

Herefordshire LEADER Programme 2015-2020

Information Sheet

A new LEADER Programme in Herefordshire will be launched in January 2015 for 6 years (subject to a successful bid for funds).

What is the Herefordshire LEADER programme?

LEADER aims to encourage strong economic growth and improve the productivity and competitiveness of local businesses in rural areas.

What will the Herefordshire LEADER programme do?

The programme themes are:

- ❖ Support for micro and small enterprises, including farm diversification
- ❖ Support for rural tourism
- ❖ Support for increasing farm productivity
- ❖ Support for increasing forestry provision
- ❖ Provision of rural services
- ❖ Support for cultural and heritage activities

Who can apply?

Project applications will be eligible from micro and small businesses (see definition below), farming and forestry businesses (which qualify as micro and small businesses), social enterprises, voluntary organisations, community groups and parish councils based in rural Herefordshire.

Micro business 0 – 9 employees

Small business 10 – 49 employees

How much funding will be available?

- The amount of grant support available may vary across the different themes.
- Projects may be eligible for between around £500 and £50,000 to fund specific activity.
- 70% of all projects must directly support the rural economy, through creating and supporting micro and small rural businesses. The remaining 30% of projects will need to demonstrate they are contributing to improving the rural economy.
- LEADER funding of around 40% of total project costs.
- Cash match funding will be needed for each project, around 60%.
- Projects can be capital and/or revenue.

What outputs could my project achieve?

An output is a measurable assessment of performance and success. Outputs to consider include:

- Jobs created
- Jobs safeguarded
- Businesses benefitting
- Holdings benefitting
- Increased turnover
- Forests/woodlands benefitting
- Villages/communities benefitting
- Population benefitting
- New/existing tourism activities supported
- Potential additional overnight stays

More detailed guidance will be available on output definitions once the Defra Guidance has been issued.

Project Ideas

Although funding will not be available until 2015, we would still like to hear from you if you have a project idea that will help to meet the programme aims. Please contact the LEADER programme team or complete the Project Ideas form.

We are keeping a list of prospective projects so we can contact you when future funding becomes available. Please contact the Herefordshire LEADER office via email if you would like to be added to this list and receive further news of funding opportunities.

Contact us

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Please help us to help future applicants, by telling us if you have any queries which aren't answered in this document.

If you would like help to understand this document, or would like it in another format or language, please contact the LEADER Programme Team at Herefordshire Council on 01432 383039 or 01432 383023 or email: dbaker@herefordshire.gov.uk