



Invitation for Applications to support investments in **Priority 6: Sustain and Enhance Rural Services**

Integrated Rural Mobility

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development - LEADER

Managing Authority	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
LEADER Area	Yorkshire Dales
Grant Reference	SP6_01
Deadline for submissions of Applications	July 25th 2016

Please read the LEADER Programme Guidance. This explains what applicants must do in order to apply for a grant, how grant applications are assessed and how to meet the terms of a grant funding agreement if an application is successful.

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NAME OF SCHEME: Integrated Rural Mobility

(contributing to Defra Policy Priority 4: Provision of rural services)

1. Grant Context

Background:

LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). It's a French acronym which roughly translates as 'Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development'.

The Managing Authority is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). The Government has allocated £138 million of rural development funding for delivery through 80 Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the LEADER Programme.

All projects must support one or more of the 6 Defra policy priorities. These are to:

- support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- boost rural tourism
- increase farm productivity
- increase forestry productivity
- provide rural services
- provide cultural and heritage activities

LEADER funding is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers.

	<p>LEADER Local Action Group:</p> <p>A Local Action Group (LAG) is made up of people from the local community and the public and private sector. The LAG decides which projects they will fund in the area. The type of project supported varies according to the local priorities identified within a LAG area’s Local Development Strategy.</p> <p>For the duration of the LEADER programme Defra has awarded the Yorkshire Dales LAG £2.23 million to fund projects that meet local priorities within the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area, identified through our Local Development Strategy.</p> <p>Local Context</p> <p>Transport plays a key role in responding to rural social exclusion, accessing services, employment, further education. The low level of rural population makes the viability of provision of public transport solutions difficult, however key sectors of society – the young, the older or non-drivers and those who cannot afford the cost of private transport will always need access to transport. Lack of integrated rural transport and access was a key concern within the community consultations which helped to inform our Local Development Strategy. The LAG has therefore decided to invite applications that will seek to address identified issues around transport access and provide user centred services within the LEADER area.</p> <p>As identified in our approved Yorkshire Dales Local Development Strategy (this can be found on www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk)the Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group aims to encourage economic growth, employment and community well being by improving access to basic rural services, rural business hubs, skills and training through collaborative community facing projects or partnerships.</p> <p>Please note we are not permitted to support existing initiatives already operating.</p> <p>We want to achieve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrated transport solutions which promote and support cross-community regeneration; • a range of solutions with a good geographical spread that meets the evidenced access and service needs of the local community;
<p>2.Scope of this Grant</p>	<p><u>Purpose of the Grant</u></p> <p>The purpose of this grant is to support innovative and flexible rural transport solutions that are demand responsive, intermodal (across all types of transport; rail, bus, cycle for example) and multipurpose. This grant may also support the process of project development to ensure best practice within major infrastructure projects, for example, project options selection and development, research into accessibility.</p> <p>Investment is likely to be in innovative collaborative business, community or voluntary sector led delivery initiatives that improve access to training, employment,</p>

basic services and access for or into the wider rural area. We expect to support collaborative solutions that are focussed on meeting user needs (with strong evidence) with a strong emphasis on sustainability and the outputs which will be achieved by the investment.

The direct beneficiaries may not necessarily be the direct users of the project proposals; for example, as a result of the project allowing greater access into the rural communities, increased tourism will increase the sustainability of local services and businesses.

We expect the majority of project beneficiaries to be the residents, small and micro businesses in the LEADER area, covering Richmondshire, Craven, the west of Harrogate Borough and a small part of Hambleton.

Enabling young people to access work and training is a specific target outcome for us. We will prioritise applications within the appraisal process that can evidence they are addressing this target.

Applications with a focus on or within those areas identified as being the 10% most deprived for geographical barriers to services will also be given a higher priority within the appraisal process.

Further detail on the appraisal scoring can be found on our website.
www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

Support Available

This is a fixed Outline Application invitation open for 12 weeks.

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Local Action Group wishes to fund applications from projects that will support:

- ✓ **Innovative rural transport solutions within the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area;**
- ✓ **Development and set-up of infrastructure.**

The Yorkshire Dales LAG will give most priority in appraisal scoring to:

- those applications which aim to introduce innovative transport solutions into the those areas that rank within the 10% most deprived areas in England in terms of geographical barriers to services, as identified through the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015. (A full list of these is available from the Programme Co-ordinator; **map Pending**)
- projects enabling access to work, skills and training.

For example, projects might address:

- Assisting young people with access to work or to post 16 schooling or further training

- Combining normally separate transport services such as elderly transport service, hospital travel, school transports and commuting to work
- Improving peoples access into the wider rural area, into employment hubs, by, for example, facilitating linkage between train timetables, buses, taxis or car share schemes
- Improving infrastructure to introduce a new service or enable expansion of an existing one
- Reducing car dependency within the rural communities and within tourism through intertwined transport solutions.

