

HIGHLAND LEADER 2014 – 2020 PROGRAMME
SKYE STEERING GROUP MEETING
6:00 – 8:00 PM, 28 JULY 2015, COUNCIL CHAMBER, PORTREE

Attendance

A list of meeting attendees and apologies submitted is attached which also notes those who have completed/submitted the skills checklist for LAP member consideration, those who have indicated that they are submitting the skills checklist, and those who are no longer involved in the steering group.

Note of Previous Meeting:

Approved by those present with the addition of Crofting to the LAP Member sectoral skills checklist

Prioritisation of Themes and Outcomes

Using their local knowledge and having better digested the information contained in the Skye toolkit, and Section 3 of the Highland LDS, steering group members ranked their themes/outcomes – see attached for collective rankings

LAP Member Skills Checklists:

Eleven steering group members intimated their wish to be considered for LAP membership with 8 having submitted a LAP Member skills checklist and 3 still to be received – see attached for final collective results

Presentation:

Liz Whiteford updated those present about the collated results of the themes/outcomes rankings and the LAP member skills checklists received which led to discussion about:

● **initially focussing the LEADER budget on fewer outcomes which have been identified as being of particular importance for Skye** – see below for the final top 5 collectively ranked outcomes:

1. People have better access to local services and activities
2. Increased community ownership/control of assets and services/activities
3. Increased employment opportunities locally through new business start-ups and existing business diversification/ development
4. Improved access for residents and visitors (physical and knowledge based) to cultural, natural and heritage assets
5. Increased partnership working between groups (within and across areas, including intergenerational partnerships)

See attached for LEADER eligible activity and final steering group comments/feedback on the top ranked outcomes.

It was also noted that there was some overlap between outcome headings and LEADER eligible activity and that some of the eligible activity relating to the non-

prioritised outcomes could possibly still be delivered against the prioritised outcomes.

It was felt that the prioritised outcomes agreed on produced some clarity for potential applicants and would hopefully attract projects that would, within the constraints of the Skye budget allocation, help to address **some** of the issues identified in the consultation process.

- **Target Groups** Whilst agreeing not to prioritise any particular target groups (if this was permitted) it was agreed to pay particular attention to the needs of all 3 identified Highland target groups (younger, older, disabled people) when considering project applications and to seek further advice when/if necessary.

- **Ranking of Themes** See below for the final collective rankings of the Highland LEADER themes:

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

The Steering Group recognise that, due to the interconnected nature of the themes, the theme ranking exercise is considered a guide only and that it expects that projects will deliver against more than one theme.

- **additional requirements/factors to guide LEADER funding decisions:**

it was agreed that it was too early to discuss minimum/maximum grant intervention rates or amounts but to await further Highland LAG guidance. Applicants should be encouraged to secure as much match funding as possible and to evidence their efforts in doing so but, if possible, the steering group recommend that the LAP reserve the option of offering maximum funding to a project if they felt its delivery was of particular importance and that it could not attract/secure funding from elsewhere. It was suggested that project impact, community benefit, sustainability, and legacy should also influence the level of LEADER support. It was agreed not to initially focus on specific geographic areas. It was agreed that there would be a need for ongoing review of the LAAP and the delivery of its prioritised outcomes

- **the size, member composition, and member skills required for new Local Area Partnership for Skye:**

with reference to the prioritised themes/outcomes agreed and the 8 skills checklists received to date, those present noted that there was a wide range of skills available from those willing to serve as LAP members. However, it was also noted that there was a gap in LAP member representation from West Skye and, because there had been a poor response for nominations from community councils in this area, it was agreed to seek further nominations for consideration. The steering group also recognised the need to try to attract an Under 30 age group nomination and agreed that Shona Paterson (Gaelic Community & Learning Officer) should initially be invited to suggest someone from the community/private sector in this age group who might

be willing to be considered for LAP membership. It was agreed that any additional skills gaps identified could be addressed by using advisors as and when required and it was also agreed to take advice from Annie Davidson about how best to involve/generate input from young people.

● **arrangements for producing the Skye Local Area Action Plan (LAAP):**

a steering sub-group comprising Stephen Varwell, Willie MacKinnon, Meg Gillies and possibly Jennifer Macpherson was formed to work with Liz Whiteford to hopefully come up with a first draft of the Skye LAAP to be discussed at the next Steering Group meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Skye Steering Group is to be held on Tuesday 15th September from 6.00 to 8.00pm in the Council Chamber, Portree.

This meeting will hopefully consider a first draft of the Skye LAAP and review any further nominations for LAP membership received and whether there are any remaining skills/geographic member gaps to be addressed.

