

## **LEADER 2014 – 2020 Local Action Group selection panel**

Thursday 07 May 2015

Bowhill Estate Office, Selkirk



**Panellists:** Andrew Brough, Bowhill Estate Manager, Chair, A Working Countryside  
Kerry Barr, Regional Manager NFUS, member, A Working Countryside  
Colin McGrath, Scottish Borders Community Councils Network  
Bryan McGrath, Scottish Borders Council

**Secretariat:** Hugh Williams, Scottish Borders Council

### **Minute of meeting**

#### **1. Current status of LEADER 2014 – 2020**

Hugh Williams provided an update on current status. The Local Development Strategy is approved in principle and the Business Plan is being redrafted. Scottish LAGs are awaiting national agreement on the Service Level Agreement between the Scottish Government and Accountable Bodies.

#### **2. Role of the LAG**

The role of the Local Action Group is defined in the Business Plan and draft Group Protocol. The LAG is the key policy and decision making body responsible for implementing the LDS, for promoting the programme and projects and adding value where possible. It is the decision making group for Scottish Borders LEADER funding. LAG members organisations may apply for funding support, but representatives will not take part in the decision-making process where they are involved in the project seeking funding.

#### **3. LAG membership**

Membership will be 15 or more representatives of community and voluntary groups and public and private sector organisations. A number of representative groups are specified in the business plan.

- Minimum 51% non-public sector (and public sector minority on quorum of 7)
- SBC Chief Officer Economic Development will be a permanent member
- Chair elected annually
- Annual membership review

#### **4. Application process**

Information on LAG membership and recruitment was online on the Scottish Borders LEADER website throughout April, promoted from 01/04/15 through emails to the LEADER networks, to individuals who attended the 2014 consultation events, AWC members, the previous LEADER DMG, and representatives of the organisations specified in the business plan.

- Application forms returned to Hugh Williams, all acknowledged
- Closing date was Wednesday 29/04/15

## **5. Selection process**

The selection process is a combination of scoring applications against a matrix and a discussion of the candidates' knowledge and experience.

- The panel agreed to consider an application which had been received after the notified closing date. The individual concerned had been out of office in the days leading up to the closing date and had sent in apologies.
- The panel agreed that two panellists would not score applications from representatives of their own specific organisations (National Farmers' Union Scotland and Scottish Borders Community Councils Network). In many cases panellists had met applicants in other roles or networks, but no other direct interests were reported.

## **6. Applications – scoring and discussion**

The panellists scored applications against the matrix, and discussed the relative strengths of the candidates. The scores were entered onto a spreadsheet and averaged.

**Following further discussion it was agreed that 18 applicants should be invited to become members of the new LEADER Local Action Group.**

It was noted that young people were under-represented. Young Farmers' groups had been invited to apply, but none had come forward. The new LAG will review its membership, and will have the opportunity to enlist additional and / or replacement members in the future.

## **7. Next steps**

- Hugh Williams to advise successful applicants next week.
- A first meeting, focused on training and induction, is required for new LAG members.
- No public announcements about programme launch will be made until Scottish Government confirms funding for the new programme.