

Appendix 'A'

LEADER Priorities

Priority 1- Support to increase farm productivity

These grants will support a wide range of farm investments. They are particularly for businesses that want to invest in innovative business practices and new technologies to help them become more sustainable and productive.

There are 3 main types of projects that could be supported:

- a project to improve the overall performance and sustainability of an agricultural holding;
- an investment to support animal health and welfare improvements; or
- the processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products.

Priority 2 - Support for micro and small businesses (non-agricultural) and farm diversification

Funds under this priority will be used to provide grants for:

- developing or starting rural micro and small businesses; and
- farm diversification projects (for example, contracting services).

Priority 3 - Support for rural tourism

The kinds of tourism business start-up and business development projects that are likely to attract funding will be those developing high quality visitor products and services that link tourism providers, extend the tourism season and encourage visitors to stay.

Priority 4 - Provision of rural services

These grants are for projects that aim to alleviate some of the difficulties faced by rural communities, particularly the lack of access to services and the provision of infrastructure. Projects should make a contribution to growing the local economy. They could include, the development of community buildings, public spaces, or cultural or tourism amenities.

Priority 5 - Support for cultural and heritage activity

This focuses on the promotion, enhancement and maintenance of cultural heritage assets and events where this promotes growth in the tourism economy and:

- creates a sense of local identity through raised awareness of their importance; and/or
- helps protect cultural heritage features against damage and degradation.

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Priority 6 - Support for increasing forestry productivity

Forestry is making an increasing contribution to rural growth - it is helping to diversify the farm economy and reduce the carbon footprint of local communities. More than 80% of England's woods are privately owned. Funding under LEADER will aim to deliver permanent new supply chains and jobs that, at the same time, restore regular management to local woods and encourage a greater degree of added value to the timber output.