

ARIA Fund LAG (A-LAG) MEETING
2nd Nov 2022
9:30 – 15:00
County Hall, South Ayrshire Council County Buildings

Attendees

LAG Members			
Non- Public Sector	Attended	Public Sector	Attended
Jean Brown (JB)	X	Eddie Bulik (EB)	X
Kevin Brown (KB)	X	Bruce Davidson (BD)	X
Barbara Conner (BC)	X	Emma McMullen (EM)	X
Chris Campbell (CC)	X	Jamie Tait (JT)	X
Elaine Stewart (ES)			
Marie Oliver (MO)	X		
Jim Watson (JW)	X		
LAG Advisors			
		Sarah Smillie (SS)	X
Lead Partner Representative			
		Mike Newall (MN)	X

LAG Staff/Contractors	Attended
Angela Lamont (AL)	X
Angela McWhinnie (AM)	X
Ann Wilson (AW)	X

Apologies

NA

Welcome	Actions
<p>JW welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Quorum The meeting started with 8 LAG Members, so was quorate with at least 50% of the 11 standing members. This comprised 5 non-public sector and 3 public sector, fulfilling the minimum 51%:49% non-public: public requirement. Some Members came and left but the meeting remained quorate with the required split throughout. This was closely monitored.</p> <p>Register of Interests No changes to the standing register of interests were noted, JT completed his register of interests form in the meeting.</p> <p>Conflicts of Interest Conflicts were noted for the following Members/projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB – Haresahw Community Hall (JB is the applicant) • BC – Beith Community Development Trust (CDT) • CC – Girvan Town Team • EM – Beith CDT and Millport Town Hall. <p>Minutes of Last Meeting The meeting minutes of previous, 5th Oct 22, LAG meeting were approved.</p>	

<p>AL ran through the actions:</p> <p>Continued</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AL/Project Officer to monitor projects split by area as they come in, to strive for fair split among LA areas. Completed. • AL to pursue LAG Advisor representation for new priority themes, disability groups and groups from areas of deprivation from autumn 22. Continued, procurement for LAG refresh to be sought discussed under AOCB. • KB/MN/JW to establish MoU/amend constitution in short life working group with deadline of mid-Sept 22. Continued. Internal Audit action that the constitution and MoU are in place prior to allocation of grants. • LP representative’s non-voting role on LAG to be made clear in constitution/MoU. Continued. <p>New</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JT to complete Register of Interest form. Completed. • AL to send LAG instructions on Teams access prior to application assessment. Completed – assessment completed via SharePoint. • AL to contact Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce/Federation of Small Business for replacement LAG tourism rep. Completed, CEO of Ayrshire and Arran Destination Alliance (AADA) shown interest. AL to update. • AL to make changes to final fund documents and circulate to the LAG. Grant award letter completed, remainder continued. • EM to circulate summary sheet on CWB and AL on just transition to net zero prior to project assessments. Completed. • AL to circulate list of duties for LAG involvement post-approvals & availability table. Completed – BC/CC/BD committed time. <p>LAG Member Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AL reminded the LAG of the change in VASA representation: MO was to become the Project Officer and it was later confirmed that AM would assume role as LAG Member. • AL informed the LAG that Christine Cuthertson (CCu) had stood down as National Farmers’ Union Scotland (NFUS) rep due to a change in jobs. The NFUS had advised they were recruiting a replacement so to recontact late Nov/early Dec 22 to discuss replacement. 	<p>AL to update on recruitment of AADA CEO as LAG tourism rep.</p> <p>AL to contact NFUS late Nov/early Dec 22 for CCu replacement LAG Member.</p>		
<p>Applications Assessment</p> <p>AL thanked the LAG for scoring the applications and reported that the Survey Monkey survey provided a snapshot for trends rather than being 100% accurate – final scores could be amended at the meeting as applicable. She also apologised for the approve/reject/approve with conditions not being presented as in previous A-LAG scoring, she had not been aware of this but it would be included in future.</p> <p>Capital Projects</p> <p>AL presented the capital projects for assessment, stating there was £233,119.68 in potential project spend of the £160,081.20 available allocation so decisions would have to be made as to best project fit. She then ran through the projects one by one presenting on key points.</p> <p>1. .vCarbon Reduction, Adventure Centre for Education, Girvan, South Ayrshire</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="215 2038 1141 2083"> <tr> <td>Main Costs</td> <td>Electric van purchase</td> </tr> </table>	Main Costs	Electric van purchase	
Main Costs	Electric van purchase		

Total Eligible Costs	£41,496.20
Grant Request	£37,346.58
% Grant Request	90%
Revenue Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.41/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check: NA

Decision: LAG discussion was short covering good fit with fund priorities/timeline for delivery and the application was approved unanimously.

