

**Rural Community Led Local Development (RCLLD) Fund
Aberdeenshire Local Action Group (ALAG) Meeting
Conference Video Call via Microsoft Teams
Tuesday 23rd January 2pm to 4.30pm**

Present:

Eleanor Morris	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Aileen Longino	Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	(Private) (Vice Chair)
Justine Tough	Buchan Development Partnership	(Private)
Mike Duncan	Federation of Small Businesses	(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)
Dawn Tuckwood	NHS Grampian	(Public)
Millie Clarke	VisitAberdeenshire	(Private)
David Jackson	Visit Scotland	(Public)

Officers in Attendance:

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

Apologies:

Amanda Roe	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Keith Anderson	Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	(Private)
Duncan Leece	Banffshire Partnership	(Private)
Lorna Paterson	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
David Fyffe	Scottish Land & Estates	(Private)

1 Welcome & Apologies

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

2 Declarations of Interest (DOI)

2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

3 Minute of LAG Meeting (30th October 2023)

3.1 The LAG approved the minute of the meeting on 30th October 2023. This was proposed by Aileen Longino and seconded by David Hekelaar.



4 Paper 1 – ALAG Group Membership

- 4.1 The LAG thanked Martin Auld for all his contributions to the group as a current member of the LAG and previous member of North LAG for many years. Martin Auld has stepped down as a member of the LAG.
- 4.2 Moira Beverley reported back to the LAG on Paper 1.
- 4.3 Dawn Tuckwood has confirmed her membership as a member of the LAG since the Paper was produced. Dawn Tuckwood will feedback to her organisation and confirm if another member of her team can attend LAG meetings, when she is unavailable.
- 4.4 Various aspects were discussed by the LAG. Broad geographical coverage was raised as an important point. Scottish Government guidance suggests the majority of voting should be from non-public bodies.
- 4.5 Mike Duncan will attend meetings, as a representative for Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), where a business element in agenda items is present.
- 4.6 Moira Beverley will contact the groups that no longer have attendees on the LAG and invite them to provide a representative.
- 4.7 Poverty Alliance has expressed an interest in attending a future LAG meeting. Moira Beverley will meet with their representative next week and feed back to the LAG.

5 Paper 2 – Project Updates

- 5.1 Moira Beverley and Jamie Wilkinson reported back to the LAG on Paper 2.
- 5.2 For commissioned project LAG-2324-01 Community Building Retrofit Designs, due to the short timeline a framework agreement was initially advised for procurement. The contractors on the framework agreement were reviewed but it was felt to fall short of the requirements to deliver all the work required, while having a reasonable base of relatively local knowledge, and therefore able deliver in the short timeframe available. Subsequently, the work was split into separate lots, therefore dividing up the work to different contractors potentially. The tender is scheduled for issuing today.
- 5.3 For commissioned project LAG-2324-01 Community Building Retrofit Designs, the buildings receiving support are as follows: Boyndie Visitor Centre, The Lodge at The Strichen Community Park, Baden Powell Centre, Melvin Village Hall, Royal British Legion, Old Meldrum, Westhill Scout Hall, Stonehaven Court House, Glass Community Hall, Lumsden Community Hall and Gordon Rural Action, Huntly.



- 5.4 Concern was raised that some of the buildings to be supported under project LAG-2324-02 Community Building Energy Audits by MW Clubb may not be eligible as they are owned by the council, Bennachie Leisure Centre and Meadows Sports Centre were mentioned. Moira Beverley will investigate and report back to the LAG in due course.
- 5.5 Delivery of this project, in parallel with the other projects and challenge fund, within the constraints of the programme has proved challenging due to several factors such as limited resources and delayed notification of funds awarded to the program. Challenges have also been faced in navigating internal procurement guidance and policy. Lessons learned from this year will be taken forward and applied for next year, subject to funding.
- 5.6 It was acknowledged that Jamie Wilkinson and Moira Beverley have both done well and worked hard to deliver the various projects within the programme with significant constraints in place.
- 5.7 For commissioned project LAG -2324-05 Rural Community Led Vision - Strategy and Action Plan, engagement work is underway with LAG members and identified stakeholders. The contractor is looking to carry out a workshop with LAG members. The LAG confirmed they were happy to attend a workshop. A list of about 12 stakeholders will be requested, with input from the LAG. David Jackson advised he would be happy to be a representative for tourism. Jamie Wilkinson will take the various actions forward and feedback to the LAG in due course.
- 5.8 A doodle poll will be sent out to LAG members in due course to confirm which date is preferred for a workshop.
- 5.9 The LAG agreed to the recommendations within the paper to:
- a) Note the update of the Challenge Fund and Commissioned Project within this paper.
 - b) Approve the re-allocation of the underspend to the Community Path Development project.

6 Paper 3 – Proposed Calendar of forthcoming LAG meetings.

- 6.1 The LAG agreed to the proposed dates in Paper 3.

7 2024/2025 Programme

- 7.1 The LAG was asked to consider what the 2024 / 2025 programme may look like. No further salient points were raised. A focus on youth was highlighted for the upcoming year.

8 AOCB

- 8.1 It was noted that nationally some LAGs were advised, informally by the Scottish Government, that they would receive further funding. This funding was allocated to projects on this basis and the funding was then later rescinded by the Scottish Government placing the relevant LAGs in a difficult position.

9 Date of Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 26th March 2024.

Minute Taker

Catriona Nicolson

Final