

**Rural Community Led Local Development (RCLLD) Fund  
Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting  
Conference Video Call via Microsoft Teams  
Tuesday 16th December 2025 1pm to 4pm**

**Present:**

Amanda Roe	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public) (Vice Chair)
Eleanor Morris	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Aileen Longino	Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	(Private)
Duncan Leece	Banffshire Partnership	(Private)
Gina Ford	Fintray Community Council	(Private)
David Hekelaar	Formartine Community Councils	(Private) (Vice Chair)
John Loder	Formartine Partnership	(Private) (Chair)
Henning Wagner	Kincardine Development Partnership	(Private)
Gerald Banks	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
Lorna Paterson	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
Dawn Tuckwood	NHS Grampian	(Public)
Gordon Drummond	Scottish Land and Estates	(Private)
David Jackson	Visit Scotland	(Public)

**Officers in Attendance:**

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

**Apologies:**

Bill Slee	Marr Area Partnership	(Private)
Jenny Meredith	North East Scotland College	(Private)

**1 Welcome & Apologies**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed those present and apologies were noted as above.
- 1.2 Derek Jennings has withdrawn as representative of Buchan Development Partnership.

**2 Declarations of Interest (DOI)**

- 2.1 No declarations of interest were made.

**3 Minute of LAG Meeting – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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

#### **4 Paper 1 – Outstanding Items from Previous Minute**

- 4.1 Moira Beverley reported back to the LAG.
- 4.2 Item 1 is complete. Item 2 is in progress and Moira will liaise with Jenny Meredith on working with NESCol students to develop the LAG website / web page. Item 3 on revenue will be covered in Paper 3.

#### **5 Paper 2 – Capital Funding 2025/26 Update**

- 5.1 Moira Beverley reported back to the LAG. 6 project variation / change requests have been received. All are project cost increases except for CLLD-CAP-13 Heat from Waste, which has a reduced project cost. Project CLLD-CAP-56 Fraserburgh South Links - Pavilion Changing Room 1/Referee room has requested a variation to their contract but no financial changes. The referee changing room is no longer to be covered. Underspend is therefore at £17k in capital. Increased costs are expected from other projects.
- 5.2 The LAG agreed to the recommendations to:
1. Acknowledge the progress to date; and
  2. Agree that the Chair and Vice Chairs, per the Constitution, can approve the minor capital funding changes to applications if within the overall capital budget

#### **6 Paper 3 – Revenue Funding 2025/26 Proposals**

- 6.1 Moira Beverley reported back to the LAG.
- 6.2 The LAG discussed various aspects of Paper 3.
- 6.3 With regards to work on Scoping/Establishment of a LAG youth network concern was raised on completion by March 2026. There is already substantial work in progress with other organisations, and the LAG wished to avoid any duplication. The 2025 youth event had a tight deadline for delivery. A spread of established organisations is already in place across Aberdeenshire. Interim steps to the end goal may be more appropriate at this stage. Some options considered were a separate youth LAG, or youth LAG members, to join the main LAG group. The Bothie in Kintore personnel could be invited or liaised with as a resource. Coproduction with youth CLD and what they think will work is key. The LAG needs to be clear in their direction and what has been successful or not in Aberdeenshire (and wider). Succession / duration pathway of membership of youth to full members should be captured and clear. It was noted that it is important that what the LAG say they are going to do with a youth LAG is followed through. If not then

relationship, retention and engagement of young persons will be negatively impacted. The LAG was keen to make the most efficient and impactful use of the funds. Youth link Scotland was suggested as the type of organisation to approach to support the LAG in bringing about a Youth LAG. The scoping exercise will aim to form and develop plans for the 2026/27 programme activities. The LAG agreed not to commission this work in 2025/26.

- 6.4 It has been confirmed from the Scottish Government that capital and revenue funds cannot be transferred between budget lines.
- 6.5 For the work required on the Youth Transport study, it was agreed by the LAG, that a feasibility report could not be realistically completed to the standard required in this financial year. The LAG agreed not to commission this work in 2025/26. This would be looked at again for taking forward in 2026/27.
- 6.6 With regards to work on Capacity Building the LAG agreed this could be delivered realistically within timeline of the programme. The LAG agreed that procurement on delivering this could be started.
- 6.7 The LAG agreed that multiannual funding would be a more effective way to deliver the funding programme. In a previous mapping exercise north Aberdeenshire has received the most funding to date and south Aberdeenshire showed a deficit. Using a stakeholder interview approach may be beneficial. Suggestion was made to produce a map signposting resources for mental health support and show casing some of the projects supported by the funds to date.
- 6.8 Martin Brebner and / or Moira Beverley will follow up on the previous suggestions and feedback to the LAG via email. Martin Brebner will share a link to the strategic tourism development plan with the LAG for reference.
- 6.9 The LAG voted by majority as follows:
- 1 not to pursue work on scoping/establishment of a LAG youth network works. This will be reviewed in 2026/27.
  - 2 not to pursue work on transportation for youth at present. This will be reviewed in 2026/27.
  - 3 to go ahead with commissioning the study into Capacity Building.

## **7 Paper 4 LAG Draft Operational Papers**

- 7.1 This will be reviewed at a later date.

## **8 AOCB**

- 8.1 No other business was raised.

## **9 Date of Next Meeting – 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**



9.1 The date of the next meeting will take place on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Minute Taker

Catriona Nicolson

APPROVED