2. Dunlop Dairy Cheese Shop & Tasting Room, Stewarton, East Ayrshire

Main Costs	Conversion, design & fit out of cheese room for bespoke cheese retail sales ,& dining room/kitchen for high-end dining experience.
Total Eligible Costs	£130,514
Grant Request	£50,000
% Grant Request	38%
Revenue Request	NA
Applicant Type	Business

Score: 2.46/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- Need/demand not well evidenced.
- Local support not well evidenced.
- Business plan requested from applicant (needed to see true projected benefits to local employment/economy) – not supplied.
- Plans requested – not supplied.
- Risk to SAC if project not completed on time.

LAG discussion covered:

- Applicant had provided photographs of works being initiated prior to Planning expiry date of 2nd Nov 19 but conclusion was confirmation of this would be needed from East Ayrshire Council (EAC) Planning Dept if the application was approved.
- Completion of the project by deadline (28th Feb 22) was questioned. 1 LAG Member who is a Quantity Surveyor (QS) doubted it could be delivered on time.
- Local need (lack of alternative local higher end dining experiences), fit with fund priorities, potential benefit to the local economy and use of local contractors were praised with the project.

Decision:

Decision on this project was deferred until other projects had been discussed, on the grounds of the issue raised at technical check/project delivery concern. This was unanimous.

AL to contact Dunlop Dairy to apply pre-approval condition

3. Disabled Access plus Disabled Toilet and Additional Toilet, Hareshaw Community Hall SCIO, Waterside, East Ayrshire

Main Costs	Disabled access, disabled toilet + 2 additional toilets + urinal – capital works.
Total Eligible Costs	£77,208
Grant Request	£24,458
% Grant Request	31.7%
Revenue Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.28/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- Planning states approval for disabled access + disabled toilets only – approval for additional toilets?
- Risk to SAC if project not completed on time – similar to Dunlop.

LAG discussion covered:

- The QS LAG Member advised he would not have issue over Planning wording, and gave assurance there was low risk of the project not delivering in time.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously with 2 conditions:

- A resource programme of works be provided by the contractor prior to project start to consolidate assurance on project delivery.
- Claims be accompanied by a progress report.

AL to set Hareshaw conditions

4. Renewable Energy Infrastructure to New Tourist Accommodation Development – Millport, Isle of Cumbrae. Jack’s Alt Stays, Isle of Cumbrae, North Ayrshire

Main Costs	Solar PV panels + battery storage to supply power for all 5 all-electric eco-cabins on tourism site.
Total Eligible Costs	£45,487.38
Grant Request	£40,938.64
% Grant Request	90%
Revenue Request	NA
Applicant Type	Business – start-up

Score: 3.32/5

Points Raised at Technical Check:

- Marketing element of business plan praised for detail.
- Land deeds provided with claw back agreement.

LAG discussion covered:

- The QS LAG Member advised the claw back agreement provided was standard for certain types of land transfer and not overly draconian. It means the land is effectively leased as opposed to being owned by the applicant. It has been issued by a governing board of trustees to protect the land from being sub-let for further developments within a certain timeframe and other ‘threats’. The QS LAG Member thought the length of the lease stated had been 25 years but AL to check on this.
- Project praised for addressing lack of non-Air BnB tourist accommodation on Cumbrae. It would pave the way to encouraging cafes/restaurants etc who need more stable trade and be a boost for weddings. It was noted the applicant also highlights/promotes the accommodation for year-round stays encouraging winter visits, and it had received a letter of support from fellow applicant Isle of Cumbrae Distillers with whom reciprocal benefit was resulting.
- Project also praised for good fit with fund priorities, especially Just Transition to Net Zero and Sustainable Tourism.

AL to check on term of ‘lease’ given in clawback agreement on Jack’s Alt Stays project and feedback if concern over fund control of asset requirement.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously with a condition on the lease should it not last until at least 5 years post project duration (March 2028) (the fund control of asset requirement).

