



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

MATCH FUNDING

Scottish Borders LEADER offers up to 60% of funding for rural community projects, and up to 50% for Public Sector and rural enterprise projects. The applicant has to provide match funding for the remainder of the funds required from other sources.

All match funding must be in the form of a direct cash contribution and suitable evidence of this must be submitted to and accepted by the Local Action Group before a formal Offer of Grant is issued.

If you are unable to obtain match funding at the time of application then you should include evidence of the status of the match funding estimated and date when it will be confirmed.

Evidence required

If you have received your match funding ahead of the LEADER project offer you must provide:

- copies of each match funding offer, donation confirmation or other evidence of receipt showing what the funds are for and demonstrating that the funds are specifically for (or not for) the LEADER project (see ring fencing below)
- bank statements showing the receipt of the funds.

If you are due to receive your match funding during the course of the LEADER project you must provide:

- copies of the match funding offer showing the total amount of the grant and the payment terms and demonstrating that the funds are specifically for (or not for) the LEADER project (see Ring fencing below)
- bank statements showing receipt of the match funding as it is received

Where match funding is provided by you from your own sources, you must provide:

- a letter of commitment from the applicant referencing the project and stating the amount of funds that have been committed to the project
- the organisation's bank statement, overdraft commitment or other equivalent proof to demonstrate that the organisation has the promised funds.
- confirmation that the remaining funds in the organisation bank account are ring fenced for other core/project activity and there is a need for the LEADER funding.



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

Ring Fencing

In some cases, the match funder will provide a grant where only some of the grant will be used to match fund the LEADER project, the remainder going to support ineligible project costs or activities out-with the project timeframe.

In these cases, you should ensure that the match funder provides a breakdown of the funding allocated. This should show the amount allocated to the LEADER project and activities, against actions not being funded through LEADER.

The entire project costs must be included in the project plan submitted with the application showing the split between the eligible and ineligible for LEADER project costs.

Eligible match funding

There are two types of match funding:

- Private match funding, such as from **trusts, donations and personal donations**
- Public match funding, such as **lottery, local or central government, public bodies grants.**

You are responsible for checking, confirming and declaring whether your match funding is public or private.

Ineligible match funding

- European Funding of any kind cannot be used as match funding.
- In-kind (non-cash contributions) are ineligible as match funding.

Match funding and state aid

All projects require a state aid assessment which includes the public/private match funding check. For state aid assessment it is essential to determine the public and private funding split. This is because, if the funding for the proposal is deemed to be state aid, all public funding has to be cumulated and cannot exceed the state aid intervention limit (where state aid is deemed to be present). For example: if the project has a state aid intervention limit of 50% then all public funding from the match funder or funders cannot exceed 50%. The remaining 50% must be private funding. Private funding is not state aid.

In kind

In kind/volunteer time contributions are valuable in demonstrating the added value of LEADER through the inclusion of a diverse range of individuals and communities in making the project a success. While in kind is an ineligible contribution to the LEADER project, it may be recorded as a milestone with no cost.



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

In kind provided towards a LEADER project whether it is provided by an individual, business, local community or any other person or body can have a notional value but no cash disbursement can be provided for this activity.

Useful Links

For more information on potential sources of match funding please visit the [Useful Links](#) page on the Scottish Borders Leader website.

(Version 1 – 15/01/16)

Scottish Borders LEADER Programme
c/o Economic Development
Scottish Borders Council, Council HQ
Newtown St Boswells TD6 0SA

t: 01835 826661
f: 01835 825158
scotbordersleader@scotborders.gov.uk
www.scottishbordersleader.co.uk



Scottish Borders Local Action Group is part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community LEADER 2014-2020 Programme