

Lessons from the LEADER programme for future rural support in Scotland

Jane Atterton, Rob Mc Morran, Jayne Glass, Sarah Jones and Elliot Meador

Presentation to the UKRPPRG
Thursday 16 January 2020
jayne.glass@sruc.ac.uk

Project Aims



1. To understand the evolution of the LEADER approach and its impact in rural Scotland since the early 1990s
2. To identify options for the future post-Brexit



“Best of place-based working involving all actors”
“Hugely valued by communities”
“Projects that wouldn’t have happened otherwise”

“Don’t apply as you will have a nervous breakdown”
“Risk aversion and fines discourage innovation and decrease local animation”
“Scottish Government have destroyed LEADER in so far as what it used to be [...] it is a tainted brand/busted flush”

Approach



1. International evidence review
2. Analysis of available databases/evaluation data
3. Stakeholder interviews and workshop
4. Case studies

LEADER from 1991 to now



What we already know

1. A successful rural development initiative
2. Measuring impacts over time remains a challenge
3. Other challenges include:
 - Excessive control and bureaucracy
 - Changing emphasis on innovation
 - Managing risk

Scotland – facts and figures I



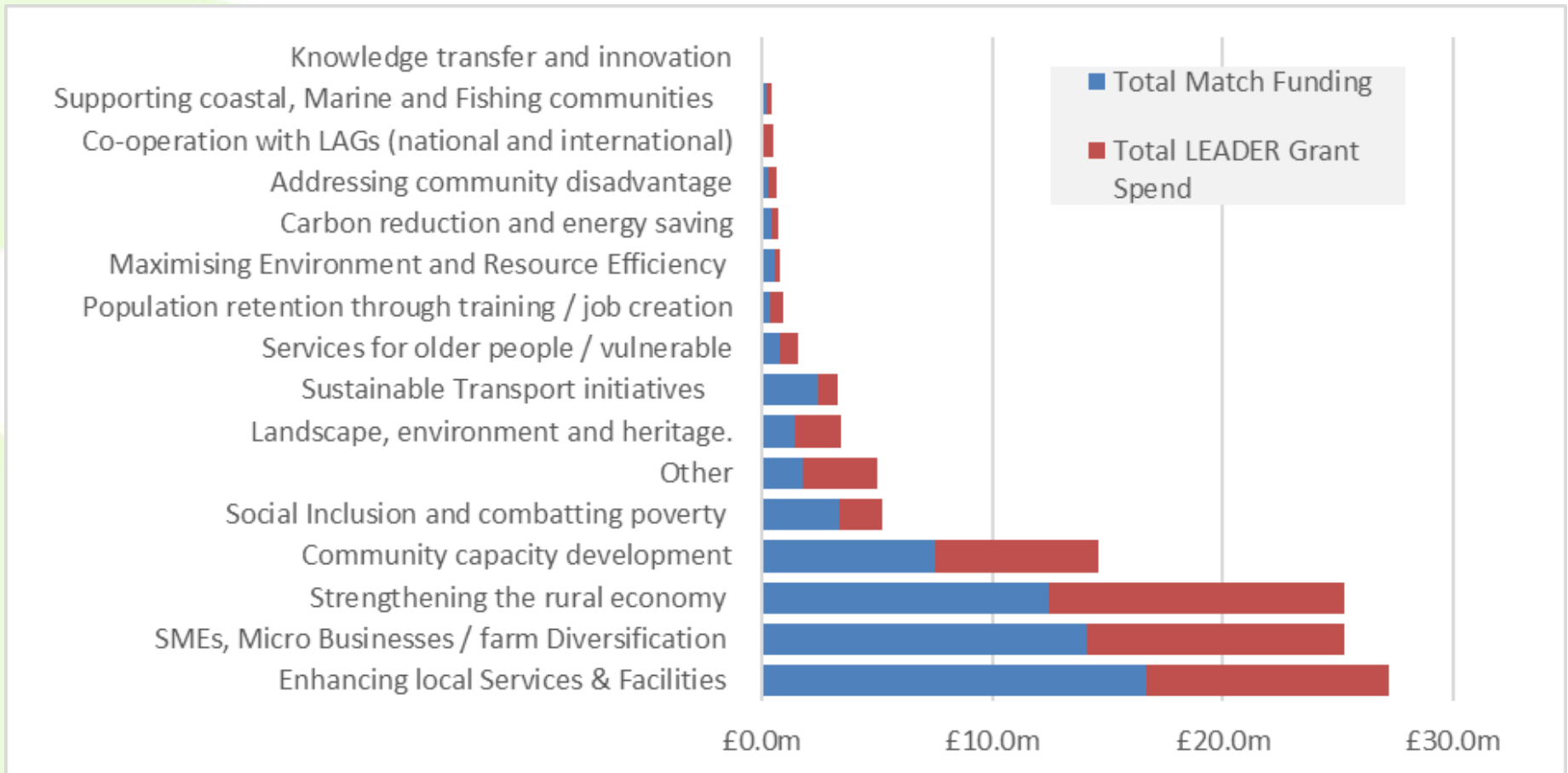
	LEADER I 1991-1993	LEADER II 1994-1999	LEADER+ 2000-2006	LEADER Axis 2007-2013	CURRENT 2014-2021
Number of Projects	281	2,326	1,369	1,650	849*
Number of LAGs	6	15	13	20	21
Population	<i>Unavailable</i>	792,375	910,145	1,509,709	1,996,800

