

JUNE 2010

**Forth Valley and Lomond
LEADER
Local Action Group**

Local Development Strategy



Contents

Introduction.....	3
1. Strategic themes and evidence base.....	4
Mission	4
Expected Achievements by 2013	6a
Eligible area.....	6b
Area profile	9
Table 1: Demographic Profile.....	9
Table 2: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	9
Table 3: Industrial Profile.....	10
Table 4: Self Employment in Rural Stirling.....	11
Table 5: Business sites by number of employees	13
Table 6: Participation in Volunteering.....	15
Table 7: Registered Charities	15
Table 8: Social Enterprise	15
Table 9: Migrant Workers from the A8 Countries	16
Table 10: Outward commuting from the Forth Valley	16
Table 11: Mean journey times for commuters in Forth Valley	17
Review of Lomond and Forth Valley LEADER +	18
Responses to issues raised in community consultations	21
Implications for the Forth Valley and Lomond development strategy.....	24
2. Issues, objectives and target groups	26
3. Tackling the issues, targeting the groups	27
4. Outcomes	28
5. Innovation	31
6. Co-operation	33
7. Complementarity	35
8. Strategic fit.....	53
Annexes	56
Annex One: Evaluation of LEADER + Programme: Lomond and Rural Stirling.....	57
Annex Two: Complementarity between EARDF and ERDF in eligible areas.....	66
Annex Three: SRDP Outcomes	68
Annex Four: Leader Monitoring and Evaluation	70
Annex Five: Projects funded under LEADER + Programme in Lomond and Rural Stirling	81

Introduction

*Forth Valley and Lomond is an area of **contrasts which presents many opportunities from a rural development perspective**. With support from LEADER we hope to build local capacity to grasp these opportunities and help realise our vision of the area as **an exemplar for rural development in Scotland building genuinely sustainable communities**.*

We want to improve the quality of life of Forth Valley and Lomond's residents by revitalising our local communities and enhancing our local environments.

We want Forth Valley and Lomond to be first choice for people to live, work and to visit – and we want to be a leader in sustainable development – ensuring that economic, social and environmental progress is not just for tomorrow but for the long term.

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Guy Wedderburn, Land Manager (Falkirk)

I. Strategic themes and evidence base

Mission

Our mission for the Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER programme is simply:

“Improving the quality of life in Forth Valley and Lomond through revitalised communities and enhanced natural environments”

We plan to deliver this mission through the following themes

Revitalising communities

- *Ensuring sustainable local services*

We want to see the development of more and better local services within Forth Valley and Lomond's rural communities that are economically sustainable and which can contribute to local employment

- *Developing community owned assets*

We want to see local ownership and control of land, property, renewable energy and other enterprises that will ensure the future sustainability of our rural communities and will yield a continuing economic return that can be re-invested in these local communities

- *Supporting sustainable local enterprise*

We want to remove barriers to local enterprise, particularly for women and young people, in order to support more indigenous local enterprise in Forth Valley and Lomond under three main sub-themes:

- Supporting the area's local producers, distributors and rural retailers by ensuring better connections between them and promoting the competitive and quality advantages of local sourcing,
 - Encouraging and supporting the start-up and growth of sustainable local enterprises, including activity and green tourism businesses
 - Encouraging and supporting a more enterprising voluntary and community sector
- *Celebrating Forth Valley and Lomond's culture*

We want to see Forth Valley and Lomond's unique cultural heritage support the development of the tourism offering in the area

- *Sensitively developing the built environment*

We want to invest in the built environment where this is led by, or supported by, the community to lead to the growth of the local economy, whilst improving the appearance and vitality of our towns and villages which provide key services and enhances the natural environment of the area.

Conservation of the rural environment

- *Connecting businesses and communities to natural assets*

We want to see better connections between business, communities and the natural environment including improvements in the local green tourism offering

- *Environmental improvements*

We want to see practical improvements to maintain and enhance the environmental assets of the region

- *Ensuring sensitive access for all*

We want to see improvements to countryside access including provision for people with disabilities and for speakers of other languages

- *Understanding Forth Valley and Lomond's natural heritage*

We want to promote environmental education and interpretation

These themes- and the development strategy as a whole - have emerged through a review of strategies (European, UK, Scotland-wide and local), a review of the lessons from the previous LEADER + programme in Lomond and rural Stirling, consultation with public agencies and a series of consultation events.

Expected Achievements by 2013

By 2013, the Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Local Action Group expects to achieve the following:

- Fully allocate its money and maximise the benefit to the Forth Valley and Lomond area that this investment can bring
- Explored specific themes that we think that offer most potential to our area and warrant further support, to include the following themes:
 - Youth related activity
 - Job creation for young people
 - Employment and skills training
 - Getting involved in community life
 - Potential rural youth workers training
 - Building opportunities
 - Youth futures project
 - Developing links with the private sector
 - Supporting/extending rural skills projects
 - Local food production/development
 - Local food apprenticeship/training scheme
 - Supporting community groups to develop local food projects
 - Farm to plate projects
 - Developing the viability of local food projects
 - Encouraging healthy eating (in relation to local food)
 - Social Enterprise
 - Supporting social enterprises to become more sustainable and self-sufficient
 - Taking an enabling and supporting role towards social enterprise
 - Community pathworks scheme
 - Set up an innovative mini grant fund to help community groups develop path projects in their areas as away of building project development capacity within those organisations, as well as delivering a product many communities in our area want
 - Tourism and Service sector apprentice scheme
 - Support the development of apprenticeship schemes targeting the tourism and service sectors

Eligible area

The proposed eligible area is made up rural Stirling (all of Stirling with the exception of Stirling City), rural Clackmannanshire (all of Clackmannanshire with the exception of Alloa), rural Falkirk (all of Falkirk with the exception of Falkirk Town, Grangemouth, Bo'ness, Polmont and Stenhousemuir) and the small area of rural West Dunbartonshire which lies within, or is linked to, the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park.

The proposed Forth Valley and Lomond Local Action Group (LAG) builds upon the experience and achievements of the previous Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER+ LAG, whilst extending the benefits of the tried and tested LEADER model to its neighbouring community planning areas. This follows recent policy trends for the three local authority areas to work more closely together for the benefit of their respective citizens.

As such, the Forth Valley and Lomond area is an area with strong administrative linkages, which is characterised by diverse geographical features. The area covers more than 2,600 square kilometres and stretches from the spectacular Highland mountain scenery around Crianlarich and Tyndrum, down to the fringes of the urbanised central belt of Glasgow, Stirling and Falkirk, where the legacy of industry and coal mining is still evident today.

With a large part of the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park lying within the rural Forth Valley and Lomond area, tourism and micro business have become the main economic drivers for the area. Agriculture and forestry continue to have a small but significant impact on the economy of the whole Forth Valley and Lomond area.

The development of the social economy has been particularly important in addressing issues of concern to the communities of rural Forth Valley and Lomond. The national park area has been particularly successful in the setting up of community development trusts in each community, and the areas of Falkirk and Clackmannanshire have been particularly successful in establishing environmental social economy organisations.

The inclusion of West Dunbartonshire is in part due to the legacy of the previous LEADER+ programme, where strong links were made between the rural West Dunbartonshire community and LEADER, but more importantly the strong economic and social links that exist between these communities and the wider National Park.

Population of the area

Based on 2004 population estimates, the total population of the eligible area is: 128,733

This is made up from:

Rural Stirling 45,262
Rural Clackmannanshire 29,280

Rural Falkirk 45,620
Rural West Dunbartonshire 8,571

Key settlements

Within Stirling Council area and the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park:

Aberfoyle
Balquhidder
Buchanan
Callander
Criannlarich
Croftamie
Drymen
Gartmore
Killearn
Killin
Kilmaronock
Port of Menteith
Strathfillan
Tyndrum

Within Stirling Council area but outwith the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park:

Bridge of Allan
Buchlyvie
Cambusbarron
Cowie
Doune
Dunblane
Fallin
Fintry
Gargunnoch
Kippen
Logie
Plean
Strathblane
Thornhill
Blairdrummond

Within West Dunbartonshire Council area and within the National Park:

Balloch
Gartocharn
Haldane

Within Falkirk Council area:

Airth
Allandale

Avonbridge
Bainsford
Banknock
Blackness
Bonnybridge
Camelon
Denny
Dennyloanhead
Dunipace
Glensburgh
Haggs
Head of Muir
Larbert
Letham
Longcroft
Redding
Reddingmuirhead
Slamannan
Standburn

Within Clackmannanshire Council area:

Alva
Clackmannan
Coalsnaughton
Devonside
Dollar
Dollarfield
Fishcroft
Forest Mill
Fossoway
Inglewood
Kennet
Lower Mains
Lower Ninnis
Menstrie
Pool of Muckhart
Sauchie
Solsgirth
Tillicoultry
Tullibody
Yetts o' Muckhart

Area profile

The profile of the new enlarged area has the following characteristics:

Young population

The proposed Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER programme area has a slightly younger population than Scotland as a whole (19.78% of the population of the specified datazones are aged 15 and under, compared to a Scotland wide figure of 18.23%). The need to provide better opportunities for young people emerged as a recurring theme in our public consultation:

Table 1: Demographic Profile

	Population - Children : 2005		Population - Working Age : 2005		Population Female: 2005		Population - Pensionable Age : 2005	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Specified data zones	25,036	20.3	74,790	60.8	62,571	50.9	23,215	14.3
Scotland	928,994	18.23	3,190,853	62.63	2,638,691	51.8	974,953	19.14

Pockets of hidden deprivation

While much of the deprivation experienced in rural areas is ‘hidden’ from the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, there are 41 data zones in the 142 included which have higher than national average rates of people who are employment deprived. 38 higher than national average rates of people who are ‘workless’ and 34 of the 137 have higher rates of people who are income deprived.

The following table identifies the number of datazones of the 142 in the specified area which are ranked in the lowest 20 or 40 % across Scotland.

Table 2: Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

	Lowest 20%	21 - 40 %
SIMD 2006 Rank	14	24
Current Income domain 2006 rank	11	25
Employment domain 2006 rank	13	28
Health domain 2006 rank	13	19
Education, Skills and Training domain 2006 rank	28	23

Housing domain rank 2004 and 2006	5	17
SIMD Crime 2006 rank	11	23
Geographic Access domain 2006 rank	36	53
Drive times sub-domain 2006 rank	44	49
Public transport sub-domain 2006 rank	27	35

This demonstrates that there are significant pockets of multiple deprivation across the Forth Valley and Lomond area, in addition to the noted high rates of geographic deprivation. 36 of the 137 zones are in the lowest 20% for geographic deprivation, and 53 are in the lowest 40%. This reflects the large distances covered in the new area, the prevalence of remote communities and communities with poor transport connections.

Local economy

The economy of the areas is heavily dependent on hotels and catering as well as public administration, education and health.

This table highlights the industries in the area by the percentage of people employed in each.

Table 3: Industrial Profile

Industry	Urban	Rural	All
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	0%	1%	0%
Mining, energy and water	2%	1%	2%
Manufacturing	10%	10%	10%
Construction	7%	7%	7%
Wholesale, retail, repair	19%	12%	18%
Hotels & catering	6%	16%	7%
Transport and communications	5%	5%	5%
Financial and business services	13%	16%	14%
Public administration, education, health	34%	26%	33%
Other services	5%	5%	5%

Self employment

Under the Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER + Programme, a study was funded into self employment in rural Stirling found that just six Rural Stirling wards, comprising 27% of the Stirling Council population aged 16-74, had 47% of its self employed people. (Community based enterprise development in rural Stirling : Feasibility study and development of options, 2006). The same research shows a significantly higher rate of self employment in rural Stirling wards.

Table 4: Self Employment in Rural Stirling

	All self employed	Self employed with employees	Self employed without employees	all people aged 16-74
(i) Comparatively				
Scotland	6.60%	2.80%	3.80%	100.00%
Stirling	8.90%	3.80%	5.10%	100.00%
Rural Stirling	15.70%	6.60%	9.10%	100.00%
Rest of Stirling Council Area	6.50%	2.80%	3.70%	100.00%
(ii) Ward-level figures				
Campsies	16.10%	7.40%	8.70%	100.00%
Highland	19.20%	7.50%	11.70%	100.00%
Strathendrick; Blane Valley	14.50%	6.20%	8.30%	100.00%
Teith (part)	15.80%	6.00%	9.90%	100.00%
Trossachs	14.60%	6.30%	8.40%	100.00%
All Rural Stirling	15.70%	6.60%	9.10%	100.00%

Community plans

The community plans for each council area in Forth Valley & Lomond highlight the following priorities for development of both urban and rural areas:

Clackmannanshire

The Clackmannanshire community plan sets out some key weaknesses in the area:

- Unemployment rates above the Scottish average
- Pockets of persistent deprivation
- Slow growth in the knowledge economy
- Below average, though improving, levels of skills and qualifications

Falkirk

The Falkirk Community Plan sets out a vision for the future of the urban and rural Falkirk area including

- opportunities that support local communities in a balanced and environmentally sustained way.

- work to maximise the benefits of the areas rich historical, industrial and natural heritage.
- help all the communities within our area to thrive and keep their individuality. support innovation and forward thinking to take our area's rightful place at the heart of Scotland.

