

**Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde
Local Action Group
Community Led Vision and Business Plan
March 2023**

VOLUME 2 APPENDICES



Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Local Action Group Community Led Vision and Business Plan, March 2023 Volume 2 - Appendices

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Appendix 1

Preparation of Vision and Business Plan: Interviewees

LAG members

Gerard Cannon* (Inverclyde)
Linsay de Freitas (Renfrewshire)
John Hamilton (East Renfrewshire)
Diarmid Harris (Renfrewshire)
Gemma Hill (Renfrewshire)
Varry McMenemy, LAG Chair (Renfrewshire)
Mary O'Brien (Renfrewshire)
Gordon Smith, Regional Director, (VisitScotland)
Cat Train* (East Renfrewshire)

Councils

Keren Ferguson, Renfrewshire Council (LAG support officer)
Jennifer Horn, Regeneration Manager, Inverclyde Council
Anne MacIntosh, Business Development Team Leader, Inverclyde Council (Representative on LAG)
Michael McKernan, Economic Development Manager, East Renfrewshire Council
Louise McVey, Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager, Inverclyde Council
Michael Moran, Renfrewshire Council
Julie Whitaker, East Renfrewshire Council (Representative on LAG)

Other LAGs

Angela Lamont, Ayrshire Rural and Islands Ambition (ARIA) Fund Co-ordinator

* = consultation/ views expressed by mail

- 1 Part of Scottish Government, encouraging rural development
- 2 Including LEADER
- 3 Which is effectively what this vision is

Appendix 2

Policy Context

In addition to the Scottish Rural Network¹ guidance for planning for LAGs and the need to align with Scottish Government policies (dealt with in section 3 of the Vision), there are a number of other policy contexts for the development of this vision emanating from:

- The **European Context** remains pertinent, despite BREXIT – to build on successful long term rural development and funding programmes including LEADER, with Scottish Ministers keen to remain broadly aligned with the European Rural Vision of assessing rural needs, evaluating local aspirations and finding the best way for citizen engagement.
- **Community Led Local Development (CLLD)** derives from European rural development² and is now an underpinning dimension to Scottish rural development. It's a bottom-up approach, building community capacity and stimulating social innovation, entrepreneurship and capacity for change by encouraging the development and discovery of untapped potential from within communities. The community dimension is represented by the LAGs, taking into consideration local needs and potential. CLLD is a specific tool which amongst other things is community led by LAGs; is conducted through “integrated and multi-sectoral area-based local development strategies”³ which take into consideration local needs and potential.
- **Scotland** – nationally, plans and strategies exist for food, the rural economy, tourism, carbon sequestration, transport, countryside access, digital and transport connectivity, mental health and more. Nationally, the most important policy contexts for the GRI LAG are:

- **Economy** - Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transformation⁴ highlights that in the next decade, we face a choice to either lead or to lag other successful economies, as we recover from Covid, deliver net zero, tackle structural inequalities and grow our economy. In our view, the challenge for the LAG is generate a sustainable, green economy that supports wellbeing (the quality of communities' and people's lives) and the achievement of net zero targets.
- **The Rural Economy** - Scottish rural policy – through the former Scottish Rural Development Programme⁵ - has been driven to support the principle of “a vibrant, sustainable and inclusive rural economy (as) a critical component in achieving Scotland's future ambitions⁶.” In addition, it explicitly encourages community led action on climate change, enhancing rural services and facilities, contributing to natural/ cultural heritage, tourism and leisure, food and drink and building co-operation with similar groups across Scotland (and the UK and Europe) and building opportunities for all.
- **Responding to the Climate Emergency and Securing a 'Just Transition'** – Scottish Government's net zero emissions target by 2045 is echoed by the Councils targets to be carbon neutral (Inverclyde and East Renfrewshire by 2045, Renfrewshire by 2030).The Transition Commission⁷ and the Climate Emergency Response Group⁸ highlight how to deliver a fairer, greener, and more resilient Scotland. Crucially for the LAG, this means a strong and compelling green dimension to everything we do.
- **Land Management** - Climate change and biodiversity loss are urgent drivers for the development of land use policies. The way that land is used and managed has the potential to exacerbate these issues but can also provide significant solutions. Agriculture, forestry and other land uses play a major role in Scotland's climate change plans⁹, with commitments to, among other things, increase the area of woodland in Scotland to 21%; increase the area of new forests planted to 18,000ha p.a. to 2024/5; provide funding to enable at least 20,000 hectares of peatland restoration p.a.; develop a new rural support policy “to enable, encourage and where appropriate, require the shift to low carbon, sustainable farming through emissions reduction, sustainable food production, improving biodiversity, planting biomass crops and appropriate land use change developed in line with just transition principles”; develop new schemes to support low carbon, sustainable farming. The challenge, and the opportunity for the LAG, is to encourage local action and investment to support such adaptation to climate change.
- **Tourism and agritourism** - the integration of tourism, leisure, farming and food production in the GRI area. The national tourism strategy¹⁰ is complemented by the Scottish Agritourism strategy¹¹ - all to capitalise on long-term sustainable opportunities that deliver a high quality, authentic visitor experience which aligns with the grain of the GRI area. For the LAG, this might be translated into helping to sustain family farms, help farm diversification, encourage and support visitor businesses and social enterprises, encourage access for local and urban Scottish populations to the GRI's

