

OUR GRANT PROGRAMMES 2015 -2020

We offer a range of different grant programmes, with grants from £2,500 to £50,000. In assessing applications, we take account of the outcomes you will achieve, and how your project will contribute to the rural economy, community and environment.

- INCREASING FARM PRODUCTIVITY
- INCREASING FORESTRY PRODUCTIVITY
- GROWTH OF MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES
- FARM DIVERSIFICATION
- DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM AND RECREATION
- RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES
- CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ASSETS AND EVENTS

INCREASING FARM PRODUCTIVITY

The farm productivity grant programme has been developed to encourage agricultural businesses in the Loddon and Test LEADER area to invest in innovative practices and new technologies to help them to become more sustainable and productive. There are 3 main aims of this programme, these are; to improve the overall performance and sustainability of agricultural holdings, to support animal health and welfare improvements and to support the processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products.

Grants are available for between £2,500 and £50,000 with 60% match funding required.

INCREASING FORESTRY PRODUCTIVITY

The forestry grant programme has been developed in order to restore regular management to local woods in the Loddon and Test LEADER area. It aims to add value to the development of the timber output, create jobs and develop wood-fuel supply chains. It also aims to invest in the production, processing and marketing of non-timber forest products, particularly wild venison.

Grants are available for between £2,500 and £25,000 with 60% match funding required.

GROWTH OF MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES

This grant programme has been set up to develop micro and small businesses (fewer than 50 FTE staff or less than 10 million euros turnover). Grants will be provided to both existing and start up businesses with the aim of supporting a growing rural economy. Local rural businesses support the rural economy by maintaining and creating jobs, growing local supply chains and bringing investment into the area. Vibrant local communities rely on high quality and diverse local services and business. The objective of this fund is to support a diverse business base to support a local community.

Grants are available for between £2,500 and £50,000 with 60% match funding required. *Nb in exceptional circumstances, match funding could be reduced for non-profit making operations such as social enterprises or community ventures.*

FARM DIVERSIFICATION

The farm diversification grant programme has been set up to enable farming businesses to diversify into non-farming activities. It aims to help farmers support the underlying farm business by bringing in supplementary income in addition to that from traditional farming pursuits. This may be by putting under used resources to better use, for example old farm buildings, or it may be by being able to meet a local demand for a product or service that is not currently being met.

Grants are available for between £2,500 and £50,000 with 60% match funding required. *Nb in exceptional circumstances, match funding could be reduced for non-profit making operations that will not generate an economic gain to the farm, but will impact on the wider rural economy.*

DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM AND RECREATION

The rich heritage of the Loddon and Test landscape is a major attraction for visitors, along with the associated rural activities that are special to the area, such as fly fishing on the chalk streams, the Basingstoke canal and the many historic assets such as Silchester Roman town, Danebury Hill fort and Odiham Castle.

This grant programme has been set up to encourage development of tourism in the Loddon and Test LEADER area. We recognise that this offers a significant opportunity to grow the economy, create jobs, support existing businesses, increase the investment in public transport and provide investment into the natural and historic assets of the area.

Grants are available for between £2,500 and £50,000 with 60% match funding required for commercial businesses and 20% match funding for non-profit making projects *Nb in exceptional circumstances, match funding could be reduced for projects that have a benefit in terms of value added to the wider local tourist economy where there is no income, such as paths, cycle paths, signage and interpretation boards for paths and trails, visitor information centres etc.*

RURAL COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Rural Community Services grant programme has been set up to help rural communities develop initiatives to alleviate some of the difficulties they face, particularly the lack of access to services and the provision of infrastructure. Projects should make a contribution to growing the local economy and could include development of community buildings, public spaces, or cultural and tourism amenities.

Grants are available for between £2,500 and £12,500 with a minimum of 20% match funding required. *Nb in exceptional circumstances, we may omit a requirement for match funding if there is added value to the wider local economy. Commercial (profit making) projects will require 60% match funding.*

CULTURAL AND HERITAGE ASSETS AND EVENTS

This grant programme has been set up to promote, enhance and maintain cultural heritage, assets and events where they promote growth in the visitor economy. It also aims to create a sense of local

identity through raising awareness of their importance and help protect cultural heritage features against damage and degradation.

Grants are available for between £2,500 and £12,500 with a minimum of 20% match funding required. *Nb in exceptional circumstances, we may omit a requirement for match funding if there is added value to the wider local economy. Commercial (profit making) projects will require 60% match funding.*

For further Information on eligibility requirements of each grant programme, or a map of the Loddon and Test LEADER area:

www.ruralfunding.co.uk

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