



LEADER funding for Small Businesses in Wealden and Rural Rother (WARR)

Grants of up to £50,000 per project are available.

To be eligible, projects must fall under one of the following measures within the Rural Development Programme – England (RDPE) programme.

Measure 312 - support for the creation and development of micro-enterprises

You can apply for up to 100% of the total cost of the project, but most projects will be expected to find some funding from elsewhere. A micro-enterprise is defined as fewer than 10 employees or annual turnover of less than 2 million Euros. Micro-enterprises can also be social enterprises. You can be an existing business or apply for help to set one up.

DEFRA's objective is to promote entrepreneurship and create employment opportunities in rural areas.

Examples:

- Retailing, manufacturing or service industries, including self-made products, recreation, equestrian and creative industries (e.g. crafts, sculpture)
- Environmental services, including traditional trades required to maintain and enhance the landscape
- Renewable energy (not planting support or forestry processing which is available under other measures)

The grant can be used to fund capital investments, market research, marketing support, product development, branding or design costs, start-up revenue costs or technical support.

Measure 321 – basic services for the economy and rural population

You can apply for up to 80% of the total cost of the project, but you are likely to receive less if you are a commercial business. Businesses or social enterprises can apply; also charities and other formally constituted groups.

DEFRA's objective is to improve the living conditions or welfare of those living in rural areas and to provide better basic services for the economy and the rural population. (Activity which is the statutory responsibility of local or national government is excluded).



Leaps Cross Business Park

Examples:

- Cultural and leisure activities, including space for community festivals and events, recreational facilities such as parks or sports grounds
- Development of community buildings
- Community enterprises to provide key services, e.g. child/elder care
- Capital costs associated with the implementation of village action plans
- Energy services, e.g. wood fuel powered system for community buildings, community renewable energy projects
- Shop/retail services
- ICT for community benefit

The grant can be used to pay for small scale capital costs; community capacity building activities (capital costs only) or the costs of setting up (but not maintaining) a new basic service.

Measure 322 – village renewal and development

You can apply for up to 80% of the cost of your project, but you are likely to receive less if you are a profit-making business. Businesses or social enterprises can apply; also charities and other formally constituted groups.

DEFRA want to encourages communities and villages to work together to improve the village environment and the provision of community areas.

Examples:

Small scale infrastructure projects to develop or enhance

- village approaches
- main streets
- community buildings
- amenity spaces
- workspaces
- Collaborative, networking social enterprises
- Improving community facilities, including capital costs associated with the implementation of village action plans

The grant can be used to pay for small scale capital and resource investment or marketing.

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

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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