

Tyne Esk LEADER Local Action Group
Minute of Assessment meeting held on Monday 6 June 2011
9.30am, Marriage Conference Room, Haddington

Present

Allison Cosgrove (Chair)	Association of East Lothian Community Councils
Sandy MacMillan	Midlothian Council (for John Beveridge)
Sandra Duncan	SWRI
Tom Hobbs	Forestry Commission
Robert Hogg	Midlothian Federation of Community Councils
Cllr Russell Imrie	Midlothian Council
Andrew McDonald	Midlothian Tourism Forum)
Cllr Stuart MacKinnon	East Lothian Council
Frank Beattie	Scottish Enterprise
Margaret Nisbet	Midlothian Voluntary Action

In Attendance

Susan Smith	East Lothian Council
Lindsay Bowditch	Rosslyn Chapel Education Trust
Fiona Rogan	Rosslyn Chapel Education Trust
Dianne Stein	Rosslyn Chapel Education Trust
Douglas Harper	Rosslyn Chapel Education Trust
Sir Francis Ogilvy	Visit East Lothian
Stuart Turnbull	Dunbar Harbour Trust
Brian Cleator	Dunbar Harbour Trust

1. Apologies

John Beveridge (Midlothian Council), Scott Murray (Scottish Agricultural College), Robert Dale (NFU), James Bruce (ELVON), Robert Conway (Visit East Lothian)

2. Welcome

Allison Cosgrove, as Chair, welcomed colleagues to the LAG meeting outlining the format. Susan explained that interviews for the Leader Project Officer post would be held on Tuesday 7 June. Also, given the overcommitment situation, there was some discussion about the approach to the Scottish Government for additional funding and to existing projects to ensure maximum spend.

3. Presentation – Rosslyn Chapel Education Trust

The four representatives from the RCET gave an interesting and informative presentation on the background to their project.

4. Presentation – Visit East Lothian

Sir Francis Ogilvy, Chair of Visit East Lothian, outlined how Leader funding will enable this project to be realised. Due to conflict of interest, Susan Smith and Stuart MacKinnon left the meeting.

5. Presentation – Dunbar Harbour Trust

The two trustees of DHT gave an interesting presentation on the opportunity to DHT from renewables. Due to conflict of interest, Susan Smith left the meeting.

6. Minutes of previous meeting

The Round 11 minutes were agreed as a true record.

7. Finance discussion

Susan explained that the Tyne/Esk Leader programme has made an overcommitment to project expenditure and suggested that funding from Action 2, transnational and inter-regional projects, as well as some funding from Action 3, administration, be transferred into Action 1, projects, to cover some of the overcommitment. Susan will speak with SG.

8. Project Application discussion

There followed a discussion on the 3 projects submitted on the basis of presentations made and applications submitted and bearing in mind the over-commitment situation. The LAG determined that the application from Rosslyn Chapel Trust be turned down on the basis of additionality, ie the project is expected to go ahead in any case, with a timescale of late summer given. Both applications from Visit East Lothian and Dunbar Harbour Trust will be subject to follow-up queries from the LAG chair.

There is ongoing liaison with project leads around expenditure and decommitment. All projects are subject to an on-the-spot (final) check and Susan thanked Midlothian Council (John Beveridge) for their support to these visits during the absence of Leader Officer.

9. Next steps

Susan and Allison to meet with SG representatives to discuss additional funding to Tyne/Esk and transfer of Action 2 and 3 monies to Action 1, projects
Allison will contact the 2 projects and advise RCET accordingly
All LAG members will reassess the 3 projects on the basis of applications and presentations.

10. Any other business

Allison drew members' attention to Leader conference on 31 August in Inverness – travel and subsistence would be paid by LAG.

The next meeting will be held in Macsense on 5 September.