

Community Learning Local Development Fund

Local Action Group Meeting

Tuesday 20th April 2023

(11.00 to 3pm)

TWEED HORIZONS, NEWTOWN ST.BOSWELLS

NOTE OF MEETING

Present:

Hans Waltl (GW) – Private –Chair
Lesley Forsyth, Scottish Borders Council (LF) – Public
Anna Griffin, SEPA (AG) – Public
Pip Tabor, Southern Uplands Partnership – Voluntary
Hazel Smith, Re-Tweed (HS) – Third
Luke Fisher, Tweed Forum (LF) – Third
Charles Dundas, Borders Forest Trust (CD) – Third
Gordon Smith, VisitScotland (GS) –Public
Louisa Gardner, Private (LG)
Margaret Simpson, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber (MS) –Third –
(attended online)

Secretariat:

Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (SL)

		Action
1.0	Welcome HW introduced himself as Chair of the LAG. As many of those at the meeting were new LAG members, HW asked everyone to introduce themselves.	
2.0	Apologies Phil McCreadie, SoSE-Public Miriam Adcock, Zero Waste Scotland –Third Sector Youth Borders and REP have not appointed reps yet. With 10 LAG members present and less than 50% being from Public Sector, SL confirmed the meeting was quorate	
3.0	Conflict of Interest There were no conflicts of interest noted.	

4.0	<p>Minutes from last meeting on 14th Feb 2023 and matters arising</p> <p>The Minutes were postponed due to the next LAG meeting due to lack of Minutes</p>	
5.0	<p>CLLD 2022/23 Programme Progress Report</p> <p>SL provided a brief overview of the CLLD 2022-23 process, the finances and the projects funded. Reference was made to the Final report distributed to the LAG the week prior to the meeting. LAG members asked for clarification on a range of points which SL provided.</p> <p>The Youth LAG report and film couldn't be shared with LAG but SL informed the meeting, it would be passed on when received Showcase of what has been achieved by the 21 CLLD applications is also proposed post March 2023.</p>	SL/YouthBorders
6.0	<p>Funding Landscape Update</p> <p>LF explained that the Council were currently working with UK and Scottish Governments on a number of funds. LF stated that development of the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) was well underway. There will be a public announcement calling for applications to the fund in the next few months.</p> <p>LF confirmed that Round 3 of Levelling Up Fund (LUF) is not expected to be competitive and that instead it is likely to be an allocation for each area unlike previous rounds.</p> <p>SL updated the LAG on CLLD developments including the reduced allowance (approx. 20%) in overall allocation for the Borders. LAG members unanimously expressed their disappointment in the news of the reduced allocation (esp in comparison to our South of Scotland neighbours). Concerns were raised about the method of allocation, including the experimental fuel poverty model. The LAG voted to raise its concerns initially with the Scottish Government and then if required with MP/MSP/Ministers as appropriate.</p> <p>SL stated that a report had gone to Council asking for permission to act as Lead Partner for the LAG and this had been granted. Several Members had expressed positive views of CLLD funding projects in their area. Members asked to be provided fuller details of the CLLD 2022-23 funds successes later in the year; this would likely be a similar Legacy document to the LEADER one.</p> <p>SL clarified funding was for revenue only but this is still be confirmed. Revenue can however take into consideration small items of equipment such as laptops, mobile phones etc as well as</p>	LF/SL

	Capitalisation limits contained in the Community Led Vision document provided by the Government.	
7.0	<p>CLLD Funding 23-24 A wide ranging discussion occurred around uses for the funds both before and after lunch (12.15-1pm).</p> <p>SL showed meeting a provisional timeline (Gantt Chart format) for CLLD. Due to SBC staff working across multiple funds, the timings would need to be co-ordinated with Shared prosperity Fund. Timeline will be sent to LAG within a fortnight once revised.</p> <p>The LAG confirmed that (subject to acceptance by the Government) the focus of funding should be around poverty alleviation, environment and social inclusion. Other priorities were seen as flourishing communities and equality.</p> <p>The LAG voted to fund the following</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth Borders & Youth LAG (£58,502k –same as last year) 2. Main Grant Scheme (min £272,079.59 –down from £354,499 last year) 3. Creation of LAG Logo –up to £1k (ideally designed by younger person). 4. Networking Visits between funded groups –Up to £1k 5. SBC Admin and Animation costs(up to £58,690.87 –less than last year £73k) <p>The Community Led Vision (CLV) document will be created from decisions made at the meeting and a draft distributed over the next couple of weeks for approval.</p> <p>Main Grant Scheme The following points were agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two stage process desired with Expression of Interest and then Full Application. • No business funding. Due to reduced funds the LAG wished to limit funding to only Community and Voluntary organisations, Charities and Social Enterprises. • Micro sized organisations to be funded only • Grants to be £1500-20,000 with no match funding requirements • Applications over £20k would be considered but it is likely match funding would be required <p>The LAG wish visits to formerly funded projects to be arranged for Summer/Autumn 2023 and where possible would like LAG meetings to rotate round venues. Visits or online discussions with other LAGs</p>	<p>SL</p> <p>SL</p> <p>SL</p>

	<p>were felt to be a good idea, especially where LAGs were in similar areas or where co-operation projects may occur.</p> <p>The LAG decided not to fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website. Use of SBC's would be continued in 2023-24. Noted site needs updating. Decision made instead to concentrate on Facebook and other low cost options. • Films. Whilst LAG saw the need for greater publicity, it was felt that the current financial situation didn't allow this. 	
8.0	<p>Dates & Times of Future Meetings</p> <p>June on Tuesday or Thursday. Doodle Poll to confirm</p>	SL
9.0	AoB	
	<p>HW thanked members and support staff for their input and closed the meeting at 2pm.</p>	