5. Little Peru Green Start, Little Peru Ltd, Blair, South Ayrshire

Main Costs	Alpacas + shelter; solar panels + storage; EV charging point; community use defibrillator.
Total Eligible Costs	£21,518.66
Grant Request	£17,830 - £17,498.57 capital*
% Grant Request	83%
Revenue Request	*£331.43- marketing
Applicant Type	Business – start-up

Score: 2.69/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check: NA

AL highlighted this project had originally included the eco-pod described in the application, which would also be a principal use for the free-standing solar panels, but this had had to be removed because planning was required for drainage of the pod site. Any perception of disjointedness may have been as a result of this. The solar panels, however, would supply the EV charging point, defibrillator and other site features not included in the project. She reported the business plan had also separated the eco pod accommodation and alpaca trekking activities well, facilitating them being presented separately at application.

LAG discussion covered:

- Project praised for its innovation. It had initiated LAG research into alpaca trekking, revealing its popularity/confirming the scarcity outlined in the application in the area. Project also praised for its fit with fund priorities Just Transition to Net Zero and Sustainable Tourism.
- An embryonic feel to the project was noted which had been allayed by the explanation on the need to separate the elements out at application stage.
- For the project to be truly successful, the establishment of the eco-pod was noted.

Decision:

A decision on the project was delayed until the last project had been presented and fit within the c.£160k budget could be determined.

6. The Community Regeneration of Millport Town Hall, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae, North Ayrshire

Before leaving because of the conflict of interest EM advised a check on potential double funding of this project be made.

Main Costs	Fire safety features of new building to move towards completion.
Total Eligible Costs	£53,759.32
Grant Request	£48,519.79
% Grant Request	90%
Revenue Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.31/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check: NA

LAG discussion covered:

- Lack of fit with project itself (not completion of town hall) and ARIA fund priorities. LAG felt the applicant had not made strong enough link between project and completion of the town hall to validate priorities selected.
- Concern over adding fire safety aspects at such late stage in overall project. This would usually be done at an early stage in any build project.

Decision:

The project was rejected by 6 of the 7 LAG Members in attendance on the grounds covered in the LAG discussion.

Final Capital Approvals

With a clearer picture on projects approved/fit within budget it was finally decided to approve Little Peru Green Start by 6 of the 7 LAG Members in attendance. This left £25,377.31 remaining budget. It was therefore decided to approach the Dunlop Dairy applicant, ask them to separate the project out and present 1 part (preferably the cheese room) for LAG approval. It was felt this would improve comfort on delivery within timescales. The applicant should be requested to present a new application and costs form/evidence with a deadline sufficient to allow this to be completed in time whilst still allowing the project to deliver. A condition on this would be confirmation of works commencement/Planning approval continuation from EAC Planning Dept.

The final profile of approvals was therefore:

Project	Grant
Carbon Reduction	£37,346.58
Dunlop Dairy	£25,377.13
Disabled Access plus Disabled Toilets and Additional Toilets	£24,458.00
Installation of Renewable Technology, Millport, Cumbrae	£40,938.64
Little Peru Green Start	£17,498.57
Opportunities for All – capital element (composter) of revenue project*	£14,462.10*
TOTAL	£160,081.20

*Pending approval – revenue projects (next item).

Application Assessment – Revenue Projects

AL conveyed that in contrast to capital projects, revenue projects proceeding through technical check stage amassed less than the £293,482.20 pot with £202,251.40 potential spend. She explained this was due to timescales and the more disparate nature of spend with revenue projects.

AL, AM and AW presented the projects.

1. Arran Green Funding for the Future, Arran Pioneer CIC, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire

Main Costs	Scoping study for carbon/biodiversity offset/trading scheme for North Ayrshire – consultant led + staff time.
Total Eligible Costs	£53,760
Grant Request	£48,384
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Community

Score: 1.91/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- Salary comparison – Indeed Environmental (Power/Carbon) Originator – Vice President – comparability questioned.
- Comparability for alternative for scoping work specialist questioned – job vs consultant.
- Salary – 24 full weeks Nov 22 – Feb 23, no holiday/accounting for work undertaken in Oct (day rate evidence).
- Need/demand demonstrated?
- Local support?
- Audit scrutiny questioned re: quotes – project not recommended for approval.

LAG discussion covered:

- The LAG had had difficulty in understanding the project fully, and though carbon/biodiversity based questioned its true fit with fund priorities in not understanding the clear outcome. This questioned the eligibility of the project under guidance requirement for technical/feasibility studies to fully determine/specify destination (/outcome).

Decision:

The project was rejected unanimously on the grounds of the technical check issues and lack of destination (/outcome) being fully determined/specified.