Eligible Applicants

This Grant is aimed at: :

- new or existing micro or small businesses;
- rural community organisations;
- charities;
- public or private entities working in partnership with small and micro business and rural community groups; and
- local authorities (in exceptional circumstances, where for example the project outcomes are enhanced by their inclusion, or the local authority can show that the project and the funding required is in addition to their statutory requirement to provide rural services).

All applications will be required to provide a clear assessment of the equality requirements of their proposal. This must consider any barriers to accessing the project/service around gender, disability or for BAME people - and how these will be overcome.

Eligible Activity

The following are examples of the types of activity that can be supported.

- ✓ Installation of electric charging points;
- ✓ Costs associated with the process of Project development;
- ✓ construction, acquisition (including leasing) or improvement to buildings;
- ✓ general costs linked to facilitating investments such as architect, engineer, consultation fees (these can't add up to more than 15% of the project's total eligible costs);
- ✓ Marketing and promotion of services, for example booking services, website and app development;
- ✓ Development of public space infrastructure, such as cycle links, rail shelters.

	<p>Please note this list is not exhaustive and all ideas which contribute to the Yorkshire Dales LDS and this invitation will be considered; however please note the basic eligibility criteria listing the type of expenditure which is ineligible for LEADER funding.</p> <p><u>Ineligible Applicants and Activity</u></p> <p>In addition to the generic ineligible activity detailed in the LEADER Handbook the following will not be supported through this grant in context of the above priority sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> × services that are the responsibility of another statutory body; × continuation funding for existing project activity; × activities funded wholly by other areas of RDPE programme; × long term salaries or running costs; × standard, non-specialised vehicles, such as cars, (including 4 X 4), motorbikes, or people carriers. <p>Due to the limited amount of funding available to this Priority the LAG will only support vehicle purchase in exceptional circumstances where there is a specific and measurable community impact, a sound business case, and significant outputs and outcomes.</p> <p><u>Geographic Limitations</u></p> <p>Investment in projects within the towns of Catterick Garrison, Ripon or Skipton are required to demonstrate significant impact in the wider rural LEADER population in their outline application.</p>
<p>3.Outputs</p>	<p>By 2020 we expect to support the following outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A maximum of 3 Projects that cover all 4 Districts in the LEADER area • A minimum of 2.5FTE jobs created through this investment. • 1FTE job safeguarded through this investment. <p>We expect to achieve these minimum outcomes by 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 villages/communities benefiting from new service • 2 new/innovative methods introduced • 30,000 Population benefitting
<p>4.Information to Consider Prior To Making An Application</p>	<p>It is expected that the Applications will be eligible for funding from December 2016. All grant allocated to approved projects must be spent and claimed by the applicant no later than 31st March 2019</p> <p>Before making an application it is important all applicants consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability of the required level of match funding to allow the project to take place; • Whether the project can be managed and cash flowed by the applicant –

	<p>LEADER operates using the principle of defrayed expenditure payable in arrears. Applicants must make the initial expenditure before they can reclaim the funding from the Programme;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEADER will only pay a % of all eligible project costs and will not pay 100% towards a single item within a larger project; and • Whether the project can be delivered within the required timescale above (December 2016 to 31 March 2019). <p>Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their project proposal would not occur without grant funding and ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They meet the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the National LEADER Applicant Handbook (available to download from our website) • They have considered all other RDPE grant schemes, in particular the Growth Fund from the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP's) <p>Eligible Yorkshire Dales LEADER area Any investment in Capital infrastructure can only be made within the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area. You can ensure the project to be funded is in the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area here http://www.magic.gov.uk/MagicMap.aspx or seek advice from the Programme Co-ordinator.</p>
<p>5.How to Apply</p>	<p>The LEADER Programme operates a competitive two stage application process: Stage 1: outline application Stage 2: full application</p> <p>The Outline Application Form and Guidance can be downloaded from www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk/apply</p> <p>All applicants must ensure they have read the LEADER Applicant Handbook and Guidance Notes prior to completing the form.</p> <p>All Outline applications will be assessed after the close of the deadline on July 25th 2016. The applicant will be invited to submit a Full application if their Outline application is successful. Work must not start on any part of the project before the applicant has received and accepted an offer of grant from the RPA. This includes ordering or paying a deposit on materials or equipment.</p>
<p>6.Support</p>	<p>Total Funding Available £90,000 funding is available for this investment.</p> <p>Minimum grant - £5,000 Maximum grant - £90,000</p> <p>Maximum Intervention Rate (funding for eligible project costs) –up to 80% (dependent upon legal business status of applicant) Maximum Intervention Rate for business applicants is 40%</p>

	Funding will be offered to a maximum of 3 projects.
7.Submission Details	<p>Programme Co-ordinator: Rima Berry Email: rima.berry@ydmtd.org Tel: 015142 51002</p> <p>Open for applications from: May 16th 2016 to July 25th 2016</p> <p>Closing date for Outline Application: July 25th 17:00 An Outline Application must be submitted to Rima Berry at the above email address in the prescribed electronic format.</p>