



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 and Small Enterprise

Micro and Small Enterprise Capital Grant Scheme

LEADER Area	Yorkshire Dales
Grant Reference	SP4/5_03
Date Grant Opens	Thursday May 12th 2016
Deadline for submissions of Outline Applications	Monday July 25th at 17:00 hours
Maximum Amount LEADER will support	40% of eligible costs
	Min/Max: £2,500 to £35,000

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

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.



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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 and Small Enterprise 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 Local Action Group 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 Local Action Group (LAG) invites applications from new and existing micro and small businesses, including social enterprises, located in the rural area, that are looking to expand, create new jobs, and increase their profitability.



Scope of this Grant

This grant is for businesses requiring funding for projects starting from December 2016.

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.**

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Local Action Group will support applications from all business sectors and particularly encourages applications from young people (under the age of 25) and women in the LEADER area.

We will give **most priority** to applications that will:

1. Establish or expand food and drink businesses, developing local food supply chains, clusters and networks.
2. Support the establishment or expansion of construction and specialised construction businesses, e.g. heritage construction businesses such as lime plastering, drystone walling, masonry, lead roofing;
3. Support the establishment or expansion of manufacturing businesses.
4. Support the establishment of businesses that are looking to expand their use of digital technology and media and become more digitally enabled.
5. Businesses that would be creating jobs paying above the average full time salary for the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area (currently £18,700).

ALL applications will lead to and provide evidence that they will;

- Create new jobs in the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area and
- Increase the turnover of the applicant business;

Who can Apply

- ✓ Micro and small business in the LEADER area
- ✓ Applications for start-up business in the LEADER area

What can be supported

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

- ✓ Capital investment; for example machinery
- ✓ Investment in new/existing workspace to make a business more profitable
- ✓ Improved marketing of new/existing products



- ✓ Diversification of products/services
- ✓ Capital investment in IT equipment (non-standard); for example assisting businesses to take full advantage of increased internet connectivity and speed to become more digitally enabled using Client Relationship Management (CRM) systems, e-commerce websites, and cloud based Office systems (for data back-up and remote access to business systems).

Please note this list is not exhaustive.

Areas and activity we cannot give grant for

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

- × The processing of fish or any fishery products
- × Applications that will fund installation or creation of new digital infrastructure in the rural area, e.g. fibre or wireless broadband networks
- × 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
- × business located in the towns of Catterick Garrison, Ripon or Skipton that do not demonstrate **measurable significant economic impact** in the wider rural LEADER area at the Outline Application stage.

Grant Funding Available

Minimum grant offered -	£2,500
Maximum grant offered -	£35,000

Maximum grant that will be offered towards eligible project costs – **40%**

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

- As a result of our grant we need to see a measurable result. ALL Applicants **must** show how they will create sustainable employment, employment opportunities and economic growth.

Before making an Application

Before making an application it is important to consider:

- LEADER will pay no more than 40% of the total project costs and will not pay 100% towards a single item within a larger project



- Whether the project will be completed by 31st March 2018. All of the grant must be spent and claimed no later than 31st March 2018.
- That the project meets the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the [LEADER Applicant Handbook](#), available to download from our website www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk. We strongly recommend you read this in detail, as non-compliance with RDPE requirements by an approved project can result in financial penalties.

How to Apply

We have a two stage application process.

Stage 1 Outline Application Form and Guidance are available to download from our website.

www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk

If you require assistance in completing the Outline Application Form, you should contact the Programme Co-ordinator who can help.

You will be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application if the Outline Application is considered eligible and complete.

Deadline for the Outline Application

Outline Applications must be submitted by email by 25th July at 17:00

An Outline Application must be submitted to rima.berry@ydmtd.org in the prescribed electronic format. You will receive email confirmation of receipt within 2 working days.

Moving to a Stage 2 Full Application

A decision on whether or not you are to be invited to submit a Stage 2 Full Application will normally be communicated to you within 10 working days by the Programme Co-ordinator. **Full Applications will be issued on a rolling basis up to July 25th deadline– the earlier a complete and eligible Outline Application is received, the sooner a Full Application can be issued.**

All Full Applications are competitive.

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.

For More Information Contact

Programme Co-ordinator: Rima Berry

Email: rima.berry@ydmtd.org

Tel: 015242 51002