

**Rural Community Led Local Development (RCLLD) Fund
Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (ALAG) Meeting
Conference Video Call via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday 25th June 2024 1pm**

Present:

Aileen Longino	Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	(Private) (Vice Chair)
Duncan Leece	Banffshire Partnership	(Private)
Justine Tough	Buchan Development Partnership	(Private)
Gina Ford	Fintray Community Council	(Private) (Chair)
David Hekelaar	Formartine Community Councils	(Private)
John Loder	Formartine Partnership	(Private) (Vice Chair)
Gerald Banks	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
Lorna Paterson	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
Dawn Tuckwood	NHS Grampian	(Public)
Millie Clarke	VisitAberdeenshire	(Private)

Officers in Attendance:

Moira Beverley	Investments and Projects Executive
Catriona Nicolson	Investments and Projects Officer
Martin Brebner	Team Manager

Apologies:

Amanda Roe	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Mike Duncan	Federation of Small Businesses	(Private)
Bill Slee	Marr Area Partnership	(Private)
David Fyffe	Scottish Land & Estates	(Private)
David Jackson	Visit Scotland	(Public)

1 Welcome & Apologies

1.1 The Chair welcomed those present and apologies were noted as above.

2 Declarations of Interest (DOI)

2.1 Duncan Leece made a declaration of interest relating to potential commissioned projects under Active and Connected Communities in Paper 2 – Commissioned Project Options. As the CEO of the Boyndie Trust and Banffshire Partnership Duncan Leece will present relevant information to the LAG but will not be present during the meeting for LAG discussions and decision making.

3 Minute of LAG Meeting (17th April 2024)

3.1 The LAG approved the minute of the meeting on 17th April 2024. This was approved by Aileen Longino and seconded by John Loder.

4 Paper 1 – Aberdeenshire Rural CLLD returned to Scottish Government 2024-25

4.1 Some minor amendments to typographical errors were noted, but no significant changes to the content were made.

4.2 The Chair highlighted that the LAG is made up of representatives from various external bodies and as such the constitution by which the LAG operates does not apportion powers to select members based on characteristics such as gender. The LAG does not decide who is nominated as a representative on behalf of each organisation.

5 Paper 2 - Commissioned Project Options

5.1 Moira Beverley presented to the LAG on Paper 2 – Commissioned Project Options. The Paper was split into four themed sections detailing the plans on proposed spend for 2024/25 programme. A second tranche of funds is expected from Scottish Government, though how much funding to be received is unclear at this time. Procuring services or goods under £50K does not require a formal tender and the supply of a suitable number of quotes will suffice under procurement guidance. .

5.2 Duncan Leece presented to the LAG on the proposed project(s) under Active and Connected Communities on section 2.2.2 of the Paper. The project(s) has evolved recently, and the LAG were directed to the information in Paper 1 as a more up to date representation of the current situation.

5.3 Duncan Leece left the meeting while discussions took place.

5.4 The LAG discussed various aspects of the proposed project(s).

5.5 The LAG felt that further information was needed on section 2.2.2 Pilot Partnership Banff, such as project costs, before the project proposed could be considered as a commissioned project. This meant that the section 2.2.1 in the report on Path Projects and Active Travel ambitions could not be taken forward. Currently we are unable to determine the level of funding that would be available from the Active and Connected Communities allocation of £49,999 whilst the Pilot Partnership Banff project is still in discussion.

5.6 Duncan Leece joined the meeting after the LAG had concluded discussions. Mr Leece has been requested to provide more information to the LAG in order for a decision to be made.

6 Paper 3 – Challenge Fund

- 6.1 Moira Beverley reported back to the LAG on Paper 3. A second tranche of funds are expected. These have been confirmed as revenue, and not capital, funds.
- 6.2 The LAG agreed to the recommendations in Paper 3, with the addition that potential applicants need approved permissions, such as planning and building warrants, in place before 9th September 2024.
- 6.3 The LAG highlighted that the current parameters of annual funding and tight deadlines presents significant challenges and constraints for efficient programme and project delivery both to potential applicants and the LAG.
- 6.4 Commissioned projects are subject to procurement rules and will require tendering and / or quotes as well as commissioning. Depending on the value of works this may need to go before committee for approval. Tranche 2 funds will also need to follow these rules, pending confirmation from the Scottish Government and when this is received.

7 AOCB

- 7.1 John Loder (Vice Chair) will attend the next Chair's meeting and reported back to the LAG. A power point on Establishing a Scottish CLLD Network, for the next Chair's meeting, was presented to the LAG.
- 7.2 Conversations and ideas have been put forward by Scottish Government and other LAG areas on the potential structure of the LAGs in the future. Mixed views exist within the coordinator's meetings on the formation of a formal CLLD Network body, how this should be formed and how this relates to other forums such as the Chairs Group and SLAED. The coordinator's meetings are the forum by which representatives of each of the LAGs nationally, usually officers that are delivering funding programmes, meet with Scottish Government representatives.

8 Date of Next Meeting

- 8.1 The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 24th September 2024.

Minute Taker

Catriona Nicolson