

**MINUTE OF MEETING OF
SOUTH ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL ACTION GROUP**

**MONDAY, 24 MARCH 2014
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, WOODHILL HOUSE, ABERDEEN**

Present

Belinda Miller	LAG Chairperson
Liam Smyth	Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce
Dawn Tuckwood	NHS Grampian
Anne Simpson	The Garioch Partnership
Gina Ford	Scottish Enterprise
Ian Hay	East Grampian Coastal Partnership
Emma Kidd	Aberdeenshire Council
Gavin Clark	Scottish Natural Heritage
Jim Booth	Scottish Agricultural Organisation Society
Lizzy Shepherd	Marr Rural Partnership
Jan Leatham	Banchory & District Initiative Ltd
Philip Smith	Visit Scotland
Scott Petrie	Scottish Land & Estates
Ian Cowe	Forestry Commission Scotland

Officers in Attendance

Martin Brebner	Team Manager - European Policy & Programmes
Alasdair Cunningham	European Programmes Co-Ordinator
David John McRobbie	European Programmes Co-Ordinator
June Jaffrey	European Programme Claims Officer

Guest

Ellie Brodie	SRUC
Alastair Prior	Scottish Government

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

1.1 Belinda welcomed those present and introductions were made round the table for the benefit of all.

2. UPDATE SINCE LAST MEETING

- 2.1 Martin Brebner advised that a review of LAG membership is currently being undertaken. SRUC have been appointed as the consultants tasked with the preparatory work for a draft LDS; the first draft is due for submission to the Scottish Government by 31.3.14.
- 2.2 Alastair Prior (Scottish Government) advised that the LDS will articulate priorities, clarify decision making processes and provide clarity on roles and responsibilities for LAG members. The priorities for funding will determine the funding level for the new programme. There will be periodic updates built into the framework. It was clarified that “urban” areas could be included in the new LDS (no longer a

population cap of 10k population). Clarification on fisheries was sought with assurance given that river projects would be included with clarity on the fund being identified at project application stage. Alastair advised that funding will be ring fenced for administration of joint projects with neighbouring LAGs.

3. APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM CHAIR

- 3.1 Belinda asked for agreement from SALAG members for her to remain as the Interim Chair – SALAG agreed. Nominations for the SALAG chair will be discussed at the next meeting. Belinda clarified that the lead partner and Chair need not be from the same organisation. Guidance on the responsibilities as LAG members will be forwarded to all. Belinda clarified that each organisation sitting on the LAG would have one vote.

4. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON 1ST DRAFT LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SRUC)

- 4.1 A presentation was given by SRUC who are currently drafting the LDS; with key points from today's meeting feeding back into the LDS. SALAG member engagement/comments can be forwarded to SRUC beyond the first draft submission date of 31.3.14. There will be further online consultations in April which will contain more structured questions. A date will be set for a workshop day in May. The draft objectives identified at today's meeting will be expanded on in the LDS. Issues of a similar nature were highlighted in both the North and the South areas ie migration, skills shortage, transport links. Other areas of concern/comment were;
- Housing (lack of affordability)
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Equal opportunities
 - Fisheries and Marine projects

5. CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 The presentation by SRUC and the draft LDS will be forwarded to SALAG members.