* At May 2019

Scotland – facts and figures II



LEADER funding and match funding by theme (current programme*)

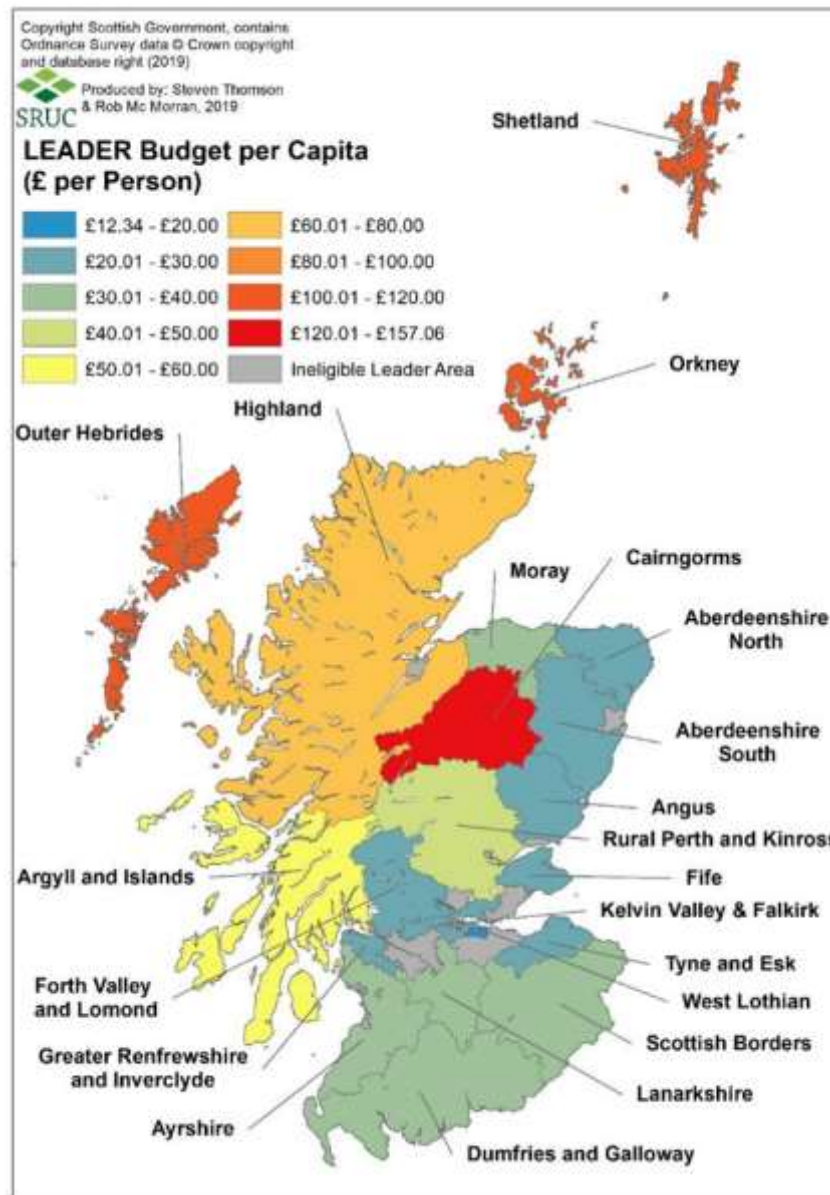


* At May 2019

Scotland – facts and figures III



LEADER budget per capita
(current programme)



Scotland – facts and figures IV



LEADER I
1991-1993

LEADER II
1994-1999

LEADER+
2000-2006

LEADER Axis
2007-2013

CURRENT
2014-2021

Mean
grant size
for known
projects

£18,273

£12,183

£20,277

£39,787

£68,923*

*All £ values converted to current
equivalent 2019 £ values for comparison.*

* At May 2019

Scotland – facts and figures V



1. Significant leverage impact
2. New businesses, job creation and job safeguarding
3. Time spent on administration

Learning from experience



Strengths



Learning from experience



Learning from experience



Learning from experience



Challenges



Looking to the future



1. Keep the bottom-up approach
2. Keep (and tweak) the LDS approach
3. Refresh the LEADER brand
4. Build in scope for creativity
5. Simplify admin and compliance
6. A tiered approach
7. Adequate time for animation

Short-term and long-term recommendations



Reflections and the way forwards

Thank you

**Jane Atterton, Rob Mc Morran, Jayne Glass, Sarah Jones and
Elliot Meador**

**Presentation to the UKRPPRG
Thursday 16 January 2020
jayne.glass@sruc.ac.uk**