



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

SCOTTISH BORDERS LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Local Action Group meeting

Tuesday 28th September 2021

10.00am Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Present:

Gary White, Peebles CAN (GW) - Voluntary

Heather Batsch, The Bridge (HB) - Voluntary

Lesley Forsyth, Scottish Borders Council (LF) - Public

Annabelle Scott, Messrs A A Scott (AS) - Private

Hans Watl, Federation of Small Businesses (HW) – Private (joined meeting at 10.18am)

Secretariat:

Linda Cornwall, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Coordinator) (LiC)

Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Facilitator) (SL)

		Action
1.0	<p>Apologies Luke Comins, Tweed Forum (LC) – Voluntary Jules Horne, Creative Arts Business Network (JH) - Private Gordon Harrison, Scottish Borders Community Council Network (GH) – Voluntary</p> <p>(Hans Watl advised that he was having connection issues at home and was travelling to office location to join meeting within 25mins)</p> <p>GW advised the group that Paula Ward had formally resigned from the LAG. GW advised LF and LiC would need to leave the meeting at 11.30am.</p>	
2.0	<p>Conflicts of Interest There were no conflicts of interest</p> <p>It was noted that 4 members were present (not quorate), one member represented the public sector (<50%). The meeting would be quorate when HW joined the meeting.</p>	
3.0	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting of 23rd March 2021 As HW was not present at the meeting, the agreement of the Minutes was not undertaken until HW in attendance and meeting quorate.</p>	



	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Letter of Thanks to Frank Beattie, Scottish Enterprise</u> LiC advised the group that a letter of thanks signed off by the Chair on behalf of the LAG was sent to Frank via Scottish Enterprise HR. The only contact details provided by Frank were business contacts and the HR Department were happy to forward on to him. <u>SB Futures Group</u> GW advised the Members that the SB Futures Group project was abandoned due to the withdrawal of D&G LAG from the process. SoSE had already informed the group at an earlier stage that it could not assist with funding for Futures work due to lack of budget and indication from SG that it would be setting aside funding for this aspect at a future date. Discussion thereafter centred around concern that some groups in the area felt they were unable to access SoSE funding. Some members had referred groups seeking LEADER funding to SoSE but were unable to obtain an appointment to discuss. Members felt understanding as to what was being offered by SoSE was unclear and it would be good to know what funding is being delivered and to which sectors. It was also felt that it would be beneficial to have a better understanding what was required for groups to access SoSE funding and how better partnership working could be developed for the future. Agreed that LiC and GW would gather Members thoughts on way ahead for the future and draft up an Agenda to discuss with Director of Operations. GW would then meet with Director of Operations to gauge capacity for a way forward. LF fed in that Scottish Government had provided a paper at the AB Meeting yesterday regarding possibility of providing a wider role for LAGs in the dissemination of future funding streams. It was felt at the AB meeting that although LAGS could have a role to play, exactly how could not be determined until it was known what funds were likely to be available from SG and UK Gov and what role Community Action Hubs would have in this funding. HB advised she had some interesting information regarding Community Wealth Building which she would circulate around members. <p>(HW joined the meeting at 10.18am and meeting now quorate)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Minutes of the Last Meeting of 23rd March 2021</u> The Minutes of the last meeting held on 23rd March 2021 were agreed by members subject to an amendment to remove the reference of 'Social Enterprise Chamber' at top of Page 2 and replace with 'Borders TSI'. The Minutes were proposed by HB and seconded by AS. The Minutes will be signed off by Chair and sent to LiC. 	<p>LiC/GW</p> <p>HB</p> <p>GW</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Monitoring & Evaluation</u> SL provided the Members with a summary of the target information to date which is 99% complete. Many projects have delivered very well on targets and any who have struggled have been down to the effect of Covid. SL agreed to circulate the summary around Members. Monitoring report on SG 7 priorities and LDS priorities is well advanced and SL will circulate completed document via email to Members when complete for approval and sign off. • <u>Leader Legacy Document</u> LiC advised members that the Legacy document was in draft stage and about to go to SBC Graphic Design to provide a mock-up for approval/comment by LAG Members. Despite much of the information being populated by the LEADER Team some projects had been very slow in coming back with approval of information and photographs. LiC advised members she would circulate the mock-up for comment and amendments before final draft is sent back to SBC Graphic Design for completion. • <u>LAG Annual Report to 31st March 2021</u> LiC advised Members that the LAG Annual Report had been completed and circulated to Director Economic Development; Scottish Government; Borders TSI; Community Planning Chair; SoSE; SBC Councillors; MSP for Rural Affairs; local MP. It is also on the LEADER web page and was uploaded to the Facebook page. • <u>Future CLLD Development Model</u> – being discussed at Item 5. 	<p>SL</p> <p>LiC</p>
<p>3.1</p>	<p>LDS Change Request</p> <p>LiC advised Members that Scottish Government had confirmed on 21st June 2021 that the Scottish Borders allocation for LEADER would be increased. This was to take account of £18,221.75 Covid Recovery monies SG had awarded to 3 co-operation projects involving Scottish Borders but being led by other LAGS [REDACTED]. The Covid Recovery monies were part of unutilised LEADER project funding clawed back from other areas. This project funding was originally to be made available to other LEADER areas however, following Covid, it was used to fund projects linked to Covid recovery activities. The Scottish Borders LEADER allocation would therefore increase from £4,015,888 to £4,034,109.75. LiC asked members to agree to amend the LDS/Business Plan to take this into account and ask the LEADER Team to submit an LDS Change Request to amend the budget as soon as possible.</p> <p>Decision: Approved unanimously, 5 for, 0 against</p>	<p>LiC</p>



