



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

SCOTTISH BORDERS LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Local Action Group meeting

23rd March 2021

10.00am Microsoft Teams

MINUTES

Present:

Gary White, Peebles CAN (GW) – Voluntary - Chair

Heather Batsch, The Bridge (HB) - Voluntary

Luke Comins, Tweed Forum (LC) - Voluntary

Jules Horne, Creative Arts Business Network (JH) - Private

Lesley Forsyth, Scottish Borders Council (LF) - Public

Annabelle Scott, Messrs A A Scott (AS) - Private

Hans Waltl, Federation of Small Businesses (HW) – Private – Vice Chair

Secretariat:

Linda Cornwall, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Coordinator) (LC)

Simon Lynch, Scottish Borders Council (LEADER Facilitator) (SL)

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| | <p>It was noted that 6 members were present (quorate), 1 member represented the public sector (<50%)</p> <p>There were no conflicts of interest</p> | |
| 1.0 | <p>Apologies Gordon Harrison, Scottish Borders Community Council Network (GH) – Voluntary</p> <p>GW advised the meeting that Frank Beattie, Scottish Enterprise (FB) - Public retired in January and has since resigned from the LAG. (Letter of thanks to be conveyed for contribution to LAG)</p> | GW/LiC |
| 2.0 | <p>Minutes of Last Meeting of 5th November 2020 The Minutes of the last meeting held on 5th November 2020 were agreed by the Members and proposed by HB and seconded by JH. The Minutes will be signed off by the Chair and sent to LiC.</p> <p>Matters Arising:- <u>LAG Annual Report</u> LiC advised the meeting that the LAG Annual Report to 31st March 2020 was completed and circulated to Head of Economic Development, SoSE, Chair of</p> | GW |



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| | <p>Community Planning Partnership, SG, Third Sector, Borders TSI and the website.</p> <p><u>LDS Change Request</u></p> <p>LiC confirmed that the LDS Change Request was submitted to SG to amend programme deadline, staffing requirement, budget allocation, LAG Protocol and monitoring and evaluation arrangements for LEADER and EMFF. This was approved on 4th February 2021 by SG.</p> <p><u>Monitoring & Evaluation</u></p> <p>To be discussed at Item 4</p> <p><u>SB Futures Group</u></p> <p>GW advised that not much headway has been made with regard to future funding development. GW attended the Chairs Group on 25th February which was also attended by Elaine McGregor (SG). Briefed by EMcG regarding proposed UK government funding which will look at both social and economic growth. Concern expressed by LAG members that it was understood that SoSE would have input for area funding to support local communities and micro-businesses but all SoSE funding appeared to be directed at larger organisations/businesses. Concerns also over support for Creative industries and entrepreneurship. Also felt there was more drive for funding in D&G area and that Scottish Borders was missing out. Was felt that it would be good to draft up a set of principles to act as discussion point with appropriate SoSE rep to develop way forward. JH/GW to draft up document and circulate around members.</p> | <p>GW/JH</p> |
| <p>3.0</p> | <p>LEADER Programme Progress Report incl. budget updates, staffing etc</p> <p>LiC updated members on position to date. Financial summary details unallocated balance of £22,878 following some unexpected underspends incurred by some LEADER projects. This £22,878 takes into account £18,000 shortfall required to meet additional funding allocation for 17/P00065. A further £5,104 has since been allocated to 16/P00091 and a further small project underspend incurred which has reduced unallocated balance to £19,006. SG asked areas to forecast spend to end March 2021 and the £22,878 would have been identified as unallocated underspend, however SG has not advised if this would be deducted from the current allocation. All Scottish Borders projects are completed but some are held up in final stage due to inability to undertake final monitoring or lack of completion certificates due to Covid lockdown restrictions. 30 fully completed on LARCS with 29 ongoing at present time. LEADER staffing now contracted to end September 2021 (with exception of LiC). SG have since informed areas that staffing costs could be supported up to end March 2022 if required. This includes providing cover for other LEADER areas or contributing to future funding development work (although way forward with this is still unclear at present).</p> | |



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| <p>4.0</p> | <p>Monitoring & Evaluation SL circulated copies of draft pages to support:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG answers to 7 Common Questions • LDS Evaluation • Covid Response <p>Looking to LAG for agreement to the styles adopted or for any suggestions for further inclusion within the pages. LAG were happy with the suggested content and the approach to produce an Evaluation Document specifically for SG in response to the 7 Common Questions which they required for their own evaluation purposes and a separate document which evaluated LEADER against the LDS incorporating Covid response in light of the current pandemic. HB felt the evidence gained from the evaluation was important to support the need for replacement funding within the Regional Economic Partnership model. SL confirmed the existence of a lot of statistical and target information which could further back up and offered to provide further information if required.</p> | |
| <p>5.0</p> | <p>LEADER Legacy Document SL circulated a paper relating to development of a Legacy document for Scottish Borders. LAG members were circulated a copy of a Forth Valley and Lomond LAG Legacy document which all were really impressed with and were keen that something similar be undertaken for Scottish Borders. It was felt the uncertain climate surrounding future LEADER-type funding required as much promotional information as possible to highlight the benefits of LEADER in all areas. LiC already spoken with SBC Design Team who could produce something similar (though not the same due to copyright) and SL/LiC feel confident they could provide much of information required for the document with only the applicant being required to populate some remaining information. All members agreed for this to be progressed as soon as possible. GW keen to be involved also.</p> | <p>SL/LiC/GW</p> |
| <p>6.0</p> | <p>LAG Annual Report (to 31st March 2021) LiC spoke to the draft paper which was circulated. This report would provide information up to 31st March 2021 – there may be a few tweaks to take this into account. LiC asked if LAG members wished any changes to the format. All were happy with what was proposed but keen that as much project promotional info was included to entice more people to read the document. Also that more cover photos are included on front page and a promotional front page insert included to widen impact of document. LiC to circulate proposed design in due course.</p> | <p>LiC</p> |



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| 7.0 | Future CLLD Development Model Already covered above. GW advised that an alternative model had been developed by University of Newcastle which ties in to future of CLLD. Has been regarded favourably by quite a few stakeholders such as Stirling Council and Robertson Trust. GW to send link to LiC for circulation around LAG members. https://www.humanlearning.systems/ | GW/LiC |
| 8.0 | AOB Agreed LiC would look for a convenient date and time in September 2021, apart from 12 th which cannot be accommodated by GW HB advised members of SBC Citizen Space consultation and encouraged all to participate. Focus appears to be on moving to more digital facilities but this may cause issues with inappropriate broadband service in some parts of area. JH asked members to consider submitting a response to SDS Survey which only takes around 10 mins. JH will circulate link. | LiC JH |