

**Rural Community Led Local Development (RCLLD) Fund
Local Action Group (LAG) Meeting
Conference Video Call via Microsoft Teams
Wednesday 29th January 2025 1.30pm to 3.30pm**

Present:

Eleanor Morris	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Aileen Longino	Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action	(Private) (Vice Chair)
Gina Ford	Fintray Community Council	(Private) (Chair)
David Hekelaar	Formartine Community Councils	(Private)
John Loder	Formartine Partnership	(Private) (Vice Chair)
Bill Slee	Marr Area Partnership	(Private)
Gerald Banks	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)
Lorna Paterson	National Farmers' Union Scotland	(Private)

Officers in Attendance:

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

Apologies:

Amanda Roe	Aberdeenshire Council	(Public)
Duncan Leece	Banffshire Partnership	(Private)
Justine Tough	Buchan Development Partnership	(Private)
Mike Duncan	Federation of Small Businesses	(Private)
Dawn Tuckwood	NHS Grampian	(Public)
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 Bill Slee made two declarations of interest, for applications 1 Marr Log Bank and 47 Marr Community Food, as a board member of Marr Area Partnership.
- 2.2 Bill Slee left the meeting while discussions regarding these applications took place.

3 Paper 1 - Applications for Rural Poverty Alleviation Fund 24.25

- 3.1 Moira Beverley reported back to the LAG on Paper 1.
- 3.2 For the purposes of this fund, anything up to £6000 will be treated as revenue. This is as per advice from the Scottish Government to use the Accountable Body guidelines. This fund is considered revenue only. For example, pieces of equipment that are less than £6000 will be classed as revenue.
- 3.3 Aileen Longino will refer unsuccessful groups to the funding team at Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action (AVA) for further support, where appropriate.
- 3.4 The maximum that any organisation can receive, regardless of the number of applications, is £9,999.00 in total from the fund.
- 3.5 Potential avenues for remaining funds could be the school networks and their hardship funds or equivalent and / or vouchers (eg Scotland Loves Local scheme).
- 3.6 The LAG agreed unanimously to the recommendations and approve projects that were deemed eligible, as follows:

10. The Just Ask Project - Maud Village Trust £9,999

Funding to support additional hours of someone already employed within organisation to take over the Just Ask project. Also supply heaters, bedding and love local vouchers for vulnerable families.

11. Breakfast Club/Warm Spaces - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service £9,000

Purchase equipment to support Warm Spaces and Brew with a Crew at Peterhead Fire Station. Also out of hours food bank for those facing financial hardship.

30. Improving Health & Wellbeing – Mintlaw & Central Buchan Initiative £7,663

Additional support for services for those struggling with mental health and financial worries. Support to young adults during exam period and additional warm spaces for elderly.

34. Victoria Community Park Bike & Storage – Peterhead Area Community Trust £7,500

The group had originally asked for core running costs and then revised their submission. Application for purchase of BMX bicycles, scooters and steel container. The equipment would be loaned out at no cost to children/young adults.

35. Buchan Winter Warmer Grant – Buchan Development Partnership £9,999

Funding would be used to extend the current winter grant scheme and support smaller groups within the community.

44. Support to Shop - Home-Start North East Aberdeenshire £5,000

The application is to support a volunteer driver scheme which will look to recruit a wider range of volunteers to be trained in MIDAS allowing them to safely transport families to affordable supermarkets.

48. Stella's Voice Community Support - Stella's Voice £9,999

The group have seen a rise in requests for help, this funding will allow the organisation to repair and deliver more essential home items such as fridges or washing machines.

51. Sharing Larder – Mormond West Parish Church £7,500

The grant will be used to fund the provision of essential household items for vulnerable families and enhance the value of the Well-being Parcels and provide support to offset fuel poverty.

13. North West CAB £8,000

The application is for top up vouchers for gas, electricity, bedding and food vouchers.

16. Central Church £7,016

The grant is requested to support the purchase of a new fridge, freezer and food supplies. This would allow group to reach more households and support more families.

22. Banffshire Partnership £9,999

Development of new interactive website targeting younger demographic. Trial shopping service to shops out with the normal traditional hours to support rural families.

36. Fraserburgh Resilience Group £5,000

Application is to support the purchase of new fridge, freezer and to rebrand organisation as name changed and to raise awareness.