OUTCOMES	Total	Ranking
Impact of funded projects can be better demonstrated leading to increased capacity to secure future funds	69	8th
Increased community ownership/control of assets and services/activities	43	2nd
People feel better supported to undertake volunteering opportunities	80	10th
Increased partnership working between groups (within and across areas, including intergenerational partnerships)	63	5th
Increased employment opportunities locally through new business start-ups and existing business diversification/ development	50	3rd
Increased income from local produce through adding value	78	9th
Improvements in the visitor experience	66	6th
People have better access to local services and activities	30	1st
Improved access for residents and visitors (physical and knowledge based) to cultural, natural and heritage assets	59	4th
Improved management/conservation/sustainability of cultural, natural and heritage assets	67	7th

THEMES	Total	Ranking
A Growing and Diversified Economy that Promotes Sustainability	25	2nd=
Increased and Sustained Local Services and Activities	25	2nd=
Stronger and More Resilient Communities	22	1st
Enhanced Cultural and Natural Assets	38	4th

Steering Group Feedback on Prioritised Outcomes:

Outcome 1: People have better access to local services and activities (Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how new initiatives can become sustainable)

LEADER Eligible Activities:

- feasibility studies and development costs for new services/activities identified as a need within the community
- local solutions for community transport issues, including ways of integrating transport schemes
- feasibility and development of local internet/WiFi centres for use by residents and visitors
- wider initiatives to tackle increased broadband provision and access
- improved information-sharing locally including
- local website improvement
- feasibility and development of projects that address access to housing and improved access to job opportunities
- projects that promote inclusion and well-being
- health activities across age groups
- local solutions to address the needs of an ageing population
- services for vulnerable individuals and families including piloting initiatives
- services that tackle re-offending, youth disengagement and substance misuse
- community re-use and recycle IT scheme
- training for basic repairs and maintenance

Steering Group Feedback

- Important to improve on local services and activities
- Opportunities to remove or minimise barriers or disadvantages from the identified target groups
- Help to address weaknesses identified within the SWOT analysis for Skye including transport, limited availability of indoor or wet weather activities, and the increasing number of younger people leaving the island
- Help to improve internet access for communities on the island who will benefit from the Next Generation Broadband current roll-out
- This outcome could interlink with increased community ownership/control of assets and services/activities
- Provision of 'one stop' shop approach so that individuals/communities/voluntary groups can more quickly and easily access the services they need. eg 'one door any door' initiative that the rural Agencies ran a few years ago
- Local community initiatives to provide public toilets, picnic/parking areas, and off road spaces for young children to run and teenagers to 'chill out'
- Use the 'Skye Development Agency' to identify and prepare proposals for re-generating vacant/dilapidated sites and facilities and to identify funding sources (architect already commissioned to provide a study/plan for Portree sites which could be rolled out to other areas)

- Community transport initiatives especially for those who do not have access to a car, especially the young and elderly, and who currently cannot access the main public transport service
- Broadband Improvements
- Mobile Phone Coverage Improvements
- Health and Wellbeing Project for the U25's
- Provision of a wheeled sports area for BMX and Skateboard use
- Dedicated youth space
- More public toilet facilities
- SLCVO is currently undertaking a community consultation and projects are expected to follow from this
- Wide ranging outcome with potential to also contribute to several other outcomes. Availability of local services and activities will contribute towards community resilience therefore also addressing population/employment/housing etc. Perhaps the LAP could encourage a specific bidding round to further investigate innovative sustainable local solutions. Development and implementation, depending on subject and scale, may be eligible for Lottery funding and/or LEADER. Perhaps we need to map the existing services in order to promote these and identify the gaps that need solutions. Potential investigative project lead by the Third Sector interface. Initial marketing and promotion and solutions could be a subsequent project

Outcome 2: Increased community ownership/control of assets and services/activities

LEADER Eligible Activities:

- feasibility through to acquisition
- support for future planning and development to existing community owned and led services
- increasing community engagement with community development and planning
- putting income earning opportunities within the hands of local communities
- retaining the local shop
- renovating a derelict site
- providing a hub for community activities
- protecting or enhancing local facilities
- creating new spaces and new uses
- providing new uses for assets
- providing alternative stewardship for heritage and environmental assets

