

PROVISION OF RURAL SERVICES

Total programme budget (at 2015): **£152,559**

Programme Targets	
No. of Projects	6
No. of Businesses or Holdings Benefitting	6
No. of Jobs Created	4

Local priorities:

To increase connectedness of isolated rural communities

To facilitate and develop support services that create healthy, well supported, thriving rural communities

To share good practice between rural communities and develop the local rural economy

Grant:

Up to 100% grants available. 100% grants will be offered only in exceptional circumstances and applicants will be expected to demonstrate that efforts have been made to secure other funds to match. Minimum grant amount £2,500

Who can apply?

- Rural community groups;
- Public or private entities working in partnership with small and micro business and rural community groups; and
- Local authorities (in exceptional circumstances, where for example the project outcomes are enhanced by their inclusion, or the local authority can show that the project and the funding required is in addition to their statutory requirement to provide rural services).

What is eligible?

Types of project could include:

- Delivery of plans for the development of municipalities and villages in rural areas and their rural services;
- Small-scale village infrastructure projects, including amenity buildings and village access (for example footpaths);

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Please note: this is a summary document – full details can be found in the Applicant Handbook

- Community renewable energy production and distribution networks including investments in renewable energy systems which would not be eligible for Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) or Feed-In Tariffs (FITs);
- Setting-up, improving or expanding rural services for the local community.

Costs could include:

- Construction, acquisition (including leasing) or improvement to immovable property;
- Feasibility studies and construction of renewable energy production plant and distribution capacity;
- The purchase or hire purchase of new machinery and equipment;
- General costs linked to facilitating investments such as architect, engineer, and consultation fees, but these can't add up to more than 15% of the project's total eligible costs.

Ineligible costs:

- Computers, software and printers that are used for the general running of a business, such as processing orders and accounts;
- Access to broadband services;
- Landscaping - unless it is part of 'making good' for an application for a major attraction or accommodation expansion. In which case, only the landscaping contractor's fees would be eligible, not plants, seeds, turf or trees;
- Projects to meet statutory requirements for disabled access, fire regulations or emergency exits, unless the costs of providing access, exit and complying with regulations form part of the normal costs for a major expansion project;
- In-kind contributions;
- Costs for standard agricultural equipment & inputs, like animals & annual crops;
- Cost of agricultural production rights & payment entitlements;
- Cost of getting any consents needed, for example planning permission;
- Costs for anything that's a standard industry obligation, for example requirements of the Basic Payment Scheme;
- Costs that are incurred before the date of the grant funding agreement;
- Financial charges, such as interest, fines and maintenance;
- Reclaimable VAT;
- Any items the applicant already gets EU or national funding for;
- Projects the applicant is required to do by law or to meet a legal requirement;
- Like-for-like replacements;

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- Costs connected with a leasing contract, such as lessor's margin, interest refinancing costs, overheads and insurance charges;
- Salaries, running costs;
- Relocation of the business;
- Own labour;
- Licence fees, subscriptions and service charges;
- Standard computer and mobile equipment; and
- Costs for renewable heat and energy systems covered by the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) or Feed-In Tariffs (FITs) aren't eligible.



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas



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