters arising – LAG to forward declarations of interest to LEADER staff</p> <p><i>Action – Declaration of Interest form to be circulated to LAG again for completion</i></p> <p><i>Action – LAG members to submit their updated Declarations of Interest for the 2021/2022 period to LEADER staff</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">CM</p> <p style="text-align: right;">LAG</p>
<p>4. CO-ORDINATORS REPORT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The LAG were informed that Alistair Henry (AH) has been appointed as the new LEADER Delivery Team Manager; AH is familiar with LEADER having been the primary Accreditation Auditor for the 2007-2013 Programme. Closure document for the Programme has been issued and staff will be reviewing all projects in full to ensure compliance with closure procedures The LEADER staff group have been meeting fortnightly which has provided good communication between LAGs and LDT 	
<p>5. PROGRAMME FINANCIAL AND PROJECT UPDATE</p> <p>It was noted that SG had incorrectly allocated full co-operation COVID uplift funds to lead LAGs and this is now being corrected; whilst it does mean an overall reduction in total allocation, there is no change to spend/ underspend projects as a result.</p> <p>In agreement with SG, the LAG has agreed to move £896 underspend from Project 15/P00088 to the RYP Project 16/00091 to support a total of £6000 increase to this project.</p>	
<p>6. CHAIR'S UPDATE</p> <p>The Chair's Group are currently awaiting updates from SG on future funding.</p>	
<p>7. ACCOUNTABLE BODY UPDATE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AB Meeting was held on 22nd June; awaiting further details of funds and the commitment to delivering funds and assist other LAG areas who don't have staff anymore was reiterated. Next AB Meeting to be held end of August/ early September 	

8. FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS – POST MARCH 2021

At the most recent SLSG meeting SG shared some information on potential funds prior to it being taken to MSP Mairi Gougeon for formal approval after which the final criteria will be issued.

A complaint has been raised by the SLSG on the tight time timescales set for submitting funding bids at end of July as many LAG staff, and delivery partner contacts, are either on leave or are finishing their posts soon and this may affect the quality of bids submitted. The SG acknowledged this issue and will take into consideration and amend deadlines however they will remain tight with application decisions expected at the end of August/ early September.

Hannah Downey at SRN provided update on the CLLD fund:

- **Tranche 1**

Stream 1 : £1M LAG innovation fund equating to £50k between 21 LAGs if every LAG applies to the pot. This is to be used to Build capacity and trial new ways for working and deliver Programme differently with more progressive on inclusion. Funds to be spent by March 2022. Proposals must link with SG priorities such as Net Zero, Climate Challenge and Community Wealth Building. Work must have a Community led aspect; speaking to various groups and see what issues are affecting them, such as Housing and issues getting young people involved in community led decision making with the OH Youth LAG project hopefully assisting this.

CM invited to Rural Youth Stakeholders meeting last week, hopefully providing a positive indication on the joint OH, Shetland and Orkney YLAG proposal.

Stream 2: A Challenge Fund pot of £400k for LAGs to bid into, in conjunction with delivery partner, will also be available and offer grants of up to £75k.

- **Tranche 2**

This is to be smaller pots of money with a September launch date but still spend date of March 2022. Information on this tranche is limited as it depends on the level of interest in Tranche 1. This funding may also be top-sliced to be used on some SG shovel ready projects.

It is noted that the use of Scottish Rural parliament outcomes should be linked to funding bids. It is also likely that the Tranche 2 fund can be applied to by any community group, not just LAGs, however LAGs may have to support those groups with application and capacity, etc.

Ideas for the Funding scheme applications including the joint proposal with Orkney, Shetland and the Outer Hebrides for Youth LAG Development and another proposal to support the 'Lesser Heard' groups in the Outer Hebrides were provided and agreed by the LAG. Further information on these will be forwarded.

<i>ACTION: Forward funding proposals to LAG once developed further and final criteria is received.</i>	KM
9. AOCB There were no other matters raised.	
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING The date of the next meeting is scheduled for <u>Wednesday 4th August at 10.30am</u> The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and contribution to the Meeting.	

CONFIRMATION OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
LAG MEMBER	
SIGNATURE	
DATE	