Cairngorms Trust Project Assessment Scoring

The scoring criteria is divided into 2 categories:

- Eligibility
- Technical

Each element will be weighted by the LAG with a total of 100% for each of the 2 categories

Application of the Matrix:

Project scores of '1' are more likely to result in a project being rejected or to stimulate project conditions or changes to the project before an offer is made. Project scores of '2' or '3' will generally mean that an application is more likely to succeed.

Projects must score 1 or more in all categories in order to be approved.

Eligibility Criteria	Assessment Criteria	Weighting	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	None (0) (no evidence to support the relevant criteria)
	Strategic Fit Extent to which the project aligns and delivers against the LDS and is integrated with other related activity and other EU, National and local strategies		There is clear fit with at least 2 LDS aims and clear links with related activities or strategies	There is fit with 2 LDS aims however there is minimal link with related activity or strategies	There is fit with 1 LDS aims. No link with related activity or strategies	
	Return on Investment Extent to which the project will deliver positive economic benefits – including leverage of funding, economic growth and rural development		Clear demonstration of a high value contribution and significant economic benefits including leverage against level of investment, economic growth and rural development	Demonstrated return on investment proportionate to level of investment sought.	Return on investment will be low and added value is unclear for economic rural development	
	Equality Extent to which the project has considered and can demonstrate a positive impact for groups identified as vulnerable to exclusion or hard to reach in the LDS (and its Equality Impact Assessment) - (e.g. young people, elderly and disabled, business community, carers often women, communities which have had little engagement with CLLD, people on low wages, ethnic minority groups)		Clear demonstration of equality consideration in project development and strong, measurable and direct impact for vulnerable and hard to reach groups	Demonstration of equality consideration in project and measurable impact for vulnerable and hard to reach groups	Some impact demonstrated for vulnerable and hard to reach groups but not directly measurable	
	Knowledge sharing Extent to which the project stimulates knowledge sharing between sectors and individuals		Project demonstrates a clear plan for knowledge sharing to inform project design, delivery and future rural development which crosses sectors and supports peer to peer learning	Project involves an element of knowledge sharing between more than one sector and between individuals in the development, delivery or evaluation phase	Project identifies an element of knowledge sharing between individuals in delivery of the project	
	Fostering Innovation * Extent to which the project is fostering novel approaches and ideas.		The application of the approach or idea is novel and/or the learning will be applied more widely.	The application of the approach or idea has the potential to stimulate wider application beyond the project.	The approach or idea is not particularly novel.	

Assessment Criteria	Weighting	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	None (0) (no evidence to support the relevant criteria)
Partnership and collaborative working Extent to which project has identified, engaged and involved appropriate delivery partners to maximise impact and ensure broad based buy in and support to avoid duplication of effort		The project is delivered by a comprehensive stakeholder partnership across sectors to ensure effective project delivery and demonstrate best practice	The project is delivered through a partnership of stakeholders to ensure successful delivery	The applicant has identified partners which have agreed to engage in delivery of the project to ensure successful delivery	
Legacy Extent to which the project will deliver impact/benefit beyond the funding period		The project will have impact beyond the funding period	The project is likely to have impact beyond the end of the funding period	The project will deliver minimal impact	
Engagement and support Extent to which project has comprehensive stakeholder buy in, participation or ownership.		There is strong rationale and evidence of stakeholder analysis with key stakeholders supportive of and involved in the project	There is sound and adequate rationale and evidence (consultations, statistics, research) that key stakeholders have been engaged and involved and support the project	There is some limited anecdotal or out of date evidence that key stakeholders have been engaged and involved and support the project	
Meeting a Need or Demand Extent to which the project is responding to evidence of need or gap in provision		The project has presented strong and comprehensive evidence of need or gap in provision	The project has presented significant evidence of need or gap in provision	The project has presented limited evidence of need or gap in provision	
Additionality Extent to which the need for LEADER investment is evidenced in terms of allowing the project to proceed and enhancing the project through the LEADER approach and investment		Clear and compelling evidence that the project cannot proceed without LEADER investment	Evidence that the project requires LEADER investment to deliver desired impact and outcomes	Evidence that LEADER investment will enhance project delivery	
Community/Public Benefit		Evidence that the benefit to the community and other organisations will outweigh the benefit of the project to the applicant.	Evidence that the project will benefit multiple local community members and organisations other than the applicant	Evidence that the project will benefit additional residents or organisations other than the applicant	

Technical Criteria	Assessment Criteria	Weightin	High (3)	Medium (2)	Low (1)	None (0) (no evidence to support the relevant criteria)
	Organisational Competence Extent to which the right level of resources with the necessary skills and organisational capability are in place and effective		The organisation has a well established track record of project management/delivery in this area and has evidenced its capability to deliver	The organisation has a known track record of project management/delivery in this area and has presented some evidence of capability to deliver	The organisation has presented some evidence of experience and capability to deliver in this field	
	Robust delivery plans Extent to which the project plan (deliverables, timescales and milestones) can be relied upon		The project has robust plans in place and there are sound reasons to expect that delivery performance will be good	The project plans are mostly in place and reliable and any identified delivery issues are believed to be manageable	The project plans are partially in place but significant delivery issues are apparent and not mitigated within the plan	
	Outputs Degree of certainty that the projected outputs for the project are deliverable, measureable and achievable		There are clear and convincing reasons to trust the project projections as presented	The assumptions underpinning the project projections are well founded	There is limited evidence presented that projections are deliverable, measureable or achievable	
	Exit Strategy Extent to which there is a clear and sustainable exit strategy in place and there is no risk of grant dependency whilst ensuring the legacy remains		There is a robust and convincing Exit Strategy with no risk of dependency	There is a clear Exit Strategy and organisational dependency is unlikely	The Exit Strategy for this project is unclear and there is a possible risk of dependency	
	Displacement/distortion Extent to which there is evidence of distortion and/or displacement and extent to which distortion and/or displacement will be managed		All Distortion/Displacement issues have been fully explored and mitigated	Displacement/distortion issues evident however clear mitigation strategy in place and community benefit justification given	Distortion/Displacement and some justification given	
	Organisational compliance Is the project compliant with all relevant rules and regulations?		There is clear evidence of compliance	The project appears compliant	There are some concerns/unknowns in the field of compliance	

*Innovation

For the use of LEADER LAG's Fostering Innovation may also be demarcated as follows:

1) Product Extension: supporting the same basic initiative, perhaps with some slight modifications; or using the same initiative in a new location
2) New Platform Product: supporting the development of a new initiative (based on existing) which may itself result in product extensions, as in 1 above.
3) New to the Company Products: importing initiatives that have proved successful elsewhere but have not before been tried in the Cairngorms area.
4) New to the World product: supporting the development of something that has never been done before, for which at present no market exists.

The above is illustrative, projects may demonstrate innovation beyond these definitions and categories.