

**Highland LEADER 2014 – 2020 Programme**  
**Inner Moray Firth North LAP Meeting**  
**6.30 – 8.30, 17 February 2016, Aness Heritage Centre**

**Attendance:**

Helen Barton  
Val Cameron  
Tom Davis  
Sheila Fletcher  
Angela MacLean  
Iain McCallum  
John McHardy (Chair)  
Jon Palmer  
Franca Reid

Judith Wainwright, Highland LEADER Programme

**Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alan Hasson, Robert James, Elizabeth Lochhead, Ana MacPherson, Jillian Munro, Hannah Ross, Helen Ross and Carolyn Wilson.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 13 January 2016 were proposed as an accurate record of that meeting by Franca and seconded by Val, subject to the following amendment:

- Ana MacPherson was not in attendance.

**Actions Arising from Minutes**

Completed with the exception of:

- Not all Register of Interest Forms have been returned (note additional guidance will be provided regarding when interest should be declared, shortly) **ALL**
- The Pre-LAP meeting did not take place due to members being unwell. Judith will liaise with Sophie and Betty to rearrange. **JW**

**Prioritisation of Project Priorities**

Ahead of the meeting, thirteen members had completed the template for identifying projects under the prioritised outcomes. These had been ranked and are attached as appendix 1.

A number of key changes were agreed at the meeting and these will be reflected in the draft Local Area Action Plan. Key points to note:

Outcome Priorities

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Priority Outcomes will be: Outcomes 1. (Increased Community Ownership...), 2. (People have better access....) and 3. (Increased employment opportunities....)

### 1. Increased Community ownership...

Wording of 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> projects to be combined and the first three only included in the Plan (the wording of these does not necessarily preclude feasibility studies).

### 2. People have better access...

It was felt that there were too many project types. The projects are to be split between 'places/assets and events' and 'access', with summary wording for each category

### 3. Increased employment opportunities...

The first four are to be combined and to include 'upskilling' (6<sup>th</sup> project) .

Fifth to be removed

6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to be combined.

Remainder to be removed.

It is considered unlikely that a project delivering only Outcome 4. (Impact of funded projects can be demonstrated...), 5. Increased partnership working... or 6. (People feel better supported to undertake volunteering...) only would be supported, unless it also delivered one of the first three Outcomes. Outcomes 4. 5. And 6. will be regarded as qualifying criteria, where appropriate.

**Funding Allocation & Priorities** Draft wording was circulated and discussed (See Appendix 2). Changes were agreed as:

### Target Groups

After some discussion it was agreed that target groups would not be specified, however the IMFN LAP would welcome applications that will benefit any groups:

- by removing/minimising barriers or disadvantage,
- that have particular needs, or
- where under-representation or prejudice could be tackled or understanding could be promoted.

### **Funding Consideration/Requirements**

Draft wording was circulated and discussed (See Appendix 3). Changes were agreed as:

Reference to allocation of indicative budget across the programme is to be included. It is intended that no more than 40% of the total indicative budget would be allocated in the first year, however assurance is needed that this would not result in funding being reallocated from IMFN to other LAPs that spend their full allocation early and run out of funding. Judith will clarify the position with the Programme Manager/Strategic LAG.

JW

In principle offers will be considered for a maximum of 2 months as this is the maximum period permitted by the Scottish Government.

Requirements of funding will include:

- the need to demonstrate the impact of the project

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- increased partnership working between groups
- people feeling better supported to undertake volunteering opportunities (where appropriate to the type of project).

### **Local Area Action Plan**

It was agreed that the IMFN LAP should have aim to have a final Plan for submission to the Strategic LAG meeting at the end of March (30/3 t.b.c.).

Based on the agreed outcomes, projects etc., Judith will produce a first draft, taking account of the amendments agreed above, and send this out for comment w/c 22/2, giving members a week to revert with comments.

**JW/ALL**

### **LAP Membership**

The meeting considered an application to join the LAP from Alan Kerry. It was agreed that as the Black Isle was already well represented on the group with four members (compared to Tain & Easter Ross and Dingwall which have two each) it would not be appropriate to take another member from the Black Isle.

It was agreed that Alan's application will be retained and reconsidered as/when any current members leave. Judith will advise Alan.

**JW**

### **Projects funded in last LEADER Programme**

Tom raised a question regarding the success, or otherwise, of projects funded in the last LEADER Programme. It was agreed that it would be a useful exercise to look at projects funded to see whether it is possible to identify project types more likely to be successful in terms of delivering lasting benefits to the community. It may also help identify success criteria/project conditions etc. This will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

**JW**

### **LEADER Conference**

Judith reminded the meeting that any members interested in attending the LEADER Conference in March, need to contact Joe MacMillan by Friday 19/2.

**ALL**

### **Expenses**

Judith confirmed that LAP members are entitled to claim travel expenses. Anyone wishing to do so should provide details of their bank/building society account and a completed claim form to Wendy Anderson

**ALL**

### **Next Meetings**

It was agreed that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16 March 2016 at the Alness Heritage Centre from 6.30 to 8.30pm. Tea/coffee/sandwiches will be available from 6.00pm.

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