

# The Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

A quick guide to the LEADER approach



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



## What is the LEADER approach?

The LEADER approach is a bottom-up, community-led approach to deliver funds from the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE). Approximately £1.5m p/a is available to fund LEADER projects across the region until 2013; these projects will benefit the rural community in specific LEADER areas.

The term LEADER comes from the French acronym standing for 'Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale', meaning 'Links between the rural economy and development actions'. In practice, it is a method of delivering rural development in rural communities where local people have the opportunity to take funding decisions at a local level in line with their Local Development Strategy, a plan that identifies priority funding for LEADER areas.

### Case study: Horse Power for Ability



An inspirational woman with cerebral palsy is opening a therapy centre which uses horse power to help other people with neurological disorders to improve their mobility. Dr Dorothee Debuse first experienced the healing power of hippotherapy, a specialist physiotherapy intervention using horses, when she was eight years old.

The 38-year-old, who lives in Northumberland, wanted to pursue her love of horses and help others through therapeutic riding. After receiving LEADER funding, she is now able to open this unique service to the general public.

## How does LEADER operate?

Each LEADER area has a Local Action Group made up of public and private partners from the rural territory, including representatives from different socio-economic sectors. In the delivery of the RDPE, the Local Action Groups can play an important role in encouraging innovative responses to old and new rural problems and help to build local capabilities. The delivery is overseen by the Regional Development Agency One North East.

Funding is available through the LEADER approach to support a wide range of applicants to deliver against a range of activities. For more information about LEADER in your area, please contact your local LEADER Coordinator or for more general information please refer to

[www.rdpnortheast.co.uk/leader](http://www.rdpnortheast.co.uk/leader)

### Case study: The East Durham Beef Project



The East Durham LEADER group has agreed to support and commission a feasibility study to examine if the magnesian limestone geology in the East Durham area could lead to a distinct and recognisable 'East Durham Beef' brand.

It is envisaged that the quality of the grassland in this area, which needs to be grazed to conserve the local habitat, will help to produce a bespoke East Durham premium beef. This should hopefully improve prospects for businesses throughout the supply chain and lead to further tourism and hospitality opportunities.

### Do you have a proposal to help develop your rural economy or rural community?

If so, your idea may be eligible for funding from one of five Local Action Groups. To find out more about your LEADER area (see map on reverse), please contact:

Northumberland Uplands	Tom Burstons	01669 622 063
Northumberland Coast & Lowlands	Ivan Hewitt	07766 694 520
North Pennine Dales	Sue Ellwood	07789 266 491
East Durham	Louise Johnson	01429 824743
North Yorkshire Moors, Coast and Hills*	Mike Horrocks	01439 770 657

\* This Local Action Group is overseen by the Regional Development Agency Yorkshire Forward

### Case study: Inspirational Community Arts Plan



A new arts and media centre is to be created in Allendale with the help of LEADER funding. A £25,000 grant has been provided to employ a full-time coordinator to complete this complicated project. The original idea came from local business women Amanda Galbraith who recognised the wealth of arts, crafts and music talent in the area.

Amanda said: "The new centre will, hopefully, increase visitors and we will offer new community facilities. The LEADER funding is very important to us, this is a large development and we need someone to manage it for us."