2. Gaiety on Tour, Ayr Gaiety Partnership, Ayr, South Ayrshire

Main Costs	Delivery of shows, Oct 22 – Feb 23 + co-ordinating staff salary.
Total Eligible Costs	£11,982
Grant Request	£10,783
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.25/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- Local support demonstrated? No letters of support, comments on survey cited = 2 comments.

LAG discussion covered:

- Ayrshire LEADER support for previous project (cited in application) was noted along with impact taking the Ayr Gaiety shows on tour around Ayrshire to remote rural parts. New LAG members also noted this. Wider benefits on health/well-being significant.
- Local support demonstrated in venues welcoming more shows from survey.
- Arts not well funded in rural areas, if fit demonstrated with priorities (as in this project) therefore ARIA can step in.
- Difficulty with claims at end of last LEADER Programme - concern.
- Potential double funding – concern.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously with 1 condition:

- Claims/monitoring information to be provided in correct form by deadlines stated in correspondence. Failure to do so may result in non-payment of claims.

Request to also go to the applicant to give assurance that any other funding applications based on the project be withdrawn on the acceptance of the ARIA offer.

AL to set Ayr Gaiety Partnership conditions.

3. The Geilsland Project, Beith CDT, Beith, East Ayrshire

BC and EM left due to conflicts of interest.

Main Costs	Development of 10 year strategy & business plans for Geilsland House/Courtyard/Millport Chapel (aspects of the CDT estate)
Total Eligible Costs	£30,642
Grant Request	£27,577
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.06/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

No significant issues.

LAG discussion covered:

- Another part of the Geilsland Estate was funded under Ayrshire LEADER to great effect/impact for the community. It was noted that the applicant delivers strongly for the local community, especially the disadvantaged.
- Long term funding was questioned, applications for upgrade of estate/other projects seeming piece-meal. To make a longer-term funding strategy part of the strategy development in this project was discussed.
- The applicant's addition of a planning submission as part of the project's milestones was questioned. It was recommended this be removed.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously. AL concluded the recommendation on removal of the planning submission could be done in the milestones section of the grant award letter as opposed to through a condition. The inclusion of longer-term funding as part of the project 10 year strategy could also go to the applicant as a recommendation.

4. Access to Community Sport, Carrick Rugby Football Club (FC), Barr, South Ayrshire

Main Costs	Mini-bus hire
Total Eligible Costs	£8,679.16
Grant Request	£6,679.16
% Grant Request	77%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.44/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

NA

LAG discussion covered:

- Applicant is good at targeting the rural community especially in deprived Carrick. Transport is critical for inclusion. Carrick Rugby FC is a voluntary organisation and the number of voluntary hours is impressive though they are seeking funding for a Development Officer. Funding bid also in to Community Wealth Building fund at South Ayrshire Council (SAC) to build up infrastructure and move towards organisational sustainability.
- Sustainability of project queried – will the applicant have to continue to seek funding for transport? Applicant is considering own mini-bus, electric van considered.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously.

5. Opportunities for All, Crossroads Community Hub Ltd, Galston, East Ayrshire

Main Costs	Food composter + staffing – activities required from community survey.
Total Eligible Costs	£36,020
Grant Request	£32,418 - £17,955 revenue*
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	*£14,462.10 - composter
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.34/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

NA

LAG discussion covered:

- If activities are aimed at low-income households, how do people get there – transport?
- Applicant reasonably active, building up good number of activities. The hub's location make it an attraction for passing traffic, it is on main thoroughfares.
- Minister for Community Wealth Building visited recently and stated that the project was a good example of Community Wealth Building
- Knowledge of funding bids for same project into Rural and Island Communities into Action Fund (RICIAF) and Investing in Communities (ICF) fund. Assurance requested from applicant that these bids will be pulled if project approved/accepted by applicant.
- Composter cost/quotes raised as issue. Higher (preferred) option discovered when researching for quotes, applicant states needed for size of hub operation in application. Need for this questioned in modest venue. Preferred quote >2x lower options, and is the third like for like as it is a different size?

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously with 1 condition:

- 2 alternative like for like quotes sought for composter with clearer rationale from applicant on choice of preferred option.

Request to go to applicant on withdrawing from RCIAF and ICF on acceptance of ARIA funding offer.

6. Ailsa Craig Visitor Centre Feasibility Study, Girvan Town Team (on behalf of Girvan Community Led Tourism), Girvan, South Ayrshire

CC and JT left due to conflicts of interest.

