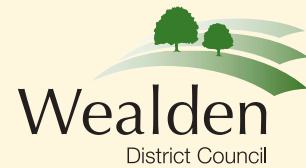


LEADER Factsheet 1



LEADER funding in Wealden and Rural Rother (WARR)

Why is it called 'LEADER'?

The name comes from the French acronym 'Liaison Entre Actions pour le Developement de l'Economie Rurale' (which translates as 'links between actions for the development of the rural economy'). LEADER funding comes from the European Union (EU), via the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and is part of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).

Why is LEADER funding available?

The EU, national and regional governments think that rural areas need help to become or remain economically, environmentally and socially healthy and sustainable. The money must be used to fund activities that have a long term impact on the profitability and sustainability of land based industries, tourism enterprises, rural businesses and rural communities.

How much money is available?

There is £2.4 million of LEADER funding to spend in the WARR area, over the next 5 years 2009 - 2013.

Individual projects can apply for up to £50,000.

For commercial projects, the grant will be no more than 50% of the total cost of the project: for community projects, it could be up to 80-100%. Grants are available for short term and capital costs, not for ongoing funding, such as salaries.

The application process is competitive and not all eligible projects can be guaranteed financial support.

What is the eligible area?

All of the rural Parishes in Wealden and Rother Districts, plus the market towns of Hailsham and Heathfield.

Who can apply?

Farmers and growers; landowners; foresters and forest/woodland owners; small businesses; social enterprises; tourism enterprises; charities; formally constituted groups; local authorities and Parish Councils; public sector organisations.

Fact sheets with more information are available for many of these groups.

When can I apply?

As soon as you like. There are no deadlines.



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What type of projects might be eligible?

A wide range of projects, including activities such as farm diversification; adding value to agricultural and forestry products; tourism; renewable energy and community projects, including projects highlighted in village action plans.

Who will decide whether my application can be funded?

There is a WARR Partnership Board, made up of members from the public, private and voluntary sectors, which is responsible for deciding which projects to fund. It does so by considering the information given in the application and then voting. It is supported by a staff team who manage the grants process and help applicants.

What do I do next?

Read the appropriate fact sheet for your business or group (available from the RDPE Project Officer - see below).

Pick up the phone and talk to us about your project.

Complete an initial Expression of Interest form to check that your project broadly fits the criteria of the programme, followed by a more detailed Application Form.

If you think that you may be interested in applying for LEADER funding, please get in touch to discuss your idea.

continued overleaf

You can contact:

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If you, or somebody you know, would like the information contained in this document in large print, Braille, tape/CD or in another language please contact Wealden District Council on 01323 443322 or info@wealden.gov.uk

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