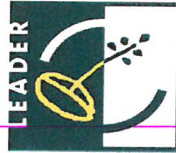


19/09/2018  
*Alex Wallace*



**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST & LOWLANDS LEADER  
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)  
Wednesday 15th August, 2018**

**Executive LAG Members:**

Alex Wallace - Vice Chair  
Jean Orr  
Simon Cox  
Iain Robson  
Richard Waters  
Guy Renner-Thompson  
Ian Moyes  
Robert Brotherton  
Ross Weddle

**LAG Member:**

Carole Moyes

**LEADER Staff:**

Ivan Hewitt – Northumberland Coast and Lowlands Programme Officer  
Christine Stevenson – LEADER Administration

**Advisory Group:**

David Baird - External Funding Appraisal Manager, Northumberland County Council

**1. Welcome to LAG Meeting & Apologies:**

Alex Wallace, Vice Chair opened the Northumberland Coast & Lowlands LEADER meeting at 18:00

CS/IH – Confirmed that meeting was quorate by Voting Members attending and by Theme

Apologies received and recorded from Executive Members: Ross Lowrie, Angus Collingwood-Cameron, Philip Angier, Louis Fell, Julien Lake

Apology received and recorded from Accountable Body: Heather Smith

19/09/2018  
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## **2. D.O.I.**

Guy Renner Thompson - item agenda 7c - Community Transport Bell View - Pecuniary

## **3. Draft Minutes from 18th July, 2018:**

Page 1 - Accepted  
Page 2 - Accepted  
Page 3 - Accepted  
Page 4 - Accepted  
Page 5 - Accepted  
Page 6 - Accepted  
Page 7 - Accepted  
Page 8 - Accepted  
Page 9 - Accepted  
Page 10 - Accepted

Minutes recorded as a true record, dated and signed by Alex Wallace, Vice Chair

## **4. Matters Arising & Actions to include Chair's Update:**

Actions from 18th July LAG meeting:

Ongoing action from 20th June for IH to organise a meeting with Janice Rose and Richard Wearmouth (NCC Councillor) to discuss rural development and the gap in the LEADER RC&A - IH and David Baird take forward

Page 10 - JO to forward information to CS who will circulate ou to LAG members and DB to add to Funding Bulletin - Completed

Matters Arising:

Page 6 - SC's comment - Alternative proposal that LAG be advised of any FAs coming forward for appraisal which are asking for more than 20% over the EO1 request so LAG can consider an appropriate intervention rate

Page 10 SC's comment - Happy to attend if available, should read not available to attend

## **5. RPA LEADER Bulletin - 16:**

DB - The accountable body has received confirmation from the RPA that the 22% uplift for Running Coast and Animation (RC&A) which is LEADER staff / LAG programme costs has been finally approved and signed off by ministers. LEADER staff contracts are to be extended from March to December 2019.

Can look to consider spending less on RC&A and more on projects as the revaluation of sterling for the programme is now 0.88 Euro, revalued from 31st July

19/09/2018  
D. Wallace

2018 which means there is sufficient allocation to approve projects in the pipeline. There is underspend from final claimed projects but we require confirmation from the RPA as to whether underspends go back into the pot. RPA has suggested other possible mechanisms for reallocation

- Internal Reallocation - within the same Accountable Body and as we are the AB for both NULAG and Coast & Lowlands there is no internal reallocation
- Voluntary Surrender of funds - nationally some LAGs are underspending so if a LEADER groups thinks it is unlikely to spend its full allocation they would complete a Variation Request form and submit it by 19th September, 2018
- Funding Required for extra projects - RPA will check status on DORA on the 12th September 2018, if there are more projects than allocation a LAG could bid for underspend but Coast & Lowlands are not in that position

The government has extended other EU funding programmes to March 2020 but not LEADER. LAGs can submit a case to extend deadline which is currently March 2019 for projects, the projects can claim up to the end of December 2019

Other funding streams coming forward:

- North of Tyne Devolution
- Borderlands - a business case to go to the government by Autumn
- Growth Programme

AW - How will this impact on the EOI Reserve List?

DB - LAG can look again at overcommitting, waiting on RPA regarding recycled funds. Up to LAG to decide, perhaps up to £30,000?

AW - With RC&A at 22%, what is the start date?

DB - Not back dated, 22% of overall programme budget

RB - What funds will replace RDPE (Rural Development Programme for England)?

DB - Shared Prosperity Fund and other government sources but may take up to a couple of years

#### **6. Programme Officers Report:**

IH - Gave Programme Officers report and informed LAG of current project budget commitments.

