



Rural Payments
Agency

RDPE Funding

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Rural Development Programme for England

- Grant funding schemes to support growth and job creation within rural based businesses.
- **Growth Programme**
 - Tourism
 - Business Support
 - Food Processing
- **Countryside Productivity**
 - Water Resource Management
 - Forestry
 - EIP (*now closed*)
 - Adding value to Agri-food products
 - Improving Farm Productivity
 - Broad Band
- **Leader**



Growth Programme

- **Business Development**
- **Tourism**
- Grants from £35 - £50,000 up to de-minimis €200,000
- **Food processing**
- Grants from £50,000 up to £500,000 / £1m
- Maximum of 40% (tourism schemes can be up to 100%)
- 2 part process EOI & Full Application

- Not all 3 themes are covered by every LEP area.
- See individual LEP section within Handbooks on gov.uk
- Use Magic Maps



Growth Programme (see Handbook)

Each Theme has both National & Local priorities.

National Priorities are centred on:

- Jobs & Growth
- Increasing productivity through innovation
- New markets
- Exports
- Partnerships
- Supply chain
- Extend tourism season
- Increase day & overnight visitors
- Wider benefits



Local Priorities – (see Handbook)

Each LEP sets their own priorities under the different call themes:

e.g. Tourism

- Create or develop attractions
- Increase dwell time, overnight stays & visitor spend
- Support local destination plan
- Links to AONB and heritage sites
- Support local festivals or annual events
- Some exclude visitor accommodation or will only support 4* serviced accommodation or improvements / upgrades to existing, where there is strong evidence for need and demand



LEP overlap areas

GBSLEP overlaps with South Staffordshire LEP

- **Covering districts of Cannock, Lichfield, Tamworth & East Staffordshire**
- **Business Development**
- **Tourism Infrastructure**

GBSLEP also overlaps with North Worcester LEP area

- **Covering districts of Wyre Forest, Bromsgrove and Redditch**
- **Business Development**



Countryside Productivity

National calls: Grants of £35,000 upwards (40% grant)

- **Forestry** (3 April 2018)
- **Water Resource Management** (3 April 2018)
- **Improving Farming Productivity** (3 Dec 2018)
- *Single stage application*

- **Adding value to Agri-food products**
(29 June 2018 for EOI)
- *Two stage process EOI / Full*

- Search Gov.uk for Countryside Productivity



Countryside Productivity

- **Forestry**
 - Private Forestry holdings of at least 10ha
 - Forestry Contractors (micro, small or medium)
 - Improving felling and extracting operation
 - Adding value to primary processing of timber
- **Water Resource Management**
 - For arable and horticultural use
 - Water storage reservoir (peak flow or RWH)
 - Abstraction points/pipes and pumps
 - Irrigation system inc. boom or trickle



Countryside Productivity

– Improving Farm Productivity

- Robotic equipment
- Improving use of renewable energy production
- LED lighting for crop production
- Improved use & management of livestock slurries & manures

– Adding value to Agri food production

- Improved processing of primary agricultural products (annex 1)
- Urban & Rural areas
- Benefit the supply chain (farmers & growers)
- Create higher value products
- Improve productivity
- Business growth
- Encourage partnerships



Leader

- **LEADER is a community-led scheme that provides funding for projects in England which create jobs, help businesses and rural communities to grow and develop the rural economy.**
- **Under the LEADER scheme there are grants for:**
 - **1. increasing farm productivity**
 - **2. supporting micro and small businesses and farm diversification**
 - **3. boosting rural tourism**
 - **4. providing rural services**
 - **5. providing cultural and heritage activity**
 - **6. increasing forestry productivity**
- **Two stage process EOI & Full**



Key areas we look for in any application

- **Check eligibility against specific call**
 - Applicant
 - Activity
 - Cost of items (Eligibility of quotes & specification)
- **Scoring**
 - Strategic Fit (national & local)
 - Value for Money
 - Need and Demand
 - Financial Viability
 - Deliverability & Sustainability



General points to note

- Cannot spend or commit to project until grant awarded
- Timescales: Allow plenty of time to obtain quotes and all supporting evidence, particularly planning and similar consents or agreements.
- From initial application to a funding decision can take several months dependant upon scheme applied to.
- The government has confirmed that it will guarantee funding for RDPE grants if these are agreed and signed before the UK's departure from the EU, even if the grant agreements continue after we have left the EU, subject to projects meeting the following conditions:
 - they are good value for money
 - they are in line with domestic strategic priorities

