



	Actions Points
<p style="text-align: center;">Cheshire LEADER West Cheshire and Warrington Local Action Group meeting 18th March 2015 9.30 am Castle Park House, Frodsham</p> <p>Present David Felix Lizzie Aldridge Sharon Angus-Crawshaw Cllr Rachel Bailey Gemma Davies Cllr Louise Gittins Doug Haynes Heather Hayes John Heselwood Andrew Hull Cllr Eleanor Johnson Danielle Lea-Smith Martin Ledson Katrina Michel Matthew Morris Iain Paton Emma Polak Stuart Roberts Mandy Sibthorpe Susie Woodward-Moor Angela Myers (minutes)</p> <p>Apologies Chris Brown-Bolton, Craig Bradley, Joanne Butterill, Cllr Michael Hyman, Annette McDonald.</p> <p>Welcome and Introductions SWM welcomed and everyone to the first meeting to formalise the WCW LAG going forward.</p>	



LEADER Update Presentation (attached)

SWM informed the meeting that DEFRA/RPA would launch LEADER after the election. It is likely to be in June. There is a link to current operational guidance from DEFRA (which is over 700 pages) in the email sent out prior to this meeting. There will be a handbook available to LAG members.

Paperwork will be sent out to LAG members as soon as possible, however it could be as late as June that LAG members are asked to sign up to the partnership agreement.

The next LAG meeting will take place in July. The first Executive Board meeting involving discussion and possibly approval of projects will take place in October. Project activity is likely to commence in January 2016 and the second Executive Board meeting and approval of projects is likely to take place in February 2016. Project activity could be completed in December 2019 (spend into 2020).

SWM said that large maps have been ordered showing exact boundaries for the LAG area.

There will be two Programme Managers (one for the East and one for the West), who will work closely with the LAG Boards throughout, and there will be a Support Officer working with both programme managers.

EP showed a draft of the website design which will raise the programme awareness. EP said that case studies will go on the website along with press releases, compliance, logos, publicity material and events through the LEADER team. SWM said that we need to be mindful not to 'over logo' and that all participating authorities' logos will not be used in every document.

The website images will be scrolling and will represent a range of locations across both LAG areas.

SMW asked everyone to keep the LEADER team informed about any events taking place in Cheshire that could be used to promote LEADER.

EJ said that the next Ploughing Match will take place in Frodsham at the end of September.

SWM reminded the group that LEADER can only fund projects which demonstrate growth AND JOBS.

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<p>SWM explained the application process and said that applications would be made online and assessed for compliancy by the LEADER team.</p> <p>Iain Paton’s team will assess reliability and sustainability of projects from a business perspective and help inform decisions. LEADER staff will make a recommendation to the board. The Board will give final approval of projects.</p> <p>Payments are made direct to the applicant by the Rural Payment Agency when the project is complete and the money has been spent, applicants need to factor this in and be able to cope financially with the timelines involved.</p> <p>EJ asked if there was a timeline for payment from the point of being invoiced. SWM said they had not yet been given that level of information from the RPA. SWM to chase this with Craig Bradley.</p> <p>SWM said there would be project scrutiny between the East and West and they will help each other in checking one another’s project assessment.</p> <p>SWM said it is envisaged that the bulk of the spend will take place during years 2, 3 and 4 of the programme and explained that they can grant small projects but it would not be advisable to approve too many small projects as this would not be cost effective with regard to administration. The average grant size is predicted to be £50,000.</p> <p>Questions</p> <p>LG asked if examples of other LEADER projects could be used to illustrate the programme. SWM said that previous LEADER examples may not be appropriate as the LEADER fund criteria have significantly changed since last time.</p> <p>DH agreed that this LEADER LAG is significantly different to the former due to the nature of this new funding programme.</p> <p>SR asked about match funding. SWM explained that intervention percentages varied between the LEADER priorities and that match payment must be cash and not ‘in kind’ as was previously permitted. This information will be clarified in the handbook when it becomes available.</p> <p>MM commented that any planning permission would need to be in place before the project started due to timescales.</p> <p>HH felt that it would be manageable with the network in</p>	<p>SWM and CB</p>
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<p>place to help businesses. There was agreement that applicants will be supported in signposting them to other funding streams as appropriate.</p> <p>ML asked how growth was measured. SWM said that it would be through sustainability of jobs and growth and that this can be discussed in more detail once the handbook is available.</p> <p>Election of Board for Year 1</p> <p>It is envisaged that for the first year there will be a larger Board and possibly slim/adjust after that period and review each year thereafter.</p> <p>SWM asked if all the members of the previous shadow Board are happy to be on the Board. All were. However, there are additional Board members to be appointed: Lizzie Aldridge, Warrington Borough Council, Martin Ledson, Trafford Council, John Heselwood, Cheshire Community Action and Doug Haynes.</p> <p>The LAG Executive Board members are; Rev Canon David Felix, Katrina Michel, Cllr Eleanor Johnson, Cllr Louise Gittins, Andrew Hull, Chris Brown-Bolton, Stuart Roberts, Joanne Butterill, Heather Hayes, Annette McDonald (replacing Meredydd David), Danielle Lea-Smith (replacing Penny Oliver, Forestry Commission), Paul Nolan, Mersey Forest, Doug Haynes, John Heselwood, Lizzie Aldridge, Cllr Michael Hyman (Trafford Council), Martin Ledson, Craig Bradley and Matthew Morris.</p> <p>There will be 4 people representing LEP sitting on the Board. Katrina Michel, Annette McDonald, David Felix all sit on the LEP Rural Strategy Board.</p> <p>SWM proposed that in year 2 there may be a larger LAG and smaller Board. All in agreement.</p> <p>Chair</p> <p>Cllr Gittins proposed Rev Canon Felix for Chair and Doug Haynes seconded this.</p> <p>AoB</p> <p>KM said the LEP website will be launched and updated and will have funding streams matrix after purdah.</p> <p>GD informed the meeting about the Regional Growth Hub</p>	<p>ALL</p>
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<p>which is a virtual hub and will be linked to LEP and LEADER websites.</p> <p>IP sits on the Business Growth Strategy group. Update at the next meeting, possible agenda item.</p> <p>SWM informed the meeting that Ellie Morris will return from maternity leave in July and will be at the next meeting along with SWM.</p> <p>MM asked if the LEADER website could reflect the beauty of rural Cheshire. KM asked everyone if they have any images which could be used on the LEP website to let her have them.</p> <p>DH informed the meeting that Cheshire is celebrating the 800 year anniversary of the Magna Carter this year as is Chester. Cheshire is the only place in the country to have its own Magna Carter.</p>	<p>SWM</p>
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