



Community Learning Local Development Fund

Local Action Group Meeting

Tuesday 10th March 2026

The Buccleuch Arms, St Boswells 10:00 – 13:00

DETAILED NOTE OF MEETING

Present:

Hans Walzl (HW) – Private –Chair

Miriam Adcock, Zero Waste Scotland (MA) –Public Sector

Katy Jackson, SoSE (KJ) – Public sector

Dean Fisher, Scottish Borders Social Enterprise Chamber (MS) –Third Sector

Fiona Benton (FB), Borders Community Action– Third Sector

Shona Haddow (SH), Scottish Borders Council– Public Sector

Trevor Jackson (TJ), Chamber of Commerce– Private Sector

Debbie Playfair, (DP), Independent– Third Sector

David Calver (DC) -Youth Borders – Third Sector

Alistair Ramage (AR), Eildon Housing Association -Third Sector

Matthew Rorison (MR), Independent

Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (SL)

Rhae Rorison, Scottish Borders Council (Economic Development) (RR)

		Action
1.0	Welcome SL declares that there are 11 LAG members present -so meeting Quorate from start	
2.0	Apologies Pip Tabor	

<p>3.0</p>	<p>Conflict of Interest SBC staff (SH, RR and SL) declared a conflict of interest over payment to SBC DC declared a conflict of interest over payment to Youth Borders</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Update on CLLD 25-26</p> <p>4.1 CLLD Net (HW) –being put together by consultants. Cost of running this will be high, costs will be taken off before CLLD final budget.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims- sharing best practice in Scotland, UK & Europe. • No changes to document since original comments. • Concerns – amount of money, is £85k realistic for future years, programme put forward has not changed. • Meeting with Chair of network did not go well, meeting with SG did go well but had no impact. <p>A number of LAGs unhappy but complaints not being heard. 4-6 share concerns about needing to put Scotland first. We could opt out but this will cost £4.5k, to stay costs the same but access to resources, shared learning and training.</p> <p><i>LAG Decision -Group agreed to continue membership for year 1, get voices heard and join the steering group.</i></p> <p>4.2 CLLD Update (SL) Little has changed since November. Doing well, small underspend which will be distributed elsewhere. Projects shutting down and final 10% going out to projects. Rough estimate of underspend around £600 which will be distributed to Bannerfield, SBHA and CLD who have projects where the money can be used straight away.</p> <p>LAG acknowledged update.</p>	
	<p>5.0 Plans for 2026/27 -Direct Award</p> <p>5.1 Bannerfield LAG (SL) – paper provided to LAG members pre-meeting Lots of potential for development. Potential suggested path.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 -Local person appointed as Banny Development Worker, managed through CLDS (package funded by CLLD -max £25k). This leads to 	

recruitment of local folk with the idea of forming a Banny-LAG. Co-op with local RSLs/SoSE/BCA

- Year 2-Local person post retained plus CLLD support (CLLD +(potentially other funding). Banny-LAG given funding to distribute. Banny Improvement Group set up and starts searching for funds for itself and projects. Support from BCA and SoSE to set up. Co-op with local RSLs
- Year 3 -CLLD funds for projects only using normal application processes. SBC/SoSE/BCA/RSLs continue to provide additional support to Bannerfield residents

Bannerfield has had no SBC or SOSE funding in the last decade. BANNYLAG would tackle the cold spots.

Advantage of the LAG - group of local people empowered to give out money themselves and develop ideas.

LAG Decision -to look to support the development and set up of a Banny-LAG or similar appropriate approach. Once more details like budget and action plan have been received the LAG will seek to award funding (if available).

5.2 NDLAG (SL)

NDLAG proposal document can be found in email issued prior to meeting. Development of a Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs LAG. Rachel Parker and Neurodivergent Entrepreneurs Network working to reach out to the wider ND community and experts. Looking at developing ideas similar with the trust.

- Year 1: moving to set up and develop NDN. Funding for grants would come from SG.
- Year 2: Either further development of local ND-LAG or set up of national ND-LAG funded by SG/nationally.

LAG Decision -to look to support the development and set up of a ND-LAG or similar appropriate approach. Once more details like budget and action plan have been received the LAG will consider awarding funding (if available).

5.3 YLAG discussion

DC left room due to Col. SL introduced the topic, ask is for £40k to cover salary and travel costs including LAG meetings and LAG/staff travel to events incl cost of travel to Finland.

YLAG AWARDED £40K – approved by all members.

<p>5.4 Accountable Body Discussion -SBC</p> <p>SL, SH & RR left the room for discussion due to Col. Hans Walzl introduced the discussion. Request from SBC was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £60k for staff/animation costs • £1k for LAG meeting/event costs • £2k for LAG/staff travel budget <p>SBC AWARDED £63K – approved by all members.</p> <p>5.5 General Comments</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would like YLAG and other potential LAGs to come and speak to main LAG • Funding orgs should undertake presentation on their finding more widely. For example, opportunity for YLAG/NDLAG to present findings at potential present CoC Expo in Feb 2027. 	
<p>6.0 CLLD 26/27 Plans -Public Grant Scheme</p> <p>6.1 Thoughts/Ideas/Themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create 2 application forms – community and business. • Likely more businesses will apply this year due to lack of other funding available. • 12 projects on the Place Programme likely to come forward. • EOI form – SBC looking to refine the process. • Await confirmed budget before finalising but group agreed: • Revenue 25% for Enterprises, separate 75% for Community fund • Capital 50/50 split between Enterprise and Communities. <p>6.2 Match Funding</p> <p>LAG want at least 10% match funding sought on applications. Mandatory for private sector but might be waived for third sector organisations if they can prove additional hardship</p>	

	<p>6.3 Themes Excluding mandatory themes of net zero, poverty alleviation, and growing the economy, the LAG would like to see more projects relating to upskilling, apprenticeships, leadership programmes, employability, partnership/collab working and mentoring.</p> <p>6.4 Website/SM CLLD webpage or social media – LAG needs its own independent presence online in terms of a website and social media. Amongst suggestions, create a FB page and produce weekly posts showcasing an organisation CLLD has helped. Staff to develop options.</p> <p>6.5 Future Meeting Locations. Future Decision making meetings will continue to be held at the Buccleugh Arms, St Boswells. All non-decision-making meetings (learning sessions etc) will be held around the Borders, ideally using CLLD funded projects as base for the session.</p>	
	<p>7.0 AOB</p> <p>-None</p>	

Meeting concluded 1pm