

## **RURAL PANEL**

Minutes of meeting in Annbank Village Hall,  
on 13th November 2014 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Ann Galbraith (Chair), Andy Campbell, Bill Grant, William J. Grant and Alec Oattes.

Apology: Councillor Helen Moonie.

Attending: C. Monaghan, Head of Communities; R. Riddiough, Head of Legal and Democratic Services; D. Sherlock, Corporate Policy Manager; T. Simpson, Corporate Accounting Manager; and A. Gibson, Committee Services Officer.

### **1. Introductory Remarks.**

- (1) The Chair welcomed those present to this Panel meeting.
- (2) The Head of Communities advised that this Panel was currently in transition and that the Council was currently reviewing Community Engagement, Grants given by the Council and the new LEADER programme being introduced shortly.

### **2. Declarations of Interest.**

In terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor Galbraith declared an interest in the item on the agenda entitled "Applications for Financial Assistance" relating to the grant request from Ailsa Horizons Ltd. as she was on the Board and indicated that she would withdraw from the meeting during consideration of this organisation's request at the appropriate point in the meeting.

### **3. Minutes of previous meeting.**

The minutes of the previous meeting of 27th March 2014 ([link attached](#)) was submitted and noted and the special meeting of 1st October 2014 ([link attached](#)) (issued) was submitted and approved.

### **4. Rural Communities Fund Budgetary Control 2014/15 – Position Statement at 31st October 2014.**

There was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 4th November 2014 by the Head of Finance and ICT advising of the performance of the Rural Communities Fund's expenditure against its budget for the period to 31st October 2014 (Period 7).

**Decided:**

- (1) to note
- (a) to contents of the report; and
- (b) that funding of £5,000 previously agreed by this Panel on 27th March 2014 to Mossblown Regeneration Group would now be released to that organisation; and
- (2) to agree that a refund of £2,500 to the Council relating to a funding application approved during 2011/12 for Carrick Way Community Interest Group for the Northern Loop of the Carrick Way, be supplemented to the Rural Communities Fund budget in accordance with virement regulations.

**Councillor Galbraith, having previously declared an interest in the following item of business relating to the application for financial support from Ailsa Horizons Ltd., left the meeting during consideration of this matter. Councillor Bill Grant took the Chair.**

**5. Applications for Financial Support.**

There was submitted a report (issued) ([link attached](#)) of 3rd November 2014 by the Head of Communities advising that rural grant applications had been submitted as undernoted.

Discussion took place regarding the requests for financial assistance.

**Decided:** to award grant as follows:-

<b><u>Organisation</u></b>	<b><u>Summary of Application</u></b>	<b><u>Panel Decision</u></b>
(1) Ailsa Horizons Ltd.	To seek funding towards the Davidson Enterprise Centre Project in relation to the cost of insurance, security and essential maintenance.	Approve an award £2,405 subject to other funding being in place from the Scottish Land Fund (£7,750) and the Robertson Trust (£2,405); and
(2) The Kennedy Hall and Park Committee	To seek funding towards the Kennedy Hall Heating Project.	Following consideration at a special meeting of this Panel on 1st October 2014, to approve an award of £4,806;

**Councillor Galbraith re-took the Chair after consideration of the application for financial support to Ailsa Horizons Ltd.**

## 6. Update on the LEADER Programme.

The Corporate Policy Manager provided an update on progress of the Ayrshire Local Action Group (LAG) in preparing the 2014-2020 Ayrshire Local Development Strategy and associated Business Plan for LEADER (EAFRD) and Fisheries (EMFF) funds and it was reported

- (1) that the Ayrshire LAG wished to build upon the success of the 2008-2013 programme, which saw an investment of £3,383,000 to support one-hundred and twenty projects across rural Ayrshire;
- (2) that in August 2013, the Ayrshire LAG responded to a call from Scottish Government to submit an Expression of Interest to form a new Local Action Group to deliver a multi-fund 2014-2020 rural development programme;
- (3) that on approval of this submission, in late March of 2014, Ayrshire LAG commissioned Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) to research, facilitate the engagement and consultation process and prepare a coherent single Local Development Strategy (LDS) and Business Plan to cover the rural and coastal areas of mainland Ayrshire and that the LDS and Business Plan would form the case for LEADER and Fisheries funding for mainland rural Ayrshire;
- (4) the key objectives of the LAG, namely:-
  - (a) to deliver a Local Development Strategy for 2014-2020 which was firmly grounded in the needs and wishes of people who lived and worked in Rural Ayrshire addressing the key priorities of rural Ayrshire and supporting economic growth, environmental sustainability and vibrant rural and coastal communities;
  - (b) to provide the investment to inspire, build confidence and strengthen local communities and businesses, generating new opportunities to support resilience and wellbeing across Ayrshire;
  - (c) to be responsive to new challenges and opportunities helping communities and enterprises to adapt and develop over time; and
  - (d) that through partnership working, the LAG would create the conditions to succeed; and
- (5) that subject to approval, final indicative financial allocations were expected late November/early December 2014 and that LAG expected that a similar indicative budget of circa £4m would be allocated to Ayrshire to deliver the Programme, based on the evidence provided within the Strategy and it was anticipated that the 2014-2020 Programme would be open for applications from early 2015.

The Corporate Policy Manager responded to questions relating to the geographical areas that would be covered in the Programme, the importance of transport links to be covered and the appointment of members to LAG.

**Decided:** to note the position.

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