Stirling

A number of challenges are identified in the Stirling Community Plan for the whole area:

“Although Stirling enjoys many advantages, it is the second most polarised district in the United Kingdom in terms of the gap between rich and poor residents. One in five Stirling residents lives in poverty. Whereas overall unemployment levels are generally low, a shortage of manufacturing industry and high dependence on the service sector has created a low local economy for people. The overall high level of prosperity is largely created by the large number of higher paid residents commuting to work outwith the Stirling area. In terms of rural disadvantage, more than 50% of workers commute outwith the area whilst the rest depend heavily on low paying agricultural, hotel and catering jobs. There are also, however, many examples of self-employment in the tourism sector which generate considerable prosperity within in the area, including supporting trades such as joiners, electricians and plumbers whose income often depends on the tourist industry but also offer vital services to the wider rural community.”

West Dunbartonshire

The West Dunbartonshire community plan identifies key challenges and strategic goals for the urban and rural parts of the area which include:

- To continue tackling unemployment – we will address the multiple barriers to employment, provide training and support business growth.
- To create a sustainable environment – meeting national objectives and targets’
- To support our ageing population – in common with many areas of Scotland there are increasing numbers of elderly people living in our communities. We are committed to putting in place services to meet the changing needs of our society.
- To support business growth – by creating an environment which supports business start-up, growth and re-location and thereby develop a vibrant local economy

Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley

Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley statistics on the whole Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling council areas show that:

- Education attainment in the Forth Valley is around the Scottish average
- Per head of population, crime rates remain below the Scottish level

- House prices have been rising in recent years, with the Forth Valley region recording an increase of 18 per cent between 2002 and 2003
- Between 3.1 and 3.2 million people live within one hour travel time of Forth Valley (non-peak travel periods)
- More than 8,900 businesses operate in Forth Valley, with about 95 per cent having less than 50 employees while the few businesses employing more than 200 employees represent 31 per cent of total employment
- Estimates on the impact of tourism on employment range from over 9,000 jobs directly employed with tourism to over 12,000 jobs created by both direct and indirect employment from tourism
- About one in four employees work in the public sector and around 13,000 people are self-employed

The table below shows a high percentage across the council areas of microbusinesses employing less than 10 people.

Table 5: Business sites by number of employees

Local Authority	Total no business sites : 2006	No business sites 0-9 emp : 2006	No business sites 10-49 emp : 2006	No business sites 50+ emp : 2006
Clackmannanshire	1,205	1,035	145	25
Falkirk	3,855	3,160	545	150
Stirling	4,105	3,535	480	90
West Dunbartonshire	1,935	1,545	330	60
Subtotal of all councils	11,100	9,275	1,500	325
Percentage	/	83.56%	13.51%	2.93%
Scotland	180,055	151,435	23,355	5,265
Scotland Percentage	/	84.10%	12.97%	2.92%

The Forth Valley Economic Assessment 2006

The 2006 economic assessment highlights the following key trends:

- The stock of businesses is growing, providing more jobs and economic inclusion
- Urban Forth Valley makes a strong and growing contribution to Edinburgh City Region and is the hub of the national chemicals industry
- There are considerable variances in economic performance and opportunity across Forth Valley
- The strategic indicators used in the economic assessment show productivity in Forth Valley to be lower than Scotland as a whole. Clackmannanshire operates at 92% of the Scottish average productivity, Stirling at 89% and Falkirk at 98%. This appears to be due to the high levels of commuting.

The Scottish Enterprise analysis of businesses in Forth Valley reports that:

- The proportion of Forth Valley employees in Falkirk is greater than the proportion of Forth Valley business units in Falkirk.
- Compared to all businesses, Stirling is under-represented by the largest firms (employing more than 100 employees), while Falkirk is over-represented by firms of this size.

Business base

The concentration of business units and employees in Forth Valley and the three local authority areas is in the sectors of Distribution, Hotels and Catering; and Other Services.

- Stirling accounts for almost three-fifths (59%) of Agriculture business units and two-thirds of Agriculture employment.
- Falkirk has an over-representation of Manufacturing (Metals, Minerals and Chemicals; Engineering; and Other Manufacturing) business units.
- One-third of Clackmannanshire employment is in Other Services, compared to just one-fifth (21%) of Falkirk employment.
- Agriculture and Construction businesses have the greatest likelihood of employing between 1 and 5 employees.

Nearly half (49%) of all Forth Valley businesses have been trading for over six years and one-fifth have been established for over 20 years. Furthermore, the oldest firms account for around one-third (31%) of all employees.

As the length of time a firm has been trading increases, businesses are more likely to be larger in size.

Home offices and head quarters

The *Travel to work and commuting patterns in Forth Valley* report published in 2004 by Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley on travel to work in the area found that there is significant interchange between Council areas within the region, but across the whole region there is very significant out-commuting, with more than a fifth of residents finding work outside. More than 27 000 people work outwith the region.

Edinburgh is the major out-of-region destination, followed by Glasgow. There is also significant movement to West Lothian, North Lanarkshire and Fife. Long distance commuting – to England and Aberdeen – is far from negligible.

This creates particular problems in rural areas, including rural depopulation and dormitory suburbs.

Community activity

There is a good history of volunteer activity within the eligible area, particularly strong in the Stirling area:

Table 6: Participation in Volunteering

Local Authority	% adults aged 16+ giving up time to volunteer in the previous 12 months : 2003-2004
Clackmannanshire	23
Falkirk	21
Stirling	26
West Dunbartonshire	17
Scotland	23

Registered charities

The office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) shows a relatively low number of registered charities in the four council areas. Stirling is the only area of the four with above Scottish average numbers of charities per 10,000 people. However, OCSR report that 40% of all Scottish charities are based in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Fife or Highland. OSCR also report that Falkirk presents the lowest income for charities per 10,000 of resident population.

Table 7: Registered Charities

	No	% of Scottish charities
Clackmannanshire	139	0.87%
Falkirk	314	1.96%
Stirling	512	3.19%
West Dunbartonshire	224	1.40%

Social enterprises

The new social economy and enterprise database for Scotland (SEEDS) records a total of 37 social enterprises registered across the four local authority areas:

Table 8: Social Enterprise

	No
Clackmannanshire	2
Falkirk	9
Stirling	14
West Dunbartonshire	12

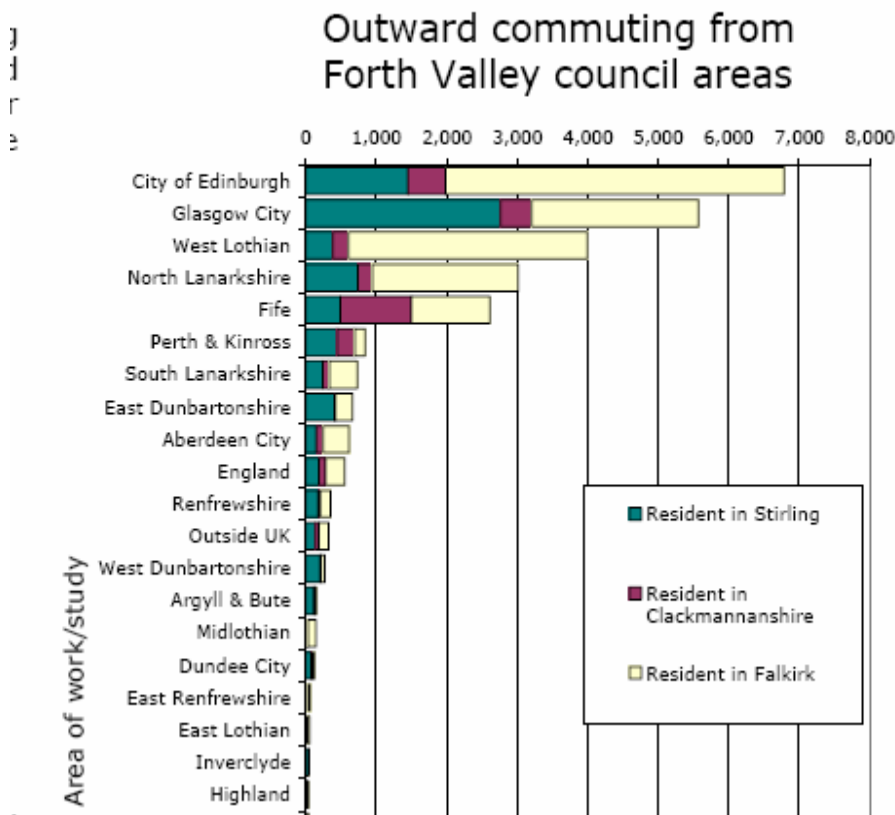
Migrant Workers

Incoming migrant workers are a growing issue in rural Scotland. In the period May 2004 – March 2007, 44,570 registration applications were made by people from the A8 (new accession countries) in Scotland. However, only 3.5% of these applications were made in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and West Dunbartonshire.

Table 9: Migrant Workers from the A8 Countries

	Czech Rep	Estonia	Hungary	Latvia	Lithuania	Poland	Slovakia	Slovenia	Total
Clacks	10	0	22	0	0	55	20	0	95
Falkirk	16	0	24	20	180	345	155	0	715
Stirling	34	7	32	37	24	495	65	0	680
West Dunbartonshire	14	6	4	4	2	65	4	0	85
Subtotal	74	13	82	61	206	960	244	0	1575
Scottish total	2485	840	1030	2900	2910	31305	3055	30	44570
	2.98%	1.55%	7.96%	2.10%	7.08%	3.07%	7.99%	0.00%	3.53%

Table 10: Outward commuting from the Forth Valley



Commuting

A report produced by Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley has found that one in four employees living in Forth Valley commutes to outside the area for work. 7,000 more people commuted outwith the area in 2001 than 1991, and the estimated mean journey

has risen in that time. The estimated mean journey distance is higher in Stirling and Clackmannanshire than in Falkirk

Table 11: Mean journey times for commuters in Forth Valley

		Less than 2km	2km – less than 5km	5km – less than 10km	10km – less than 20 km	20km – less than 40km	40km plus	Estimated mean journey
2001	Stirling	7,740	5,591	4,286	4,598	5,100	3,080	12.8
2001	Falkirk	13,106	13,858	10,209	8,709	8,568	1,603	8.8
2001	Clackmannanshire	3,973	3,428	4,008	3,119	1,566	1,015	10.2
2001	Forth Valley	24,819	22,877	18,503	16,426	15,234	5,698	10.1
1991	Stirling	8,530	5,880	4,120	4,000	3,720	1,990	10.3
1991	Falkirk	14,830	13,690	10,260	7,780	6,450	1,240	7.7
1991	Clackmannanshire	4,730	4,450	3,820	2,770	890	930	10
1991	Forth Valley	28,090	24,020	18,200	14,550	11,060	4,160	8.5

Review of Lomond and Forth Valley LEADER +

The Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER group has an excellent track record to build upon from the previous LEADER + partnership. A brief evaluatory review is attached as an annexe

Main learning points from the review include:

- Large number of smaller grants awarded
- Disparity between targets and reported outcomes of funded projects –more clarification is required on the definitions of some targets
- For most project applicants, LEADER + was their first experience of European funds. In some cases it was their first experience of applying for funding
- A much larger amount of development support was required by projects than had been anticipated in the business plan
- There was not a homogenous infrastructure of development support across the area
- A wide range of projects were funded – there was no one type of project
- The area benefited from the ‘improving quality of life’ theme which had been selected for LEADER + as this gave the LAG flexibility in awarding grants.
- Some applicants needed support in compliance
- The level of secretarial support required was greater than that envisaged in the business plan
- Development support for members of the LAG had not been anticipated but was required
- One successful LEADER + project tended to lead to a succession of other projects in the same area coming forward for LEADER + funding.

Response to mid-term review of LEADER + Scotland

Lomond and Rural Stirling was one of 13 Local Action Groups supported under LEADER +. The Scottish Executive’s mid-term evaluation of the whole programme showed significant scope to improve the implementation of LEADER+ in Scotland. While the value of the initiative was recognised, key findings from the mid-term evaluation of LEADER+ demonstrated that further improvements in data collection were needed and that levels of innovation had been disappointing. There was, however, was evidence of good partnership working and the development of a more strategic approach.

Lomond and Rural Stirling LAG have had issues with the conduct and figures used in the evaluation and have challenged the relevance of its key findings to Lomond and Rural Stirling. However, The Executive has accepted that it provided “useful pointers for mainstreaming” with main recommendations concerning improvements to administrative systems and to monitoring and evaluation processes.

Key findings from the Mid Term Evaluation of LEADER +

Aspect of Programme	Findings	Experience in LRS area?
Financial Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slow progress committing and spending resources. • Shortcomings in maintenance of financial records. 	Yes No
Physical Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor information on physical data, reflecting weaknesses in the monitoring and evaluation framework. • Targets were unrealistic. Indicators have been reported predominantly against outputs rather than impacts or outcomes. 	Problem at beginning of programme Indicators were all outputs
Management of the Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to realise that standard management systems are not incompatible with bottom up approach. • Operation of a delegated implementation system requires considerable management and capacity at the centre. 	No Yes
Application of LEADER approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong focus on assets of area, particularly around national parks • Partnership is being enhanced generally. • Innovation was limited and tended to operate under a definition of activity that has not previously been applied at a local level. Little innovation in terms of process. 	Yes Yes Level of innovation varied a lot from project to project – process revealed how subjective a criteria innovation is
Community Value Added	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most value was found to be added through enhanced partnership working and, in some areas, development of a 	Yes

	<p>strong strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less value than might have been expected in terms of mainstreaming rural development. • Disappointing level of innovation and transfer of good practice. • Limited impact of delivery from the formulation of equal opportunities and sustainable development. 	<p>All projects required to write a 'lessons learned' piece which appears on website</p>
<p>Recommendations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve financial recording keeping. • Standardised administrative systems. • Fostering and mainstreaming innovation. • Strategy required for fostering and mainstreaming innovation. 	<p>More staff needed as LAG area grows.</p>

The Forth Valley and Lomond Local Action Group will address these general comments in its Business Plan.

