

What is LEADER?

LEADER is a community-led, bottom up process to deliver the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). The RDPE is jointly funded by Defra and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and managed in our region by One North East. Decisions on funding through the LEADER approach are made at community level by a Local Action Group (LAG) comprising local community representatives.

What is the purpose of LEADER?

Funding is delivered in line with 'Rural Roots', the East Durham LEADER Local Development Strategy. This will deliver sustainable rural development that addresses social & economic inequalities for communities in East Durham.

This is a chance for the people of East Durham to bring forward project ideas to enable vision to become reality. The strategy is available on our website, see overleaf for details.

LEADER funding will prioritise support for projects that benefit the following sectors:

- Bioenergy
- Natural and cultural assets
- Small / new businesses
- Sustainable communities
- Sustainable farming and forestry
- Tourism and recreation

Which areas are eligible for funding?

The LEADER area covers 114 square miles, with a population of 150,000. The area includes 28 east Durham wards* and two Sunderland wards*.

The map below shows the coverage area; please note that slightly different eligibility criteria may apply for projects originating from urban wards, as LEADER funding is primarily intended to benefit rural communities. Please contact the East Durham LEADER Manager for details.

* Based on 2003 ward boundaries



Who can apply for funding through the LEADER approach?

A constituted group, charity, social enterprise or community association may apply for funding to support creative, innovative projects that prove they can add social or economic value in East Durham. Farm businesses, micro-enterprises and individuals may also be eligible for support depending on the type of project. Applicants will usually be asked to provide match funding.

The Local Action Group

The Local Action Group manages the direction of the programme at a local level. It is made up of members from East Durham's communities, covering the public, private and third sectors.

The Local Action Group is keen to encourage representation from anyone who lives, works, or has an interest in the East Durham LEADER area.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact the East Durham LEADER Programme Manager for more information.

Do you have a good idea?


LEADER is always looking to support interesting and innovative ideas that can make a real difference. If you have a project idea or simply require more information, please get in touch.





How to contact us

If you are interested in finding out more information about the LEADER programme in East Durham, please contact:

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What's it all about?



The LEADER difference!

Local decision making at community level

Engaging sectors that other initiatives may not reach e.g. farming businesses, young people, micro-enterprises and community businesses

Adding value by supporting projects that help to tackle grass roots issues

Diversification of farming and forestry

Economic sustainability for East Durham

Rural development in East Durham supported through a local community led approach



RDPE is funded by EAFRD and Defra, and managed in our region by One North East.



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

County Durham
Economic
Partnership



defra



 Durham Rural
Community Council

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NORTH EAST

For more information about LEADER in the North East visit www.rdpenortheast.co.uk

