

Tyne & Esk Rural Communities Development Fund

Local Action Group Meeting

26th April 2023, Gullane Recreation Hall

Members Present:

A McDonald (Chair), A Hastie (Vice Chair), H Smith (Community - North Berwick Area Partnership); Karen Calvert (Independent/Business) S Poole (Independent/Business), Andrew Bayne-Jardine (Independent/Business), Cheryl Brown (Third Sector)

Members Apologies:

S Pettigrew (Edinburgh College), P Playfair (Independent/Business), L Cooper (Scottish Enterprise), J McMillan (ELC Elected Member)

Observers Present:

E Carmichael (East Lothian Council ED), L Kelly (MC Community Planning Partnership Rep/Midlothian TSI), Diann Govenlock (East Lothian Council Connecting Communities Manager)

Observers Apologies:

A Watt (Midlothian Council ED), M Allan (East Lothian TSI), C McCorry (East Lothian Council/ Diann Govenlock attended instead) and Caitlin McCorry (East Lothian TSI)

In Attendance

J Adamson (CLLD Officer)

AMcD welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Lorna Scott, Chair of the Gullane Village Association. LS gave an overview of their purchase of the Scout Hall and community inclusion work that they actively cover.

LS left the meeting and AMcD called the meeting to business

There were no declared interests

JA Confirmed the meeting was quorate. EC had been given approval by JMCM to vote on his behalf. Emails were sent to AMcD and JA.

Minutes of previous meeting (19th January 2023). **Approved.**

1. Matters Arising From Previous Minutes

LK gave an update on Co-operation Funds meeting.

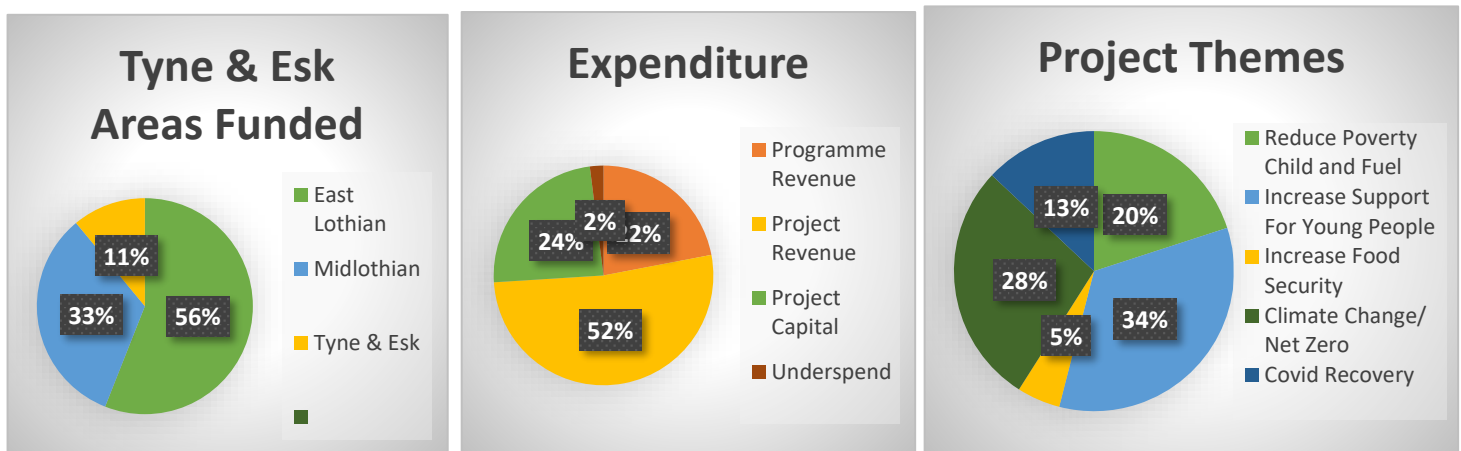
2. End of CLLD Programme 2022-2023

The end of Programme Report was discussed and approved. JA confirmed all projects completed on time and monitoring activities were carried out.

Action: JA to submit the End of Programme Report to the Scottish Government

Figures from Report:

Allocation from SG	£193,382		
	<u>Capital</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Total</u>
Allocation	£61,314.60	£143,067.40	£204,382.00
Total Spend	£47,239.57	£143,067.63	£190,307.20
Difference	£14,075.03	-£0.23	£14,074.80



Underspend

31st January 2023 a £11,000 capital underspend was reported to the Scottish Government, as required in the grant offer letter. £3,075.03 capital underspend identified on 31st March. Therefore the total underspend of the Programme was £14,075.03 capital. Underspend was due to time restraints of the Programme allowing funding of eligible capital projects.

Although the funding time scale was short it has made an impact on applicants who received the financial assistance. The feedback from applicants at their monitoring visits were positive and they felt the grants had made a positive impact on their communities and work.

A discussion regarding the impact of CLLD on organisations' future funding and links with other factors e.g. tourism. It was agreed that these links should be shown.

Action: DG connecting communities and EC connecting businesses

3. CLLD Conference Update and meeting with Mairi Gougeon, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Land Reform and Islands

AMcD, AH and JA gave an update of the CLLD Conference. The main themes that came from the conference were; Youth LAGs, possible Co-operation Projects and funding needing to be multi-annual not annual.

The LAG discussed a possible Tyne & Esk Youth LAG and how the young people could use it to work towards the Saltire or Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

AH gave an overview with the meeting she attended with Mairi Gougeon and other LAG area members. It was an opportunity to express CLLD operational concerns and position with Inspiring Scotland.

4. 2023-2024 CLLD Programme:

Guidance for the 2023-2024 Community Led Vision Plan was sent to the LAG prior to the meeting. Tyne & Esk funding had been decreased by £30,000. Everyone expressed their frustration at the allocated budget.

The LAG agreed to continue funding projects from Tyne & Esk Communities. Grants were the heart of the funding programme and the ethos of Tyne & Esk.

The following actions were agreed:

1. Councillors and LAG Chair to write to the Scottish Government regarding the decrease in budget
2. JA, DG, LK Youth LAG: Consultant to give an options Appraisal. The Youth LAG to be allocated a small grants fund.

Budget discussed: Staffing £57,000, Programme Revenue £10,000, Youth LAG Consultant and small Grants Scheme £20,000, Revenue Grants £90,000

Revenue Grants £10,000 Maximum. Approved by LAG.

12:45pm LK, DG, HS and CB left the meeting. Quorum of 6 LAG Members remained.

Proposed Schedule:

May	CLLD Vision
June	Expression of Interest open
July	Possible confirmation from Scottish Government regarding 2023-2024 Programme
August	Applications open
September	LAG Project Meeting

AOCB

Legal: The LAG gave approval for AH to manage the legal review. AH will arrange a meeting with Brodies Solicitors.

Date of next meeting TBC, Midlothian Area



Approved 08/08/2023

Email: info@tyneesk.co.uk