

Programme of Activity 2015 - 2016



LEADER Priority: Support micro and small businesses and farm diversification	Priority Level	Calls
SDLAG Objective: Encourage Enterprise and Growth		
<p>The range and diversity of micro and small businesses in our area is a strength but we know rural enterprises need support to get started, to create better employment opportunities and to increase productivity. We want to contribute to the long-term sustainability of enterprises in all sectors but have identified the Food and Drink and Creative sectors for particular support. Funds under this priority will be used to provide grants for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • developing or starting rural micro and small businesses; and • farm diversification projects (for example, contracting services). <p>(We will work with Dorset LEP to ensure that there is complementarity with the National Growth Programme funds for Rural Enterprise)</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and Drink Marketplace: A project to strengthen the local food supply chain and links between producers and markets at home and overseas; this will include the promotion of food businesses and product branding, sales, media, showcases and events. 	High/ pro-active	Challenge – 2016 Date TBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual Arts Marketplace: A project to support the creative sector in southern Dorset to grow the marketplace for art and craft products through their promotion and distribution to new markets at home and overseas; this will include business and product branding, sales, media, showcases and events 	High/ pro-active	Challenge –2016 Date TBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Hubs - Creative and Innovation Workspace: Projects to create new sustainable, affordable workspaces alongside the opportunity to make connections and share resources and services. Projects will need to demonstrate demand and refer to a Dorset Workspace Scoping Study when it becomes available. 	High/ reactive	Open from start of programme, case by case
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enterprise Innovation: Projects to help individual enterprises, sole traders or groups of businesses make an innovative 'step-change, to increase productivity and the long-term sustainability of their business. 	Medium/ reactive	Open from start of programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Businesses start-up: Support for new entrants into business and farm diversification. 	Medium/ reactive	Open from start of programme
LEADER Priority: Provide Rural Services	Priority Level	Calls
SDLAG Objective: Safeguard and enhance community facilities and access to rural services		
<p>We know that many communities within our area feel too small to sustain their own services, such as the village hall, shop, post office, public house and transport links. However, there is a strong desire to safeguard these assets, often by bringing together various services within the same location or by working with neighbouring communities to share resources across several villages. We want to encourage rural communities to find their own innovative solutions to some of the issues facing their residents. We particularly want to hear from strong community partnerships. Projects should make a contribution to growing the local economy.</p> <p>Types of projects we want to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Places - Community Hubs: Projects that support rural communities to find imaginative and well founded projects to ensure sustained provision of rural services. This could be through mixed used facilities; e.g. a community store with post office, café and Wi-Fi or larger community 'hubs'; including shop, meeting space, health care provision, community libraries, leisure facilities, cultural activity, place of worship and working space. Hubs may be shared across 		
	High/pro-active	Challenge – 2016 Date to be confirmed

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<p>several communities. (Our activity could complement that of the Plunkett Foundation, 'Power to Change' Lottery funding and Dorset Community Action.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community based projects to provide some long-term options for rural transport issues, using, for example internet based car-sharing across our rural area. ○ Projects to support green infrastructure projects; such as cycleways, footpaths and bridleways around and between communities • Affordable Energy Projects to help rural communities make use of alternative/renewable energy sources to ensure access to affordable energy, perhaps linking to our priority for woodland products and woodfuel supply chains.. 		
<p>LEADER Priority: Increase farm productivity SDLAG Objective: Encourage Enterprise and Growth</p>		
<p>These grants are all about improving the overall performance and sustainability of your agricultural holding with a focus on low cost innovations to enhance productivity across the sector. We particularly want to hear from collaborative farm projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Products: Projects to process agricultural products on farm or close-by that add value to the products and are likely to have a larger impact on sector as a whole. • Farm Innovation: Projects that improve productivity on farms. Where these benefit an individual business we would welcome applications that can be pioneering or flagship projects. 	Medium/ reactive	Open from start of programme
<p>LEADER Priority: Increase forestry productivity SDLAG Objective: Encourage Enterprise and Growth</p>	Medium/reactive	Open from start of programme
<p>In Southern Dorset woodlands are an under-used resource. Our projects need to achieve enhanced economic and environmental benefits through regular management to local woods and permanent new supply chains and jobs that, at the same time, restore and encourage a greater degree of added value to the timber output.</p> <p>Types of projects we want to fund:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodland Management and Products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects to develop woodland products and small scale processing and marketing of, for example, green wood and woodfuel alongside woodland to strengthen the supply chain in wood products. (Note: We have highlighted this activity as a potential area for further development in a trans-national co-operation projects and linking to investment under the Rural Services priority) 	Medium/reactive	Open from start of programme
	Priority Level	Calls
	High/reactive	Open from start of programme
	Lower/reactive	Open from start of programme
	High/pro-active	Challenge 2016 date TBC

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects to improve the long term management and improved productivity of under-used woodland in our area. 	Low/reactive	Open from start of programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Forestry Business start-ups: new forestry enterprises e.g. contractor/mobile services 	Medium/reactive	Open from start of programme
<p>LEADER Priority: Support Rural Tourism</p> <p>SDLAG Objective: Celebrate, conserve and add value to our special natural, historic and cultural heritage</p>	Priority Level	Calls
<p>We wish to see inland tourism in southern Dorset strengthened as a complement to coastal tourism; extending the tourist season, using the diverse heritage of the inland area to turn part-time, seasonal and low-paid employment into full-time and higher paid jobs. We will support individual projects and particularly sector based initiatives which are designed to serve one or both of these aims. We will expect applicants to provide high quality visitor products and services that link tourism providers, demonstrate clear gaps in provision and provide evidence for market demand.</p> <p>Types of projects we want to fund</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promote Rural Dorset. Projects to strengthen the promotion of the inland area, to extend the tourism season and to bring added value to the rural economy. Although our highest priority is inland tourism, we will consider projects based along the coast to support marine tourism. Accommodation projects should not affect the supply of local housing. 	High/ reactive	Open from start of programme
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Celebrate Rural Dorset. A project to enhance the research and development of high quality interpretation to our rural landscapes and high value natural and cultural heritage sites on land and sea, linked to innovative technology and the involvement of rural communities. 	High/ pro-active	Challenge 2016 Date TBC
<p>LEADER Priority: Provide cultural and heritage activity</p> <p>SDLAG Objective: Celebrate, conserve and add value to our special natural, historic and cultural heritage</p>	Priority Level	Calls
<p>We want to support initiatives which contribute to the protection, enhancement and celebration of the cultural heritage assets of southern Dorset, with a focus not only on the outstanding features of the Jurassic Coast World Heritage Site but also on the towns and villages, landscapes and wildlife of the inland countryside and Portland.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects which enhance, restore and upgrade the cultural and natural heritage of villages and rural landscapes and high value nature sites, this includes the construction and or restoration of buildings for community and cultural activities. 	High/reactive	Open from start of programme