Responses to issues raised in community consultations

In the development of this strategy and the business plan for Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER, an extensive programme of community consultation has been undertaken across Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Stirling and West Dunbartonshire:

Open LEADER consultation meetings have been held in Stirling, Falkirk, and West Dunbartonshire. Consultation has taken place in Clackmannanshire through a wider-ranging community consultation.

More detailed discussions, displays or presentations have been given at meetings of :

- Trossachs Area Network;
- South West Area Network;
- Bridge of Allan, Dunblane and Logie
- Forth Valley National Farmers Union meeting
- Balquhiddier & Killin National Farmers Union meeting
- Eastern Villages representatives
- Forth & Clyde National Farmers Union SRDP meeting

A large number of individual and telephone consultations with potential applicants and other rural stakeholders have also taken place.

In addition, the partnership has established a dedicated website – www.fvl.org.uk – which has highlighted the development of the partnership and the emerging themes.

As part of the development of this document, there have been opportunities to comment on and contribute to the development of the plan. This short section summarises some of the key points raised and our responses to them:

We want to ensure “fairness” across the area

The partnership is committed to ensuring equity in its programme, both in its planning and its implementation. This is reflected in our “skills matrix” for the new Local Action Group and in our commitment to ensuring a “fair” spread of awards across the programme area, committing development staff to build capacity where certain sectors or areas are under-represented.

We want to see a majority of community members on the Local Action Group that makes decisions

The draft constitution ensures that public sector members are in a minority on the Local Action Group.

We want to see development support for local organisations

Our proposed staffing structure – Programme Manager, Development Officer, Claims Officer – ensures that there is capacity within the proposed team to provide development support. In addition, we welcome bids from projects sponsors for LEADER to support initiatives that build capacity in local areas.

We want the potential to offer larger awards to projects that make a significant impact
The partnership has deliberately not set a ceiling for bids within its guidelines, and partners would like to see LEADER supporting significant bids that make an impact in the Programme area and leave a legacy. The LAG will, of course, want to see how every bid contributes to proposed outcomes and will consider each application on its own merits.

We would like a “fast-track” approach for smaller bids from community organisations
The partnership has recognised that many smaller organisations need a faster decision on their applications and has proposed a “fast-track” process where bids requesting LEADER resources of £5,000 or less can be considered by the LAG by email. We hope that competent applications can have a decision within two weeks of submission.

The new area has more post-industrial areas
The partnership is acutely aware of the post-industrial areas included in this programme and how their needs and aspirations may vary from some communities within the previous LEADER + programme. We are committed to trying to ensure fairness in our planning and implementation of the programme.

We want to work with other areas, including transnational areas, where we can share learning about “what works”, but we need to know how to do it
LEADER actively supports co-operation and has a dedicated budget for co-operation projects – within Scotland, across the UK, and more widely across Europe. We will ensure that all interested parties are made aware of the opportunities and will be able to provide development support if you have ideas but need help in ensuring they come to fruition.

We would like the whole programme to be about sustainable development with positive economic, social and environmental outcomes
The partnership shares this view – we hope the programme can bring about lasting positive change in all three areas.

Everyone thinks their project is innovative
The partnership will be providing more guidance on innovation. We have various approaches to innovation that we would like to foster. We would like to see innovative approaches to service design and delivery based upon action research. We want to build on examples of good practice from elsewhere and introduce them to the programme area. We want to be able to take measured risks on genuinely innovative ideas. We want to see innovation in processes too – in management, delivery and support services.

We would like funding for things which no-one else wants to fund
LEADER wants to be an “intelligent funder” and use its resources to achieve the outcomes we have laid out in our development strategy and business plan. We

hope to be responsive in recognising the true costs of implementing projects. However, we also have a duty to be responsible and to adhere to rules laid down by the Scottish Government and the European Union. We hope to be able to be very clear about what LEADER can and cannot fund.

Implications for the Forth Valley and Lomond development strategy

The themes identified for the Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER Local Action Group are in direct response to the review of local strategies, the review of lessons learnt from LEADER +, the responses from public agencies and the extensive community consultations:

In terms of income and deprivation, the programme area is starkly polarised. There is high prosperity created by large numbers of residents commuting to work outwith the programme area but the local economy is dominated by low-wage jobs in agriculture, hotels and catering. Despite overall high levels of employment, there are pockets of persistent unemployment and a significant growth in numbers of migrant workers attracted to the area.

In terms of the first half of the partnership’s mission of “improving the quality of life of people in Forth Valley and Lomond” there is no shortage of opportunities. There are higher numbers of young people than average with limited local opportunities. There are higher numbers of self-employed than average but with inconsistent levels of business support. There is a high level of interest in voluntary action and the social economy but without consistent support to turn good ideas into action. There are some of the highest quality environmental assets in the UK already recognised as a key visitor destination, but with differing levels of quality across the tourism product.

The themes directly respond to these opportunities, and highlight where we believe that LEADER resources can add value to existing and planned initiatives to achieve real outcomes in employment, business growth and sustainable communities.

We believe LEADER can make a real and measurable difference in revitalising communities – with better services, more productive locally-owned businesses and stronger communities – and in the protection of the rural environment – building upon the programme area’s natural assets where they are high, and bringing them up where they are lower.

“Sustainable local services” has been a clarion call in many areas. Local services help cement rural populations, also providing employment and social opportunities. However, local people recognise that sustainability of the service is key, and so our LEADER programme will want to resource innovative solutions to the age-old question of how will that service be funded in the longer term. We want to see services that both meet needs and can identify a purchaser – whether through a service level agreement with a public agency, or an independent earned income strategy.

“Developing community owned assets” may offer one answer. The programme has been pro-active in talking with the Big Lottery Fund who advise of poor take-up of their Growing Community Assets fund in this area. The programme will seek to ensure that community ownership is pursued only when appropriate to the market and to the

circumstances of each respective community. To aid this, the programme will work closely with the Big Lottery Fund to ensure successful developments. Our consultation reveals a significant appetite for community ownership of resources as a way of ensuring sustainable communities and economically viable developments.

The theme “Supporting sustainable local enterprise” responds to many of the challenges and opportunities identified in the area profile, and builds on the success of previous initiatives developed under the Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER+ programme, such as the Buy Local initiative. Through this theme, we hope to be able to encourage business start up and growth – both for traditional and social businesses – and to provide a focus on activity and green tourism. We also want to help grow “inter-trading” within the programme area – helping businesses cement local markets and helping keep money recycling within the local area.

“Celebrating Forth Valley and Lomond’s culture” recognises the role that cultural heritage has played in the development of the tourism sector to date, and that whilst many visitors come to the area because of our high quality natural heritage, an increasing number come because of its cultural heritage. This is particularly true for the parts of our area that have not previously benefited from LEADER. High quality tourism will continue to be a key driver for the success of our area and we continue to seek new ways of growing the tourism product and support tourism based businesses.

“Sensitive developing the built environment” recognises that there is a case for appropriate community led or community supported development within the programme area, whilst not detracting from its natural assets.

The proposed themes under “Conservation of the rural environment” seek to build upon the environmental assets of the programme area and ensure that economic and social development does not compromise them.

Under “Connecting businesses and communities to natural assets” we would like to see the natural assets of the area not as brakes on development, but as a steer towards building upon higher value-added interventions.

We would also like to see LEADER resources supporting “environmental improvements” as we hope to grow the programme area’s sustainable development credentials.

“Ensuring sensitive access for all” and “Understanding Forth Valley and Lomond’s natural heritage” we hope will further enhance the reputation of the area.

2. Issues, objectives and target groups

Main issues identified

- Limited local services and access to wider services, particularly for young people
- Limited degree of businesses selling to other businesses within the programme area
- Limited business space and support
- Tourism products and services at variance with market opportunities
- Business capacity to respond to market opportunities
- Limited community capacity in some areas
- Insufficient focus on quality
- Unequal environmental quality
- Need for community development / support
- Limited public transport / dependency on cars
- Rural isolation faced by elderly
- Volunteer fatigue

Objectives of the strategy

- Increase year round quality local employment
- Increase turnover of local businesses
- Increase community capacity
- Increase local business start ups, including social enterprise
- Improve quality and availability of local services
- Improve quality of local environment

Target Groups

Inclusive approach, however:

- Young people
- Women
- Micro-businesses
- Migrant workers

3. Tackling the issues, targeting the groups

We are keen to ensure that our partnership is inclusive from the outset, and our aspiration is to appoint our Local Action Group on a matrix approach, ensuring that all communities and sectoral interest groups are represented from day one. We have engaged in community consultation in drawing up our strategy and will continue to implement our approach to ongoing community communications. Over the course of the programme membership of the LAG may evolve as issues arise.

We have worked closely with community planning partnerships in developing our approach and will continue to do so as we implement our strategy. Our partnership includes members from public sector, business and land ownership interests and the wider voluntary and community sectors, and we will draw on their networks – including specialist professional staff – to ensure that our approach complements other support measures targeting these specific groups.

Regular monitoring and evaluation will provide management information for the Local Action Group who will identify remedies to any under-performance.

Our themes reflect the issues identified in our development and consultation to date and we will monitor progress towards outcomes through the LAG. Development resource will be applied where there are areas or sectors that require more intensive support.

Projects supported will reflect these themes. The LAG will target projects which support these issues but not exclude others.

4. Outcomes

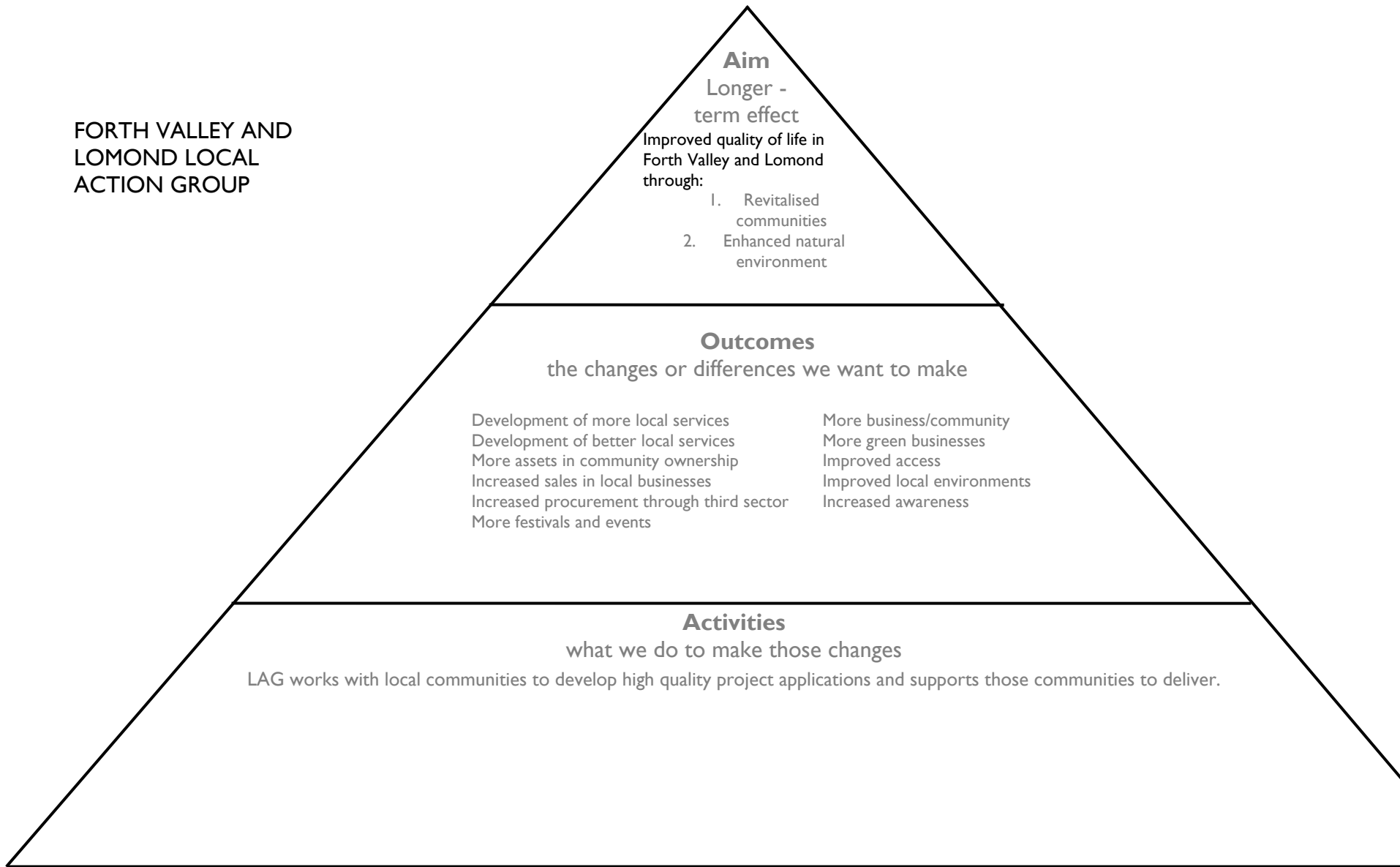
In addition to the European Commission’s Common Monitoring and Evaluation Frameworks, Forth Valley and Lomond LAG proposes to support LEADER projects that will contribute to the following outcomes. These outcomes are draft outcomes, as we are aware that the Scottish Government are in the process of producing a list of indicators for Scotland which will include definitions which means the following will be subject to revision.

