



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020- LEADER

Yorkshire Dales Local Action Group

Grants to support investments in Micro, Small Enterprise and Farm Diversification

Micro, Small Enterprise and Farm Diversification Capital Grant

LEADER Area	Yorkshire Dales
Grant Reference	SP4/5_04
Date Grant Opens	8/12/16 UPDATED & REVISED 23/11/17
Date Grant Closes	Closes to EOI: 3rd September 2018* Closes to Full Application: 3rd December 2018*
Maximum Amount LEADER will support	40% of eligible costs Min/Max: £5,000 to £150,000

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Outline Application Form and guidance notes are available to download from our website.

Please read [LEADER Applicant Handbook](#), available to download from our website, as this explains how grant applications are assessed and how to meet the terms of a grant funding agreement if an application is successful.

* We reserve the right to close this Call at any stage before these dates

Please note we rigorously check the validity of all documents and quotes submitted as part of the Full Application. Submission of fraudulent information is a criminal offence and could result in prosecution.



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Background to LEADER

LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). The Managing Authority for LEADER is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra).

LEADER is a French acronym which roughly translates as ‘Liaison among Actors in Rural Economic Development’.

The Government has allocated £138 million of rural development funding for delivery through 80 Local Action Groups (LAGs) and the LEADER Programme. 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.

Defra has awarded the Yorkshire Dales LAG £2.23 million to support local priorities within the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area, as identified in the [Local Development Strategy](#).

Micro, Small Enterprise and Farm Diversification Capital Grant Scheme

The vision of the Yorkshire Dales Local Development Strategy is:

“To grow a sustainable rural economy by developing diverse economic growth and creating sustainable communities, capitalising on the areas’ internationally recognised distinctive environment, landscape, culture and heritage.”

The LAG aims to;

- develop a vibrant, dynamic and diverse rural economy to increase economic prosperity, productivity and growth within the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area through the sustainable and creative development of rural businesses
- support local people to develop a culture of enterprise and innovation through start-up support and the development of micro and small businesses which build upon the natural and heritage opportunities of the area and
- maximise the participation of local people and businesses in the growth of the rural economy, including access to new employment opportunities, entrepreneurship and enhanced employability skills for local young people

This Yorkshire Dales LAG invites applications from new and existing micro, small and farming businesses (including social enterprises), located in the rural area, that are looking to expand, create new jobs, diversify into an additional business sector, expand into non-farming activity and food and drink processing resulting in [Annex 1 or non-Annex 1 product](#) and increase business profitability.



Scope of this Grant

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.

The purpose of this grant is to support applications which are looking to:

- Establish a new rural business;
- Grow or expand an existing rural micro or small business.
- Invest in complementary activity that enables the agricultural sector to increase sustainability.

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER LAG will support applications from any business sector and particularly encourages applications from young people (under the age of 25) and women in the LEADER area.

The LAG will prioritise projects which:

1. Establish or expand food and drink businesses, developing local food supply chains, clusters and networks.
2. Establish or expand construction and specialised construction businesses, e.g. heritage construction businesses such as lime plastering, drystone walling, masonry, lead roofing;
3. Establish or expand manufacturing businesses.
4. Expand business use of digital technology and media and assist businesses to become more digitally enabled.
5. Create jobs paying above the average full time salary for the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area (£18,700 in 2015).

ALL applications must provide evidence that they will create new jobs in the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area and/or increase the business turnover.

Who can Apply

- ✓ Micro and small business/farm business
- ✓ Start-up business

Applicants can apply if the following is met:

Number of Full Time ¹ Equivalent employees	Turnover or balance sheet total	Business category
Fewer than 50	€10m (about £8.5 million) or less	Small
Fewer than 10	€2m (about £1.7 million) or less	Micro

What can be supported

¹ A FTE employee works a minimum of 30 hours per week.



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

- ✓ Construction, or improvement to buildings
- ✓ The purchase of new and second hand machinery and equipment
- ✓ Improved marketing of new/existing products
- ✓ Diversification of products/services
- ✓ Capital investment in non-standard IT equipment.

Please note this list is not exhaustive.

What we cannot give grant for

In addition to the generic ineligible activity detailed in the [LEADER Handbook](#) the following will not be supported:

- × **Applications from businesses in the tourism sector; there is a specific invitation for this sector.** The tourism sector includes any business that provides goods and/or services demanded by visitors, and where visitor spend represents a significant share of their trade that, in the absence of visitors, their business would cease to exist in a meaningful way
- × Construction, acquisition (including leasing) or improvement to buildings that will be used for visitor accommodation of any type
- × The processing of fish or any fishery products
- × Access to broadband services
- × Applications from businesses outside the 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
- × Moveable fittings such as soft furnishing, beds, tables, chairs, curtains, television and audio equipment, crockery, cutlery, small kitchen equipment (e.g. toasters, kettles, food mixers etc.)
- × Computers, software and printers used for the general running of the business such as processing orders and accounts

Contact the Programme Co-ordinator who will advise further.

Grant Funding Available

Minimum grant offered -	£5,000
Maximum grant offered -	£150,000

LEADER will grant aid no more than 40% of the total project costs. Applicants must provide the remaining minimum of 60% from a private source of funding (i.e. their own business funds or bank loan).

Outputs we expect to see

- ALL Applicants must show how they will create sustainable employment, employment opportunities and/or economic growth.

Before making an Application

You must ensure:



- LEADER will not pay 100% towards a single item within a larger project
- The project meets the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the [LEADER Handbook](#), available to download from our website www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk.

We **strongly recommend** you read the Applicant Handbook, as non-compliance with RDPE requirements by an approved project will result in financial penalties.

How to Apply

We have a two stage grant application. Stage 1 Expression Of Interest (EOI) Application Form and Guidance are available to download from our website. www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

Submit the EOI Application to rma.berry@ydmtd.org in the prescribed electronic format.

You will be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application if the EOI Application is eligible.

Moving to a Stage 2 Full Application

A decision on your EOI Application will be sent within 30 working days. If eligible a Stage 2 Full Application will be sent to you. **Full Applications are issued on a rolling basis up to the grant deadline– the earlier an eligible EOI Application is received, the sooner a Full Application will be issued.**

A decision on the Stage 2 Full Application is normally given within 12-16 weeks.

Applications will be considered on a first come first served basis.

Work must not start on any part of the project before you have received and accepted an offer of grant from the Rural Payments Agency. This includes ordering or paying a deposit on materials or equipment.

Please note we rigorously check the validity of all documents and quotes submitted as part of the Full Application. Submission of fraudulent information is a criminal offence and could result in prosecution.

For More Information Contact

Programme Co-ordinator: Rima Berry

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