4 Delivering Economic Prosperity, published March 2022

5 Of which LEADER was a part

6 National Council of Rural Advisors, 2018

7 Advice on a Green Recovery (2020)

8 Scotland's Green Recovery and Update to the Climate Change Plan

9 Land Use and Rural Policy: Scottish Parliament SPICE briefing

10 Scotland Outlook 2030, Responsible Tourism for a Sustainable Future

11 Scottish Agritourism - A Strategy for Sustainable Growth

green spaces for health improvement, with safe walking routes, fresh food and drink, experience of tangible and intangible cultural rural heritage. Sustainable or responsible tourism in the GRI area might mean managing visitors to experience the area's quieter, green spaces and villages, supporting fragile rural areas and remote communities, while encouraging synergies with other forms of tourism such as cultural, cycling, hiking, sailing, outdoor.

- **Local policies and priorities:** locally, the development plans for the three authorities set a broad context, reinforced and supported by plans for biodiversity, green spaces and corridors, wildlife and more again. In addition locality plans exist for many areas, prompted by community planning and the Empowerment Act obligation to facilitate local expressions of priorities, needs and opportunities.
- **Glasgow City Region** – the GRI area and the three districts fall within this framework, which brings £630m investment across the area through the City Deal¹², unlocking an estimated £3.3billion private investment. In the three Council areas, priorities are Clyde Waterfront and Renfrew Riverside, Airport Investment area and enhanced access to the airport. More directly within the GRI area, a parallel City Region tourism strategy¹³ aims to boost visitation across the area. This offers the opportunity to align GRI tourism related opportunities (see below) with the those of the City Region.
- **Local Development Plans** – all three Councils' development plans have common strands that are important to the GRI area, setting a context for planning and development. These comprise
 - Create and maintain green corridors for resident access the countryside
 - Safeguard the character of rural settlements, acknowledging the loss of facilities, an ageing population and in Inverclyde's case, promoting housing and investment to generate population stability and longer-term growth
 - Safeguard the green belt in each area
 - Permit developments that meet local need but are sensitive to the environments of rural settlements
 - Support tourism by safeguarding existing tourist related facilities and responding positively to new opportunities/developments
 - Support for outdoor activities
- **Open Spaces and Biodiversity** – all three Councils have well developed plans and proposals for protecting and capitalising on green spaces and green corridors from urban area to the countryside or to open or recreational areas. This aligns well for the GRI area. The importance of green spaces and countryside access for education, health and wellbeing, and particularly after COVID for mental health is acknowledged in all three Councils. Measures to enhance the biodiversity, protect wildlife habitats and encourage carbon capture are also articulated.
- **Community Planning and Locality Plans - legislation¹⁴** places a legal duty on Councils to make a significant difference to residents' lives through the planning and delivery of local outcomes and the involvement of community bodies at all stages of community planning, integrating health and social care services in Scotland. The districts' Community Plans engage stakeholders while locality plans may work with local groups to help inform and take forward participatory budgeting with Councils. Locality plans don't necessarily cover all parts of the GRI area.

¹² <https://glasgowcityregion.co.uk/>

¹³ https://glasgowcityregion.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/Tourism_Strategy_2018-2023.pdf

¹⁴ Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014

Appendix 3

Other LAGs' Priorities

There are 21 LAGs in Scotland. We looked at some of the historic LEADER plans, but concentrated on 6 contemporary LAGs where up-to-date information was available:

1. Aberdeenshire Council
2. Ayrshire CLLD
3. Cairngorms Youth Local Action Group
4. Forth Valley and Lomond Local Action Group
5. Outer Hebrides
6. Scottish Borders LAG Community Led Vision for 2022/23

From the summary below, a wide range of themes and priorities can be discerned. For some of them (Ayrshire particularly) where submissions were made for 2022/23 funds, priorities were expressed but are likely to be developed further. Ayrshire we understand, like the GRI, are undergoing their own vision preparation. Where LAG members have remained, with continuity maintained, it is less likely that priorities will change.

