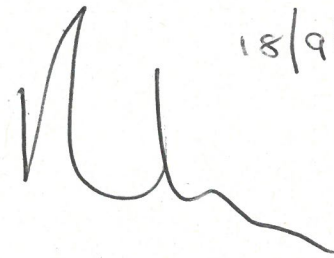


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**NORTHUMBERLAND COAST & LOWLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)
Wednesday 22nd May, 2019**

Executive LAG Members:

Ross Lowrie - Chair
Alex Wallace - Vice Chair
Jean Orr
Robert Brotherton
Ian Moyes
Richard Waters
Angus Collingwood-Cameron

LAG Member:

Carole Moyes

LEADER Staff:

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

Advisory Group:

David Baird - External Funding Appraisal Manager, Northumberland County Council

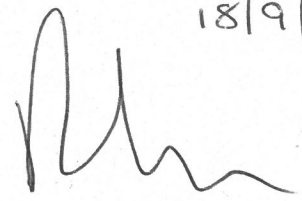
1. Welcome to LAG Meeting & Apologies:

Ross Lowrie, Chair opened the Northumberland Coast & Lowlands LEADER meeting at 18:02

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

Apologies received and recorded from Executive LAG Members: Ross Weddle, Iain Robson, Philip Angier, Julien Lake, Simon Cox and Guy Renner-Thompson.
Apology received and recorded from Accountable Body: Heather Smith

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2. D.O.I.

None recorded

3. Draft Minutes from 23rd April 2019:

Page 1 - Accepted

Page 2 - Accepted

Page 3 - Accepted

Page 4 - Accepted

Page 5 - Accepted

Page 6 - Accepted

The minutes were agreed as a true record. Dated and signed by Ross Lowrie, Chair.

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

Actions from meeting 23rd April 2019:

Page 4 - IH to communicate LAG meeting dates to keep members informed - Ongoing

Page 5 - JM to check CHP project has LEADER logo on website - Completed

Note - IH informed LAG meeting that since the CHP project was approved RPA had changed guidelines on marketing logo

Chair's Update:

RL - Meeting had with Cllr. Peter Jackson - Leader of Northumberland County Council, Cllr. Richard Wearmouth (NCC) and Terry Carol (NULAG Chair) to discuss the impact of the LEADER Programme. PJ was very supportive.

There is an opportunity in NCC to support as an advocate for the LEADER process before the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) consultation. Meeting acknowledged problems around rural funding, suggestion to convene a round table with North East Local Enterprise Partnership (NELEP) to review Community Led Local Development (CLLD) for Northumberland.

Completed online survey on LEADER, what works well, what's not? There is activity in background but it's late in the day.

In contact with NELEP to feed in LEADER information to the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) and continuing to lobby NELEP for inclusion of CLLD and rural development in the LIS.

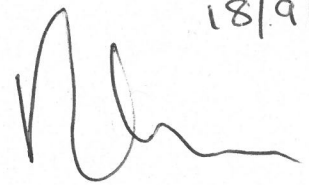
AW - Northumberland is unique. Did PJ give an opinion when the SPF would start?

RL - No, PJ had no information on the SPF consultation.

Not a disaster for rural if Labour candidate won the North of Tyne Mayor election. Will invite new mayor to forthcoming to LEADER event.

DB - Rural Business Growth Fund - business case being developed

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AW - Will that be rubber stamped?

DB - We expect so. Feedback from LEADER Exchange Group (LEG), Defra considering possible transition period but no details

5. Programme Officers Report:

IH - Gave Programme Officers report and informed LAG of current project budget commitment such that C&L is fully committed with Grant Funding Agreements (GFAs) totalling £1,759,853.46 supporting 59 projects. A small amount of project underspend around £10,000.00 is still available to the LAG to commit to projects

DB - LAG are over committed to 103%, can only allocate underspend

RL - Have LAG enough allocation to fund project application tonight or can LAG only allocate underspend?

DB - LAG can only allocate underspend

RL - Can accountable body use future underspend?

