HIGHLAND LEADER 2014 – 2020 PROGRAMME
SKYE LAP MEETING: 4:00 – 6:00PM, 24 AUGUST 2016, TIGH NA SGIRE, PORTREE

Public Voting Members Present: Sarah McGrory (substitute for Stephen Varwell),
Calum Macleod, Annie Davidson, Roddy Murray

Private/Community Voting Members Present: Lachie Macdonald, Donald Macdonald, Jo Ford,
Nick Duffill, Beth Kennedy,

Advisory/Non-Voting Members Present: Willie Mackinnon

In Attendance: Liz Whiteford (Highland LEADER Development Officer),
Fiona Cameron (Highland LEADER Programme Manager)

Apologies: Stephen Varwell, Roger Liley, Jennifer Macpherson

Not Present: Aonghas Mehan, John Gordon,

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:
Lachie Macdonald, having accepted his nomination to take over as chairman, welcomed everybody
and asked everybody to introduce themselves.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST / REGISTER OF INTEREST FORMS:
No declarations of Interest notified. Members were reminded of the need to keep their register of
interest up to date by notifying Liz Whiteford of any changes to the information already registered

NOTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING:
Note of 26.5.16 meeting (previously circulated) was accepted as an accurate record.
Proposed by: Calum Macleod / Seconded by: Annie Davidson

MATTERS ARISING and not arising elsewhere:
Nothing further to report on whether the THC interest free loan service will be reintroduced but
bridging loans might be available from Social Investment Scotland
http://www.socialinvestmentscotland.com/index.php?cID=571

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER UPDATE:

●LEADER Public Information Event which took place on 26.5.16 in Portree and which comprised
of a short presentation by Liz Whiteford followed by a Q & A session was attended by 24 persons
●Future SKYE LAP meeting dates listed below
●LARCS, the new online LEADER application system, is now live and Development Officers have
received training.
●14 EOIs received as at 23.8.16 of which 5 related to Private Business/Rural Enterprise - no LAP
Member discussion on EOIs.
●3 Pre-application forms issued as at 16.8.16 of which 2 have been completed and returned
requesting a total of £64,626 of LEADER grant.
●No Full Application forms submitted to date
●Rural Enterprise/Farm Diversification Sub-group of the LAG now formed and currently
developing eligibility criteria/priorities. Grant funding thresholds previously agreed as Maximum
£100K and Minimum £5K. More information expected after the 31 August LAG meeting.

Currently awaiting news from Scottish Government about possible impact of UK's decision to exit EU on the LEADER programme budgets and timescales. All LAP members should have received an email update and further information will be circulated when it becomes available.

●THC, as the accountable body, will not be issuing offers of LEADER grant until the Scottish Government can provide assurances that the current indicative LEADER budgets and the LEADER Programme period will continue to be honoured following the result of the EU referendum

●LAP members were asked to promote LEADER and to try to identify potential LEADER eligible projects especially those that had match funding in place and could quickly complete and claim

●Equalities Reference Group - Project assessment/scoring criteria agreed and projects scoring less than 6 will be referred to the ERG for advice/support relating to best practice.

●Slightly amended Pre-application Form and Guidance notes have been agreed by the LAG – this form and stage will be reviewed by the LAG after 3 months (both pre-application forms received are old style). All future Pre-application forms submitted should be new style.

●DOs will complete a technical check of Pre-application forms checking: project fit with LDS outcomes/activities; project suitability for LEADER as opposed to other SRDP funding; that level of LEADER funding requested fits local area criteria; and for any identifiable LEADER ineligible activities) with LAPs undertaking the assessment/scoring of pre-application forms as per the assessment/scoring template provided.

●Currently the deadline for receipt of Pre-applications is 1 month prior to LAP/LAG meeting at which it will be considered and deadline for receipt of Full Applications is 2 months prior to LAP/LAG meeting at which it will be considered.

PRE-APPLICATION ASSESSMENT/SCORING:
●Crossroads Care S & L – Crossroads Befriending (EOI 66) - £38,126 – SKYE LAP score 10/15 (joint SKYE and WRSL LAP area project so both LAP scores to be combined and averaged)
●Collie Mackenzie Heritage Group – Heroes of the Hills (EOI 109) - £26,500 – failed to secure substantial project match funding so pre-application not assessed by LAP – can be re-submitted if alternative match funding secured

Scores and feedback comments to be provided to applicants

LAAP Review: LAP members undertook at short review of their Local Area Action Plan and decided that there was no reason to make any amendments to the existing funding considerations at this stage. Members agreed that, whilst the current 6 public/7 private voting membership of the SKYE LAP met LEADER Operating Guidelines that they would review whether any of the public members currently acting as voting members would be willing to become non-voting advisory members – to be discussed at next meeting.

AOCB:
●It was decided that Jo and Liz would issue a press release promoting the LEADER programme following the Scottish Government's confirmation about LEADER budgets and the Programme timescales which is hoped might be around mid/late September.
●Beth Kennedy intimated that she would be taking maternity leave and gave advance notice that this might affect her ability to attend one or two future SKYE LAP meetings.

●FUTURE SKYE LAP MEETINGS
Wednesday 23 November 2016 4-6pm – Council Chamber, Portree
Wednesday 15 February 2017 4-6pm – Council Chamber, Portree
Thursday 25 May 2017 4-6pm – Council Chamber, Portree
Thursday 31 August 2017 4-6pm – Council Chamber, Portree
Thursday 30 November 2017 4-6pm – Council Chamber, Portree