Steering Group Feedback

- Properly managed this can ensure that people feel empowered within their community to get involved with creating a brighter and better future
- Projects under this outcome could contribute to both elements of the strategic vision, impact across the 4 themes, the cross cutting themes and a number of the outcomes.
- With the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill soon to be implemented, the extension of the community right to buy and requests for asset transfers to be made easier, it is likely that more community organisations may see this as an opportunity to realise their aspirations.
- There are a number of established community trusts/organisations that are well placed to take on such projects and in some cases have already done so or are developing plans to do so.
- This type of project has the potential to benefit the whole community and not just sections of a community.
- Budget cuts within the public sector pose a threat to services/activities and projects under this outcome may help protect & develop them.
- There are a number of additional funding streams that can contribute to this outcome including: The Scottish Land Fund, Growing Community Assets (assuming they continue), The Community Challenge Fund, The Heritage Lottery.
- Old Glendale School has just been purchased for development
- Set up 'Skye Development Agency' with a remit to identify potential assets for acquisition and development and sources of funding
- Land Buyout for development
- Development of a site for micro abattoir facility/service run as a social enterprise and providing employment
- Services/activities relating to youth, old, disabled people
- Products and services already exist that can, in my opinion, better address this outcome. (HIE Community Assets Team, Development Trust Association Community Ownership Support Service, Plunkett Foundation (Scotland), Big Lottery

Outcome 3: Increased employment opportunities locally through new business start-ups and existing business diversification/ development

Eligible Activities:

- feasibility and development of new and existing businesses in terms of capital and revenue
- support for social enterprises
- projects that promote partnership within and across sectors
- support for new businesses
- training and employability skills
- business infrastructure (e.g. business units, chilling facilities)
- support to introduce more efficient processes including in the wider supply chain.

Steering Group Feedback:

- Creating new and better employment opportunities for the right investment
- Support the growing number of social enterprises on the Island to develop employment opportunities that could help sustain their communities
- Address the reliance on seasonal employment.
- Create employment opportunities for young people that would encourage them not to leave the Island.
- Year round project to promote main crop potato production storage and distribution; similar projects for soft fruits and meat products including blast chilling and freezing facilities
- Market Skye as a location of choice for film makers.
- Improve business support mechanisms for small businesses/charities
- Development of a micro abattoir facility/service run as a social enterprise and providing employment
- Potential to be met via access to local services and activities outcome and partnership working
- Important for creating employment, attracting funding, cultural and heritage education, and enhanced visitor experience
- Community led management/access of heritage assets/sites with integrated support from Agencies
- An innovative scheme to promote 'earth houses' (souterrains); preserving the integrity of the structures by barring direct entry whilst improving access pathways and using CCTV for viewing the interiors
- Visitor centres at important tourist sites

Outcome 4: Improved access for residents and visitors (physical and knowledge based) to cultural, natural and heritage assets

Eligible Activities:

- new pathways and cycle paths (particularly where they link to other paths/cycle routes or create linkages between local villages and sites or have health related benefits)
- improved access for disabled people to sites
- feasibility studies/development of new sites
- information products, websites, marketing and promotion initiatives
- improving bio-diversity and habitats around paths and tracks
- improved access to archaeological sites
- promotion of the Gaelic language and culture
- awareness raising through info boards, newsletters, websites, marketing and promotion
- Access for visitors to more water based activities in Portree
- More car parking to enable greater access to popular sites
- Footpaths linking sites (building on work of former S&L Footpath Initiative)

Steering Group Feedback

Ties in with improved management/conservation/sustainability of cultural, natural and heritage assets

- Projects under this outcome could contribute to both elements of the strategic vision, impact across the 4 themes, the cross cutting themes and a number of the outcomes.
- This outcome provides an opportunity to build on the existing strengths of the Island in relation to the natural landscape, cultural & heritage assets.
- Development plans exist across the Island that could deliver projects to meet this outcome.
- Interlinks with other outcomes eg improvements in visitor experience, etc
- Better integrated interpretation/promotion of sites/features – better use of ‘trails’ or badging/branding
- I’d like to see a co-ordinated visitor management plan for Skye, in particular for the most popular sites of interest. The resultant plan could then potentially be the subject of a larger European funding bid for implementation by a lead partner
- Facilities and toilets at various sites

Outcome 5:**Increased partnership working between groups (within and across areas, including intergenerational partnerships)**

LEADER Eligible Project Activity: Eligible projects may include funding for partnership events; visits between partner areas; one-off facilitation for capacity building around new project ideas; communication/information/networking tools, preparatory and other costs for co-operation projects; development of networks at local and Highland wide level; shared learning events; mentoring programmes. Further detail on the types of project that may be funded under co-operation is included below.