Common strands amongst the LAGs are:

- Just Transition to Net Zero
- Address Wider Climate Change
- Capacity building
- Sustainable Tourism
- Addressing Inequalities and Social Inclusion
- Transport and connectivity
- Fostering Partnership Working

Only one LAG (Outer Hebrides in both cases) is explicit about:

- Building the LAG's capacity
- The support functions of administration and animation for the LAG

The concept of a Youth LAG (Cairngorms, Scottish Borders, Outer Hebrides) is interesting, with the work undertaken in the Cairngorms being a model that we understand is being followed elsewhere. Youth LAGs allow for specific measures to address young people and their needs as well as including them in policy and community development.

LAG Priorities

Aberdeenshire Council (for Aberdeenshire North and South LAGs)

- Capacity building to unlock projects
- Quick win capital work for community spaces
- Green public spaces
- Opportunities for young people

Ayrshire CLLD ("The priorities described are broad and far reaching. It is our aim to focus on key elements for 22/23, with the wider priorities providing a framework for longer term development.")

- Community Wealth Building (reinforcing the objective to establish CWB as the main economic model for Ayrshire)
- Reduce Inequalities/Poverty (particular emphasis on young people)
- Just Transition to Net Zero
- Address Wider Climate Change,
- Sustainable Tourism (balancing visitor numbers with impact on natural assets/ infrastructure)
- Enhance Connectivity (emphasis on transport)

Cairngorms Youth Local Action Group¹⁵

Formed in 2021 for 14-26 year olds, under auspices of Cairngorms Trust. Individuals can apply for up to £500 and groups can apply for up to £2,500.)

- Sustainability, biodiversity and addressing the climate emergency
- Skills development
- Inter-generational projects
- Art, creativity and culture
- Nature connection
- Fun, health, happiness & wellbeing
- Building community, networks and interactions between people
- Inclusion and under-represented groups

Forth Valley and Lomond Local Action Group

- Investing in Sustainable Economic Actions
- Creating Resilient and Smart Communities
- Preparing Climate Actions and Responding to the Climate Emergency
- Fostering Partnership Working
- Addressing Inequalities and Social Inclusion

Outer Hebrides

- Rural Community Transport Scoping Study
- Youth LAG Co-operation and Development (Further develop the YLAG, including managing grants)
- Community and Key Project Support/ Design Grant (to support 'shovel-ready' projects in communities)
- Reducing Emission Energy Trial (increasing efficiency and reduced emissions in fuel usage by trialling innovative systems in land and marine based vehicles.)
- LAG Capacity Building (scoping study to look at building LAG capacity and a mentoring programme, expanding its representation and networking with Orkney and Shetland LAGs)
- Administration and Animation of the Programme

Scottish Borders LAG Community Led Vision for 2022/23

- Rural Poverty Alleviation
- Climate Change/Net Zero
- Cultural Economic Recovery (includes cultural events)
- Inclusive growth (includes Community-Led Tourism and creative industries)
- Creation of a Scottish Borders Youth LAG (with own grant pot and able to make own decisions)
- LAG-Led/ commissioned projects (working with others to build community capacity and social capital.

15 Cairngorms Youth LAG (cairngormstrust.org.uk)

Appendix 4

The Former GRI LAG Priorities

We highlight here the former priorities of the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde LAG at the time of delivery of the LEADER programme, in order to provide a benchmark against which the LAG’s priorities for the future can be assessed. Prepared for the 2014-20 programme its overriding objective was

“...to improve the quality of life in our rural areas by supporting local people and local businesses to realise the social, economic and environmental potential of their communities.”

Former GRI LAG/ LEADER Priorities	
Three main themes were <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economy • Environment • Community 	Overarching principles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion • Sustainability • Equal opportunities

The detailed Objectives were:

- To support small and medium sized enterprises, micro-businesses and social enterprises
- To promote tourism and increase the number of day visitors, encompassing support for leisure and hospitality-related businesses
- To secure a high-quality environment for residents and visitors
- To build stronger, more self-reliant and inclusive rural communities
- To promote and develop farm diversification projects

To learn from and share learning with other Local Action Groups via cooperation projects enhancing the networking, cooperation and innovation principles of LEADER

Appendix 5

Memorandum of Understanding and Partnership Agreement

Between

Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Local Action Group

and

Renfrewshire Council

March 2023

The GRI Local Action Group (LAG) is responsible for directing the strategy and operations related to the Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Rural Community Led Funding Programme, articulated through the community led Vision and Business Plan prepared in 2023.

The LAG is responsible for devising appropriate guidelines and selection criteria for applications for funding support.

The LAG is responsible for assessing applications for funding support and making decisions on awarding funding.

