

# What is LEADER?

LEADER is part of the Scotland Rural Development Programme, which funds economic, environmental and social measures for the benefit of rural Scotland.

A bottom-up method of delivering support for rural development, LEADER is aimed at increasing the capacity of the local rural community and business networks by building knowledge and skills, encouraging innovation and co-operation, and attempting to tackle local development objectives.

Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale

*(Links between actions for the development of the rural economy)*

Funded by the European Union and Scottish Government, LEADER will be delivered in Scotland by 21 Local Action Groups implementing Local Development Strategies. The strategy sets out how the LEADER Programme will be implemented and the priorities for funding in the area.

LEADER funding will be used in Orkney to help support the local economy and communities to become stronger and more resilient through support for small-scale, community-driven projects that are pilot and innovative in nature.

## How do I find out more?

For more information about LEADER visit

[www.orkneycommunitites.co.uk/LEADER](http://www.orkneycommunitites.co.uk/LEADER)

Or contact

Orkney LEADER Programme

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The Orkney LAG is being part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community LEADER 2014-2020 programme



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## Orkney LEADER Programme

2014-2020



**Support for projects which help make our economy and communities stronger and more resilient**

## What is funding available for?

Funding will be available for small scale, pilot projects led by the local community, or that are in the local community's interest, with the aim to promote economic and community development within Orkney.

All projects that wish to apply will need to demonstrate strong linkages to at least one of the Orkney LEADER programme's core themes:

- ⇒ Support for small business and enterprise start-up, growth and diversification
- ⇒ Support for Orkney's tourism, cultural heritage, crafts, and food and drink sectors
- ⇒ Support for Orkney's community services and facilities
- ⇒ Support for Orkney's natural environment and development of sustainable energy



## How much funding is available?

The Orkney LEADER Programme has been awarded £2.5 million for the 2014-2020 programme.

The maximum grant achievable from LEADER will be 50% of total eligible costs, (traditionally up to a maximum of £125,000). As LEADER is not able to fully fund any project you will be required to demonstrate that you have match funding in place before your application will be considered.

**The Orkney LEADER Programme aims to**  
*'achieve an increase in sustainable employment and incomes, and in social cohesion and quality of life, and to conserve and enhance the high quality of heritage and environment whilst maximising the benefits in economic, social and environmentally sustainable terms'*

## Who can apply?

All of Orkney's communities are eligible to participate in the Orkney LEADER programme. Applications are welcome from:

- Constituted Community Groups
- Social Enterprises
- Voluntary Organisations
- Public Sector Bodies (with a community project)



## How do I apply for funding?

Complete the Expression of Interest Form at:  
[www.ruralnetwork.scot/funding/leader](http://www.ruralnetwork.scot/funding/leader)

Expression of Interest assessed by LEADER team

Feedback from LEADER team on eligibility of project

If eligible complete a full Application Form, online, with support from the LEADER team

Application assessed by Local Action Group

If you are interested in applying for LEADER funding please contact the LEADER team to discuss your potential project and the application process. There are a number of steps within the application process, however, the LEADER team will support you throughout. More information can be found at

[www.orkneycommunitites.co.uk/LEADER](http://www.orkneycommunitites.co.uk/LEADER)