<p>4.0</p>	<p>Future CLLD Development Model (part moved from Item 5 to Item 4) As LF required to leave the meeting at 11.30am and the meeting would no longer be quorate, it was agreed to provide update of the Scottish Government Rural Communities Testing Change Tranche 1: Streams 1 & 2 funds and obtain a decision on the Stream 2 applications before discussion of the Programme Progress Note.</p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Rural Communities Testing Change - Tranche 1: Stream 1 Update SL advised members that £50,000 funding had been confirmed from Scottish Government to undertake testing of an HLS project delivery system which would provide funding of £15,000 to 3 different projects and £5,000 to cover HLS development costs. SL confirmed the organisations who were offered the opportunity to bid for funding were all either put forward by LAG members, had previous LEADER funding experience, had a very good track record for delivery and had the capacity to turn projects around in a very tight timescale. 5 organisations applied for funding in Stream 1 and the LAG has already provided scoring on these projects. SL advised that at present it could not be confirmed which 3 projects would secure this funding until a decision was made on the Stream 2 applications (2 of the organisations with bids in Stream 1 have also submitted applications to Stream 2). This was to ensure as many organisations applying for funding could benefit and no organisation benefitted from both Stream 1 and Stream 2 funding.</p>	
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Rural Communities Testing Change - Tranche 1: Stream 2 Update SL advised that Scottish Government had confirmed that £35,000 had been awarded to Scottish Borders for Stream 2. Scottish Government indicated at that time that there may be the option of a further £35,000 once all LAG applications had been received to Stream 2 (SG extended the deadline date which caused a delay in decision of all Stream 2 applications). SL advised that if Scottish Government had confirmed the further £35,000, both applications could have been accepted without the need for LAG decision, but as no confirmation of further funding has been notified from SG, LAG members need to make a decision on preference between the two applications for Stream 2.</p>	
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Rural Communities Testing Change – Tranche 1: Stream 2 Applications SL provided brief summaries of both applications and a discussion between LAG members ensued. Comments: LF had concerns around eligibility of the [REDACTED] project and was seeking guidance from Marine Scotland. As it was unclear as to eligibility at this stage, it was considered that advice should to be sought from Marine Scotland/SG before any award for funding be made if approved.</p>	



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	<p>All members agreed a preference for the [REDACTED] project subject to confirmation of eligibility. All members agreed that if this project was considered ineligible, the SUP project would progress forward.</p> <p>Decision: [REDACTED]: This project was approved by 5 votes, 0 against (subject to project being deemed eligible) SUP: This project was approved by 5 votes, 0 against (if [REDACTED] project deemed ineligible or further funding is confirmed from SG)</p>	
5.0	<p>LEADER Programme Progress Report incl, budget update, staffing etc. (moved from Item 4 to Item 5) LiC had to leave meeting at 11.30am along with LF to attend an online meeting with SG. Members confirmed they were happy with the content of the Progress Report provided and had no questions to pose.</p> <p>(LF and LiC left the meeting at 11.33am)</p>	
6.0	<p>Future CLLD Development Model (part moved from Item 4 to Item 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Tranche 2 – Rural Communities “Ideas into Action” Fund</u> SL informed the LAG of the latest new Rural Communities Test Change funding available and its closing date of 8th October 2021. LAG members raised that a number of groups had complained about the shortage of application timescale and asked for the issue to be raised with the Government. <u>Glasgow University – Creation of HLS D</u> SL and GW spoke about the work they were hoping to do with Glasgow University IT students in developing a functional system that would provide the Government a better model to developing IT systems than LARCS. 	SL
7.0	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>Date and time of next meeting</u> Agreed that LiC would locate a suitable meeting date and time in March 2022. A general informal discussion took place before the close of the meeting on further thoughts for future funding. <p>Meeting closed at 12.37pm</p>	LiC