

Community Learning Local Development Fund

Local Action Group Meeting

Thursday 5th October 2023

Tweed Horizons & 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
Luke Fisher**, Tweed Forum (LF2) – Third
Lesley Forsyth**, Scottish Borders Council (LF) – Public
Hazel Smith**, Re-Tweed (HS) – Third (Acting Chair)
Margaret Simpson**, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber (MS) –Third
**= Joined Online

Guest:

Shona Haddow, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (SH)

Secretariat:

Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (SL)
Nesta Todd**, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (NT)
**= Joined on line

		Action
1.0	Welcome	
2.0	Apologies Louisa Gardiner, Private (LG) Anna Griffin, SEPA (AG) – Public Jan Pringle, SoSE-Public Pip Tabor, Southern Uplands Partnership (PT) – Voluntary Hans Waltl (HW) – Private –Chair Gail Blacklock, Scottish Borders Council (LC) – Secretariat Linda Cornwall, Scottish Borders Council (LC) – Secretariat Linda Kerr, Scottish Borders Council (LK) - Secretariat SL confirmed the meeting was quorate. HS kindly agreed to be acting chair for this meeting.	
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 reported that CLLD progressing well with 8 grants awarded, 6 under consideration, 5 applications ready to go to LAG 17th October, plus 2 applications and more Eol's. There is now considerably more projects than there is available funding so LAG asked to choose an approach: Spend only the money currently allocated to SB CLLD; Or commit funds beyond budget and request additional funding (ie underspend) from SG Gov.</p> <p>Latter approach is a risk as the funding may not be available; unknown if it is revenue or capital; and it can also put pressure on pipeline projects as they have to spend last minute. It is also tricky to manage applicants' expectations so good communication crucial to explain the risks.</p> <p>Note there is no opportunity to accelerate next year's funding to cover project pipeline shortfall. SL advised that 3 LAG's have already approached SG Gov about more funds.</p> <p>Funding available for today's projects but a funding decision required by or at next meeting (17th Oct).</p> <p>Project updates: The General Store Selkirk have partially opened their new premises and begun selling recycled electrical goods a couple of days/week. Tool store will soon open. The 7 Round 2 projects are underway as are some of the Round 3. Remainder of Round 3 projects are at Offer of Grant stage.</p> <p><i>Note FB joined the meeting.</i></p> <p>Y LAG: recruitment complete and beginning to develop their grant scheme for launch in November.</p> <p>Collaboration funding: £90k available for collaboration funding for 6 LAG's, so SB LAG agreed that we should bid for £15k and this could directly fund our Y-LAG allowing £15k to remain in the original LAG budget.</p> <p>SL advised that each LAG would administer its own £15k (and not use Scottish Rural Network nor a lead LAG).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported/approve. <p>Financial report: SL explained LAG finances having provided an excel sheet to members. LAG happy with spend to date.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>Review of Applications</p> <p>Previous Round –</p> <p>SWLD – Project costs £24,610 and unfortunately now confirmed that SBC Cost of Living Crisis funding for £4,610 unavailable. LAG had been happy to fund to max of £20,000. Project has been trimmed down and is now £23k. LAG happy to commit to £20k capital project for equipment, development and training without the £3k allocation to City & Guild training for volunteers. FB willing to support organisation to identify £3000 funding.</p>	<p>SL/FB</p>

- Approve.

Round 4:

At Birkhill House

All very positive about this project.

- Approve.

Cheviot Youth

All very positive about this project.

- Approve.

First Light

Members keen to discuss as application lacked detail, particularly around partnerships and legacy.

- Approve with feedback on improving application.

One Step Borders

Application unclear as to what funding for. Not all LAG members were familiar with this organisation. However, argued that there is a real need for service that organisation supplies so a more detailed plan and a breakdown of hours is required.

- Defer with a request for extra information.

TD1 Scran

All really liked this project.

- Approve

TD1 Extra

Well liked project, both TD1 applications were very well written.

- 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.

This project had been deferred from meeting 21 Sept, 2023 as LAG did not understand the project and unfortunately after further discussion at this meeting, LAG was still unclear as to its objectives. The additional detail provided did not give clarity, indeed may have created more confusion. Discussed that the organisation provides a vital role in supporting social enterprises and has great experience in doing so.

- Reject, but work to support another application.

		LF/SH
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"> • 17th October 9.30 – 12.30 • 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 and happy to feed anything in from LAG, as she already has a list covering rurality, poverty, transport, social care, dementia villages, No One Left Behind.</p> <p>LF2 giving advanced apologies for next meeting. Wondered if there was any need to use and pay for a meeting room as tendency for LAG members to be on-line. SL advised that future meetings will be held at Buccleuch Hotel, St Boswells, as there is only a beverage charge.</p> <p>LF2 also suggested that once all funding allocated, he would like opportunity to reflect on the process and the workload involved with scoring etc. HS agreed as she had also been stretched as workload intensified.</p> <p>Meeting closed 11:10</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>ALL</p>