



## Note of AEF FLAG Meeting & Workshop

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Council Chamber, Arbuthnot House, Broad Street, Peterhead

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Martin Brebner welcomed all to the meeting. David John introduced himself to the attendees and outlined the purpose of the meeting. Those present were;

David John McRobbie	Aberdeenshire Council
Martin Brebner	Aberdeenshire Council
Nicola Graham	Ekos
Ian	Ekos
Zillah Jamieson	Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership
Robin Maddock	The Banffshire Partnership Ltd
David Anderson	Aberdeen Fish Producers Organisation
Michael Bates	Development Officer PFFPA
Dr Ian Moir	BDPlus
Linda Hope	Scottish Maritime Academy at North East Scotland College
Darren Broadley	Peter & J Johnstone Ltd
John Cox	PFFPA
Bill McKenzie	Don Fishing
Liz Scott	BDP
Derek McDonald	Aberdeenshire Council
Robin Maddock	The Banffshire Partnership Ltd
Steve Murray	Fishermen's Mission
Ian Watson	Fraserburgh Development Trust
James Buchan	NEFTA Training Manager
Willie Munro	Aberdeenshire Council

### 2. Introduction to the Aberdeenshire European Fisheries Fund

David John presented on Axis 4 Funding, advising of the Aberdeenshire European Fisheries Fund. The presentation focused on the:

- **The past AEF programme (2012-2014);** DJ advised there were twelve programmes running across Scotland. Aberdeenshire covers an area from Portsoy to St Cyrus. DJ advised the attendees of the current FLAG membership. Aberdeenshire EFF had £1.1million of funding in the previous programme, which is now closed. There were a total of 27 projects with a spend of over £804,000; all projects are monitored by David John. DJ outlined the differences between the AXIS funds. Concerns from the previous programme were identified as the application process being too bureaucratic; difficulties in match funding on the £ for £ basis (difficult to get from private bodies); meeting quorum at meetings has proved difficult previously due to members' commitments and the lack of industry project applications (due in part to match funding issues).
- **Previously approved projects;** DJ advised that all projects have to be completed by October 2015. He gave an overview of "Taste of Grampian" project and "PFFPA Development Officer" project. Community led projects included the "Apex Centre" and "Banffshire Coast Tourism Partnership Project Officer". Whitehills seafood restaurant "The Galley" was a successful renovation of a disused building into a restaurant. AEF contribution of £45k assisted with the total project costs of £126,000. Attendees were invited to look at the AEF website more detailed information on previous projects. DJ advised that of the eight eligible measure in the previous programme measures #2 and #? were the most popular measures.
- **The future EMFF programme (2014-2020);** David John outlined the purpose and outcomes of consultation events which were held earlier in the year and advised that two Local Development Strategies (LDS) are consequently being developed by external consultants. The LDS is



Aberdeenshire  
European Fisheries Fund

currently being drafted along with the Business Plan which is to be submitted on 15.8.14. The FLAG will decide how to break down the two strategies into North and South areas. Nominations for a FLAG Chair and Vice Chair are welcomed. It is anticipated that Aberdeenshire Council will remain as the Lead Partner. The project application process will remain the same i.e. contact is made by the application to the Programme Co-ordinator with an Expression Of Interest submitted and checked, then the applicant would submit a formal application for consideration at the Project Assessment Committee (PAC), and who may (if required) request additional information, the application would then be presented to the Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) to score the project against set criteria and make a formal decision on the application.

- **Differences between the new EMFF funding programme and EFF (Axis 4 context);** The types of project which can be supported in the next programme could include; data collection, support for small scale fisheries, training initiatives, feasibility studies, short videos and the development of new products. The rules on the composition of the FLAG are that 51% of votes must come from non-public bodies. Two or more FLAG areas can combine to create a "superFLAG". Intern regional projects are managed by Marine Scotland.

### 3. Governance Presentation

Martin Brebner gave a brief presentation on the Governance of the Fisheries Local Action Group and how it will be delivered. Martin advised that the LDS is a bottom up approach covering both Rural and Fisheries; Marine Scotland had decided on a separate Fisheries LAG and that Marine Scotland is looking more this time at an industry focus. As there is a maximum population threshold of 150,000 residents therefore creating a requirement for separate North and South LAG areas; they will be tasked with administering Rural projects/funds. Martin focused on:

- **FLAG structure and membership;** will be made up of 50% Fisheries, 40% Community % Public and % Private
- **Role of FLAG members;** members will identify development needs and funding priorities for the area, ensure the delivery of the LDS and project appraisals. Meetings will be held approximately three times a year ensuring best attendance possible. There will be a requirement to have a Chair and two Vice Chairs and there may be sub groups set up.
- **LEAD Partner;** Aberdeenshire Council will act as the delegated managing authority, accountable for implementation.
- **North and South Local Development Strategies;** Martin advised that the strategies are being developed to ensure they meet EU requirements.

### 4. Q & A Session

Q How many members are on the FLAG?

A 40 Organisations have been approached in order to get a range of relevant stakeholders. It will be up to the FLAG to decide on the final membership.

Q Has advice on the minimum quorum been received from Marine Scotland?

A No minimum quorum number has been advised by Marine Scotland; currently it is 4. The FLAG can decide on the quorum required.

Q Can the timescale for the £2.2 million spend be clarified?

A It is confirmed as 2020 for the spend. There is scope for the FLAG to determine the allocation of future funds i.e. there could be a decision to spend a fixed amount per year.

Q What is the deadline for the final strategy document?

A There will be a further FLAG meeting in September with the formalisation of the FLAG at the end of September.

Q What is the deadline for the finalisation of the Business Plan?

A End of September.

Q Is the EMFF start date of 1 January 2015 achievable?



**Aberdeenshire**  
European Fisheries Fund

A Yes, it is scheduled to begin on 1.1.15. It is anticipated that application forms will be ready for the first round of applications in approximately April 2015. It is usual practice to have an application deadline date with the PAC meeting taking place shortly after, followed timeously by a FLAG meeting. This is ordinarily within a six week timeframe.

Q What will go in the Local Development Strategy?

A A bottom up approach analysis has been done regarding coastal communities allowing scope for further applications from fishery sectors.

Q Can the funding rates change per project?

A There can be differing intervention rates. Current intervention rates for Business are 60%/40%, for Business and Community 70%/30% and for Community only 90%/10%. Other LAGs for example Moray have previously used a fixed rate of 50%/50%. The FLAG can decide on the intervention rates bearing in mind it cannot exceed the public contribution (as per EU regulations).

Q Do applicants have to find match funding?

A It has been advised by Marine Scotland that they will allocate match funding. Only the private contribution from business is to be found.

Q Is there a duplication of funding streams for Fisheries projects?

A Applicants will be advised as to the most relevant AXIS fund to apply to.

**5. FLAG Facilitated Workshop discussions** (with Ekos the North Strategy Consultants in attendance) focused on the following points;

- 1) What are the development needs, opportunities and threats for Aberdeenshire's Coastal areas from 2014-20?
- 2) Which EMFF priority themes are most relevant to Aberdeenshire's Coastal areas?
- 3) Are there any specific projects which should be taken forward through Axis 4 funding?

**6. Conclusions and next steps**

Martin advised that the Aberdeenshire Fisheries Local Action Group membership application forms would be emailed to all today's attendees. With interested parties asked to complete and return the application forms by 31.8.14. Martin clarified that the Business Plan would be submitted in 15.8.14.

**7. Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised.