



Scottish Borders LEADER

Developing Enterprising Communities

The LEADER Fund 2014-2020

The LEADER Fund 2014-2020 provides the majority of the LEADER funding for community groups and enterprise projects with a total allocation of £1.6M.

Non-Public Sector projects can apply for project costs, in a funding range from £5,000 to £150,000. The remainder of the project's funding must be 'match funded' using non-EU public funding, and/or private money.

Public sector projects are able to apply for up to 50% of the total eligible project costs in a funding range from £5,000 to £150,000, with the other 50% coming from match funding.

Co-operation Projects developed in partnership with other LEADER areas in Scotland, the UK, and other areas in the EU are encouraged and have been allocated £400K of funding. 'Transnational' projects (projects with EU member states outside of Scotland) may be awarded grants at a different intervention rate, depending on EU guidance and common practice in the collaborative areas. Please view the information sheet on Co-operation Projects for more specific details.

Small rural businesses and farm diversification projects have been allocated funding of £400K each. For further particulars, please refer to the information sheet on the Rural Enterprise Fund.

Fund (Allocation Total)	Project Category	Category Total	Conditions
LEADER Fund (£2M)	Non Public Sector (Third Sector) Community projects	£1.6K	£5K-£150K up to 60% from LEADER and the rest in match funding.
	Public Sector		£5K-£150K up to 50% from LEADER and the rest in match funding.
	Co-operation projects	£400K	Awaiting clarification from Scottish Government
LEADER Rural Enterprise Fund (£800K)	Small/micro rural businesses	£400K	£5K-70K Euros or £50K whichever is the least. 50:50 match funding
	Farm diversification projects	£400K	As above

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What is an eligible project?

To be eligible project activities should:

- Fit within the strategic aim and development themes of the Scottish Borders Local Development Strategy. The strategic aim of the programme is **Enterprising Communities**. The types of activities eligible for funding under the four development themes can be found on the **LEADER Principles** Information Sheet.
- Projects should be new and innovative. This could include introducing a pilot project which tests a brand new concept or sharing best practice by launching a new development opportunity to the Scottish Borders which has been tested in other areas.
- Projects should be sustainable and revenue generating, creating positive outcomes such as employment or youth employment, skills or training to increase employment opportunities, as well as taking into account and providing prospects for equality.
- Benefit the LEADER target groups i.e. women, young people, unemployed (under/over 25), underemployed, people with disabilities, small/micro businesses and social enterprises.

For further details on eligibility please refer to the Information Sheet on **LEADER Eligibility Criteria**.

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