

**Highland LEADER 2014 – 2020 Programme
Inner Moray Firth North LAP Meeting
6.30 – 8.30pm, 9 December 2015, Alness Heritage Centre**

Attendance:

Jennifer Barclay
Helen Barton
Tom Davis
Sheila Fletcher
Robert James
Elizabeth Lochhead
Sarah Mackay
Angela MacLean
Iain McCallum
John McHardy
Anna McPherson
Jillian Munro
Jon Palmer
Franca Reid
Alasdair Rhind
Jodie Riddler
Gordon Robertson
Carolyn Wilson

Sophie Mitchell, Highlife Highland
Fiona Cameron, Highland LEADER Programme
Judith Wainwright, Highland LEADER Programme

Apologies

Apologies were received from Helen Ross, Fiona Robertson, Val Cameron, Alan Hasson, Hannah Ross and Anna MacPherson

LEADER Overview

Judith presented an Overview of the LEADER Programme, which included the role of the LAP and requirements for producing a Local Area Action Plan.

Judith asked members, particularly those new to LEADER, to consider whether an additional briefing would be useful to try and get everyone to a common level of understanding. If required, this could be arranged immediately prior to the next LAP meeting.

All

A number of queries were raised during the presentation:

Alasdair raised a concern regarding the level of the administration budget and it was acknowledged that on the face of it £2.2m (25%) does look disproportionately

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high, however this had been increased from the last LEADER Programme in recognition of the level of administration that is required to support the Programme and applicants. This has been raised by other areas and Fiona agreed to circulate a note from the Strategic LAG in response.

FC

Members were interested to see where there are areas of commonality in priorities between neighbouring LAPs and potential for co-operation projects. Fiona confirmed that once approved, Local Area Action Plans will be available on the LEADER website (www.highlandleader.com). She also made the point that because co-operation projects are funded separately they do not necessarily need to meet the selected priority outcomes.

Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair

Tom Davis and John McHardy indicated they would be willing to stand as Chair and Betty Lochhead indicated she would be willing to stand as Vice Chair. Following a discussion in the meeting, John McHardy was appointed Chair and Betty Lochhead was appointed Vice Chair.

Prioritisation of Themes, Outcomes and Target Groups

Prior to the meeting, members had been asked to rank themes and outcomes and the collective rankings were presented as part of the presentation.

Group discussion focused on the outcomes and which should be included in the Local Area Action Plan.

Members agreed that they would prefer to discuss and work together in a meeting to determine project priorities within each chosen outcome, rather than considering these individually.

It was agreed that people needed more time to reflect and to consider the types of project activities that would be included under each outcome. It was also suggested that it would be helpful to see what other areas had included in their plans.

Judith will send out sections from other approved Local Area Action Plans covering project prioritisation, and funding considerations which will provide an idea of the project priorities and additional funding considerations that have been selected in other LAP areas. The next meeting will include smaller workgroup sessions to enable members to discuss and agree local priorities for IMFN.

JW

Fiona asked that members treat the sections from other plans as confidential as they cannot be formally approved until they have been checked for eligibility against Scottish Government Guidance, which is still awaited.

LAP Membership

Judith advised that once priorities have been determined for IMFN, the LAP will need to review membership to determine whether there are any gaps relevant to the priorities that the LAP wishes to address.

Carolyn welcomed the larger LEADER area in the current programme, and the

broader range of skills from people on the LAP.

Jargon

Judith will circulate a Glossary of acronyms and common terms

JW

Email Addresses

All present agreed that their e-mail addresses could be shared/visible on LAP related communications within the group.

Robert offered a suggestion that members might want to set up a separate e-mail account specifically for LEADER related correspondence.

Next Meeting

There was a general feeling that day time meetings would not suit most members. It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on 13 January 2016 at the Alness Heritage Centre from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Tea/coffee/sandwiches will be available from 6.00pm.

The next meeting will start with a discussion about which priority outcomes should be included in the IMFN Local area Action Plan. This will be followed by workshop sessions to consider the types of projects/activities within each outcome that will best maximise use of LEADER funding locally.

Other items from this agenda not covered (Declarations of Interest, Deputies and Operating Guidelines) will also be included.