



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

SCOTTISH BORDERS LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Local Action Group meeting

Wednesday 6th February 2019

10.00am at Tweed Horizons, Newtown St Boswells

MINUTES

Present:

Heather Batsch, The Bridge (HB) - Voluntary
Frank Beattie, Scottish Enterprise (FB) - Public
Clare de Bolle, YouthBorders (CdB) - Voluntary
Luke Comins, Tweed Forum (LC) - Voluntary
Gordon Harrison, Scottish Borders Community Council Network (GH) - Voluntary
Jules Horne, Creative Arts Business Network (JH) - Private
Jane Rosegrant (JR) – Private
Annabelle Scott, Messrs A A Scott (AS) - Private
Gary White, Peebles CAN (GW) - Voluntary

Secretariat:

Linda Cornwall, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Coordinator) (LiC)
Bartje Magee, Scottish Borders Council (European Programme Support Officer) (BM)
Nesta Todd, Scottish Borders Council (European Programme Support Officer) (NT)

		Action
1.0	Apologies Bryan McGrath, Scottish Borders Council (BMcG) - Public Hans Waltl, Federation of Small Businesses (HW) – Private	
2.0	Conflict of Interest LC declared a conflict of interest 17/P00085 – it was noted that LC would not take part in this decision as he is not part of the Business Group. No other conflicts of interest were noted.	
3.0	Minutes from last meeting Minutes were approved – GW proposed, HB seconded Matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 17/P00069 was deferred• 17/P00076 was deferred• P/1700081 – Approved by the LAG but has now been withdrawn by the applicant. Funds committed are back in the budget.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing – item 9.0 – JR gathered views on this matter and met with BMcG. As a result [REDACTED] contract has been extended to Dec 2020 and a further PSO will be recruited, possibly for one year. 	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Budget update/LDS Change Request</p> <p>In discussion with Scottish Government and to clarify current position, there is a proposed amendment to the LDS, for which a Change Request is needed. These were set out in a separate document but the main points are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update overall LEADER budget in line with SG confirmation of £277,758 EMFF Admin & Animation budget plus additional £21,856 to cover EMFF admin/animation already incurred by Scottish Borders for Tyne-Esk and Fife areas Enterprise Facilitator to move from admin budget to project budget. This is because LARCs meant they had to be administered under projects A Change Request is needed to include Fife in the FLAG area and to reflect Marine Scotland’s latest communication regarding the budget split. Where it originally was to be worked out on population levels, it is now a straight 1/3 split for each area Confirm extension of LEADER Facilitator post and recruitment of a full time European Programme Support Officer to meet needs of Programme delivery <p>LAG members unanimously approved the proposed changes, LiC will proceed with the Change Request.</p> <p>JR reported that the Chair meeting she attended had discussed budget and allocation. No area admitted to not spending their allocation. They did discuss the difference between commitment and spend, not clear whether underspend would stay in own area or if it would go into central pot.</p> <p>Central pot for Co-operation projects will be established, it is thought there will be a central pot for other strands as well. Projects would need to be ready to start in order to be successful bidding in to this pot. There will be very little time left to deliver the project.</p>	<p>LiC</p>
<p>5.0</p>	<p>LEADER Programme Progress Report</p> <p>LiC reported that Scottish Borders was monitored by Scottish Government, wash up meeting was 5/2/19. One of the issues arising 17/P00052, which had been approved via written procedure. Written procedure is set out in the Group Protocol, which is part of the LDS. It was not thought this needed any further action</p> <p>Scottish Borders LEADER has maintained its Green status, JR thanked the team for their hard work.</p>	



