



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 Rural Services

### Sustain and Enhance Rural Services Capital Grant

<b>LEADER Area</b>	Yorkshire Dales
<b>Grant Reference</b>	SP6_02
<b>Date Grant Opens</b>	8/12/16 <b>UPDATED &amp; REVISED 23/11/17</b>
<b>Date Grant Closes</b>	Closes to EOI: <b>3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018*</b> Closes to Full Application: <b>3<sup>rd</sup> December 2018*</b>
<b>Maximum Amount LEADER will support</b>	<b>40% to 80% of eligible costs (see criteria page 6)</b> <b>Min/Max: £5,000 to £100,000</b>

The Yorkshire Dales LEADER Outline Application Form and guidance notes are available to download from our website. [www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk](http://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.

**\* 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](#).

### *Sustain and Enhance Rural Services Capital Grant*

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;

- build on existing skills and confidence of people to create sustainable, vibrant, living communities, working within their own communities, and with other communities, sharing expertise and experience
- sustain and support local rural services
- encourage economic growth, employment and community well-being by improving access to basic rural services, rural business hubs, skills and training through innovative and collaborative community facing projects and partnerships.

This Yorkshire Dales LAG invites applications from 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) located in the rural area, that are looking to expand, create new jobs, diversify 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 Yorkshire Dales LEADER LAG particularly welcomes projects that will

- Invest in innovative community-led, and voluntary sector service delivery initiatives
- Build community involvement, capacity and leadership
- Support community and social enterprise start up and development
- Develop investment areas for natural environment work that benefit the community and economy.

We will prioritise applications within the appraisal process that can evidence they:

- create new jobs in the rural Yorkshire Dales LEADER area
- increase the business turnover
- enable young people to access work and training

Who can Apply

- ✓ 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
- ✓ parish councils 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).

Applicants can apply if the following is met:

Number of Full Time <sup>1</sup> 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*

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

- ✓ marketing and promotion of services, for example booking services, website and app development
- ✓ development of public space infrastructure, and access to key services, such as cycle links, rail shelters
- ✓ setting up, improving or expanding of essential rural services

<sup>1</sup> A FTE employee works a minimum of 30 hours per week.



- ✓ projects that involve visits to farms for educational purposes so that the public has a greater understanding of the countryside and rural areas
- ✓ creation, improvement or expansion of small-scale village infrastructure projects and village access (for example footpaths)
- ✓ construction 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)

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:

- × projects to meet statutory requirements for disabled access, fire regulations or emergency exits, unless the costs of providing access, exit and complying with regulations form part of the normal costs for a major expansion project.
- × services that are the responsibility of another statutory body
- × continuation funding for existing projects
- × activities funded wholly by other areas of RDPE programme
- × activities of a political or exclusively religious nature
- × general charitable appeals from outside the Yorkshire Dales LEADER area
- × applications which are primarily to support fundraising activity
- × salaries associated with the on-going running of projects, long term salaries or running costs
- × standard, non-specialised vehicles, such as cars, (including 4 X 4), motorbikes, or people carriers
- × refurbishment of amenity buildings except where clearly linked to new provision of services, for example Post Office, Community Hub and clear demonstration of ongoing facility sustainability
- × 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 that are used for the general running of a business, such as processing orders and accounts;
- × access to broadband services;
- × landscaping - unless it is part of 'making good' for an application for a major attraction or accommodation expansion. In which case, only the landscaping contractor's fees would be eligible excluding the plants, seeds, turf or trees;

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.

### ***Grant Funding Available***

Minimum grant offered -	<b>£5,000</b>
Maximum grant offered -	<b>£100,000</b>



The maximum grant rate will depend on whether or not the project is a commercial project which aims to generate an operating surplus, regardless of the type of applicant organisation. Grants limits are:

- up to 40% of the eligible project costs for commercial activities where there is the intention to generate a profit or surplus, (for example a transport or social care service operating commercially) awarded under \*de-minimis state aid rules. Applicants must provide the remaining minimum of 60% from a private source of funding (i.e. their own business funds or bank loan).
- up to 80% for non-profit making projects that have a benefit in terms of value added to the wider rural community, and where there is some income to offset costs but no profit or dividend (for example a community hall where any income covers operating costs and maintenance)

These rates are discretionary.

## Outputs we expect to see

ALL Applicants must evidence how they will benefit the Yorkshire Dales LEADER rural community. Contact the Programme Co-ordinator who will advise further on project outputs.

## Before making an Application

You must ensure:

- The project meets the basic eligibility criteria as outlined in the [LEADER Applicant Handbook](#), available to download from our website [www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk](http://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](http://www.yorkshiredalesleader.co.uk)

Submit the EOI Application to [rma.berry@ydmtd.org](mailto: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 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*

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