

**Rural Community Led Local Development (RCLLD) Fund  
Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting  
Conference Video Call via Microsoft Teams  
Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2025 1pm to 3pm**

**Present:**

Duncan Leece	Banffshire Partnership	(Private)
Gina Ford	Fintray Community Council	(Private)
David Hekelaar	Formartine Community Councils	(Private)
John Loder	Formartine Partnership	(Private) (Chair)
Gerald Banks	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
Lorna Paterson	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
Dawn Tuckwood	NHS Grampian	(Public)

**Officers in Attendance:**

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

**Apologies:**

Amanda Roe	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Eleanor Morris	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Aileen Longino	Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	(Private)
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 No declarations of interest were made.

**3 Minute of LAG Meeting – 29 April 2025**

3.1 In section 7.4, the minute will be amended to include “revenue funds” after “Community Building Energy Retrofit”.

3.2 The LAG approved the minute. This was proposed by Gina Ford and seconded by Duncan Leece.

#### **4 Paper 1 - Outstanding Items from previous LAG minute**

4.1 Moira Beverley provided an update to the LAG.

4.2 With regards to LAG membership, communication will be sent out to organisations that were previously members of the LAG regarding interest in rejoining (where appropriate).

4.3 Items 1, 5, 6 and 9 will be removed from the outstanding list and considered as completed. Items 2 and 4 are to be merged into one item and considered as outstanding.

#### **5 Paper 2 – Nominations of Vice Chairs (x2)**

5.1 Moira Beverley provided an update to the LAG.

5.2 Aileen Longino has stepped down as Vice Chair.

5.3 Amanda Roe and Bill Slee were both voted in as Vice Chairs.

#### **6 Paper 3 - RCLLD Vision Document 2025.26**

6.1 The LAG agreed that broader categories should be used, instead of smaller more prescriptive categories, for defining where funds will be targeted this year. More information on planning will be included in the capital section to support applicants.

#### **7 Paper 4 – Proposal for Two Challenge Funds**

7.1 The LAG agreed to have separate challenge funds for capital and revenue. Therefore, there will be two challenge funds with separate application requirements.

7.2 For potential applicants, where the organisation leases a building, the lease must be in place for at least another 5 years as a minimum (specifically until or exceeding 31<sup>st</sup> March 2031).

## **8 Paper 5 – Meeting Note From Meeting with Angus Council**

- 8.1 The LAG discussed various aspects on becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and other associated models for operating.
- 8.2 It was acknowledged that the model laid out in the paper may be used as an alternative model for operating, if required.

## **9 Paper 6 – Update European Rural Parliament Coming To Aberdeenshire**

- 9.1 Reid Hutchison (Community Economic Development Co-ordinator) is the leading officer and is available to liaise with the LAG and / or members where required.
- 9.2 A site visit to Huntly, to visit the Huntly Development Trust, was suggested as a suitable project / organisation to showcase.

## **10 AOCB**

- 10.1 LAG members were requested to return their LAG membership forms and Declarations of Interest forms.
- 10.2 Mathew Clubb is looking for community organisations to include in a tender to the Just Transition fund.
- 10.3 Invasive species is an area the LAG may be able to target in the future. Moira Beverley has had some communication with relevant officers within the council, which has been passed onto the Chair for information.

## **11 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

- 11.1 The date of the next meeting will take place on 30th September 2025.
- 11.2 A doodle poll will be circulated in due course for LAG member availability for the next meeting.

Minute Taker

Catriona Nicolson