

**Highland LEADER 2014 – 2020 Programme  
Inner Moray Firth North Steering Group Meeting  
6.00 – 8.00pm, 29 September 2015, Alness Heritage Centre**

**Attendance:**

Di Agnew  
Val Cameron  
Tom Davis  
Leslie Logan  
Angela MacLean  
Mary MacDonald (Chair)  
Iain McCallum  
John McHardy  
Anna McPherson  
Sophie Mitchell  
Jodie Riddler  
Helen Ross  
Roy Sinclair  
Carolyn Wilson (part)

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

**Apologies & Resignations**

Apologies were received from Rory Bews, Jon Palmer and Fiona Richardson.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 27 July 2015 were approved by Helen and seconded by John.

**Steering Group Membership**

Following from the last meeting, where it was agreed that wider representation was required on the Group, Di, Helen and Mharie Wylie (Strategic LAG) had proposed some new members for the Group to provide better geographic coverage. Sophie and Fiona Richardson have also identified some younger people. Introductions were made and new members welcomed.

**Ross District Partnership Networking Event**

Judith had attended the event on 28 August on behalf of the Group with colleague Wendy Anderson. Attendees were invited to propose project ideas under the agreed priority outcomes and 26 responses were received. A number of relevant suggestions have been reflected in the Project Priorities schedule. Some

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respondents proposed specific projects or simply outlined the role of their organisation.

### **Ross-shire Youth Conference**

The Conference ran over the weekend of 19/20 September and included a separate session on LEADER. Anna presented a summary of the ideas put forward which focused on key areas such as mental health, better transport, local celebrations, and community trusts for young people. The full range of ideas was passed around the meeting in the creative form of laminated clothes on a washing line.

It was accepted that some of the suggestions made were outwith the scope of LEADER funding; all ideas have been reviewed by Fiona R and those that may be eligible for LEADER funding have been included in the Project Priorities template. Fiona R has provided the full list of ideas and Judith will circulate for information.

Judith

### **Development of Local Area Action Plan: Prioritisation of Outcomes**

Judith outlined how three priority outcomes had been identified at the last Steering Group meeting. New members had also been asked to rank the outcomes ahead of this meeting and the top three outcomes have not altered – in fact the gap between the top three and the remaining seven has widened. It was agreed that this reinforced the basis on which project priorities should be selected.

### **Review of Project Priorities**

Prior to the meeting, members had provided feedback on the suggested project priorities under the agreed priority outcomes and a summary was provided. It was agreed that all suggested projects would be reviewed at the meeting and a number of amendments were agreed. Judith will revise the Project Priorities schedule to reflect the agreed changes and distribute this with the minutes.

Judith

It was agreed that provision will be made for an early review of the Local Area Action Plan and that project types removed from the priority list at this stage would be noted for consideration at that time.

Judith

The absence of any cultural/natural/heritage asset related projects was a surprise to some in the group, however it was noted that the relevant outcomes under which such projects would fall, had been ranked 8th and 9th out of 10. It was agreed that this would be considered as part of the Local Area Action Plan review.

All

### **Additional Funding Considerations**

Agreement was reached to:

- maximum grant size of £50,000 was agreed
- minimum total project costs of £5,000
- 50% maximum intervention rate
- 'In Principle Offers' of funding for up to 3 months

In response to a query raised, Fiona C advised that she felt a scheme to bridge payments pending payment of claims would be needed. A formal request will be made to Highland Council by the Accountable Body/Strategic LAG. The Scottish

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Government has also been asked to consider co-funding such a scheme.

**Local Area Action Plan**

It was agreed that Judith will produce a draft, to include the agreed priorities and funding considerations. This will be distributed shortly for review by members and for amendment/approval at the next meeting.

Judith

**Formation of Local Area Partnership**

No changes had been proposed to the suggested skills, knowledge and experience requirements distributed with the agenda.

It was agreed that all Steering Group Members interested in putting themselves forward to sit on the LAP should complete a Skills Checklist and return this to Judith so that prospective membership can be reviewed against LAP requirements (skills, geographic & demographic representation, private/public balance etc.) and any gaps identified for discussion at the next meeting. Judith will distribute the Skills Checklist.

All

Judith

**Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 27/10/2015 at Culbokie School. from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. Tea/coffee/sandwiches will be available from 6.00pm.

**Addendum**

Following the meeting, it was established that Culbokie School is not available on Tuesday evenings, so the meeting will be held at the **Heritage Centre, Ainess** – no change to date and time.