Core Outcomes	
No. of pilot projects	80
No. of innovative projects	120
No. of projects aimed at target groups	50
Employment Outcomes	
No. of upskilled individuals	500
No. of quality year round jobs created	80
No. of jobs created for target groups	35
No. of quality year round jobs safeguarded	100
No. of jobs safeguarded for target groups	35
Business Outcomes	
No. of new businesses established	40
No. of businesses supported	500
No. of local supply networks and projects set up	30
No. of joint marketing initiatives supported	30
No. of sustainable tourism initiatives	40
No. of businesses retained in area (who without project proceeding would move out)	20
Community Outcomes	
Number of communities within area taking part in leader funded activities	500
No. of joint projects pursued between local communities	120
No. of projects which create new networks or develop existing models of partnership working	100
No. of projects which improve equality of opportunity throughout the whole area	70
No. of community facilities or services created	60
No. of projects which increase access to existing community facilities or services	30
No. of projects which increase research and networking in the area	80
Environmental Outcomes	
No. of environmental community action projects	50
No. of projects which link the countryside and environment to the rural economy	50
No. of initiatives or projects which enhance the physical environment	60
Kms of new/upgraded routes which increase the accessibility of sites	20

No. of projects demonstrating action for sustainable development	50
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In addition, we will seek to record our outputs, results and impacts in common with the measures proposed in the Scottish Rural Development Programme (see annex)

**FORTH VALLEY AND
LOMOND LOCAL
ACTION GROUP**



5. Innovation

The Scottish Executive's *Good Practice in Rural Development* series devoted one edition to Innovative Methods of Service Delivery in Rural Scotland (Scottish Executive Social Research, 2003). It said innovation was difficult to define but often described as:

...the introduction of a new idea, method or device. Innovation can perhaps be interpreted in practice as generating a new idea and making it productive.

The focus in the report is on “different ways of delivering services”, recognising the very real challenges to rural communities in developing and sustaining local services. Areas under particular pressure were transport, multi-purpose buildings, retail and other businesses, information and advice services, childcare, and services for young people. (*Services in Rural Scotland*, SNRP, 2000).

The good practice guide on innovative methods groups the approaches it studies into the following groups:

- Shared premises
- Mobile facilities
- Use of new technologies, and
- Community run services

The Forth Valley and Lomond Local Action Group intend to be a learning organisation and will learn from and build upon good practice.

In its recent consultation on Scotland's science and innovation strategy, The Scottish Executive said a major aim of the updated strategy was to enhance connectedness between the elements in this system, and so build a virtuous circle of growth. Across its themes it wished to see approaches “supporting environmental sustainability” and having “most impact on improving the quality of life of the people of Scotland”. We see parallels for development in our own area.

In Forth Valley and Lomond, we want to be an incubator for innovation. We want to mirror the model of the “innovation nation” in our region. Our research/education/business nexus will follow an innovative model better suited to our commitment to sustainable development and empowered communities:

- At our heart will be our **research** base – investing in action research, encouraging communities to work with researchers to evidence challenges and identify solutions to unmet needs;
- We will have a commitment to **knowledge transfer** – sharing experiences, and learning and implementing what works; and

- We will invest in **innovative approaches** – companies, including social enterprises, prepared to test out new methods and approaches

LEADER is all about innovation and we are keen that our partnership is at the forefront of innovation in Scotland. Risk aversion stifles innovation and we want our partnership to be able to take measured and managed risks to ensure that we are at the sharp end of innovation.

The mid-term evaluation of LEADER + in Scotland commented that there was virtually no process innovation. We are keen to ensure that we encourage real innovation in all areas of the business processes:

Management (governance, strategic management)
Operationally (procurement, production, promotion)
Support processes (finance, HR, IT)

We are also particularly interested in social innovation. Social innovation refers to new strategies, concepts, ideas and organisations that meet social needs of all kinds - from working conditions and education to community development and health - and that extend and strengthen civil society.

Examples of innovation:

We will investigate the possibility of an aftercare stream – working with projects who have finished Leader funding to support them to move into lottery funding / other European programmes

We will investigate the possibility of a web forum to allow projects to share experience and discuss potential joint work.

Build on the comments in the evaluation on the indicators and allocate some development officer time to supporting groups to collect and report on their indicators properly.

Build on previous LEADER + experience in developing a self assessment tool for projects.

Encourage projects to recruit staff and advertise contracts via the LEADER website and newsletter

Investigate the options for developing a network within funded projects to enable self – support.

6. Co-operation

Co-operation amongst partners

The SRDP states that, “while we expect that there will be a wide range of partnerships engaged in the formulation, funding and implementation of LEADER strategies, we see a particular role for Community Planning Partnerships. These bodies exist across Scotland and bring together community representatives with the major actors shaping public service and investment.”

Our Local Action Group will be made up of 23 members, 11 of whom will represent public sector agencies, and 12 of whom will represent the social and industry members.

The partnership notes the expectation for at least one member of the "On the Ground" family to sit on the LAG, and highlights the fact that three members of this family have agreed to sit on the Forth Valley and Lomond LAG (Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland).

A Forth Valley and Lomond LAG working group has been set up to prepare this first stage bid and subsequent local development strategy and business plan. Membership of this group includes the following:

Dereck Fowles, Chair of the existing Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER+ LAG

Gary Groves, Federation of Small Business

Peter Sunderland, Aberfoyle Traders Association

Mike Stone, Balfron Community Development Trust

Deborah Murray, Stirling Council

Grant Eals, Clackmannanshire Council

Ian White, Falkirk Council

Grant Moir, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority

James McDougal, Forestry Commission Scotland

Ross Lilley, Scottish Natural Heritage

Ed Marnie, Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley

Stuart Ward, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire

Lynn Hamilton, VisitScotland

Marina McGuire, Stirling CVS

Anne-Michelle Ketteridge, Stirling Council and former Programme Manager for Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER Programme

Elizabeth Hendry, West Dunbartonshire Council

Co-operation across the eligible area

We have seen the success of co-operation projects across our eligible area and of transnational projects in particular and plan to build upon this.

Co-operation on an inter-regional and trans-regional basis

We are committed to sharing and learning on a trans-regional basis. This will include:

- Working in partnership with Argyll, Highland and Kelvin Valley Local Action Groups on proposals concerning the West Highland Way and other long distance footpaths
- Working in partnership with Argyll Local Action Group on proposals around the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park
- Working in partnership with Cairngorms Local Action Group and other UK national park/ protected area based LAGS on sharing the learning from national park projects
- Working in partnership with Kelvin Valley Local Action Group on proposals around Carron Valley
- Working in partnership with Kelvin Valley and West Lothian Local Action Groups on proposals around the Millennium Link

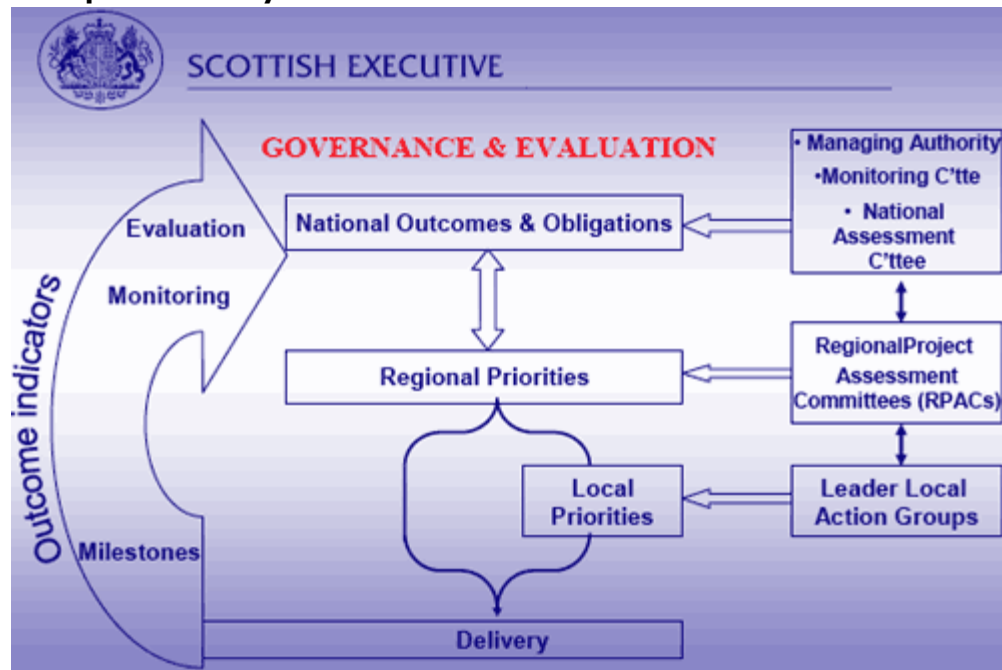
We will also work with Local Action Groups in England, Wales and Northern Ireland on appropriate projects.

Co-operation on a trans-national basis

We plan to build upon our established trans-national links created through our Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER + experience and through the links our community groups already have in place, while encouraging new links with similar areas.

7. Complementarity

Complementarity with SRDP



In order to reinforce complementarity with the SRDP, Forth Valley and Lomond LAG will have one member sitting on the RPAC who will act as a link between the two structures. In addition, Forth Valley and Lomond LAG will be participating in the priority setting of the Forth Region which is due to take place at the end of November 2007.

Complementarity with structural fund programmes

The complementarity across ERDF and EAFRD measures is shown as an annex.

All of the proposed Forth Valley and Lomond area is contained within the Lowlands and Upland Scotland programmes area. However within those priorities designated for spatial targeting, only the eligible areas with Stirling are eligible for support under priority four of ERDF (Rural Regeneration) and only eligible areas with Clackmannanshire and West Dunbartonshire are eligible for support under priority one of ESF (Progressing into Employment).

In order to reinforce complementarity with the structural funds, a number of partners in the new LAG have nominated members to the various advisory groups of the forthcoming Lowlands and Upland Scotland programme.

Strategies and plans

Organisation	Strategy / document name	Key sections	Text
Stirling Council	Community Plan	4 'main determinants of success'	Include: growing population and economy citizen focused services
		Scenario planning	Aspirational scenario for Stirling includes: More people working and living in the area Stirling is a dynamic economic hub Recognised national tourism centre New Rural Stirling Partnership with targets around: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural economy, including land supply for business development and the potential for social firms • Facilities for children and young people • Protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment
		20 year outcomes	“continued economic opportunities”
			“Growing, high value based economy, that has a positive impact across both urban and rural areas by supporting a range of job opportunities
			“Prosperous, mixed economy in both urban and rural Stirling, with quality employment opportunities and a growing presence of knowledge driven businesses and sectors”
	Sustainable Development Strategy for Stirling		Aim: To enable all people throughout the Stirling Council area to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations The council will pursue this aim in an integrated way by supporting an innovative, resource – efficient economy that delivers high levels of employment and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well – being. This will be done in

			<p>ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment using resources and energy as efficiently as possible.</p> <p>5 Guiding principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ensuring a strong, health and just society - living within environmental limits - achieving a sustainable economy - Promoting good governance - Evidence based policy <p>4 priorities for action</p> <p>Climate change and energy</p> <p>Sustainable communities (The council will work to create thriving, vibrant, sustainable communities that will improve everyone’s quality of life)</p> <p>Sustainable consumption and procurement</p> <p>Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement. (The council will work to conserve and enhance the natural environment)</p>
		Community Engagement standards	<p>Commitment to identify and involve the people and organisations who have an interest in the focus of the engagement; and to identify and overcome any barriers to involvement.</p>
	Economic Development Plan <i>making Stirling Work</i>		<p>5 key themes:</p> <p>Working for enterprise</p> <p>Identifies tourism, forest and creative industries as priority industries .</p> <p>Social economy as an action area.</p> <p>Learning for work</p> <p>Work for everyone</p> <p>Making the place work</p> <p>Identifies events and tourism infrastructure as key.</p>

			<p>Events: ‘of national significance and to animate local communities within Stirling’ Working together LEADER is a key plank of the Rural Stirling ‘action’ within this theme.</p>
National Park	Plan 2007-12	Exec summary	<p>5 overarching principles: Conserving and enhancing the special qualities Improving the quality of life Promoting a quality experience for everyone Promoting responsible use of resources and addressing the challenge of climate change Working together, delivering the plan</p>
		Vision for long – term benefits	<p>Includes An extensive range of leisure and recreation opportunities for all Vibrant, sustainable and inclusive communities A prosperous living and working countryside.</p>
		Policies	<p>RECI – Improving opportunities for leisure and recreation PCCI – Supporting strong and active communities PCC3 – Sustaining services and facilities - commitment under this policy to ‘facilitating social enterprise and community – led service provision’ These ‘people. Communities and culture’ policies feed a programme of activities ‘living in our park’, including an action of early engagement in LAG business plan. SEI – Sustainable park economy - commitment under this policy to ‘encouraging economic growth and diversification of the local economy by supporting new economic activities that are of a scale and nature compatible with the parks environment’ - ‘encouraging tourism to be more sustainable...’ - ‘fostering a collaborative approach to economic growth between</p>

