

**Minutes of the Selection Panel for the Moray LEADER Local Action Group for 2014-2020
Held on Tuesday 8th March 2016 at Moray Council HQ, Elgin**

Present:

Ruth Anderson, representing the former Moray LAG (RA)
Cllr John Cowe, representing the Moray Economic Partnership (JC)
Duncan Pockett, representing the former Moray FLAG (DP)
Don Vass, representing tsi Moray (DV)

In attendance:

Iain Catto, LEADER Programme Co-ordinator (IC)

1) Procedural Matters

IC took the Panel through the following items:

- (a) The discussions today and the applications themselves would remain confidential. A minute of the meeting detailing the decisions made would be reported to the new Local Action Group (LAG);
- (b) The LAG could have up to 25 members. There were 18 applications. Therefore the decision today could be a Yes/No/Yes with Caveats decision, without the need to score or rank the candidates. The Panel agreed to this;
- (c) The LAG had to have 49% or less of public sector members. The Panel should aim for a good spread across geographical areas and the various sectors covered by the local development strategy (LDS). Other LEADER areas had gone for a third from business, a third from the public sector, and a third from community organisations, but Moray had not adopted that approach. Moray had adopted in its Business Plan recruitment via what skills and experience individuals could bring to the LAG, rather than what organisation they might represent;
- (d) It is still to be finally determined if tsi Moray or The Moray Council would be the accountable body, so the process today has to cover both eventualities;
- (e) IC suggested that where a Panel member knew an applicant that that be declared, and noted for the record, but that would not bar that Panel member from discussing that application, unless it was a family member involved, as some of the applicants were known to all the Panel members. This was agreed by the Panel;
- (f) After considering the applications, the Panel should make recommendations to the LAG as to what gaps there were going to be in LAG membership.

2) Applications

Applications were considered and decided as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Known To</u>	<u>Decision</u>
Drew McFarlane-Slack	RA, DP	Approved
Tracey Gervaise	RA, DV	Approved
Janne Pirie		Approved
Margery Maclennan	RA, JC	Approved
Alastair Kennedy	RA, JC, DP, DV	Approved
Gordon Methven		Approved
Fabio Villani	RA, JC, DP, DV	Approved
Fiona Robb	RA, DP, DV	Approved
Andrea Fuller		Approved
Jana Hutt	RA	Approved
Gavin Clark	RA	Approved
Debbie Herron	RA, DP, DV	Approved
Franziska Smith	JC	Approved
Alex Walker	RA	Approved
Dr Bea Jefferson		Approved
Ian Cowe	RA, JC	Approved
Aileen Buchanan		Approved
Iain Findlay		Approved

The following general comments were made:

- (a) It was hoped that those members from the public sector would bring to the LAG the benefit of their contacts and networks from within their organisation;
- (b) No further recruitment for LAG members should be carried out at this stage in the Forres and Findhorn areas, as there was enough geographical representation from those areas.

3. Gaps in LAG membership

The Panel recommended to the LAG that it consider seeking representation from the following areas/sectors:

- (a) Lossiemouth, Buckie, Keith;
- (b) Under 25s – it was suggested that fresh approaches be made to schools and youth groups in Moray, but it was also suggested that the LAG consider setting up a sub-group of young people with responsibility for allocating some of the funds available to the LAG. Such allocations would still need to fit within the LDS themes;

- (c) People with disabilities – local groups representing people with disabilities should be contacted regularly to alert them to places on the LAG, and any barriers to participation should be removed. Contact should also be made with the Moray Health and Social Care Partnership in this connection;
- (d) Military personnel (or their spouses) – JC is seeing the Group Commander at RAF Lossiemouth shortly so will raise it with him;
- (e) Farming/agriculture;
- (f) Private business.

The Panel considered that the lack of representation from ethnic minorities was not a major concern at present, due to the small numbers currently in Moray. However the LAG should be aware of the issue, and give it proper consideration when doing further recruitment.

The Panel recommended that the LAG should consider issuing an invitation to these groups to nominate a representative:

- (a) The Moray Council;
- (b) Moray College UHI;
- (c) Moray Strategic Business Forum.