



## MINUTES

### LEADER – Rural Enterprise Sub-Group Meeting – 2pm Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015

**Held at:** Kirkbank House, Dumfries

**Present:** Gill Khosla (GK) Chair Teresa Dougall (TD)  
Judith Johnson (JJ) Eva Milroy (EM)  
Paula McDonald (PM) Lesley Jackson (LJ)  
Chris Churms (CC) Gill Dykes (GD)

**Staff:** Nicola Hill (NH) Simone Tyrie (ST)

**Absent:** Sharon Glendinning (SG)

#### Welcome

GK opened the meeting with a word of welcome and explained that she had had some thoughts about the setting of criteria and asked if anyone had any ideas in addition to what was already on the agenda.

#### Criteria for applications to Rural Enterprise Group

JJ asked the question, does there still need to be demonstrable community benefit. NH stated that this was a good point to have at the beginning as the funds being delivered by LEADER were not working in isolation and the projects supported are all working to deliver against the LDS and that means a wider community benefit. There were no other suggestions for other criteria.

A discussion took place about setting separate criteria for the Rural Business Support and Farm Diversification pots of money; however it was decided that this could prove difficult. There was a discussion about what financial information should be sought from applicants and the fact that applicants may have an interest in more than one company. It was unanimously decided that the criteria should be the same for each pot of money and that the application should contain a declaration of business interests.

A discussion took place about whether there should be a maximum grant level set for the Rural Enterprise pot and it was felt that this would be a good idea. The group unanimously decided to set an upper limit on the Rural Enterprise Grants of £50,000.

Next they discussed whether there should be an annual limit on grants. It was felt that this could be detrimental to the projects coming forward. The group unanimously agreed that an annual limit should not be set.

The group had a discussion about whether any businesses or concepts should be excluded from applying. It was agreed that there should be no exclusions as long as they are eligible within the European Union and Scottish Government guidance.



# Supporting communities across Dumfries and Galloway



A discussion took place about mentoring and/or coaching. It was suggested that a mentor/coach could be provided once a project was approved but this would not be a condition of grant and instances would be considered on a case by case basis. Everyone present agreed that they would be interested if training was available. It was unanimously agreed that Nicola would look into training for the Rural Enterprise members.

**Action Point: NH to look into mentoring/coaching training.**

It had been agreed at a previous meeting that the Rural Enterprise Group wanted there to be an element of private match funding for the Rural Enterprise pots of money, a full and frank discussion took place. It was agreed by 6 votes to 2 that there should be at least 15% private match funding in each application.

It was agreed that Nicola would put together a draft guidance paper which would also include the definition of innovation and circulate it to the Rural Enterprise group

**Action Point: Nicola Hill to produce draft guidance with innovation definition**

Nicola reported that she was meeting with Alistair Prior and other coordinators to discuss the guidance on Friday. She stated that if there was much more of a delay by Scottish Government a March round of application may not be viable.

Nicola reported that marketing would be carried out at the beginning of 2016 to attract applications. She also reported that the Project Officer post was likely to be advertised this week with interviews carried out in December.

## **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed there would be a meeting in December to look at expressions of interest. 17<sup>th</sup> of December was pencilled in peoples diaries but the date will be confirmed.