DB - Yes, likely to be project underspend so can recycle back into programme
Informed LAG meeting that he had a teleconference with RPA who are pleased with the performance of C&L LAG, and that an Operational Note has been circulated confirming a 3rd and final round of national project underspend reallocation, which is likely to be a very limited amount and there is a tight timescale attached. We would need all applications in and ready for technical appraisal and on DORA by 7th June, then RPA will review.

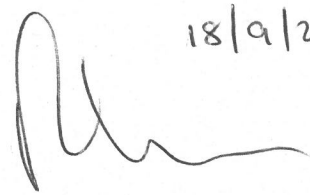
An application form to apply for additional funding needs to be submitted by the accountable body (AB) to the RPA by 14th June and RPA will inform AB of decision by 28th June. There is also a possibility to extend project commitment date to the end of September.

DB - Proposes LAG apply for underspend by 14 June and extension until the end of September. Don't know the criteria for RPA decision to award underspend, potential value for money?

For Information - NULAG have not yet committed their allocation. A conversation needs to happen where they could propose to extend until the end of September or surrender funds to C&L. Process to go through but don't know what their decision will be?

RL - We need to ensure that both applications in process are ready for submission and applicants need to be informed of the need for all applications completed and available by 7th June

DB - Have concerns with time issues for applications as if LAG apply for underspend and then applications don't come through?

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IH - Can contact both applicants and ask that applications need to be in and completed by 3rd June, ensuring that they understand there is no guarantee that the LAG will approve funds

RL - Do LAG want to ask for further allocation?

LAG NOTE - LAG Agreed

AW - Are we looking to bring any further EOI's forward, how quickly can this happen?

RL - Don't think we have the time?

IH - Can we ask the RPA for additional funds through reallocation for agenda item 7?

RL - No RC&A update to be discussed as information was not circulated

IH - Gave an update on application The Barn on the Bay FA, working with applicants to get application completed and into technical appraisal.

6. RPA & LEADER - Update:

DB - Covered under item agenda 5

7. FA for consideration by Executive:

Development of The Nursery at Whitehouse Farm

DORA: 11325

LEADER Priority Theme - Support for Micro Enterprise

Total Project Cost - £29,408.72

LEADER Grant Recommended - £11,763.49

Summary - The aim of the project is to expand a private day nursery for children aged 0-5 at Whitehouse Farm Centre to the south of Morpeth, Northumberland. This activity is for preschool age children and is therefore not statutory provision. The project will renovate a large disused barn into a baby unit with a section aimed at up to 3 year olds. The premises are also intended to offer school holiday care.

LAG Discussions:

The LAG considered and discussed the Full Application and Technical Appraisal Application

RL asked LAG members to vote:

6 Vote - Yes

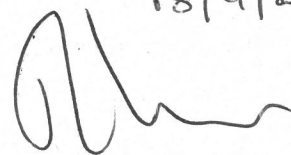
0 Vote - No

0 Vote - Abstain, Chair did not vote

LAG Decision - Full Application - Approved, LAG will offer up to £10,000.00 subject to AB confirmation at GFA

LAG NOTE - Application to be funded up to maximum current underspend available at time GFA issued

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8. Communications Working Group - Update:

RB - Communications meeting after LAG meeting

CS - LAG Event invitations have gone out, need LAG members to reply

IH - Visited Carnaby's with CS to discuss event requirements. Brochure at early stage, IH / CS work ongoing for brochure. Need project and LAG members photographs

9. Evaluation Working Group - Update:

Simon Cox's Report:

34 projects closed and satisfactorily evaluated

3 projects newly closed / evaluations required

6 projects part drawn

16 projects newly contracted

59 projects fully approved, of these 43 projects have had claims partially

Next evaluations:

Outfield Renovations (Warkworth Cricket Club)

Commercial Kitchen Refurbishment (Red Lion Inn)

**Northumberland Coast & Lowlands LAG Event - Wednesday 19th June 2019,
venue Carnaby's, Brownieside**

Next LAG meeting - to be confirmed

Ross Lowrie, Chair closed the Northumberland Coast & Lowlands LEADER LAG meeting at 18:57

