

Rural Funding *fact sheet*

What is LEADER?

LEADER (a French acronym that translates as 'Liaisons among actors in the rural economy') is an EU programme that aims to provide funding for businesses and organisations looking to begin or expand their operations in rural areas. What separates it from other funding programmes is that it is delivered locally rather than nationally, with decisions on how and where the grant money is spent being made by an appointed Local Action Group (LAG) of key representatives from various organisations in the local area. Your Lancashire LEADER Team and LAGs benefit from a wealth of experience in a range of sectors and are here to help you with your application process.

As with any grant funding programme, the language and rules surrounding it can be daunting, but we hope this fact sheet goes some way towards helping you understand the programme's requirements, which in turn will help you when submitting an outline application.

LEADER Themes

LEADER funds must support one or more of the following themes:

- Increasing Farm Productivity
- Micro/Small Enterprises & Farm Diversification
- Rural Tourism
- Rural Services
- Culture & Heritage
- Increasing Forestry Productivity

A proportion of each LEADER area's funding has been allocated to a priority, to ensure a fair spread of funding across all types of organisations in the area.

The Local Action Group

As LEADER is intended to be a locally-delivered grant

funding programme, all funding decisions are made by elected members of the Local Action Group, or LAG Executive. The LAG Executive consists of a range of local representatives from each of the LEADER priorities, as well as a spread of expertise from both public and private sectors.

Though a project may successfully pass through the outline application procedure, it is ultimately up to the LAG Executive to decide which projects to fund on the basis of value for money and the benefits they will bring to the local area. While a project may be fully eligible, the LAG's duty to ensure that the funding goes as far as possible means that no project is guaranteed to receive funding.





When Funding can be Claimed

Grant funding can only be claimed in arrears, so you must be able to pay for your project in the short-term, as grant payments will only be made once the work being claimed for has been completed and paid for. If you are claiming grant funding for items purchased using a hire- or lease-purchase agreement, you must have made all outstanding payments against the items and own them outright before any grant money can be paid.

Grant Rates

These vary depending on the organisation applying for the grant and the LEADER Priority under which their project sits, but the typical grant amount available is 40% of the total eligible project costs, with the rest of the money coming from other private sources – it cannot come from other public sources.

However, non-profit organisations may find that a greater amount of their eligible project costs can be covered – please ask the Lancashire LEADER Team for guidance.

Eligibility

Not every cost associated with a project will be eligible for LEADER funding, but your Programme Manager will work with you to assess which of your costs are eligible and which are not. As a general rule, LEADER funding is intended for immovable, capital items and it cannot be used for salaries, printed marketing materials, licences or in-kind contributions to the project.

You also cannot apply for funding to fulfil legal obligations of an existing operation – for example, an existing café could not request funding purely to

build an accessible WC, but a completely new build project that included an accessible WC as part of a project, would be eligible.

The rules around eligibility can be complex and will vary depending on which LEADER Priority your project falls under, but a full list of ineligible costs will be included in the LEADER Applicants' Handbook and the Lancashire LEADER Team will be happy to advise you. Projects must be located in an eligible rural postcode.

Please contact the LEADER Team to check the postcode.



Application Process

One of our Programme Managers will work with you to help develop your project and complete an Outline Application, and if successful you will be invited to submit a full application. If your full application is eligible, it will then be presented to the LAG and a decision will be made within 40 working days of the closing date of your submission.

Jobs

The success of the LEADER programme is primarily measured on the jobs that are created as a result of the funding. These jobs are quantified by the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) positions created, which are defined as jobs requiring at least 30 hours per week. However, part-time jobs can be counted e.g. two 15-hour roles would constitute one FTE position.



Grant Amounts

The LEADER programme has a minimum grant amount of £6,000. Technically there is no maximum grant amount, but the LAG will always seek to provide value for money and spread the available funds across as many projects as possible.

Each LAG has allocated the funding to the different priorities according to their local area. Each LAG also has outputs to achieve and again the outputs are slightly different in each geographical area. Further details are available overleaf.



Notional funding allocations

| Lancashire West | Lancashire North and Bowland | Lancashire Pennine Moors |
|---|--|---|
| Farming Total budget (approx.) £384,498 Average Grant size £48,062 Number of projects x 8 | Farming Total budget (approx.) £201,031 Average Grant size £40,206 Number of projects x 5 | Farming Total budget (approx.) £175,840 Average Grant size £43,960 Number of projects x 4 |
| Enterprise Total budget (approx.) £512,664 Average Grant size £25,633 Number of projects x 20 | Enterprise Total budget (approx.) £536,083 Average Grant size £26,804 Number of projects x 20 | Enterprise Total budget (approx.) £527,522 Average Grant size £26,376 Number of projects x 20 |
| Tourism Total budget (approx.) £128,165 Average Grant size £42,721 Number of projects x 3 | Tourism Total budget (approx.) £268,041 Average Grant size £29,782 Number of projects x 9 | Tourism Total budget (approx.) £234,454 Average Grant size £39,075 Number of projects x 6 |
| Culture & heritage Total budget (approx.) £64,083 Average Grant size £64,083 Number of projects x 1 | Culture & heritage Total budget (approx.) £134,020 Average Grant size £26,804 Number of projects x 5 | Culture & heritage Total budget (approx.) £58,613 Average Grant size £58,613 Number of projects x 1 |
| Basic Services Total budget (approx.) £128,165 Average Grant size £64,082 Number of projects x 2 | Basic Services Total budget (approx.) £134,020 Average Grant size £22,336 Number of projects x 6 | Basic Services Total budget (approx.) £117,227 Average Grant size £39,075 Number of projects x 3 |
| Forestry Total budget (approx.) £64,083 Average Grant size £64,083 Number of projects x 1 | Forestry Total budget (approx.) £67,010 Average Grant size £22,336 Number of projects x 3 | Forestry Total budget (approx.) £58,613 Average Grant size £29,306 Number of projects x 2 |

We have been awarded the funding in Euros. Each year we will be allocated an amount based upon the exchange rate that year. Therefore the funding could increase or decrease depending upon the exchange rate.

If you wish to discuss any aspect of the Lancashire LEADER programme, please do not hesitate to e-mail ruralfunding@lancashire.gov.uk or call Karen Lawrenson on

01772 538797 or Louise Kite on **01772 534134**

www.lancashire.gov.uk/rural-development