			<p>businesses, communities and agencies’</p> <p>SE2 – Encouraging sustainable economic growth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - commitment under this policy to ‘targeting training measures to address changing needs in the rural economy...’ - ‘encouraging and strengthening local business links, networking and collaboration’ - <p>These feed the ‘prospering in our park’ programme</p>
	<p>Review of agricultural Issues in the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park</p>		<p>Agricultural land accounts for 55% of the national park area</p> <p>Dominated by sheep production and commercial forestry</p> <p>Problems in recruitment of young farmers.</p> <p>Increasing reliance on non – agricultural income sources</p> <p>Local components suggested for the national park include:</p> <p>“A scheme which fills the gaps in current agri – environment schemes</p> <p>Provision of business advice and support for land managers</p> <p>A National Park branding scheme</p> <p>A scheme to encourage new entrants into farming</p> <p>A responsible access scheme which will realise benefits for land managers and recreational users.</p>
	<p>2007 – 10 Community Action Plan Killin</p>		<p>Themes:</p> <p>Scenic village</p> <p>Jobs and Housing</p> <p>Tourism (marketing and branding, signage and interpretation)</p> <p>Improving and developing facilities and services (village resource centre, events and cultural activities programme)</p> <p>Improving Access to Health Services</p> <p>Sustainable Killin (local food initiative, developing local reduce, re-use and recycle projects)</p>

	<p>2007 – 10 Community Action Plan Gartmore</p>		<p>Themes: Develop the village square Improve community facilities (develop village hall, renovate village hall) Develop facilities for young people (meeting place for 14-18 year olds, multi sports facility) Improving access to the countryside (improve local paths) Sustainable Gartmore (promote and use local services and trades expertise) Roads & traffic</p>
	<p>Land Futures</p>		<p>84% of the area is open land available for agriculture, but local estimates suggest that approximately 15% of this is no longer actively farmed – any management within these areas is now predominantly of red deer. The remaining 16% of the total area is under woodland – the expansion of commercial forestry is the main visible difference in the landscape compared with forty years ago, with a trend towards establishment of native woodland in the last ten to fifteen years. There are twenty-two land-holdings in the area, ranging from small-holdings to large estates. Opportunities for the area identified in a SWPT analysis include: Rural Development Contracts Lobbying for shift of subsidies to support whole-farm systems that provide public benefits Measures to tackle climate change e.g. renewable energy production (hydro, wood-fuel, etc), managing flood-water, carbon sequestration, etc Sustainable grazing management reflecting the diversity of habitats in the area – linked to increase in e.g. shepherding and the potential for marketing local sustainably produced food Land management for conservation and enhancement of designated sites e.g. improvement in condition of native woodlands with an</p>

			<p>increase in natural regeneration Adding value to primary produce e.g. local/National Park processing and branding, local food and forest product initiatives, etc Collaboration on purchasing, processing, marketing, waste disposal, Rural Development Contracts, and land management in areas where deer/sheep move freely between neighbouring units Improved access e.g. circular routes</p>
Forth Valley Economic Forum	Regional Economic Development Strategy 2007-12	Revised consultation draft 2007	<p>Key challenges for the area: Productivity Specialisation and diversity of the business base: To develop greater specialisation through more intensive support to growing companies and industries Aspiration for Forth Valley: “a thriving, diverse and sustainable economy at the heart of Scotland” Main components of this vision include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An attractive, competitive location where people, businesses and investors want to live, work and prosper - An area Recognised for its high quality of life, identity and its growing importance to Scotland’s economic development - A diverse business base with an increasing representation of higher value, higher growth businesses and industries - Excellent transport, logistics and digital infrastructure connections - An increasingly skilled and productive workforce and where more people are making a productive contribution to the labour market - Sustainable economic growth that does not compromise the quality of the local environment and reduces its effects on climate change <p>Strategic themes are: A growing and sustainable economy</p>

			<p>(includes supporting sustainable business development eg lean management, green tourism) Priority industries include tourism and forest industries. Emerging and supporting industries include the creative industries. A competitive and productive skills base</p> <p>An attractive, efficient and connected business environment Priorities include sustaining a high quality of place</p>
Scottish Enterprise FV	Forth Valley Construction Action Plan	Extract	<p>States that it will: “contribute to improving the economic, social and environmental circumstances of Forth Valley and ensure that benefits are accrued by the individual and communities within, including those most disadvantaged. Construction investment across FV is set to grow. Over £4.1bn forecast to commence over 5-year period.</p>
Tourism partnership	Action Plan 2007 – 10	Updated draft 26/6/07	<p>Priorities include: Quality of visitor experience: Pride & Passion (civic pride / civic awareness) Quality of Environment Product Development & Innovation – disseminate case studies of successful existing collaboration projects Culture, events and sport Green tourism business scheme Utilisation of local quality product Biodiversity as a tourism drawcard</p>
Forestry Commission Scotland	Scottish Forestry Strategy: Implementati		<p>Key themes: Climate Change Timber Business Development Community Development</p>

	on Plan		<p>Access and Health Environmental Quality Biodiversity Area plan: Perth & Argyll (includes Perthshire, Angus, Fife) Regional Priorities: Fulfilling the potential for woodland around major population centres Realising the potential for biomes Encouraging farmers to realise the potential offered by forestry and woodlands The potential for supporting tourism as an economic activity, and recreation provision for local people</p>
Scottish Executive	Scottish Forestry Strategy		<p>Vision: “by the second half of this century, people are benefiting widely from Scotland’s trees, woodlands and forests, actively engaging with and looking after them for the use and enjoyment of generations to come. The forestry resource has become a central part of our culture, economy and environment Principles: Sustainable development – underpinned by sustainable forest management Social inclusion – through helping to provide opportunities for all, and helping to build stronger communities Forestry for and with people Integration with other land uses and businesses.</p> <p>Key Themes: Climate Change Timber</p>

		<p>Business Development (support rural diversification and help sustain fragile rural communities; Help add value to the Scottish tourism industry and increase the benefits of it to woodland owners and local communities)</p> <p>Community Development (enhance forestry’s engagement with communities)</p> <p>Access and Health (make access to woodlands easier for all sectors of society; use woodland access to help improve physical and mental health in Scotland; Provide a greater range of ways for people to enjoy woodlands)</p> <p>Environmental Quality (contribute to Scotland’s diverse and attractive landscapes; help to manage Scotland’s historic environment and its interpretation and enjoyment)</p> <p>Biodiversity (increase awareness and public enjoyment of biodiversity, especially close to where people live or visit)</p>
<p>Stirling Council</p>	<p>Community Learning and Development: Working together A strategy for Stirling</p>	<p>Priorities set out for Stirling area include:</p> <p>Increased access and wider participation in learning by groups who face disadvantage</p> <p>Lifelong Learning Opportunities are provided which support individuals to fulfil their potential</p> <p>A range of programmes is delivered which is relevant to the needs of individuals, communities and organisations.</p> <p>To improve young people’s personal, social and educational development, in particular excluded groups and individuals</p> <p>To improve the opportunity for young people to gain a voice, influence and place in society</p> <p>To increase the capacity of organisations to target their services at young people who are excluded or at risk of exclusion</p> <p>More effective partnership working between agencies, agencies and communities, and within communities</p>

			An independent and autonomous voluntary and community sector that is sustainable and dynamic.
	Fallin Local Community Plan		Priorities for the immediate future: Career / Employment information for young people Transport links to Stirling A new village hall Improving Hollow Burn Community information Addressing the issues of drugs misuse
	Throsk Community Plan		Identified activities include: Street lighting Vandalism Childrens play areas Development of new community facility Safe pedestrian footpath
	Cowie Local Community Plan		Priorities identified in this plan include: Graffiti Young people Drug awareness Community development
	Plean Community Plan		Priorities identified in this plan include: Employment and skills Outdoor facilities including football pitch Improved communication with community through a one stop shop.
	Bannockburn Community Plan		Facilities and activities for young people The appearance / general environment, particularly Ladywell Park Key path links
Clackmannanshire Council	Community Plan	Economic Development	Vision for economic development: “A vibrant economy with a constant flow of opportunities for residents, investors and visitors. A place where people can realise their

			<p>ambitions and aspirations.</p> <p>An exciting, distinctive place. A place that draws and encourages people to work, live and relax.</p> <p>A confident community. A place where people are confident and ambitious as citizens of a fast – changing world”</p> <p>In ‘weaknesses’, Poor external image identified.</p> <p>In Threats, ‘unclear tourism product and proposition’ and ‘becoming a dormitory community for central Scotland’</p> <p>Strategy for economic development has three aims:</p> <p>“To increase the number of jobs in Clackmannanshire and to widen the range and enhance the quality of those jobs;</p> <p>to equip Clackmannanshire people to create and compete for jobs – locally and further afield;</p> <p>To create an environment and culture within which enterprise can flourish”.</p> <p>4 actions identified, including:</p> <p>“Renewing a sense of belief amongst the people of Clackmannanshire that the area can compete and prosper and alerting the wider Scottish population to the positive changes in Clackmannanshire and enable them to engage as investors, residents or visitors.</p>
		Health improvement	<p>4 focus areas: Community health; Early Years; Teenage Transition; Workplace Health</p>
		Environment and Sustainability	<p>“The partners aim is to secure a balance of social, economic and environmental well-being which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs”</p> <p>Priorities identified in this theme:</p> <p>Natural and built environment</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable transport and access</p> <p>(including ‘developing the existing network of public pathways and</p>

			managing responsible access to the countryside') Waste management Renewable energy sources Dealing with the effects of climate change Community engagement and awareness raising
		Regeneration	Covered in ROA (urban areas only)
		Outcomes	“Enhanced economic competitiveness Creation of safer public environments Protection and enhancement of the landscape”
Falkirk Council	Strategic Community Plan 2005 – 2010	Key themes:	“Improving the performance of the local economy and tourism.. Creating a sustainable local environment and improving transport Regenerating our communities 4 ‘recurring themes’ identified, including Sustainable Development and solutions
		Economy and tourism	“Priorities for the future: Provide support for new business starts; existing businesses and sectors to promote investment, innovation and competitiveness Promote and market the area to attract new investment and raise its profile and image Raise the profile of the Falkirk Council area locally, nationally and internationally as a destination for cultural and leisure events and activities.
		Environment / transport	“Priorities for the future: Improve the quality of the built and natural environment” Raise awareness of sustainable development and environmental issues within communities and with partners
		Appendix 2	Priority ‘Providing support for new business starts, existing businesses and sectors to promote investment, innovation and competitiveness’

			<p>Will be achieved by: “Establishing measures to assist development of social enterprise and traditional sectors; co-ordinating economic and tourist development with other initiatives including transport, planning and regeneration” Priority Promote and market the area to attract new investment and raise its profile and image Will be achieved by: Developing and co-ordinating tourism, heritage and culture through integrated strategy development</p> <p>Priority ‘Promote and market the area to attract new investment and raise its profile and image’ Will be achieved by: Promoting the area as a distinctive tourist location Improving tourism infrastructure and maximising resources for development</p> <p>Priority ‘Improve the quality of the built and natural environment’ “supporting community involvement in improving local environments”</p>
	<p>Outdoor Access Plan</p>		<p>To create a well-used, high quality recreational resource, which will encourage healthier lifestyles, strengthen community identities, improve appreciation of the environment, and add to the range of visitor attractions across the council area.</p> <p>This vision will be achieved by:</p> <p>providing a functional and recreational path network around and between settlements, with links to local facilities and key visitor attractions</p>

			promoting and maintaining the path network encouraging its use by local people and visitors to the area
	Falkirk Biodiversity Action Plan		The central objective of the FABAP is to safeguard our local variety of life. In working towards this it aims to: Protect and enhance our rare and threatened plants, animals and habitats Encourage, inspire and enable all local groups and individuals to take action to conserve local biodiversity and Promote awareness and understanding of biodiversity, its importance for local and global communities, and our responsibility to conserve it and use it wisely.
	My Futures in Falkirk		Relates to the town centres primarily.
West Dunbartonshire Council	Community Plan	Vision	Boosting business growth, regenerating communities and linking people to jobs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Improving safety and a sense of security in our communities · Promoting health and well-being and challenging health inequalities · Maintaining and improving access to excellent lifelong learning · Creating sustainable and attractive environments
		Strategic goals	To create a sustainable environment To support business growth – by creating an environment which supports business start – up, growth and re-location and thereby develop a vibrant local economy
		Regenerate and grow our local economy	We will build on our thriving business start-up and business growth programmes and look at innovative ways to encourage further economic growth and investment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · We will ensure local people and businesses can access the opportunities arising from regeneration and inward investment

