



**NORTHUMBERLAND UPLANDS LEADER
LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)**

Tuesday 3rd July 2018

Cheviot Centre, Wooler

5.30pm - 8.30pm

Present: Terry Carroll, Anthony Murray, Barbara Sexon, Louise Kirkwood, Tom Johnston, Nicola Bell, Alan Sharp, Alistair Cochrane, Ruth Dickinson (NNPA), David Baird (NCC), Gillian Cowell (Programme Officer), Louise McCreery (Admin Officer)

1. **Apologies:** Steve Jopling, Mike Murray, Andrew Poad, Jeremy Phillipson

2. **Declaration of Interest**

None declared

3. **Draft LAG Minutes from meeting on 7 June 2018**

Minutes agreed as a true and accurate record.

4. **Matters Arising & Actions**

Borderland Event

A briefing note from the event held in Dumfries on 18th June was circulated in advance of the meeting. A lot of interesting discussions took place but there was a feeling that there could still be more engagement with grassroots organisations and information about cross council collaboration.

Physio & Therapy

A request to revise the project approved at EOI was circulated in advance of the meeting. The applicant would now like grant to purchase a specialist piece of equipment instead of funding towards renovation works.

The LAG discussed the request and decided that the current EOI should be withdrawn and a new EOI submitted. Due to the nature of the equipment, the LAG requested that the new EOI is accompanied by independent medical evidence of the

validity of the proposed treatment. TC agreed to meet with the applicant to discuss his plans

Ingram Valley Venison

The applicants have requested changes to the product as they have had to purchase different livestock than originally planned. This means that the breeding programme will take longer and so they would like to move their claim dates to 30/11/18 and 31/10/19. This will also mean moving the project end date. The applicant would also like to remove the freezer from the project.

Unanimous agreement

5. **Programme Officer's Update**

GC went through the programme officer's report. There is currently an overcommitment of £54,000. If all the projects to be considered at this meeting are approved in full this will become an overcommitment of £80,000. The LAG discussed how to manage the end of the programme if there are not enough funds to cover all submitted applications. Decisions will need to be made according to a set scoring process. This will be discussed further when necessary
There are currently no concerns about any approved projects

Update on Projects in Development

Ciunam - FA received - awaiting final bat survey to satisfy planning requirements

Hay Farm Heavies - FA received at end of May 2018 more information requested

GoGilsland - FA received - Wendy Bond has offered to match fund the project to the level of two vehicles. The applicant has stated they will turn down funding for one vehicle as they believe this will make the project unviable

Henderson Zero Tillage - FA received and in appraisal

JRG Johnson Zero Tillage - FA received and in appraisal

Shieling Meats - due September 2018

Jack's Fast Track Gym - FA received

Churnsike Lodge - FA withdrawn

Gateway into the Community - FA due July 2018

I Howson Hen House Upgrade - FA withdrawn

RPA Update

DB updated the LAG on the RPA programme revaluation position. The programme has been revalued at a rate of 0.834 but the RPA have advised this is for planning purposes only. The RPA are looking to revalue again at 0.88 but this has not yet been confirmed. There is also no confirmation that the RCA budget can increase to 22%.

Viring excess funds from other LAGs now looks unlikely on a national scale but is still a possibility within regions on a voluntary basis. Viring from the Growth Programme also looks unlikely due to a last minute surge of applications.

Reserve List

GC advised that there are currently two projects on the reserve list; Tulip Cottage and Northumbria Kitchens. No action will be taken on these due to current overcommitment

6. Review and Decide on Full Applications

Bays Leap Dairy

The applicant is seeking LEADER grant towards capital costs associated with expansion of the current farm based dairy operation. This broad activity is eligible under Farm Productivity Measure 4.1.

Grant is sought to purchase

- LED lighting
- Rainwater harvesting equipment
- Heat Exchanger, used for the rapid cooling of milk
- Cattle Pedometers / Collars

The project does not create any direct jobs but will directly support 1 business (the applicant), lead to business productivity growth, and allow the applicant to introduce a new product (organic milk) to the business.

Looking to create 0 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £11,550.76 (40% of costs) - Eligible amount reduced due to rainwater harvesting removed as ineligible expenditure

Vote

Approve - 5

Reject - 0

Abstain - 3

Project approved on majority vote

Elsdon Village Hall

The aim of the project is to develop and expand the facilities and services offered by Elsdon Village Hall.

The project involves:

- Development of a new meeting room (currently derelict space).
- Replace roof above the new meeting room.
- Surface the car park and provide additional car parking spaces

Looking to create 0 FTE jobs

The applicant is requesting a grant of £19,537.66 (80% of costs) - costs reduced by appraiser as roof replacement is ineligible

Vote

Approve - 6

Reject - 2

Abstain - 0

Project approved on majority vote

7. October Event

A draft agenda for the event was circulated and agreed. This will include four case studies delivered by Kielder Observatory, First and Last Brewery, Ingram Valley Venison and Young and Sweet. The afternoon will be devoted to looking at the future of rural development. The LAG discussed the Borderlands project and whether that should also be on the agenda.

8. AOB

None raised

9. Date of Next Meeting

The LAG agreed that a meeting in August would be needed as there are a number of full applications due. GC will circulate dates within the next week.