

LEADER+ (SCOTLAND) PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEE
Monday, 24th November 2003, Hilton Hotel, Aviemore, Inverness-shire

AGENDA

Start: 2pm

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Apologies
3. Minute of last meeting – 19 May 2003
4. Matters arising
5. 2002 AIR & ARD
6. Mid-Term Evaluation – Final Report
7. N+2 Update and Action Plan
8. UK Leader+ Network update
9. LAG Membership
10. AOCB
11. Dates of 2004 meetings

Close

LEADER+ (SCOTLAND)

**FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND N+2 ACTION PLAN
PAPER BY SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE**

Background

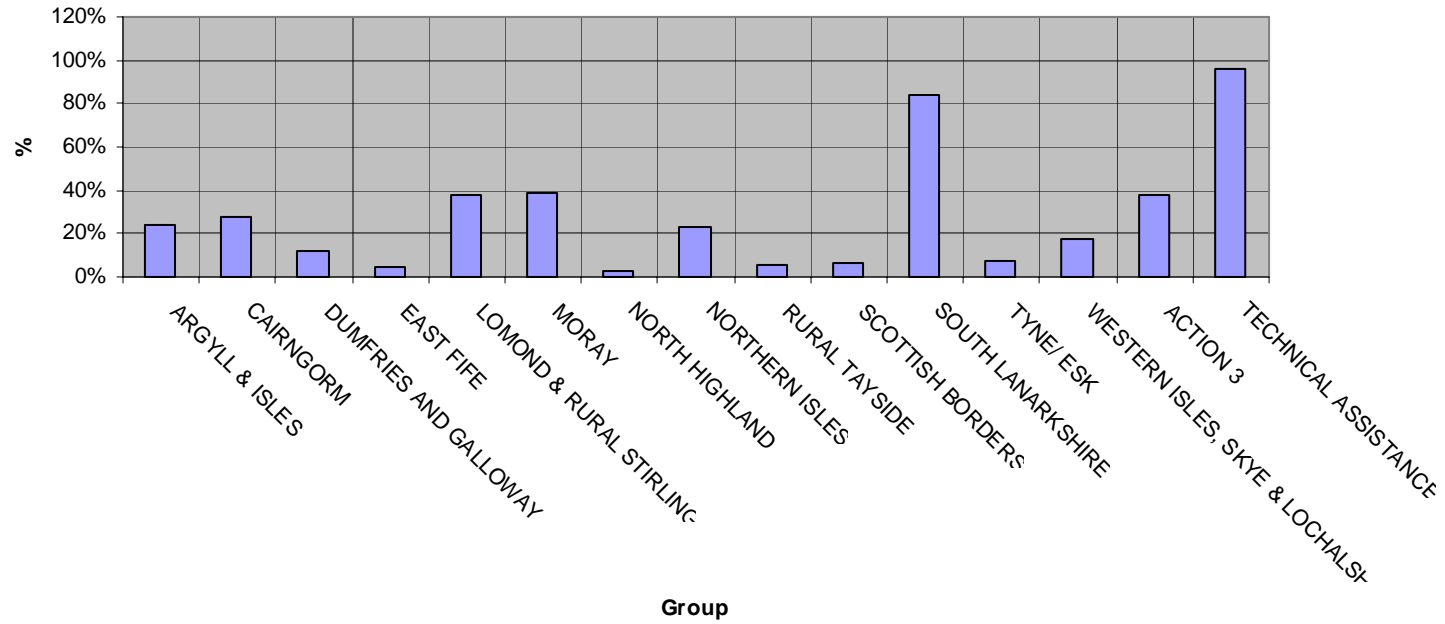
1. The Regulations for the 2000 – 2006 Programming period impose greater financial discipline on programmes. The so called ‘n+2 rule’ requires that for any annual allocation, an equivalent sum must be spent by the end of the second year following. For the majority of programmes, this rule either applied for the first time in 2002 or will apply in 2003. In these cases, allocations against the years 2000 and 2001 must be spent by the end of 2002 and 2003 respectively. The test is annual and cumulative. It is applied first in relation to the year of approval of the programme.
2. For LEADER+ Scotland, the programme was approved in early 2002. This means that the n+2 test will first apply at the end of next year (2004). However, the target against which performance will be measured is cumulative and includes the allocations for 2001 and 2002. There was no allocation in 2000 for any LEADER+ programmes due to the late start of Community Initiatives generally.
3. Where programmes fail to meet targets, the Commission reduces the funding available by an equivalent amount.
4. It is therefore essential that good progress is made by individual LEADER+ Action Groups if targets are to be met and funding protected.
5. The attached table (Annex 1) shows progress to date. While it is still relatively early for some groups in implementing local plans, progress is disappointing. Stringent efforts must be made over the early part of 2004 to ensure that targets are reached in good time for reporting to the Commission by the end of December 2004.
6. With this in mind, an ‘n+2 Action Plan’ has been developed. This is attached at Annex 2.

Recommendation

7. The PMC is recommended to:

note performance to date against n+2 targets
agree the n+2 Action Plan for circulation to LAGs

Spend as a % of N+2 Target 2004



LEADER+ N+2 ACTION PLAN

LAGS

- Ensure grant offers accepted and work/ project started before next approvals
- Ensure 1st claim submitted within 6 months of approval
- Ensure quarterly claims are submitted timeously to Executive
- Ensure projects underway on time and monitor projects for acceptable performance
- Review Business Plans by March 2004 and adjust as required. Taking into account;
 - MTE
 - Performance to date
 - Emerging/ changing priorities

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- Provide updates quarterly – following receipt of quarterly claims to PMC and LAGs
- Ensure quarterly claims are submitted quarterly by LAGs (follow up as necessary)
- Report to PMC on any unacceptable performance of LAGs (financial and/or physical)
- Request Interim final report for 2004 by October 2004
- Consider monthly reports from LAG's

PMC

- Consider appropriate action where LAG progress is unacceptable
- Make partners aware of N+2 and encourage timeous claims (at project and LAG level)