

Community Learning Local Development Fund

Local Action Group Meeting

Tuesday 17th October 2023

TEAMS Online 9.30am – 12.30pm

NOTE OF MEETING

Present:

Miriam Adcock, Zero Waste Scotland (MA) –Third Sector
Fiona Benton, Borders Community Action (FB) - Third
Charles Dundas, Borders Forest Trust (CD) – Third (Acting Chair)
Lesley Forsyth, Scottish Borders Council (LF) – Public
Anna Griffin, SEPA (AG) – Public
Hazel Smith, Re-Tweed (HS) – Third
Margaret Simpson, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber (MS) –Third

Secretariat:

Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (SL)
Nesta Todd, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (NT)
Linda Cornwall, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (LC)

		Action
1.0	Welcome	
2.0	Apologies Luke Fisher, Tweed Forum (LF2) – Third Louisa Gardiner, Private (LG) Pip Tabor, Southern Uplands Partnership (PT) – Voluntary Hans Waltl (HW) – Private –Chair Gail Blacklock, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development)(GB) Linda Kerr, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (LK) SL confirmed the meeting was quorate when HS or MS joined the meeting. CD kindly agreed to be acting chair for this meeting. <i>Apologies for lateness – MS who joined at 9:38am and HS who joined at 10:09am (5.0 Review of applications)</i>	
3.0	Conflict of Interest Conflicts of interest declared for project SBSEC by Margaret Simpson and Simon Lynch.	

<p>4.0</p>	<p>CLLD 2023/24 Programme Progress Report</p> <p>SL had circulated a Progress update detailing 8 grants awarded, 7 approved, 5 applications to be considered at today's meeting, 1 deferred application, 1 appeal application plus 3 EoI's developing into applications. MS joined the meeting at 9:38am and meeting quorate</p> <p>Project Updates: Berwickshire Swap have decided to reject the grant offer for Nappy Library. Whilst the group remains committed to the project, due to a change in circumstance they no longer feel that they can deliver by end of Feb 2024. The group will seek funding elsewhere for a project extending into the following financial year. SL confirmed that the money would be released back into the central pot.</p> <p>LAG would like to feedback to Berwickshire Swap that it was an excellent proposal and hope that it can be delivered in the future.</p> <p>Other projects are progressing according to proposals. Alchemy have provided more information for their CR following the LAG's request and LAG happy to approve budget adjustments.</p> <p>Finance Report to date also circulated detailing approx. £54,000 revenue funding still available and £100,000 capital. However, pipeline applications exceed funding. Admin & animation still to be updated but staff hours have markedly increased. SL advised that SG reporting required 31 Oct and he would be reporting no underspend projected.</p> <p>YLAG:</p> <p>Forth Valley Lomond have submitted an application for £15k plus costs for creation of a local and national video (a further £1k). Each of the 6 LAG areas will be responsible for reporting their own spend to the Govt. The idea for the video funding is each area will make a film on their Y-LAG and their local culture and what they love about their area. These will then be used as a basis for a national film encouraging and promoting other areas to set up their own Y-LAG. The £15k will be used as funds for the Y-LAG to distribute (added to £10k from the LAG); this would free up £15k to spend on other funding.</p> <p>Social Value Engine:</p> <p>Being used to measure project impact. SL has started the process with the 8 'oldest' projects.</p>	
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Review of Applications</p> <p>HS joined the meeting at 10:09am</p> <p>Round 5:</p> <p>Berwickshire Swap</p> <p>LAG aware that Berwickshire Swap has grown exponentially but there was clearly a positive change in governance and propriety, making it a more robust organisation. Also noted that Berwickshire Swap had withdrawn previously approved Reuse Nappy Library project, so indicates that they are aware of their capability.</p>	

Felt that there was an obvious need for the service, particularly in Hawick to fill the gap left by Cheviot Togs. Due to nature of organisation, LAG & SBC staff to stay informed just in case there are organisational capacity challenges.

- Approve

Borders Youth Theatre

All very positive about this project. Well structured application with good legacy evident but would like to encourage BYT to consider environmental issues/impact of its activities.

- Approve.

BYP Gaming

LAG felt that this was an innovative project from Connect Berwickshire Youth Project, although concerns that the target audience may lack diversity; and application lacked environmental literacy. LAG pleased that BYP were active.

- Approve with recommendation that they record users (especially protected characteristics) and look at environmental impact.

BYP Kitchen

Good life skill project for young people. Thought it was a sound proposal and liked design.

- Approve.

Outside the Box

Good beneficiaries but feedback to organisation that it should be further promoting environmental element with food wastage, food security etc.

- Approve.

NOTE: Discussions for Items 6 & 7 AOB took place before SL and MS left the meeting.

Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber

MS and SL left meeting.

SBSEC had appealed rejection of project, Dedicated Support for Social Enterprise, on the grounds that the application had not been given appropriate support from SBC officers due to lack of resourcing and a conflict of interest on the project.

Noted that there was a vital role in the region to support social enterprises and wanted to support the SBSEC so decided to offer half of the funding with expectations that more funding would be available in the future, subject to good reporting and data demonstrating impact.

- Approve 50% of funding request with the condition that LAG is aware what the money will support a pilot and impactful work is to be evidenced if it wishes to return for further funding in the future.

6.0	<p>Dates & Times of Future Meetings</p> <p>NOTE: Prior to this meeting SL had circulated dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd November 9.30 – 12.30. <p>Venue tbc; Hybrid meeting.</p>	SL
7.0	<p>AoB</p> <p>Scottish Rural Parliament: MS is attending.</p> <p>Meeting closed 11:11</p>	MS