Main Costs	Feasibility study
Total Eligible Costs	£14,908
Grant Request	£13,408
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.09/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

NA

LAG discussion covered:

- Existing facility the Quay Zone leisure centre with magnificent views of Ailsa Craig. Feasibility study several years ago for this which included birds/bird watching working with the RSPB but nothing transpired.

AL to set Crossroads condition.

- What Girvan Community Led Tourism Initiative Go Girvan has done for area, visitor numbers are increasing. The project if feasible, could further increase tourism in the area.
- Marketing just as important to get right as building location/design etc.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously with 1 condition:

- Reference to ARIA priorities Community Wealth Building, Just Transition to Net Zero and Sustainable Tourism be made in the feasibility study report so linkages with ARIA can be clearly seen.

AL to set Girvan Town Team condition.

7. Brand Ambassador/Distillery Production Assistant, Isle of Cumbrae Distiller, Cumbrae, North Ayrshire

Main Costs	Salaries – Brand Ambassador + Distillery Production Assistant
Total Eligible Costs	£10,400
Grant Request	£9,360
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Business

Score: 3.23/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- Draft filleted accounts provided year up to 30th Sept 21 with no profit/loss account.
- 2022 management accounts show very small profit - applicant happy with this as only started trading on 16th Sept 2020, but it contrasts with projections in business strategy.

LAG discussion covered:

- Applicant recently received 4 star (highest) rating from Visit Scotland on first inspection – achievement to attain.
- Project highly praised for employment of Young People (retaining on island) /those with disability (fair work (aspect of Community Wealth Building)), providing offering tours year round thus supporting winter tourism and good links with neighbouring businesses eg: Jack’s Alt Stays.
- Project along with eg: Jack’s Alt Stays + marina planned through Ayrshire Growth Deal – potential for Cumbrae profile to be raised to that of Arran.
- Good fit with ARIA priorities especially Sustainable Tourism.
- Good links/promotion through Ayrshire Drinks – great local organisation.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously.

8. Paths Network Feasibility Study, Kirkmichael Village Renaissance, Kirkmichael/Straiton/Crosshill, South Ayrshire

Main Costs	Feasibility study – walking routes
Total Eligible Costs	£42,764
Grant Request	£38,487.60
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.11/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- 2 (of 3) quotes received from same supplier. Applicant prefers higher quote – more detailed study with more comprehensive outputs, but would also accept lower.

LAG discussion covered:

- The quotes:
 - a. Price of higher (preferred) quote being >4x the lowest, comparability questioned.
 - b. 2 quotes from same company.
 - c. Price of higher (preferred) quote:
 - Accuracy needed with GPS readings, landowner permissions required – engagement in innovative way using drone footage but still, expensive. Value for money questioned.
 - Design/planning in quote – not usual/necessary in feasibility studies.
 - £8,000 for consultation of 3 relatively small communities questioned.

Decision:

Decision on the project was deferred to request 3 comparable quotes from the applicant based on a revised tender brief with clearly stated milestones/outcomes. This should only be for the feasibility study, no design/planning.

AL to contact Kirkmichael Village Renaissance to apply pre-approval condition.

9. Newmilns Regeneration Feasibility Study, Newmilns Regeneration Association, Newmilns, East Ayrshire

Main Costs	Feasibility study – solar PV ‘farm’ on derelict industrial buildings to supply nearby businesses/housing.
Total Eligible Costs	£23,874
Grant Request	£21,487
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Charity

Score: 3.55/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- 2 of 4 costings – single source. All highly specialized, 1 from Energy Systems Research Unit (ESRU), Strathclyde Uni - scoping study part 1.
- ESRU report not provided – uploaded prior to LAG scoring on 27th Oct 2022.

LAG discussion covered:

- Project praised for fit with fund priorities and potential flagship project for community scale renewable energy in Scotland. Link with Ayrshire Growth Deal Community Renewable Energy (CORE) project discussed.
- Project praised for potential in alleviating fuel/mainstream poverty in highly deprived area of Ayrshire.
- Robustness of derelict buildings to hold solar panels questioned, countered with comments that this would come out of feasibility study which would also look at upgrade of buildings for conversion to business units.
- Lack of quotes for 2 of the 4 costings discussed with a question on audit scrutiny. Seeking 3 quotes for co-ordination element of work discussed, this did not even have a second alternative quote.

Decision:

A decision on the project was deferred until the applicant seeks 3 comparable quote for the co-ordination element.

