

Scottish Borders LAG Community Led Vision for 2022/23

The 2022/23 Scottish Borders community-led local development (CLLD) programme will bring together the core principles of a community-led LEADER-based approach with the innovative work done as part of the Rural Communities Testing Change (RCTC) programme. This explored an innovative Human Learning Systems (HLS)-based approach to managing and delivering CLLD outcomes. We also aim to further develop and implement our strategy for improving local engagement, and increase the diversity and local representation in the LAG as key priorities.

We propose to further develop the HLS test of change methodology. This explores the practical application of an HLS approach that;

- Fosters and develops trust-based relationships
- Focuses on capacity-building and experience as primary outcomes
- Fosters and supports partnership working to address complex systems, by taking an integrated approach.

Our core areas of funding are in line with the Scottish Governments CLLD Guidance to communities, and aligned with our understanding of local need and regional policy priorities.

A more detailed scope of work will be undertaken in the early stages of the programme, with the re-vamped LAG membership and a wider stakeholder audience. A resulting CLLD Action Plan will set out how each element of the programme will be implemented and monitored.

In the early stages, the core elements of the programme will include:

Core CLLD Fund Areas of Special Interest

Rural Poverty Alleviation

- Grants would be aimed at organisations directly working with the alleviation of poverty rather than at individuals in need.

Climate Change/Net Zero

- Grants to be given to people/businesses wanting to set up as or convert to delivering Net Zero trades or services. Potential external support for recruitment and oversight
- Grants to be available for community organisation looking for smaller scale renewable energy generation and storage systems

Cultural Economic Recovery

- Grants would be aimed at community organisations or businesses
- Would support cultural events or programmes or activities

Inclusive growth (includes Community-Led Tourism and creative industries)

- Grants aimed social enterprises, development trusts, community organisations and businesses
- Grants likely to be spent on small capital projects that can be completed in 7 months, or revenue costs

Creation of a Scottish Borders Youth LAG

- Building on work done by Cairngorm LAG
- Youth LAG to have own grant pot and able to make decisions for themselves

LAG-Led Projects

- LAG-commissioned core development or infrastructural based projects that, working in partnership with existing community development support services, undertake programmes of work that build community capacity and social capital.

The SB CLLD programme will seek to demonstrate that a more adaptive and flexible approach to working with communities brings a range of administrative and outcomes-based improvements, without compromising our ability to assure appropriate levels of governance and accountability. This will be achieved through the further development of the HLS process, which builds trust-based relationships, has learning and capacity building as key outcomes, and supports co-design and co-delivery between key stakeholders.