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · We will further develop social economy initiatives in housing, social care, training and development, construction, community finance and environmental action · We will develop and promote opportunities for volunteering, community engagement, informal learning and other meaningful activity as ways to help people move closer to employment
	Corporate plan 2005 – 09	Priority One: Regenerate and develop the local economy	<p>Priority One: Regenerate and develop the local economy</p> <p>Objectives within this priority include:</p> <p>Promote access to the countryside and open spaces</p> <p>Provide training opportunities for young people aged 16 – 24 years</p> <p>Assist new and existing businesses</p>
		Priority Four: Create a better environment	<p>Priority Four: Create a better environment</p> <p>Objectives within this priority aren't really relevant</p>
	Balloch Strategic Framework 2005	Aspirations for the Framework	<p>Aspirations include:</p> <p>Develop a clearer understanding based on a spatial planning framework to encourage sensible land-use planning and protect key sites.</p> <p>Develop interim Design Guidance to strengthen local planning consultation and encourage development that can protect, conserve and enhance the quality of place.</p>
Scottish Natural Heritage	Grant schemes		<p>Special places - Managing special places to protect and improve their natural, wildlife and scenic qualities.</p> <p>Supporting biodiversity - Promoting, protecting and improving biodiversity.</p> <p>Enjoying Scotland's outdoors - Activities to raise awareness and understanding of the new access rights and responsibilities, and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p> <p>Paths and routes - Developing paths and routes which help more people to get out and enjoy the natural heritage.</p> <p>Attractive places to live - Activities to improve the quantity, quality and</p>

			<p>accessibility of green space in and around our towns and cities, and to involve communities in planning and managing them.</p> <p>Involving people - Activities to raise awareness and understanding of the natural heritage and to encourage more people to be involved with the natural heritage.</p> <p>Rural land use - today for tomorrow - Promoting sustainable approaches to land management in farming, forestry and moorland, and developing new techniques and approaches to tackle issues affecting their use and management.</p> <p>Waters for life - Promoting sustainable approaches to managing freshwaters, coasts and seas, and developing new techniques and approaches to tackle issues affecting their use and management.</p>
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8. Strategic fit

The Scottish Rural Development Plan recognises that the needs of rural areas in Scotland will require concerted action from a wide range of agencies, stakeholders and practitioners. That action will be guided by a range of strategies relevant to economic development, the natural heritage and the delivery of public services. It will depend on public funds to create and maintain the necessary infrastructure and to overcome market failure.

Choosing Our Future - Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy, published in 2005, sets out a vision for Scotland based on achieving a strong economy while maintaining our rich natural resources and sustaining thriving communities. Within an overall framework of promoting sustainable development it identifies economic development, and the delivery of public services as key priorities, of fundamental importance to rural as well as urban Scotland.

The previous administration's approach to rural policies in Scotland is set out in *Rural Scotland - A New Approach* - prepared in 2000. It identified four high-level outcomes to guide rural policy development and delivery for Scotland:

- A strong and diverse economy.
- A decent quality of life for all, including young people.
- Quality, accessibility and choice of public services.
- A flourishing natural and cultural heritage.

It also emphasised that many policies (including health, education, housing and transport) are critical to the achievement of these outcomes. This year's revision of *Rural Scotland - A New Approach* will ensure that it provides an up to date approach to the development of Scotland's rural areas.

The measures in the SRDP will focus on incentives to encourage positive actions to improve economic, social and environmental well-being in rural Scotland. The Forth Valley and Lomond LEADER partnership will focus on two of the seven main outcomes being worked towards within the SRDP:

Outcome 6: Rural development benefiting local communities, and
Outcome 7: Access to public services for people in rural areas

These are detailed in annex 3.

9. Sustainability

Choosing Our Future - Scotland's Sustainable Development Strategy, published in 2005, sets out a vision for Scotland based on achieving a strong economy while maintaining our rich natural resources and sustaining thriving communities.

We will build upon – and strengthen - existing established commitments to sustainable development. Our aim is:

to enable all people throughout the Forth Valley and Lomond area to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations

Partners will pursue this aim in an integrated way by supporting an innovative, resource – efficient economy that delivers high levels of employment and a just society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal well – being. This will be done in ways that protect and enhance the physical and natural environment using resources and energy as efficiently as possible.

Principles

Our approach to sustainability has five guiding principles:

- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society
- living within environmental limits
- achieving a sustainable economy
- promoting good governance and stewardship
- acting on evidence based policy

Positive Action

The Forth Valley and Lomond Local Action Group will propose positive action under five themes that support the Scottish Government’s “Greener Scotland” agenda. As a partnership, we will aim to live by these themes, and as an investor we shall encourage all our grant recipients to show how they will take action too.

Climate change:

We recognise and support the Government’s “ambitious targets to reduce emissions in Scotland”.

Sustainable places:

“Healthy communities need healthy places - clean air, green spaces, places where people want to live and work...especially in our most deprived neighbourhoods.”

People and nature:

“commitment to halt biodiversity loss by 2010.”

Consumption and production:

We want to contribute towards a zero-waste Scotland. “We want to tackle over-consumption and the throwaway society. This means addressing what we buy and use - our food, transport, energy, our homes, businesses and schools - and what we throw away.

People and landscapes:

“We know that our landscape and environment have made us what we are as a nation and as a people. That means that to grow as a nation and as a people we must be aware of that interaction and seek to understand not just the history, not just the culture, but the potential of our land.”

Annexes

Annex One: Evaluation of LEADER + Programme: Lomond and Rural Stirling

Context

LEADER+ is a European Community Initiative for assisting rural communities in improving the quality of life and economic prosperity in their local area. LEADER+ was the third LEADER Programme, preceded by LEADER I and II.

The LEADER+ programme operated from 2000 to 2006. In Scotland, 13 LEADER+ areas were funded to implement the Scottish LEADER+ programme's overall aim of piloting and communicating innovative approaches to rural development that will promote the sustainable, environmental and social development of Scotland's rural communities.

Responsibility for each LEADER+ area sits with a Local Action Group made up from representatives of the rural community and local agencies which operate in the rural area.

Each Local Action Group was required to submit a bid and a business plan to the Scottish Executive outlining which of the following LEADER+ themes would be implemented in their area:

- The use of new know-how and new technologies to make the products and services of rural areas more competitive
- Adding value to local products, in particular by facilitating access to markets for small production units via collective actions
- Making the best use of natural and cultural resources, including enhancing the value of sites of community interest selected under NATURA 2000
- Improving the quality of life in rural areas

The Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER+ LAG successfully bid to support projects which improved the quality of life in the rural area.

The Lomond and Rural Stirling Leader+ programme received 97 applications. It has funded 76 projects in the Lomond and Rural Stirling area, allocating over £973,000.

Funded Projects

The range of projects funded has been broad. Applicant organisations have included local development trusts, youth projects, the LAG itself and the Dry Stone Walling association. Funded projects have used LEADER+ money to develop community assets; create amenities; provide outdoor paths and access; carry out feasibility studies; develop local maps and food directory; and arrange community events.

Reported activities and outcomes from the 2000 – 2006 LEADER + programme have included:

- 19 new businesses have been established
- 281 communities have taken part
- 341 people have received natural heritage training
- 22 new products have been developed
- 64 awareness raising events have been held
- 1330 women have been assisted
- 1139 young people have been assisted
- 211 micro / small businesses have been assisted

Range of projects funded:

Project type	Number of projects funded	Value of LEADER + funding
Event Based	7	£23,784
ICT Based	6	£58,060
Natural Heritage Based	11	£205,103
Cultural Heritage Based	6	£75,497
Business Plans/Feasibility Plans	11	£64,921
Training	10	£130,197
Tourism	23	£376,613
Local Community Development	20	£194,375

The Local Action Group

The make-up of the Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER+ LAG is laid out in the LAG's constitution and was determined using the following factors:

- The need to adopt an inclusive approach
- The need to ensure an appropriate and equal balance between social and economic partners
- The need to ensure target groups are represented, particularly women and young people
- The need to ensure the LAG reflects the local LEADER+ strategy
- The need to ensure that the LAG is independent and autonomous
- The need to ensure that the LAG will be able to function effectively and efficiently on a practical level i.e. should not be too large

Public sector members of the LAG were selected from the relevant local authorities and other agencies which operated in the area with a rural development remit:

- Stirling Council/West Dunbartonshire council/Argyll & Bute Council
- Scottish Enterprise – Forth Valley/Dunbartonshire
- Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority
- Visit Scotland (formerly Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling and the Trossachs Tourist Board)
- Scottish Natural Heritage

- Business Gateway (Stirling Enterprise/Alba Smart Thinking)

It was agreed that due to the relatively high number of appropriate authorities only one council, one Enterprise Company and one small business gateway would have a place on the LAG.

The community/voluntary/business sector membership would comprise the following:

- At least 1 representative from the voluntary sector – nominated from the CVS network
- At least 2 representatives from the local businesses - drawn from local business associations
- At least 2 representatives from the wider community – through the Community Futures structure
- At least 1 representative for the youth sector – from the Callandar Youth Project or the secondary schools in the area

Meetings are arranged at varying times and locations to ensure that all partners, particularly the community partners, can participate fully in meetings.

Operation

The LAG met every six weeks on average. All applications received were sent to each LAG member in advance of each meeting to be scored and commented on. The meeting reviewed the scores and made a final recommendation. A score on each application from each LAG member was a requirement of the LEADER + programme.

The programme leader then updated LAG members regularly on the progress of funded projects, including any changes to projected outcomes.

In interviews carried out during the evaluation of the Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER + Programme, members of the LAG noted that they were happy with the frequency of meetings but hoped that the burden of paperwork could be reduced in the future programme, possibly through the introduction of a fast – track scheme for small grants.

Progress against targets

The business plan for the Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER + programme set out target indicators against those set by the Scottish Executive. The table below compares the targets given in the business plan; the projected outcomes of all funded projects (this has been collated from the application forms of successful applicants); and the actual reported outcomes of all funded projects.

The table demonstrates that, which Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER + clearly met and surpassed its own targets, there is a discrepancy between the projected achievements of funded projects and the reported actual outcomes.

While the 'actual' figures are not final (as projects are still reporting on their progress), these figures are indicative of the final results.

Notable achievements

The noted achievements in training far outweigh the targets set, with 881 individuals trained and 115 training courses delivered

The numbers of women and young people assisted exceeded the targets set.

However, the number of ‘communities taking part’ is recorded at 356 which exceeds the number of settlements in Stirling by a high rate.

Notable underachievements

There appears to be some under reporting of outcomes, as while the number of jobs assisted / safeguarded is not achieved other employment outcomes have been.

LEADER+ TARGET INDICATORS					
CORE Scotland-wide Indicators		Programme target	Projected applications	Actual reported to date in claims	Difference target v actual
i)	No. of new markets accessed	9	51	43	34
ii)	No. of new products developed	8	57	37	29
iii)	No. of community led projects	17	63	48	31
iv)	No. of networks established	15	75	59	44
v)	No. of awareness raising events held	22	147	117	95
vi)	No. of feasibility/pilot plans undertaken	15	47	49	34
vii)	No. of marketing and promotional activities undertaken	10	185	136	126
viii)	No. of new community facilities created	4	37	27	23
ix)	No. of individuals trained, gaining new skills or re-skilled	70	1004	1275	1205
x)	No. of training days provided	100	512	981.5	881.5
xi)	No. of training courses delivered	14	125	129	115
xii)	No. of jobs created/safeguarded	58	111	31.25	-26.75
xiii)	No. of businesses advised/assisted	55	481	452	397
xiv)	No. of community groups advised/assisted	40	600	481	441
xv)	No. of individuals retained in the area	29	101	5	-24
xvi)	No of women assisted	50	217	1380	1330
xvii)	No. of young people assisted	60	1478	1199	1139
xix)	No. of under-employed assisted	50	218	177	127
xx)	No. of micro/small businesses assisted	55	468	211	156
xxi)	Other target groups assisted	n/a	55	164	
Employment Outcomes					
xxi)	No. of jobs created as a result of farm diversification	5	11	10	5
xxii)	No. of pilot projects aimed at women and young people	10	23	9	-1
xxiii)	No. of jobs created in target sectors (craft and cultural	21	27	12	-9

	industries; tourism; forest industries; agriculture/food; creative industries; community or social enterprises)				
			30	0	
			47	0	
xxiv)	No. of young and skilled people retained in or regained to the rural area	15	45	16	1
xxv)	No. of jobs created for young people	7	20	7	0
xxvi)	No. of jobs created for women	6	34	5	-1
xxvii)	No. of unemployed people into work	25	28	11	-14
xxix)	No. of year round jobs created	7	17	38	31
Business Outcomes					
xxix)	No. of new businesses established	9	36	20	11
xxx)	No. of businesses connected to internet and/or e-business ready	50	93	112	62
xxxi)	No. of businesses receiving training on e-business or other digital economy training	50	40	45	-5
xxxii)	No. of local supply networks and projects set up	2	8	6	4
xxxiii)	No. of initiatives or projects that add value to local products through the development of branding and co-operative working	6	16	21	15
xxxiv)	No. of initiatives and projects which increase the viability of farms through diversification	7	7	10	3
xxxv)	No. of businesses created in target sectors (craft and cultural industries; tourism; forest industries; agriculture/food; creative industries; ; community or social enterprises)	8	2	6	-2
xxxvi)	No. of businesses retained in area (who without project proceeding would move out)	5	5	2	-3

xxxvi i)	No. of initiatives or projects which support sustainable tourism businesses based upon local distinctiveness	7	35	22	15
Community Outcomes					
xxxvi ii)	No. of communities taking part in project	40	543	396	356
xxix)	No. of joint projects pursued between local communities	20	31	58	38
xl)	No. of community websites developed	7	44	25	18
xlii)	No. of projects which improve partnership working in the longer term	17	59	58	41
xlii)	No. of projects which improve equality of opportunity throughout the whole area	8	27	35	27
xliii)	No. of projects which increase the access to community facilities or services	34	41		41
xliv)	No. of projects which increase research and networking in the area	7	39	39	32
Environmental Outcomes					
xlv)	No. of environmental community action projects	6	11	15	9
xlvi)	No. of projects which link the countryside and environment to the rural economy	10	24	26	16
xlvii)	No. of initiatives or projects which enhance the physical environment	5	32	33	28
xlviii)	Kms of new/upgraded access routes	7	17.1	3.17	-3.83
xlix)	No. of people receiving natural heritage training	15	515	374	359
l)	No. of community websites with natural heritage information	10	24	16	6
li)	No. of new natural heritage interpretation facilities	3	64	14	11
lii)	No. of projects demonstrating sustainable development principles	18	25	20	2
liii)	No. of projects contributing to LBAP targets	1	9	8	7

liv)	No. of projects including landscaping	3	6	9	6
Additional Indicators for Action 2 Projects					
lvi)	No. of joint projects developed			42	42
lvii)	No. of contacts with different partners made		91	158	158
lviii)	No. of different project partners committed to project		83	27	
lviv)			23		0
lix)	No. of other LEADER+ areas committed to project		24	10	
lx)	No. of partners from countries outwith the UK committed to project		26	-24	
lxi)	No. of long term working relationships established		48	48	
					7643.92

Monitoring and Evaluation of funded projects

Monitoring information is maintained for each project.

