

**MINUTES OF LAG MEETING HELD IN EDU BOARDROOM AT  
9.30AM ON THURSDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2011.**

Present: Douglas Irvine, SIC (Chairperson)  
Mhari Pottinger, HIE Shetland (Vice Chairperson)  
Diana Abernethy, AB Associates Ltd  
Donald Anderson, Shetland Arts, proxy for Kathy Hubbard  
David Cormack, SGRPID  
Tommy Coutts, SIC  
Michael Duncan, SIC  
Pete Glanville, Shetland Organics  
Wendy Hand, VAS  
Ann Johnson, SNH  
Kathleen Sinclair, NFU  
Sally Spence, SIC

Sheila Tulloch, SIC – LAG Co-ordinator

**1. Apologies and Introductions**

Apologies were received from Alan Blain, SAT; Mick Clifton, SIC; Jennifer Mouat, SSMO; Ruth Henderson, Seafood Shetland; Kathy Hubbard, Shetland Arts, and Maree Hay, NCDC.

**2. Membership Balance**

The public/private status of the group was checked and there was an appropriate balance.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

Declarations of interest regarding the following potential projects were noted;

- 086 – Voluntary Action Shetland –Wendy Hand declared an interest as an employee of VAS.

**4. Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> August 2011**

The minutes were proposed by Mhari Pottinger and seconded by David Cormack.

**5. Matters Arising – not dealt with elsewhere**

There were no matters arising.

## **6. Budget Updates**

Sheila Tulloch explained the latest updates. She stated the Shetland Rugby Club had now accepted their offer. The Hillswick Hall project is progressing well; once the applicant has formal approval of funding from the SIC they can accept and return their offer letter. Sheila provided an update on the Burravoe Community and Cultural Centre project. In August it was noted the group had been unsuccessful in securing match funding and would need to reapply to LEADER if the project had to be substantially changed. The group have now identified a further source of funding and are awaiting the outcome of an application. Mhari Pottinger stated the project was being queried regarding State Aid, further information is being sought regarding this and it is hoped that an update will be provided at the next LAG meeting. The project was awarded £158,944 of LEADER funds, 47.5% of total project costs earlier this year.

## **7. Potential Projects**

### **086 Voluntary Action Shetland - Parent Link Shetland**

Wendy Hand declared an interest but several LAG members had queries they wished to ask her. She remained in the room to answer questions and left before the project was discussed in detail by the LAG.

The project aims to build on the needs identified in the Shetland Parenting Strategy to develop a universal high quality parenting support project throughout Shetland. The project will consist of delivering parenting training to local parents by local parents. A project co-ordinator, employed for 30 hours per week as well as three existing and new facilitators, as required will deliver Parent Network Scotland parenting courses throughout Shetland.

The LAG discussed the project which is being viewed as a pilot project to run for two years. The project focuses on early intervention and prevention rather than crisis intervention, aiming to assist families before they are referred to other agencies. LAG members queried how these families would be identified and if indeed they would wish for additional support. Sustainability of the project beyond two years when funding ceased was queried. After discussion the LAG felt the project could proceed to the second stage and submit a full application but wished to have the following information provided;

- More information on need from other agencies
- Letters of support from other agencies for the project
- Evidence of where this type of project has been successful previously

Wendy Hand entered the room.

## **8. AOB**

### **2012 Meeting Dates**

These had been circulated previously to members. The first meeting of 2012 will be held on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Future of LEADER**

Douglas explained it was time to start thinking about what may happen with LEADER post 2013. The SIC has been lead partner for the 2007-2013 scheme, prior to this HIE Shetland (Shetland Enterprise) was the lead partner for the Leader+ scheme. This will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. Since the programme was approved the level of audit work has increased steadily. A huge amount of SIC staff time is taken up in dealing with LEADER applications, claims and reporting. The Co-ordinator is employed part time but the level of work involved as lead partner comes to much more than one part time employee can undertake.

### **Project Spend and Approvals**

Michael Duncan queried the number of projects that have successfully passed Stage 1 but not yet submitted full applications. To date there are three projects with amounts of money set aside that could be approved. There is a concern that these projects may not be able to go ahead and the money will not be spent. Sheila will seek updates on the three relevant projects for the December meeting. In addition to this some projects are estimated to underspend and not be able to claim the full amount of LEADER funding approved. The LAG needs to know likely amounts of underspends in order to be able to offer the funds to other projects if they can spend before the end of the programme.

## **9. Date of next meeting/closure**

15<sup>th</sup> December 2011, EDU Boardroom.

Meeting closed at 10.35 am.