Asked that LAG agree to consider project applications on the basis of figures as of 15th August 2018 that the LAG has issued GFAs totalling **£1,442,634.08 (88.4% of target spend)** with a balance of **£184,901.92** remaining to commit against original allocation

**Note - LAG approved and agreed Budget profile**

19/09/2018  
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IH - Sensible to review EOI Reserve list at next LAG meeting diaried for 19th September 2018, due to programme time frame  
AW - LAG need to see available firm budget allocation for that meeting  
SC - Would the programme officer have an idea of what EOIs can progress quickly?  
IH - Will contact EOIs on reserve list and enquire if applications are still coming forward  
DB - Realism is still criteria due to programme time scales  
AW - Some EOIs may not have a realistic time scales. Alnwick Arch Climbing Centre, where is this based?  
IH - Unfortunately had issue with proposed property as could not secure a 5 year lease, the applicant is enthusiastic about the project  
**NOTE** - CS to circulate updated EOI Reserve List with LAG meeting papers for September

**7. FA's for consideration by Executive:**

**a. Post Driver**

**DORA Ref:109458**

**LEADER Priority Theme 2 - Support for Micro Enterprise**

**Total Project Cost - £13,500.00**

**LEADER Grant Request - £5,400.00**

Summary - The aim of the project is to invest in a post driver machine for HW Curry & Sons, a local fencing contractor. This will enable the business to bid for larger contracts.

Grant is sought to purchase the new machine which will increase business productivity enabling 1.5 FTE to be created.

LAG Decision:

Full Application was approved by LAG votes through written deposition

Technical Appraisal and Written Deposition forms dated and signed by Alex Wallace, Vice Chair

**b. Zero Tillage**

**DORA Ref:109391**

**LEADER Priority Theme 1 - Support for Farm Productivity**

**Total Project Cost - £86,490.00**

**LEADER Grant Request - £17,289.00**

19/09/2018  
*[Signature]*

Summary - The aim of the project is to fund a specialised zero till crop drilling machine for a farm in north Northumberland. This sort of drill helps to preserve soil structure reducing loss of water and nutrients from the soil improving the quality of the land.

Grant is sought to purchase the new drill, increase farm productivity, create 0.5 FTE job and introduce a new technique to the business and, by offering a contracting service, will increase business turnover and sustainability.

LAG Discussions:

LAG members discussed and considered Full Application and Technical Appraisal Application

AW - Proposed LAG vote on FA

LAG Decision:

- 5 Vote - Yes
- 1 Vote - No
- 2 Vote Abstain, Vice Chair did not vote

Full Application - Approved

LAG Noted: LAG members are very keen that benefits of this approach to crop establishment are evaluated and published more widely. This can be discussed further at the project evaluation stage

### **c. Community Transport Bell View**

**DORA Ref:109718**

**LEADER Priority Theme 4 - Support for Rural Services**

**Total Project Cost - £51,181.00**

**LEADER Grant Request - £40,944.80**

Summary - The project will fund the purchase of a new purpose built fully accessible minibus to continue, increase and improve Bel View's community transport provision across the most rural and isolated parts of North Northumberland. Meeting the identified future needs of the charity, its trading subsidiaries and beneficiaries.

AW - Asked LAG members to vote if they wanted to discuss this full application as the technical appraisal has not been signed off by the RPA

- 8 Vote - No to discussion

IH - Recommendation is to discuss at next LAG meeting

- Proposed by JO
- Seconded by SC

LAG Decision:

- Agreed by LAG members to discuss project application at next meeting

19/09/2018  
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#### **8. Communications Working Group:**

RB - Article presented in the Northumberland Gazette regarding Longhoughton Community Centre mentioned LEADER funding, good for LAG and programme. Confirmed meeting date with Anne Marie-Trevelyan (MP), asked LAG members if interested in attending the visit to contact him for details  
Compiling a new press release, looking for good project promotion pictures from evaluation visits as need to get the message across how good LEADER is and what comes after LEADER?  
IR - Good to do a joint press release with projects like Cresswell Village Hall, ask for quote from their Chairperson  
DB - NULAG are planning a showcase event and talks by speakers  
IH - Potential for C&L to hold an event next February / March where LAG can feed in their knowledge and help shape the future  
GRT - Could invite applicants to showcase projects  
NOTE - CS to add LAG Event to agenda for discussion at LAG meeting in October

#### **8. Evaluation Working Group:**

SC - Evaluations going steady, 21 currently evaluated, new ones will be added once project final claims have been paid. Plenty of work for the group to be focusing on  
AW - Thanked SC and evaluation group members for their time and commitment

#### **9. A.O.B:**

None

**Vice Chair, Alex Wallace closed the Coast & Lowlands LEADER LAG meeting at 19:10**