

ARIA Fund LAG (A-LAG) MEETING

2nd October 2024

10:00 – 12:00

Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Non- Public Sector	Attended	Public Sector	Attended
Jim Watson (JW)	X	Eddie Bulik (EB)	X
Kevin Brown (KB)	X	Rosemary Ramsay (RR)	
Barbara Conner (BC)	X	Melissa McCulloch (MM)	X
Chris Campbell (CC)		Colin McKee (CM)	
Mhairi Dawson (MD)	X		
Claire Donaldson (CD)			
Ally Henry (AH)			
		Emma Bernard (EB)	
Total No. LAG Members	6	Sarah Smillie (SS)	
Minimum Quorum (50%)	6	Jamie Tait (JT)	

LAG Staff	Attended
Jennifer Macdonald (JM)	X

Apologies

Chris Campbell (CC) Rosemary Ramsay (RR)
 Claire Donaldson (CD) Ally Henry (AH)
 Colin McKee (CM)

Acronyms

CLT Community Led Tourism
 CWB Community Wealth Building
 EOI Expression of Interest

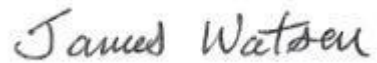
<p>Welcome JW welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Quorum The meeting had 6 LAG Members so was quorate with at least 50% of the 11 standing LAG Members. This comprised 4 non-public sector and 2 public sector, fulfilling the minimum 51%:49% non-public: public requirement.</p> <p>Update JM provided an update on the last CLLD staff meeting, explaining that there was no further information available on Tranche two funding. She fed back the general feelings of frustration and concern that had been noted during the meeting from all LAG areas, about the lack of clarity for funding beyond 2024/2025. JM also apologised for the last LAG meeting minutes not yet being complete but assured that the draft would be circulated the following week. All main fund grant letters had been sent to successful applicants with the condition from Kilmaurs having now been met.</p>	<p>Actions JM to circulate draft minutes from 03.09.24 meeting.</p>
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<p>JM updated that there had been limited progress on the recruitment of the project-support role and that she would follow it up with JT of SAC.</p>	<p>JM to contact JT about recruitment.</p>
<p>CAM Overview</p> <p>JM updated the group on the decision that had been made to extend the CAM deadline from the 15th of September to 1st of November to try and encourage additional applications. Of the initial 23 EOIs in June, 13 had been found to be eligible and sent application forms, with only two then submitting by the original September deadline. JM reported that she had begun contacting the 11 organisations who received applications to better understand why they had not submitted. Of the groups already contacted, the main reasons given were lack of time and difficulty obtaining quotes. KB explained that there are dozens of available organisations who could provide quotes within the region, so JM will continue to discuss with previous EOI applicants what the barriers to entry were.</p> <p>JM also reported that since the extended deadline had been advertised, another 4 application forms had been sent out and that she was confident that at least another 3 would be received by the extended deadline. Given the lack of clarity around how many applications would need assessing, JM suggested the allocation meeting date and location should be confirmed after the submission deadline. This was agreed.</p>	
<p>CAM Assessments</p> <p><u>Ayrshire 33rd Scout Group</u></p> <p>Pre assessment had highlighted a member's concern with the preferred supplier for this application. However, the supplier and their updated quote was discussed with KB who had an awareness of the company. Discussions concluded that the building, while owned by the Scouts was in a prominent central location and was of importance to the whole community, as well as the young people who utilise it weekly. The application was found to be good value for money, in an area where there are limited activities available for young people. One LAG member had previous experience of working with the group and confirmed that they are a well organised association, who work with other groups in the town and are trying to protect the building, despite the challenges they face.</p> <p>Decision: Project Approved unanimously for the total of £4,500.00</p>	
<p><u>Friends of Dundonald Castle</u></p> <p>This applicant was already known to the group due to successful main fund applications in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025. The application was in keeping with these main fund activities of working towards an extension of the visitor centre at Dundonald Castle. It was noted the application could have done with additional support letters. However the group is a clear example of CWB and CLT bringing over £100k of income to the region, as well as supporting multiple jobs.</p> <p>As the LAG are aware of the group's plan to expand the visitor centre in due course, it will be a condition of the grant that the sinking fund is spent on repairs to the current building and not on an extension programme. This will be checked by KB who offered to undertake the monitoring visit for the site in March.</p> <p>Decision: Unanimously Approved for the total of £3,672.00, with the condition that the sinking fund element is spent only on repairs highlighted within the maintenance report.</p>	<p>JM to instruct applicant that sinking fund must be spent on current building and not on the planned expansion.</p>
<p>Other Business</p> <p>No other business, beyond that which had been discussed throughout the assessments and update was noted.</p> <p>Date of the next meeting to be confirmed by the first week in November.</p>	

Actions

- JM to circulate draft minutes from 03.09.24 meeting.
- JM to contact JT about recruitment.
- JM to instruct FODC rep that the sinking fund money must be spent on the current building and not put towards the planned expansion element.

END

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Watson".

Jim Watson

ARIA LAG Chair

4th December 2024