

LEADER Programme 2007 – 2013

- **LEADER Local Development Officer: LIZ WHITEFORD**
- **LEADER Programme area: Dingwall & Seaforth Black Isle Isle of Skye (Eilean a' Cheo) Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh**

LEADER Principles:

- **Community Involvement** – aimed at supporting community groups to deliver projects
- **Economic and Community Benefit** – aimed at delivering sustainable economic impact within rural communities
- **Area-based local development strategies** – supporting local development plans as a means of informing LEADER strategy
- **Local partnership working** – Local Area Partnerships (LAP's) bringing together the private, voluntary and public sectors
- **Innovation** – opportunity to pilot new/different/original ideas or to try new ways of doing things, etc
- **Co-operation and networking** – sharing lessons learned and working with other areas towards improving the quality of community life and economic prosperity

LEADER Objectives:

- To stabilise and grow population levels and the balance between age groups
- To increase the benefits communities can derive from their natural and cultural heritage and from tourism
- To maximise the benefits of community assets
- To improve access to services in the community
- To assist communities to create, update and implement development plans
- To increase scope and range of training and learning opportunities available locally
- To support the development of social enterprise and micro-businesses.

Highland STRATEGIC LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG):

- Min 50% private/voluntary and max 50% public representation on LAG
- Oversight of local development plans
- Approval of projects prior to local area partnerships receiving budgets
- Approval of pan-Highland strategic projects
- Reporting to Scottish Government

LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIPS (LAP's):

- Min 50% private/voluntary and max 50% public representation on LAP's
- Preparing local development plans reflecting public, private, and voluntary sector interest in the area and overseeing community planning
- Once development plans are reviewed by Highland LAG, LEADER budget allocations devolved to local area partnerships
- Approve local LEADER allocations aimed primarily at small to medium scale community driven projects
- Assist in promotion of LEADER programme and network with other areas

ROLE of LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER:

- Support and guidance for applicants
- Assessment of applications
- Support for Local Area Partnership development
- Promotion of LEADER programme
- Reporting to Highland Strategic LAG
- Monitor project performance and assist with claims and audit
- Networking and identifying opportunities for project development, including national and trans-national work

HIGHLAND LEADER (and CONVERGENCE) funding BUDGET:

Programme administration	£900,000
Action 2/Co-operation Projects	£500,000
Strategic Highland-wide projects	£3M
Local Area Partnership projects (over first 3 years)	£7M
Funds remaining for 2nd round of local projects	£2.86M
TOTAL	£14.26M

LOCAL AREA PARTNERSHIP LEADER FUNDING BUDGETS (2009-2011) :

<i>Dingwall & Seaforth</i>	£393,378
<i>Black Isle</i>	£329,437
<i>Eilean a' Cheo</i>	£477,752
<i>Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh</i>	£825,702
<i>Cromarty Firth</i>	£406,621
<i>Tain & Easter Ross</i>	£303,580
<i>NW and Central Sutherland, East Sutherland and Edderton</i>	£1,024,957
<i>Landward Caithness, Thurso and Wick</i>	£955,025
<i>Nairn</i>	£388,941
<i>Rural Inverness</i>	£785,309
<i>Lochaber</i>	£1,036,726
<i>Baenoch and Strathspey outside CNP</i>	£72,573

Until Local Area Partnerships and Local Development Plans are in place and budgets are devolved, all project applications will be considered by the Highland LAG - but local groups will still be asked to comment on applications.

LEADER Project Categories:

- Development planning and community capacity building
- Culture & Heritage
- Training & Learning Opportunities
- Access to Facilities & Services
- Land, Environment & Access to Countryside
- Renewables
- Tourism
- Social enterprise & micro businesses

WHO can apply for LEADER funding?

- Constituted community groups, partnerships & voluntary organisations
- Public agencies
- Social enterprises
- (-Private individuals but only where project has wide public support and will benefit a wide section of the community)

INELIGIBLE COSTS?:

- Core staff costs - costs must be LEADER project specific
- Continuation of existing services – there must be innovation/additionality
- Applications whose main purpose is repairs to existing buildings or facilities
- Fixtures & fittings unrelated to delivery of LEADER project
- Sports facilities and Play parks primarily for local use unless a very clear economic/training benefit can be demonstrated
- Contributions towards statutory service provision
- General overhead costs unrelated to project delivery
- Financial / bank charges
- CCTV
- Civic art
- Prize money
- Recoverable VAT

LIMITED PROJECT COSTS?:

- Acquisition of site/building – usually limited to 10% of total LEADER eligible costs
- Professional fees – usually limited to 12.5% of total LEADER eligible costs

LEADER FUNDING - HOW MUCH ?

- 40% of eligible project costs
- Up to 45% of eligible costs if up to 45% PUBLIC match available
- Min grant of £1,000
- Max grant at discretion of local groups
- Funding for up to 3 years
- Applicants must contribute min 5% from own funds (can be in-kind but any in-kind contribution needs to be detailed at application stage so that it can be audited thereafter)

NOTE: Any revenue generating projects should be able demonstrate ‘sustainability’ over the longterm

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR in a LEADER Project/Application?

- Project ideas developed by the community
- Evidence of need, demand and support
- Clearly identified wide community benefit
- Scope for community involvement in the running of the project
- Capacity of applicant group to deliver
- Innovation
- Additionality
- Economic Impact
- Value For Money
- Equal opportunities
- Transferability
- Links to other strategies and plans

THE LEADER ENQUIRY/APPLICATION PROCESS?

- Initial general enquires to Local Development Officer (Tel: 01349 855217 or email: liz.whiteford@highland.gov.uk)
- Then complete a 2 Page enquiry form (available on www.highlandleader.com) with outline project information which will generate further feedback from the local Development Officer
- If project is deemed eligible, and all other requirements are in place ie match funding, any relevant consents, etc, applicant group completes and submits an application form (can be downloaded from www.highlandleader.com)
- On receipt of application form the Local Development Officer (LDO) completes a project assessment
- LDO Project Assessment then circulated to Local Area Partnership
- Consideration of project by Local Area Partnership (LAP)
- LAP's to aim for consensus rather than formal vote
- Local Area Partnership approval, deferral or rejection

LEADER CONTACTS:

Wendy Anderson (Programme Administrator/General Info)

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Liz Whiteford (Local Development Officer)

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