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**Highland LEADER 2014 – 2020 Programme  
Inner Moray Firth North Steering Group Meeting  
6.30 – 8.30pm, 27 July 2015, Dingwall Council Offices**

**Attendance:**

Di Agnew  
Tom Davis  
Mary MacDonald (Chair)  
John McHardy  
Angela MacLean  
Jon Palmer  
Fiona Richardson  
Helen Ross

Fiona Cameron, Highland LEADER Programme  
Judith Wainwright, highland LEADER Programme

**Apologies & Resignations**

Apologies were received from Rory Bews, Mike Finlayson, Leslie Logan, Alister MacKinnon, Isobel McCallum, Fiona Robertson and Helen Williamson.

Helen Campbell is unwell and will be unable to continue her involvement in LEADER for the time being. She has been asked to try and identify a replacement member.

Bill Robins has resigned from the Group and has been unable to find a replacement member from the Ardross Community Council area.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 22 June 2015 were approved by John and seconded by Jon.

**Prioritisation of Themes, Outputs and Target Groups**

Eight members of the Steering Group had completed a survey ranking priorities, ahead of the meeting and the results were discussed.

Themes were ranked in priority order, and agreed as:

1. Increased and sustained local services and activities
2. A growing and diversified economy that promotes sustainability
3. Stronger and more resilient communities
4. Enhanced cultural and natural assets

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The target groups of young people, old people and people with disabilities, were agreed. Additionally a fourth target group of Isolated People was agreed; this group would include (but not be limited to) immigrants to the area, long term unemployed, young disengaged people.

It was agreed that no outputs would be excluded, however all projects funded will have to demonstrate that they meet at least one of the top three priorities, namely:

1. Increased partnership working between groups (within and across areas, including intergenerational partnerships)
2. People have better access to local services and activities
3. Increased employment opportunities locally through new business start-ups and existing business diversification/development

It was agreed that Judith will send out a template for Steering Group members to complete with ideas for projects/eligible activities they would like see being prioritised under these outcomes. Responses will be collated and further input/views will be sought from the wider community via a questionnaire to be distributed at the Mid Ross District Partnership networking event on 28 August.

Judith will contact Wilma White to arrange for the Inner Moray Firth North LEADER Steering Group to have a stall at the event and will meet, prior to the event, with Mary to review material for the stall and the questionnaire.

Additionally, youth input will be sought via a session to be run at the Ross-shire Youth Conference on 19/20 September in Ullapool. Judith will meet with Fiona Richardson ahead of this, to agree material for the session.

It was agreed that development of the Local Area Action Plan would take place with Steering Group members communicating by e-mail with a view to having a final draft Plan for discussion/agreement at the next meeting in September.

### **Networking Event**

Jon raised a suggestion regarding a networking event for potential LEADER applicants across Highland to explore common project ideas/share best practice etc. This has been raised by some other groups and will be progressed by the LEADER team.

### **Geographic Representation on Steering Group**

It was agreed that Helen and Di will approach community councils in the Tain and Black Isle areas with a view to seeking private Steering Group/potential LAP members.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 September (6.00pm – 8.00pm) at the Alness Heritage Centre.

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