Steering Group Feedback:

- Community Development Worker Partnerships
- Partnership music projects
- Learning from the experience of others or better communication and working together can draw out local solutions. Specific community/project/sector planning sessions might be encouraged or led by a key stakeholder. Potential match funding from eg Lottery Investing in Ideas/Awards for All, HIE, Community Assets Team/Local Office, THC
- District project co-ordinator to identify and promote the communication of areas of commonality between groups
- The key is for agencies being more involved and effective at finding solutions

Steering Group/LAP Member Name	Organisation	28.7.15 Meeting
Willie Mackinnon	THC/Ward Manager	Present
Meg Gillies	SLCVO / Previous LAP Member	Present
Stephen Varwell	SNH / Previous LAP Member	Present
Roddy Murray	Community Nomination from Sleat CC	Present
Roger Liley	Community Nomination from Portree & Braes CC	Present
Calum Macleod	Community Nomination from Broadford & Strath CC	Present
Annie Davidson	Highlife Highland, Youth Worker	Present
Lachie MacDonald	L&S Housing Association / Previous LAP Member	Present
Jennifer MacPherson	HIE / Previous LAP Member	Could not attend – Apologies
John Gordon	Highland Councillor	Could not attend – Apologies
Donald MacDonald	AROS / Previous LAP Member	Could not attend – Apologies
In attendance		
Liz Whiteford	Highland LEADER Development Officer	In attendance
Other		
Lesley Hellon	Youth Representative	Not present - did not respond/submit skills checklist for LAP membership or themes/outcomes rankings form - removed from steering group member circulation list
Drew Millar	Highland Councillor	Not present - did not respond/submit skills checklist for LAP membership or respond to themes/outcomes rankings form - removed from steering group member circulation list but willing to act as substitute for Cllr John Gordon if necessary

Highland LEADER 2014-2020 Programme Skills/Experience/Knowledge Checklist

Name	Skye LAP
Name of Organisation/Group being represented (if relevant)	Skye LAP
Is this a Public or Private Organisation (if relevant)?	Mixed

Sectoral	
Farming/Crofting	√√√
Forestry	√√√
Fisheries	√√
Food/drink	√√
Construction/building	√√
Transport	√√
Tourism	√√√
Education (arts)	√√
Healthcare	√
Socialcare	√√√
Leisure	√√
Youth	√√√√√
Elderly	√√
People with Disabilities	√√√
Equalities	√√
Crofting	√√√
Horticulture	√
Environmental	
Wildlife and ecology	√√
Biodiversity	√√
Natural heritage	√√
Cultural heritage	√√√
Energy conservation	√√
Renewables	√√√
Recycling	√
Pathways/cycleways	√√

Commercial	
Business start-up/development	√√√√
Business finance	√√√√√
Business support	√√
Financial management	√√√
Economic development and analysis	√√√
Communications	√
Sales	√
Marketing/promotion	√√
Website design/development	√
IT systems/software	√
Employment law and advice	√√√
Training/skills development	√√
Mentoring/coaching	√√
Voluntary/Community	
Voluntary sector	√√√√√√√
Community representative	√√√√√√
Social enterprise	√√√√
Partnership working & networking	√√√√√√
Funding	√√√√√
Fundraising	√√
Community ownership	√√√√
Community development	√√√√√√√
Organisation Development	√
Project Development/Management	
Project assessment	√√√
Project management	√√√√
Project monitoring/evaluation	√√√

Other – please give details of any other skills/knowledge/experience or interest that may be called upon to support delivery of the Programme

Gaelic speaker, strategic planning, governance arrangements, H & S legislation, Employment legislation, previous deputy director and vice convenor of Wester Isles Council, previous manager and chairman of Princes Youth Business Trust, Previous Commissioner Crofters Commission, Previous Member of Scottish Land Fund, Community Council chairman, chartered rural surveyor, active crofter, member of community council and village hall committee and grazing clerk, previous LAP chair, SRDP case officer, experience of community project management, Skye Ward Manager, STB/Visit Scotland, Visit Britain and Visit London, Skye business/visitor centre ownership, previous LEADER/LAP experience, experience of working with European programmes delivered via HIE, access to wealth of Highland knowledge, information, experience through HIE network, personal experience of project development/management, finance, community/social enterprise, partner relationships, funding/fundraising, community and project planning, feasibility/consultancy work experience, land/building acquisition/development and facilitating partnership working experience

To ensure that the Strategic Local Area Group meets the requirements set out in our Local Development Strategy, in terms of representing a good geographic and demographic mix of members, could you please provide the following information:

1) How would you prefer to describe your sex – please tick

Male	√√√√√√√√
Female	√√√
Other	
Prefer not to answer	

2) Age Group – please tick

Under 16	
16 - 29	
30 - 44	√√√
45 - 59	√√√√
60 - 74	√√
75+	√√

3) Geographic Area Represented – please enter

North East Skye, Broadford & Strath, Skye-wide, Portree & Braes, Trotternish, Staffin, Sleat, Skye and Raasay

4) Do you consider yourself to have a disability? – please tick

Yes	
No	√√√√√√√√√√
Prefer not to answer	