

**Highland LEADER 2014 – 2020 Programme
Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh Steering Group Meeting
2:00 – 4:00pm, 23 September 2015, Achnasheen Hall**

Members Present:

Public - Audrey Sinclair (temporary chair), Ian Cockburn, Richard Greene, Robbie Bain, Mary Gibson, Ingrid Galbraith

Private/Community – Norma Ross, Fran Cree, Kristine Mackenzie, Roddie Mackenzie, Tom Forrest

Apologies: Peter Walling, Isabelle (Biz) Campbell, Amy MacDonald, Tristan Southall,

In Attendance – Liz Whiteford

WELCOME/APOLOGIES/MINUTES FROM LAST MEETING

In the absence of Biz Campbell, Audrey Sinclair was invited by those present to chair the meeting. She welcomed everyone and passed on apologies from those unable to attend (see above). The minutes of the last meeting were approved by those present.

LOCAL AREA ACTION PLAN:

Liz Whiteford, Highland LEADER Development Officer was then invited to lead the discussions relating to the draft of the Local Area Action Plan which had been circulated previously.

It was agreed that Ingrid Galbraith and Robbie Bain would work with Liz Whiteford to re-word some references including: demographic profile/population, reference to SIMD and pockets of deprivation, and key challenges/outmigration of young people.

It was agreed to initially prioritise the steering group’s top 5 ranked outcomes as below and to review this after 2 expression of interest/application cycles when they hope to be more aware of what project applications are coming forward and are most likely to deliver greatest impact and legacy to the WRSL area.

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

Where applicable, applicants will be expected to demonstrate that they have explored alternative/additional sources of funding including other LEADER 'ring fenced' funds such as the Rural Enterprise or Farm Diversification Fund and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) or other SRDP funds relative to their project.

Funding for staff posts will only be considered if they relate to new posts which have clearly defined and measurable outputs and, if ongoing beyond the duration of the LEADER funded project, a clear grant funding exit strategy evidencing future sustainability.

Maximum LEADER grant intervention rates will initially follow Highland LEADER Strategic LAG policy rates of 50% but the WRSL LAP reserve the right to increase this maximum in exceptional circumstances.

Given the requirements associated with applying for and administering LEADER grants, the WRSL LAP will initially not consider LEADER applications for grant requests of less than £10,000.

It has been decided not to initially set a maximum LEADER grant.

It has been decided not to initially target specific geographical areas as there is a wish to try to spread the benefit of LEADER funding throughout the WRSL area.

The WRSL LAP does not wish to vary grant intervention rate maximums between public and private/community applicants but will assess applications on their benefit and legacy to the area.

The WRSL LAP recognises the value of issuing 'in principle' grant offers to applicants as a means of leveraging match funding from other match funding sources and will consider issuing 'in principle' LEADER grant offers for a maximum period of 3 months when they will lapse if evidence of all other match funding has not been submitted.

WESTER ROSS, LOCHALSH, AND STRATHPEFFER LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP:

LAP Member Name	Organisation/Sector	Public or Private/Community	Voting or Non-Voting
Isabelle Campbell	The Highland Council	Public	Voting
Audrey Sinclair	The Highland Council	Public / Advisory*	*Advisory Member providing back-up vote for Isabelle Campbell if/when absent
Ian Cockburn	The Highland Council	Public	Voting
Richard Greene	The Highland Council	Public / Advisory*	*Advisory Member providing back-up vote for Ian Cockburn if/when absent
Ingrid Galbraith	Highlands & Islands Enterprise	Public	Voting
Mary Gibson	Scottish Natural Heritage	Public	Voting
Roddie MacKenzie	Aultbea Community Council (also previous LAP member)	Public	Voting
Robbie Bain	The Highland Council	Public / Advisory	Non-voting
Fran Cree	Visit Wester Ross (nominated by Gairloch CC)	Private/Community	Voting
Peter Walling	Strathpeffer Community Association (nominated by Strathpeffer CC)	Private/Community	Voting
Tom Forrest	WR Environmental Network (also previous LAP member)	Private/Community	Voting
Kristine MacKenzie	Lochcarron Community Development Company (also previous LAP member)	Private/Community	Voting
Tristan Southall	Marine Management and Marine Recreation Sector (nominated by Plockton CC)	Private/Community	Voting
Amy MacDonald	Inverasdale Heritage Group (nominated by Wester Lochewe CC)	Private/Community	Voting
Norma Ross	Representing Contin Community Trust (nominated by Contin CC)	Private/Community	Voting
Ullapool Area	16-29 age group to be nominated by Ullapool area youth worker	Private/Community	Up to 2 reps/1 Vote
Gairloch Area	16-29 age group to be nominated by Gairloch area youth worker	Private/Community	Up to 2 reps/1 Vote
Plockton Area	16-29 age group to be nominated by Plockton area youth worker	Private/Community	Up to 2 reps/1 Vote
Strathpeffer Area	16-29 age group to be nominated by Strathpeffer area youth worker	Private/Community	Up to 2 reps/1 Vote

It was agreed to invite local youth workers to nominate up to 2 youth representatives from each of the following areas: Ullapool area, Gairloch area, Plockton area, and the Strathpeffer area. (If 2 representatives per area were recruited they would share one vote.) It was agreed that additional advisory support (including Land and Estate sector) could be addressed on an 'ad hoc' basis if and when required. Currently the WRSL LAP comprises of 7 private/community voting members, 5 public voting members, 3 advisory non-voting members with up to 4 additional private/community voting members still to be nominated/considered for WRSL LAP membership.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

It was agreed to hold the next meeting in Achnasheen on Thursday 5th November from 1-3pm.