AL to contact Newmilns Regeneration Association to apply

10. Business Sustainability and Resilience Advisor, Visit Arran Ltd, Isle of Arran, North Ayrshire

Main Costs	Staff – employment of new officer.
Total Eligible Costs	£8,664.81
Grant Request	£7,798.31
% Grant Request	90%
Capital Request	NA
Applicant Type	Business

Score: 3.27/5

Issues Raised at Technical Check:

- Last set of accounts are Mar 2021. Management accounts not submitted as Financial Director on holiday.

LAG discussion covered:

- Accounts healthy and grant relatively small – questioning need for funding?
- Concern over recruitment for short term post with widespread shortage of candidates.
- Overlap with Green Islands Programme which worked with 21 businesses on Arran to improve sustainability and had been extended to end Nov 2021? EM requested permission for North Ayrshire Council (NAC) Senior Islands Officer to look at application and make comment on. Permission was granted.

Decision:

The project was approved unanimously. A condition may be set on requesting assurance from applicant on overlap with Green Islands Programme depending on the response from the NAC Senior Islands Officer.

Final Revenue Approvals

The profile of revenue approvals was:

Approved Projects	Grant
Gaiety on Tour	£10,783.00
The Geilsland Project	£27,577.00
Access to Community Sport	£6,679.16
Opportunities for All	£17,955.90
Ailsa Craig Visitor Centre Feasibility Study	£13,408.00
Brand Ambassador/Distillery Production Officer	£9,360.00
Little Peru Green Start revenue spend	£331.43
TOTAL	£93,892.80

Deferred Projects Pending Further Information	Grant
Paths Network Feasibility Study	£38,487.60
Newmilns Regeneration Feasibility Study	£21,487.00
TOTAL	£59,974.60
GRAND TOTAL – REVENUE PROJECTS	£153,867.40

pre-approval condition.

EM to seek NAC Senior Islands Officer comment on Visit Arran application overlap with Green Islands Programme.

<p>AOCB & Next Meeting JW thanked all staff for their work on project development including Forth Valley and Lomond Co-ordinator Anne-Michelle Ketteridge who had supported on technical checks.</p> <p>Not fully allocating to projects on the revenue budget meant some funding could be put to LAG work to prepare the fund for 23/24 and beyond. It was reported that a Scottish Government announcement was expected in Dec 2022 on funding for 2 years: 23/24 and 24/25. JW relayed a list of potential initiatives for this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a more comprehensive ARIA strategy than in place at present. • Research/recommendations on a future governance structure for the LAG. • LAG refresh – widening to the groups in the Ayrshire Community Led Vision. • The video project idea developed in the test of change year. <p>There was agreement from the LAG on this. JW asked for volunteers for a small management group to oversee development. KB, BC, BD and EM volunteered.</p> <p>Date of Next Meeting. AL suggested the Annual General Meeting scheduled for Nov in the Ayrshire LAG constitution be cancelled this year to allow for programme delivery. JM reported that the placing of this in Nov had been removed from the amended constitution (pending approval). A meeting mid/late Jan 23 was agreed on. AL to circulate Doodle Poll/invite.</p>	<p>AL to circulate Doodle Poll/invite for Jan 23 LAG meeting.</p>

Actions

Continued

- AL to pursue LAG Advisor representation for new priority themes, disability groups and groups from areas of deprivation from autumn 22. **Continued, procurement for LAG refresh to be sought discussed under AOCB.**
- KB/MN/JW to establish MoU/amend constitution in short life working group with deadline of mid-Sept 22. **Continued. Internal Audit action that the constitution and MoU are in place prior to allocation of grants.**
- LP representative's non-voting role on LAG to be made clear in constitution/MoU. **Continued.**
- AL to make changes to final fund documents and circulate to the LAG. **Grant award letter completed, remainder continued.**

New

- AL to update on recruitment of AADA CEO as LAG tourism rep.
- AL to contact NFUS late Nov/early Dec 22 for CCu replacement LAG Member.
- AL to check on term of 'lease' given in clawback agreement on Jack's Alt Stays project and feedback if concern over meeting fund requirements.
- EM to seek NAC Senior Islands Officer comment on Visit Arran application overlap with Green Islands Programme.
- AL to circulate Doodle Poll/invite for Jan 23 LAG meeting.
- AL to set conditions on:
 - Hareshaw
 - Ayr Gaiety Partnership
 - Crossroads and
 - Girvan Town Team projects
and pre-approval conditions on:

- Dunlop Dairy
- Kirkmichael Village Renaissance and
- Newmilns Regeneration Association projects.

James Watson

7th February 2023
Jim Watson
ARIA Fund LAG Chair