50. Ellon and District Men's Shed £6,000

Application revised on email as group had asked for core running costs originally.

Funding to support equipment purchases and new tools to support those retired and unemployed in a warm, safe environment.

06. Garioch Community Kitchen £6,950

This grant is to provide cooking courses for children, teenagers and adults. How to cook healthy, affordable meals and the importance of budgeting and reducing food waste.

07. Home-Start Garioch £5,000

The application is for funding to spread awareness of Home-Start in the Turriff area. Working with Gordon Rural Action, foodbank, CAB and Health and Social Work to offer support to those in need.

08. Friends of Amal Project £5,000

The funding request is to provide an Arabic speaking Tutor to provide online IT training sessions to New Scots in Inverurie. These soft skills enhance the ability to break free from poverty.

20. Lets all talk North East Mums £6,295

The application is to support families who are supported by LATNEM with food, hygiene essentials and support travel costs to food banks.

39. Strathburn Parent Council £8,500

The grant request is to purchase IT platforms for learning for those children identified within the school who are disadvantaged through poverty and do not have access to these platforms.

49. Inverurie Community Partnership £9,500

The grant request is to purchase basic baby necessities, nappies, milk and a bigger printer to support the office activities.

05. Forget -Me-Not Dementia Support £5,400

The application is to expand the food provision to include a free breakfast for those attending the respite care.

12. Gordon Rural Action £6,050

The grant funding will be used to expand the baby bank by supporting the insurance of a free van which will be used to transport necessary baby equipment and school clothes to rural areas.

25. The Silver Circle (see email) £7,200

The application is to offer lunches to the elderly and those financial restricted in the areas of Lumsden, Kildrummy, Towie and Bellabeg.

38. Alford Academy Parent Council £9,850

The application is to start a poverty alleviation fund to support struggling families with support in mental health, budgeting, energy, clothing and food costs.

43. Banchory Academy Parent Council £7,190

The grant request is to support the removal of the cost of the school day. To provide study resources, uniform, food and hygiene products.

46. Huntly Development Trust £9,890

The application is requesting funds to support activities, at Greenmyres, for outdoor clothing so all participants can make use of the activities regardless of income. Also at No 30 the group wish to create a "Hackspace" and the grant will be used to purchase IT equipment.

54. Aboyne Academy Parent Council £9,999

The application is to support the purchase of personal laptops for senior school pupils who are in receipt of free school meals.

02. Home-Start Kincardine £5,351

The grant is to run a volunteer preparation course and also to distribute shopping vouchers to families in need of financial support.

14. The Bervie Pantry £5439.10

The request for funding is to run a warm pack project to provide heated blankets, thermos flasks, food packs and hygiene items.

19 K&M Citizens Advice Bureau £7,640

The application is a request for IT equipment to be able to provide drop ins at their office and Mackie Academy. Also to support the purchase of fuel cards and vouchers for Academy age children.

31. Bervie Kids Club £5,658.50

The funding request is to purchase IT equipment, toys and arrange trips and entertainment for the children.

18. Grampian Credit Union £6,000

The application is for funding to launch a Community Financial Empowerment drive to increase financial literacy and improve participants financial independence and stability.

52 Aberdeenshire North Foodbank £9,999

The grant funding would be used to purchase food, support additional volunteers and increase number of hours food van is on the road.

3.7 Moira Beverley will follow up with various applications as follows:

- a) contact Marr Area Partnership, regarding applications 1 and 47, for a more detailed cost breakdown for the projects and consideration for an application resubmission of one project.
- b) request application 41 South West CAB be resubmitted with removal of overhead costs and therefore reduction of funding request.
- c) request application 26 Tarland Development Group be resubmitted with removal of costs to improve the building but include kitchen equipment.
- d) seek clarification for application 28 The Community Collective about ownership of the range equipment.



- e) request application 40 Aberdeen Foyer provide clarification on overhead costs.
- f) request an application resubmission for application 21 Ellon Community Allotments with more detail for the project.

- 3.8 Moira Beverley will contact the LAG, through written procedure, with exact figures on underspend and how this can be split between SCARF and changes to any projects.
- 3.9 The Chair thanked officers for their efforts in delivering the funds.

4 Date of Next Meeting

- 4.1 The next full LAG meeting is to take place on 25th March 2025.

Minute Taker

Catriona Nicolson

APPROVED