



Micro & Small Business and Farm Diversification Call for Projects – November 2016 onwards

Call Open From: 24 November 2016

Contact Details:

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Micro and Small Business and Farm Diversification	
Call Context	<p>The North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Local Development Strategy highlights the strong and diverse micro and small business sector in the area. Support for new and emerging sectors of the economy was felt to be important, along with supporting new business ideas (both on and off farm) which meet an identified need and demand, and supporting existing businesses to be more sustainable, efficient and resilient were all felt to be beneficial in the area. The provision of grants to all businesses was felt to be the key to unlocking some of the growth potential of many small rural businesses.</p>
Call Overview	<p>The call for projects under the Micro and Small Business and Farm Diversification priority is an open call which looks for applications which will allow a rural business, new or existing, to grow and expand. This could be in the form of increasing its turnover, increasing its profit margins through developing and producing new products and accessing new markets, and / or increasing the employment opportunities available locally.</p> <p>The Programme is looking to support applications for capital projects which will achieve one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow / expand an existing rural business; • A business start-up; or • Farm Diversification – expansion into non-agricultural enterprises. <p>Applicants must ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They meet the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the Applicants Handbook; • They have read and understood the eligible areas of expenditure within the Programme; • They have considered all other RDPE grant schemes, in particular the Countryside Productivity Scheme and any call made through or linked to the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs); • They can provide a minimum of 60% of the eligible project costs from a private source of funding (eg: own funds). <p>The North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme Executive Group are keen to encourage wherever possible and will prioritise applications which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create new or extend employment opportunities; • See two or more businesses working in partnership or in a mutually beneficial way; • Allow businesses to become better equipped in terms of equipment, knowledge and confidence to move forwards and take on more significant opportunities in the future; and • Are for projects within businesses which contribute to one of the other priorities of the LDS – rural tourism, rural forestry, culture and heritage and the provision of rural services. <p>Potential activity looking for LEADER funding could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction or establishment costs for new or growing businesses; • Purchase of equipment; or • The processing and / or marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products. <p>This list is not exhaustive and all ideas which contribute to the aim of the call will be considered; however please note the basic eligibility criteria in the Applicant Handbook which includes the types of expenditure which are ineligible for LEADER funding.</p>
Outputs	<p>The strongest applications will create additional employment opportunities as a result of the funded activity and will have a strong element of partnership working.</p> <p>We expect that all the projects supported by the Programme under the Micro and Small</p>

	Business and Farm Diversification priority will together result in new or extended employment opportunities.
How to Apply	<p>The LEADER Programme operates a two stage application process – an initial Outline Application which will be assessed for its eligibility and completeness, followed by a Full Application.</p> <p>Support in making Outline and Full Applications can be provided by the Programme.</p> <p>It is strongly advisable to contact the Programme directly in advance of making an application to discuss the project and its eligibility.</p> <p>Contact: Amy Thomas Tel: 01439 772700 Email: a.thomas@northyorkmoors.org.uk</p> <p>Outline Applications can be downloaded from www.moorscoastandhills.org.uk and all applicants must ensure they have read the North York Moors, Coast and Hills Applicant Handbook and Guidance Notes prior to completing the form.</p>
Information to Consider Prior To Making An Application	<p>Applications must ensure that all project spend is completed by March 2019. Additional time may be permitted in exceptional circumstances; please discuss any potential requirements with Programme staff.</p> <p>Full Applications are competitive and all decisions on these will be made by the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER Programme Executive Group.</p> <p>Applicants must consider how they will cash flow the project as funding can only be provided on a defrayed expenditure basis. This means that applicants must make the initial expenditure before they can reclaim the funding from the Programme.</p> <p>LEADER will pay the agreed % of all eligible costs within a project, and cannot pay 100% towards a single item within a larger project.</p> <p>Activity and spend related to the project can only occur following confirmation of the Executive Groups decision. This includes ordering or paying a deposit on materials or equipment. The funding of any part of an application retrospectively will not be eligible.</p> <p>The North York Moors, Coast and Hills LDS provides lots of useful information about the priorities of the Programme and the identified needs and opportunities of the area. Pages 10-20 of the LDS may be particularly helpful.</p>
Support	<p>Grant funding is available primarily for capital activity. Applications for revenue funding will be considered on a case by case basis and must offer significant longer term value to the Programme.</p> <p>Minimum grant - £5,000 Maximum grant – None set Maximum Intervention Rate – 40% for commercial enterprises. For non-profit making applicants, the Executive Group will not usually fund more than 95% except in exceptional circumstances.</p>
Submission Details	Outline Applications (and any supporting documentation that is required) will be accepted on a rolling basis and must be submitted in the proscribed electronic format to Amy Thomas at the above email address otherwise they cannot be accepted. These will be checked to ensure that they are eligible and complete.

The outcome of the Outline Application will be communicated within approx. 2 weeks.

If the Outline Application is eligible to proceed the applicant will then be invited to complete and submit a Full Application Form. Further guidance on completing a Full Application will be made available at this point.

Completed Full Applications will undergo an appraisal process by the LEADER team before being considered by the Executive Group at the next available meeting.