



RURAL PERTH & KINROSS LEADER NEWS

November 2014

Welcome to the *Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER News* which provides information on the development and delivery of the Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS) (2014-2020). LEADER is a community-led funding programme to support projects in rural communities. It is funded by the Scottish Government and the European Union with other contributions from local partners and organisations.

What is Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER area?

With a population of around 94,000 people, rural Perth & Kinross covers the vast majority of Perth & Kinross area (with the exception of Perth and Scone and areas of Cairngorms National Park) with outstanding landscapes, vibrant towns and villages.

What has already happened?

On behalf of rural Perth & Kinross, Perth & Kinross Council submitted an expression of interest to the Scottish Government in August 2013 to establish a Local Action Group (LAG) and develop a LEADER LDS to address rural issues and develop opportunities.

In September 2013, the Scottish Government has confirmed that we could proceed to stage 2. The LAG met on 27 March 2014 to analyse community feedback and agreed to submit the draft LDS to the Scottish Government. At its meeting on 4 June 2014, the Council's Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee agreed the Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER Draft LDS.

The LAG prepared a draft Business Plan detailing arrangements for how the LDS will be delivered and submitted it for comments to the Scottish Government by 15 August 2014.

On 3 September 2014, the Council's Enterprise & Infrastructure Committee agreed the draft Business Plan.

Who is on the LAG?

The LAG membership includes a majority of private and community organisations and public agencies.. A recruitment process is currently underway to formalise LAG membership. Details can be found on www.pkc.gov.uk/leader

How the draft LDS has been developed?

The LAG led an extensive engagement process which took place to facilitate wide involvement and feedback via surveys of individuals, community groups and social enterprises, via focus groups and events and via the use of social media such as Facebook and twitter. Lessons learned from the previous 'Rural Tayside LEADER' programme were also used to guide the LDS development.

How the draft Business plan has been developed?

The LAG led the development of the draft Business Plan following guidance from the Scottish Government. As the Lead Partner chosen by the LAG, Perth & Kinross Council is coordinating information and submission.

What will happen next?

The final LDS and Business Plan have been submitted by 30 September 2014 and it is expected that the Scottish Government would consider LDS and budget by beginning of December 2014 for a start in January 2015. The minimum LEADER allocation would be £2m.

How can I access the draft LDS, Business Plan and other documents?

All information is available from www.pkc.gov.uk/leader

Who can I contact for more information?

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Please Turn Over

What is the overall aim of the Rural Perth & Kinross LEADER LDS?

To support individuals, organisations and communities in rural Perth & Kinross to be stronger, more confident and inclusive to lead or contribute to local economic and community development.

What are the main objectives?

1. To build a thriving, expanding economy and develop employment opportunities for all, the LDS will invest in community-led initiatives contributing to:
 - Enterprise development
 - Skills development
 - Infrastructure improvement
2. To make the environment more attractive and welcoming and communities safer, more resilient and responsible, the LDS will invest in community-led initiatives contributing to:-
 - Landscape, natural environment and cultural assets improvement
 - Local services improvement
 - Active people and communities' development

What projects have been identified?

Youth Initiative with three elements:

- Support Youth Champions/coaches in existing youth organisations to help young people to develop ideas and projects
- Establish a Youth Challenge Fund (micro-funding up to £5,000) to support projects led by young people
- Establish a Social media/Communication project asking young people to contribute to the Programme communication and promote local projects. It could be seen as a 'trainee' type programme offering skills opportunities for young people. This initiative could link to Saltire Awards and Project Scotland.

Capacity Building with three elements:

- Establish a Rural Community Future Leaders programme. It would be a Personal development programme targeting individual volunteers (all ages but focusing on young people and retirees) leading or aspiring to lead community organisations and projects.
- Create and develop a Community Capacity Building/Enterprise Pipeline (similar to Business Support pipeline) providing support to start-up

(website based, other local support), to growing organisations (access to special advice HR, Legal, Finance) and to high growth organisations (i.e. development trusts, employing staff, generating income from assets, asset ownership) (access to intensive support e.g. 12-24 months project managers, specialist advice).

- Create an evaluation capacity building project. This will focus on developing the capacity and skills of community organisations and LAG in monitoring and evaluation and providing opportunities for participation and engagement, knowledge transfer and exchange of best practice including the creation of an evaluation steering group, a peer review group within other LAGs and a series of evaluation activities such as surveys, focus groups or case studies using different tools such as self-evaluation.

Community Broadband

Support community organisations to develop local broadband networks where the National Programme would not improve speeds. It will help with feasibility studies, business modelling and physical deployment.

Support to Small Businesses

Create a Small Business Grant Scheme to support start-up, business growth or farm diversification and access to business support.

Open Grant Scheme

Create an open grant scheme which will run for the duration of the programme to help projects supporting the delivery of the LDS through feasibility study, pump-priming or support to develop or improve physical assets and develop activities. Some examples of possible projects are listed below:

- Support supply chain and joint working initiatives in the key sectors of food and drink, forestry, tourism, and renewables
- Enhance access to, or develop local services, including rural transport, facilities and community spaces
- Renovate empty or in need of improvement village/town centre properties including community ownership
- Develop or enhance access to landscape and natural environment through, for example, the development of path and cycle routes.