Original targets and the progress made against targets in each case are recorded in individual spreadsheets. This is constantly updated to allow live project achievement information to be accessed for each funded programme and overall figures can be accessed as those files are updated frequently.

Each projects claims are logged for their progress towards spending and outcomes achieved.

Summary notes are provided to the LAG on each application organisations progress towards their final claim.

Progress against targets

The majority of targets have been met and exceeded. Interestingly, there is a significant difference between the projected and actual outcomes. The target and actual outcomes are relatively similar, met but not exceptionally exceeded. The projected targets (which were taken from application forms) have been underperformed overall.

Process:

Application form sent out

Application form returned

Application form eligibility checked & reviewed against key indicators:

- Fit with programme

- Quality of life

- VFM

- Evidence of demand

- Target groups

- Additionality

- Exp of applicant

- Bottom up approach

LAG agree

Offer letter sent

Note returned accepting offer – signed copy kept

Claim files sent out

Claim returned

A record sheet is held in each project file noting key stages.

Projects which have received funding have in many cases also received significant levels of support.

Annex Two: Complementarity between EARDF and ERDF in eligible areas:

Table 10.1 Lowlands and Uplands Scotland - eligible activities under EAFRD and ERDF

<i>Type of activity</i>	<i>EAFRD eligible activities</i>	<i>ERDF eligible activities</i>
Transport infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not directly supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No transport infrastructure
Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New or upgraded tourist accommodation • Small-scale tourist visitor infrastructure • Improvements to historical sites • Support as an additional benefit of other investment eg agri-environment or adding value to agriculture and forestry products 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No support for infrastructure development • Improving tourism business practices in targeted rural areas (eg. marketing) and products
Support for diversification of agriculture and forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the development of new agricultural and forestry products • Development and restructuring of agricultural and forestry businesses • Support for micro-enterprises in the rural economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the innovation capacity of enterprises developing new products based on primary sectors • Support for businesses based on non-agricultural/forestry sectors • Support for firms larger than micro scale • No direct support for agricultural, forestry, fishing and aquaculture enterprises
Renewable energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale renewable energy facilities for enterprises and communities • Developing raw materials for renewable energy (eg. biomass) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for small-scale renewable energy facilities in urban areas • Support for developing renewable energy research excellence and commercialisation opportunities • Support for new and high-growth enterprises developing renewable energy
Support for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions attributable to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for enterprises developing

biodiversity	support and enhance biodiversity	<p>new products from biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No direct support for biodiversity, but commitment to ensuring supported projects are 'biodiversity-proofed'
Provision of local services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct support to rural community services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of facilities for use in common by rural enterprises and community facilities with an economic development purpose Support for plans and strategies to improve community services with an economic development dimension, but not direct support to the services themselves

Table 10.3 Lowlands and Uplands Scotland - eligible activities under EAFRD and ESF

Type of activity	EAFRD eligible activities	ESF eligible activities
Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vocational training for individuals in the agricultural, food and forestry sectors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited training for individuals in the sectors mentioned for SRDP/ EFF

Annex Three: SRDP Outcomes

SRDP Outcome 6: Rural development benefiting local communities

Promoting a strong and sustainable economy is critical to having prosperous rural communities. The Executive's refreshed economic strategy, *A Smart, Successful Scotland*, was published in 2005. *Smart Successful Scotland* aims to raise the long-term, sustainable growth rate and productivity of the Scottish economy through growing businesses, global connections and learning and skills. It identifies sectors that can make important contributions to these objectives, including food and drink, and tourism.

Scotland's rural economies face the same type of economic challenges in the emerging global knowledge economy as the rest of Scotland. However, rural Scotland is also distinctive for its sparsity of population, distance from and access to markets, and lack of a critical mass; that is a sufficient concentration of entrepreneurs, job opportunities, labour supply, development sites and services. These factors need to be taken into account when intervening in rural economies to ensure sustainable and economic growth that strengthens communities. The emphasis is therefore on diversifying and growing the rural economy through a focus on growth and adding value to Scotland's primary assets. Our priorities are:

- Stimulating the diversification of the economy;
- Enhancing the operation of the labour market;
- Enabling the development of competitive, sustainable businesses in traditional rural industries;
- Enabling the sustainability of small communities; and,
- Increasing the availability and attractiveness of rural 'place' for economic development activities.

A Smart Successful Scotland is underpinned by the Framework for Economic Development in Scotland which provides our overarching economic development strategy in which economic development can complement environmental stewardship. In the Highlands and Islands, crofting activities occupy a pivotal role in the agricultural, social and cultural heritage. The importance of tourism is set out in *Scottish Tourism - The Next Decade* which emphasises the need for business entrepreneurship, product development and innovation. There is also an industry-led *Scottish Food and Drink Strategy* which seeks to increase the competitiveness and market focus of the food and drink industry.

SRDP Outcome 7: Access to public services for people in rural areas

Rural and urban communities require good access to public services in order to thrive. All relevant public bodies in Scotland must take account of the needs of rural areas in their overall planning and delivery. There are particular challenges to service delivery in rural Scotland. Generally, Scotland's rural areas do not suffer from high concentrations of deprivation - this is more diffusely distributed with pockets situated within otherwise prosperous communities, leading to isolation and further exclusion from social and economic activity.

Services that enable the relief of poverty and its effects are less likely to be accessible in rural areas, particularly to those reliant on public transport. Housing needs in rural areas often differ from those in Scotland's towns and cities. There are diverse and very localised rural housing markets, sensitive to factors such as employment availability, service provision, migration and availability of affordable housing. The Scottish Executive's Closing the Opportunity Gap strategy encourages a flexible approach to the regeneration of Scotland's most deprived communities whether urban or rural. The SRDP will help to facilitate action to address these needs; for example, it will complement actions of the Community Regeneration Fund which supports predominantly rural local Community Planning Partnerships to prioritise their allocations on local needs connected with building strong, safe and attractive communities. Support will be available for proposals which can be shown to have the potential to contribute to the quality, accessibility and choice of public services in rural areas where this is not already being addressed by mainstream service delivery. This will include, but not necessarily be limited to, one-off capital payments.

Annex Four: Leader Monitoring and Evaluation

Progress will be assessed against the EU-wide common set of indicators in the European Commission's Common Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (CMEF). These relate to the baseline situation as well as to inputs, outputs, results and impacts of the Programme. The tables below represent the framework which the Scottish Executive has to supply to the EU. We will provide information to feed into this

Indicators for LEADER

For each Axis in the rural development programme, the CMEF prescribes a common set of indicators. Additional indicators are allowed and have been proposed for the SRDP where an indicator in the CMEF is not detailed or specific enough to reflect the measure, whether at output, result or impact indicators.

For LEADER, an additional impact indicator of increasing rural community capacity is included. LEADER will also contribute to the other axes and will therefore monitor progress against other relevant indicators. The table below shows the full set of indicators for LEADER, identifying the common indicators as well as the additional indicators. We have included all the indicators we believe Forth Valley and Lomond LAG will contribute towards.

Table 2: Output, Result and Impact Indicators for LEADER

41	Implementing local development strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of local action groups = 1 • Total size of the LAG area (km2) = 2,656
411	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competitiveness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total population in LAG area = 128,733
412	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • environment/land management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of projects financed by LAGs
413	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • quality of life/diversification 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of beneficiaries supported
421	Implementing cooperation projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of cooperation projects • Number of cooperating LAGs
431	Running the local action group, acquiring skills and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of actions

	animating the territory as referred to in article 59	supported
Common Result Indicators		
	Indicator	Measure Code
	Gross number of jobs created	41, 421
	Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity	41, 431
Additional Result Indicators		
	Number of communities participating	41
	Number of new innovations (products or processes) developed	41
	Number of best practice models transferred	41
Common Impact Indicators		
	Indicator	Measure Code
	Economic growth	311, 312, 313, 321, 323
	Employment creation	311, 312, 313, 321, 323
Additional Impact Indicator		
	Improvement in rural community capacity	41, 421, 431

Reporting of progress is at measure code level. Tables 3-5 show the indicators to be reported against for each measure code.

Table 4
Measure Code 421: Implementing cooperation projects

Indicator Type	Indicator	Indicative Target
Baseline Objective 28 Objective 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Employment development in the non-agricultural sector</i> • Economic development of the non-agricultural sector • Development of LAGs 	400,000 persons €35,467 In progress

Objective 36		
Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of public expenditure (total) 	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of supported cooperation projects (division according to the level of cooperation - interterritorial or transnational- and according to each of the 3 axes) Number of cooperating LAGs (division according to the 3 axes and to the level of cooperation) 	<p>N projects (to be confirmed)</p> <p>N LAGS (to be confirmed)</p>
Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross number of jobs created (division according to age, gender and on /off farm) 	No target set
Additional Result	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of best practice models transferred 	(to be confirmed)
Impact #	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment creation (division according to age gender and on/off farm) 	Increase. No target set.
Additional Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in rural community capacity 	Improve. Qualitative measure.

Impact indicators will be estimated based on output and result indicators

Table 5

Measure Code 43 I: Running the local action group, acquiring skills and animating the territory as referred to in article 59		
Indicator Type	Indicator	Indicative Target
Baseline Objective 28 Objective 36	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment development in the non agricultural sector Development of LAGs 	
Input	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amount of public expenditure (total) 	
Output	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of actions supported (division according to the type of skills acquisition and animation action) 	

Result	- Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity	
Impact	-	
Additional Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvement in rural community capacity 	

As mentioned above LEADER will contribute to the three main axes and the relevant indicators under these axes are shown below. Measure codes are those produced in Regulation (EC) 1974/2006 Annex II section 7.

Table 6: Output, Result and Impact Indicators for Axis I - Improving Competitiveness of Agriculture and Forestry
Common Output Indicators

Code	Measure	Indicators
I 11	Vocational training and information actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of participants in training Number of training days received
I 12	Setting up of young farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of assisted young farmers Total volume of investments
I 14	Use of advisory services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of farmers supported Number of forest holders supported
I 21	Modernisation of agricultural holdings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of farm holdings that received investment support total volume of investments
I 22	Improvement of the economic value of forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of forest holdings that received investment support

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total volume of investments
I23	Adding value to agricultural and forestry products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of enterprises supported Total volume of investments
I24	Cooperation for development of new products, processes and technologies in the agriculture and food sector and the forestry sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of cooperation initiatives supported
I25	Infrastructure related to the development and adaptation of agriculture and forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of operations supported Total volume of investments
I32	Participation of farmers in food quality schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of supported farm holdings participating in a quality scheme
Common Result Indicators		
Indicator		Measure Code
Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity related to agriculture and/or forestry		I11
Increase in gross value added in supported holdings/enterprises		I11, I12, I21, I22, I23, I24, I25
Number of holdings/enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques		I21, I22, I23, I24
Value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards		I32
Additional Result Indicators		
Number of completed actions related to water quality		I21
Increase in sales in supported holdings		I22

Additional sales for producers as a result of support	I23, I24
Additional sales for processors as a result of support	I23, I24
Common Impact Indicators	
Indicator	Measure Code
Labour productivity	111, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 132
Economic growth	111, 112, 114, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 132
Additional Impact Indicators	
Contribution to combating climate change	I21
Employment creation	I23

Table 6a: Output Indicators for Axis 2

Code	Measure	Common Output Indicators
212	Payments to farmers in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported holdings in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas • Agricultural land area supported in areas with handicaps, other than mountain areas
214	Agri-environment payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of farm holdings and holdings of other land managers receiving support • Total area under agri-environmental support • Physical area under agri-environmental support under this measure • Total Number of contracts • Number of actions related to genetic resources