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6.0	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00063</p>	LiC
7.0	<p>Project Applications Round -- It was noted that 9 members were present (quorate), 1 member represented the public sector (<50%)</p>	
7.1	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00092 Total Eligible Project costs: £73,000 LEADER grant requested: £33,810.00 (46.31506849%) Average Score: 67.23% Decision: APPROVE</p> <p>Decision Approved unanimously, 8 for.</p>	
8.0	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Pipeline – any projects on this list should receive a letter saying there will be no more projects approved as funds have been allocated • Looking forwards – LAG members felt a LEADER event should take place that celebrates Scottish Borders LEADER successes. The following points were mentioned: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Possible venue – Thirlestane Castle? * Successful projects to present their project plans/ideas and outcomes * Invite other organisations – match funders/other funders * Invite local politicians – to promote future rural funding * Key note speaker to attract interest * Publicity, including Border Life * A summer event – either June or September (missing holidays) * Invite neighbouring LAGs * If possible produce a short film about legacy, involve young people * SL to work on this event * Small LAG working group – GW, HB, JH and GH offered their services 	SL
9.0	<p>Dates and times of future meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tuesday 28 May – earlier because of summer event • Tuesday 22 October 	



<p>10.0</p>	<p>Business Sub-Group It was noted that 5 members were present (quorate), 1 member represented the public sector (<50%) GW to act as Chair in absence of HW</p>	
<p>10.1</p>	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00069 Total Eligible Project costs: £72,285.58 LEADER grant requested: £36,142.79 (50.000000%) Average Score: 56.15% (previous meeting) Decision: DEFER</p> <p>Decision: Deferred, 4 votes Deferral to written procedures once LiC has clarified costs</p>	<p>LiC</p>
<p>10.2</p>	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00084 Total Eligible Project costs: £48,621.00 LEADER grant requested: £20,000.00 (41.13448921%) Average Score: 54.71% Decision: APPROVE</p> <p>Decision Approved, 3 for, 1 abstained</p>	
<p>10.3</p>	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/POOO85 Total Eligible Project costs: £140,949.44 LEADER grant requested: £40,949.44 (29.05257375%) Average Score: 58.08% Decision: APPROVE</p> <p>Decision: Approved, 3 for, 1 against</p>	
<p>10.4</p>	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00087</p>	



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	<p>Total Eligible Project costs: £101,940.20 LEADER grant requested: £50,000.00 (49.04836365%) Average Score: 56.81% Decision: APPROVE</p> <p>Decision: Approved, 4 for.</p>	
10.5	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00088 Total Eligible Project costs: £53,516.63 LEADER grant requested: £26,758.00 (49.99941140%) Average Score: 54.62% Decision: APPROVE</p> <p>Decision: Approved, 4 for.</p>	
10.6	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00090 Total Eligible Project costs: £138,722.58 LEADER grant requested: £ 50,000.00 (26.04315894%) Average Score: 58.75% Decision: APPROVE – see NOTE below Decision: Rejected, 2 against, 1 abstained, 2 for (Chair decision)</p> <p>NOTE: The project sent in additional information which was not included in the information to the LAG. The information was circulated to Business Group next day and asked if that changed their vote. One person changed his mind and therefor the decision was as follows:</p> <p>Decision: Approved: 2 for, 1 abstained, 2 against (Chair decision)</p>	
10.7	<p>[Project details and LAG discussions are not published in these Minutes]</p> <p>17/P00093 Total Eligible Project costs: £24,000.00 LEADER grant requested: £12,000.00 (50.000000%) Average Score: 60.77%</p>	



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	<p>Decision: APPROVE</p> <p>Decision: Approved, 3 for, 1 against.</p>	
	<p>PRIORITISATION OF BUSINESS FUND APPLICATIONS</p> <p>Due to the lack of available funding to accommodate all applications put before the LAG for decision (total funding available £112k, funding sought £202k) it was agreed to prioritise applications for funding based on a pre-agreed prioritisation model. Each member of the group was asked to score all six applications in order of their own priority, 1: highest priority to 6: lowest priority. Projects were ordered accordingly.</p> <p>NOTE: Due to changed circumstances (see item 10.6) Business Group was asked to vote again, adding the additional project. Projects were ordered in the following priority:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 17/P00088 - approved at level of request2. 17/P00085 – approved at level of request3. 17/P00093 – approved at level of request4. 17/P00087 - approved at level of £32,328 pending confirmation applicant can cover shortfall5. 17/P00090 – deferred pending more funding becoming available6. 17/P00084 – deferred pending more funding becoming available	