Renfrewshire Council will assume the role of Accountable Body in the delivery and implementation of the funding programme from 2023 in Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde.

Renfrewshire Council, as the Accountable Body, is responsible to the LAG for the administration of the funding programme and for supporting the effective delivery and implementation of the LAG’s development strategy, as articulated in the Vision.

As the Accountable Body, Renfrewshire Council will enter into a Service Level Agreement with the Scottish Government which regulates the role, responsibilities and activities of the Accountable Body and gives it delegated authority to administer rural development finances.

Except as may be set out in its Service Level Agreement with the Scottish Government, Renfrewshire Council has no mandate to make decisions on behalf of the LAG.

As the Accountable Body, Renfrewshire Council will be responsible for employing and line-managing funding programme staff on behalf of the LAG. However, all such staff work for and report to the LAG.

The LAG has an important role in directing funding programme staff in relation to the strategic direction and implementation of the Vision and funding locally.

As the Accountable Body, Renfrewshire Council will be responsible for ensuring the appropriate financial management and administration of the programme funds.

Renfrewshire Council, as the Accountable Body, will put appropriate arrangements in place to ensure the final monitoring/evaluation of all projects is independent and not undertaken by anyone who has had any previous involvement with the project.

The staffing structure and administrative procedures through which Renfrewshire Council will act to assist the delivery of local funding must be discussed and formally agreed with the LAG. Any significant changes to this, e.g. staffing levels, staff salaries, staff responsibilities, staff accommodation, etc. must be formally agreed with the LAG.

Renfrewshire Council will be a member of the LAG and must remain so for the duration of the programme.

Renfrewshire Council, as the Accountable Body, cannot also assume the role of Chair of the LAG.

Renfrewshire Council will be entitled to have one member and one vote only on the LAG. Other representatives of Renfrewshire Council may attend LAG meetings but in an advisory capacity only and will not be members and neither will they be able to vote.

If the LAG has any concerns about the performance of Renfrewshire Council as the Accountable Body, then the Chair must raise these swiftly with the Economic Development Manager at Renfrewshire Council. If concerns cannot be resolved then they may need to be referred to senior levels of management within the Council and ultimately to the Scottish Government as the Managing Authority of the funding programme.

If the LAG has any concerns about funding programme staff or staffing issues, then the Chair must raise these swiftly and confidentially with the Economic Development Manager at Renfrewshire Council.

If Renfrewshire Council in its role of Accountable Body has any concerns about the performance of the LAG in terms of its spend profile, validity of its decisions or any other matter, these should be raised immediately with the LAG Chair. If concerns cannot be resolved then they may need to be referred to the Scottish Government as the Managing Authority of the funding programme.

This agreement will be in place for the duration of the funding programme.

Both parties agree to the terms of the above partnership agreement.

**Signed Greater Renfrewshire and
Inverclyde Local Action Group**

Date:

Signed Renfrewshire Council

Date:

Appendix 6

Greater Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Local Action Group Conflict of Interest Declaration

Members of the LAG have a duty to act in its best interests. A conflict of interest, or conflict of loyalty, is any situation where a member's personal interests or interest they owe to another person or body may influence a member's decision making.

A perceived conflict of interest is where an interest which a member has could be seen to influence their decision, even if it doesn't. It's important to recognise where conflicts might be perceived, even if individual members feel confident it won't affect their decision(s). If a situation looks like a conflict of interest, it's best to treat it as one.

There may be situations in which a member's loyalty to the LAG conflicts with their loyalty to:

- the body which appointed them
- another charity or body of which they are a trustee, member or volunteer
- a member of their family or friends associated with e.g. a grant applications

Such conflicts of loyalty will not stop anyone from being a LAG member.

This form requires individuals to disclose details of any and all interests that are relevant that may be in conflict with their duties and responsibilities in reviewing or communicating any policies, projects and grant applications associated with the GRI LAG.

A conflict of interest may exist if any person in their official duties with the GRI LAG could draw a connection or affiliation with an external agency, body or group.

Please fill out this form to demonstrate your interests and affiliations, so that if and when the GRI LAG is debating or considering topics or grant applications, potential conflicts can be identified.

Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	
E-mail:	

I hereby agree to declare an interest where:

- They are real or personal, in the review of the applicants and selection or award of grant under the GRI LAG programme
- Family members or close friends are applicants, or employees of applicants, for GRI LAG grants
- Any personal business may be in conflict of interest with the applicants for grant under the GRI LAG programme

Where any perceived or real conflict of interest or loyalty may occur, I will declare such for recording the GRI LAG Minutes

I declare that I do have interest(s) in the following which may at some time be subject to or related to GRI LAG decision making:

Organisation	Role

Signature:	
Date :	