215	Animal welfare payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of farm holdings receiving support • Number of animal welfare contracts
216	Non-productive investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of farm holdings and holdings of other land managers receiving support • Total volume of investments
221	First afforestation of agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of beneficiaries receiving afforestation aid • Number of ha afforested land
223	First afforestation of non-agricultural land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of beneficiaries receiving afforestation aid • Number of ha of afforested land
225	Forest-environment payments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of forest holdings receiving support • Forest area under forest environment support • Physical forest area under forest environment support • Number of contracts
227	Non-productive investments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported forest holders • Total volume of investments

Table 6b: Result and Impact Indicators for Axis 2 - Improving the Environment and Countryside
Common Result Indicators

Indicator	Measure Code
<p>Area under successful land management (successful completion of land management actions) contributing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bio diversity and high nature value farming/forestry • water quality 	212, 214, 216, 221, 223, 225, 227

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigating climate change soil quality avoidance of marginalisation and land abandonment 	
Increase in gross value added in supported holdings/enterprises	111, 112, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125
Number of holdings/enterprises introducing new products and/or new techniques	121, 122, 123, 124
Value of agricultural production under recognized quality label/standards	132
Additional Result Indicators	
Number of BAP species	214
Use of pesticides and fertiliser	214
Number of contracts continuing after 5 year period	215
Improved and enhanced public access	227
Woodland in and around town brought into active management	227
Woodland in and around town with access improvements	227
Population within 500m of accessible woodland of at least 2ha	227
Population within 4km of accessible woodland of at least 20ha	227
Partner groups/organisations involved with Forestry Commission in Scotland Woods in and around town initiative	227
Common Impact Indicators	
Indicator	Measure Code
Reversing Biodiversity decline	212, 214, 215, 221, 223, 225
Maintenance of high nature value farmland and forestry	212, 214, 215, 221, 223, 225, 227

Improvement in water quality	214, 215, 221, 223, 225, 227
Contribution to combating climate change	214, 215, 221, 223, 225, 227
Additional Impact Indicators	
Maintenance of agricultural land in less favoured area in productive use	212
Bringing the special features of designated nature conservation sites including all the Natura Network into favourable conditions	214
Safeguarding the sensitive aspects of landscape character	214, 225, 227
Carbon savings from forestry	221, 223, 225

Table 6c: Output, Result and Impact Indicators for Axis 3 -Quality of Life and Diversification of rural economy

Code	Measure	Common Output indicators
311	Diversification into non-agricultural activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of beneficiaries • Total volume of investments
312	Business creation and development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of micro-enterprises supported/created
313	Encouragement of tourism activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of new tourism actions supported • Total volume of investments
321	Basic services for the economy and rural population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of supported actions • Total volume of investments
323	Conservation and upgrading of the rural heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of rural heritage actions supported

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total volume of investments
341	Skills acquisition, animation and implementation of local development strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of skills acquisition and animation actions • Number of participants in actions • Number of public-private partnerships supported
Common Result Indicators		
Indicator		Measure Code
Increase in non-agricultural gross value added in supported businesses		311, 312
Gross number of jobs created		311, 312, 313
Additional number of tourists		313
I. Population in rural areas benefiting from improved services		321
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in internet penetration in rural areas 		321, 323
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of participants that successfully ended a training activity 		341
Additional Result Indicators		
Number of new micro-enterprises supported remaining in business		312
Number of people made self employed		312
Increase in paths directly supporting public access		313
Number of schools/community groups supported to get involved in woodland based learning activities		321
Number of rural communities receiving support for improved service provision		321

Satisfaction with services	321
Common Impact Indicators	
Indicator	Measure Code
Economic growth	311, 312, 313, 321, 323
Employment creation	311, 312, 313, 321, 323
Additional Impact Indicator	
Contribution to combating climate change	311
Safeguarding the sensitive aspects of landscape character	323
Improvement in rural community capacity	341

Annex Five: Projects funded under LEADER + Programme in Lomond and Rural Stirling

All projects funded under LEADER +. Selected case studies follow.

Event Based
LL Food & Drink Festival
Jazz up the Trossachs (see case study below)
Callander Farmers Market
Play in the Park Seminar
Renewable Energy Event
Community Transport
Networking for Enterprising Women
ICT Based
SEFV's Rural ICT
Aberfoyle Wireless Pilot (see case study below)
Luss Internet Video
Community Website Training
E-Business Tourism Excellence
Arrochar WiFi Hotspot
Natural Heritage Based
Mill of Haldane Green Corridor
Community Land Management
Balmaha Environmental Playscape
Argaty Red Kites
RSPB Bird of Prey Trail
Strathard Historic Route Feasibility
Carron Valley Bike Trails
North Third Disabled Angling
Butterflies Mean Business
Connecting with our Peatland Heritage (see case study below)
Luss Pathway Project
Cultural Heritage Based
Kilmadock Community Heritage
Strathard Historic Route Feasibility
Sustainable Heritage Trusts
Dualchas na Cloinne
ARCH Cashel & Authausen
Dun Lubnaig (see case study below)
Business Plans/Feasibility Plans
Callander Community Enterprise Café Business Plan
Cashel Farm Native Forestry Centre Business Plan

Local Produce Feasibility Study (see case study below)
Apprenticeship Scheme Feasibility
Strathard Historic Route Feasibility
Balfron Design Study
Elder McAlpine Centre Business Plan
Trossachs Area Network Plan
Enterprise Development Feasibility
Balmaha Community Teashop Feasibility
Balfron Gathering Place Business Plan
Training
Community Futures Technical Assistance
Callander Youth Entrepreneur Programme (see case study below)
Community Website Training
Apprenticeship Support Scheme
Community Based Mentoring
Butterflies Mean Business
Sustainable Heritage Trusts
STRAP Tourism Training
E-Business Tourism Excellence
Breadalbane Virtual Learning Centre
Tourism
Balmaha Environmental Playscape
Kilmadock Community Heritage (see case study below)
Outdoor Activity Operators Marketing Initiative
Helensburgh Access Forum
Argaty Red Kites
RSPB Bird of Prey Trail
Luss Manse Visitor Centre
Trossachs Trundler Bus Walks
LL Food & Drink Festival
Carron Valley Bike Trails
Gartmore House Wheelchair Activity Centre
Balquhidder Eco-Car Park
Dun Lubnaig Broch Project
Jazz up the Trossachs
Gartmore Shop Crafts
Buy Local Visitor Map
North Third Angling for Disabled
Balmaha Community Tea Shop
Arrochar WiFi Hotspot
Interactive Walter Scott
Connecting with our Peatland Heritage

ARCH Cashel & Authausen
Luss Pathway Project
Local Community Development
Callander Community Enterprise Café
Local Produce Study
Luss Manse Visitor Centre
NP Apprenticeship Study
Food & Drink Directory
Balfron Design Study
Balfron Community Directory
Luss Internet Video Project
Elder MacAlpine Centre
Arrochar & Tarbet Community Development
Enterprise Development Study
Balquhidder Eco-Car Park
Gartmore Shop Crafts (See case study below)
Callander Farmers Market
Poppy Club
Balmaha Community Tea Shop Feasibility
Community Based Mentoring Project
Balfron Gathering Place Business Plan
West Highland Way Socio-Economic Development
Networking for Enterprising Women Event

Applicant

Callander Jazz & Blues Festival Ltd.

Project

Jazz Up The Trossachs

Total project cost / Leader+ grant

£56,600 / £6,500

Summary

Funding will facilitate the running of the first Jazz and Blues festival in the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. 26 bands will play in a variety of local venues in late September 2006. The Festival will not only provide entertainment for locals, but will also contribute to lengthening the tourism season in the local area.

For more information about 'Jazz Up The Trossachs', click [here](#).

Applicant

Aberfoyle Traders Association

Project

Wireless Satellite Broadband project

Total project cost / Leader+ grant

£ 50,700 / £25,350



Summary

This innovative pilot project, launched on 23 June 2003, is the first to bring broadband internet access to rural Scotland using a combination of satellite and wireless technology. Although located in the heart of the National Park, Aberfoyle now has access to high speed internet connections, helping its rural businesses to be competitive nationally and internationally.

The project evaluation has just been completed and some interesting lessons have been learnt which we are happy to share with others developing similar community run satellite broadband schemes. The report is available for downloading [here](#).

Applicant

Scottish Natural Heritage

Project

Connecting with our Peatland Heritage

Total project cost / Leader+ grant

£132,700 / £51,700

Summary



Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Scottish Wildlife Trust have spent the last 15 years restoring the damage done to Flanders Moss by centuries of human intervention. After years of being ignored the Moss is now receiving considerable attention, making this an ideal time to reconnect people with it.

SNH aims to develop visitors access the Flanders Moss site, while also making sure that they can manage visitors so that they will not disturb the very fragile peatland bog. To achieve their aims, they wished to set up a transnational project to improve their experiences and knowledge in "how the visitor experience can be maximised without detracting from or destroying the peatland bog itself".

This project will bring experts together from Lapland (Finland), Offaly (Republic of Ireland), and Brittany (France). All these areas contain significant peatland bogs with potential for being opened up to the public or improved in terms of the visitor experience. Each partner has a variety of expertise and experience, however none of them feel that they have an understanding of all the elements which need to be considered and explored when opening up a peatland bog site.

Funding for this project will allow the following to take place:

A series of training workshops will be run by each partner in the field they have the most experience in;

Each partner will pilot a practical project in order to put into practice the experiences and learning from the exchanges;

A best practise guide on managing access and interpretation in peatland bogs will be produced for all peatland reserve managers across Europe. It will encompass the findings and recommendations of the project;

A final information-dissemination event will be organised.

Applicant

West of Scotland Dry Walling Association

Project

Dun Lubnaig Broch Project

Total project cost / Leader+ grant

£12,490 / £3,722

Summary

This project will reconstruct part of a broch (an Iron Age dry wall structure particular to Scotland), testing how the construction could have been carried out. On completion of the project, interpretation panels will be set up around the broch, leaving Strathyre with a new and fascinating visitor attraction.

Applicant

Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER+ Local Action Group

Project

Feasibility Study for Local Produce Outlet

Total project cost / Leader+ grant

£13,750 / £6,250

Summary

Stirling Council, West Dunbartonshire Council, Argyll and Bute Council and the National Park Authority have provided the match funding for this initiative taken forward by the Food Subgroup of the LEADER+ LAG. The feasibility study will examine the viability and practicalities of setting up a local produce outlet in the area which could offer local consumers and visitors to the area year-round access to local produce.

Applicant

Callander Youth Project

Project

Feasibility Study into Growing Young Entrepreneurs in the Rural Economy

Total project cost / Leader+ grant

£19,392 / £9,696

Summary

This feasibility and development project will look at the best way of helping young people in the rural area set up their own businesses to capture some of the new wealth to the area from the expected increase in visitors. The new National Park designation presents a number of business opportunities for the rural area, and yet very few (if any) young people are ready to take up these opportunities. From the experience of agencies working with young people, this is due to three key factors: lack of confidence, lack of business experience, and lack of relevant qualifications/education.

The main objective of this stage of the project is therefore to design a training and work experience programme to overcome these factors and to answer the many questions on the practicalities of such a programme. The feasibility project is due to start in August 2004 and will run until June 2005.

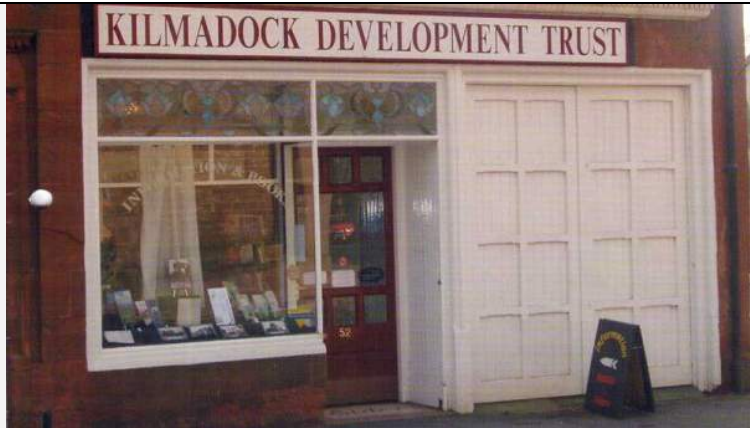
Providing young people with the skills and confidence needed to make a success of the business opportunities around them will be crucial to keeping young people in the rural area, thereby ensuring the future health and sustainability of our rural communities.

For more information about the Callander Youth Project, click [here](#).

Applicant
Kilmadock Development
Trust

Project
Community Heritage Project

**Total project cost /
Leader+ grant**
£81,450 / £31,750



Summary

This project will build on the rich heritage and history of the Doune and Deanston area by recording oral history, providing heritage information to visitors, creating a physical heritage centre and organising cross-generational community projects. However, what makes this project particularly innovative is the way the development of the project has been driven by the community as part of the Community Futures process. For more information about the Kilmadock Development Trust, click [here](#).

Applicant
Gartmore Community Shop

Project
Creation of craft area for sale of local crafts & goods

Total project cost / Leader+ grant
£34,000 / £12,800

Summary

Funding for this project will allow the refurbishment of Gartmore Community Shop, a community co-operative, in order to sell local crafts and goods. 21 craft producers have been identified as operating locally, and it is anticipated that the development of the dedicated craft area will benefit them as well as encouraging craft business startups.

More case studies are available on our website at <http://www.lrsleaderplus.org.uk/case-studies.html>