

NORTHUMBERLAND

Northumberland County Council

Recent Trends in the Delivery of LEADER and FLAG Initiatives

Rural Services Network – 7th March 2017

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Presentation Content

To provide:

- An overview of the LEADER and FLAG Programmes operating in the North East Local Enterprise Partnership Area
- The key trends & issues emerging from the programmes
- The other Rural Economic Growth Funds available in the NELEP area and how all funds relate to each other.

What is LEADER 2014-20?

An EU Initiative: Integrated local development in rural areas
CLLD – Community Led Local Development
Managed in England by Defra (Policy) – RPA (delivery & management)

Area based and bottom up with an Accountable Body
Public-private partnerships – Local Action Groups (LAG)
79 in England who share £138m RDPE
Local Development Strategy is at core of local programme

4 LAG's in NELEP Area
Northumberland Coast & Lowlands - £1.985m
Northumberland Uplands - £1.881m
North Pennine Dales - £2.133m
Durham Coast & Lowlands - £1.584m

LEADER 2014-2020

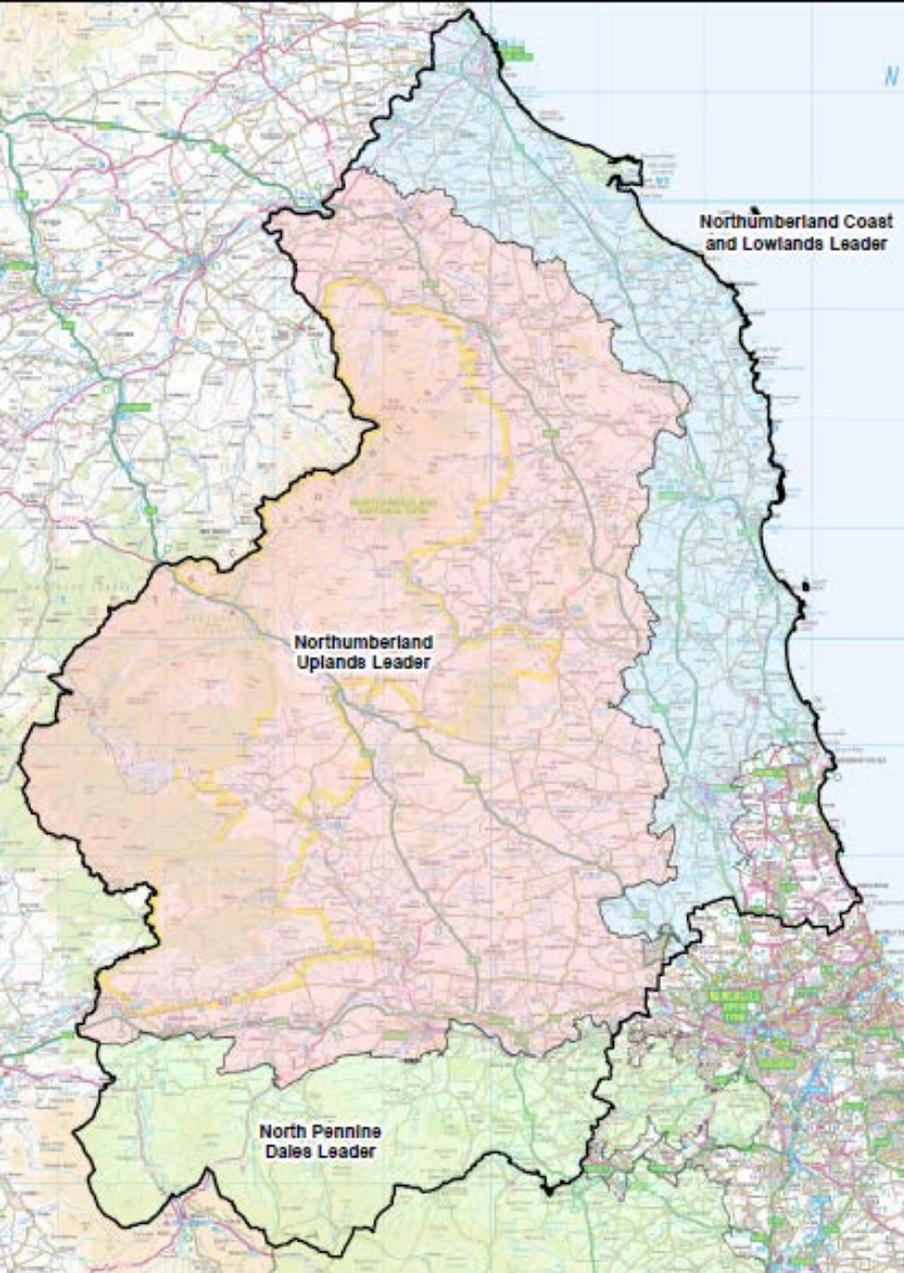
Funding

- 70% of funding will directly support economic growth and job creation
- Mainly funding for capital purchases
- 30% funding for 'Community' type projects which will contribute to indirect economic growth
- Minimum grant £2,500 maximum c£170k (De minimus)

Six Key Themes

- Micro & small enterprises and farm diversification
- Support for rural tourism
- Increasing forestry productivity
- Increasing farm productivity
- Provision of local services
- Culture and Heritage activities

Northumberland LEADER



**3 LEADER areas
(Local Action Groups)**

Northumberland Coast and Lowlands
Northumberland Uplands
North Pennine Dales
Durham Coast & Lowlands

LEADER Emerging Trends

- Greater emphasis on direct Economic Growth targets – Step change for LAG's, especially transitional 2014
- Capital Funding available (v limited revenue) direct impact on type of projects being funded
- Robust national business process implemented locally – implication for AB's and RC&A capped at 18%
- Delayed start & strategic pause for Brexit (Due to start Jan 15, actual Oct 15, Proper start Nov 16)
- Co-operation budget now national, LAG's need to bid.
- Allocation varies as dependant on Euro/£ exchange rate

LEADER Emerging Trends

- Slower commitment & spend – 2 N'land LAGS approved 22 projects £870k (30%) – upper quartile
- 1 LAG has closed, some very low commitments
- Delivery picking up – aim final claims Sept 18
- High demand from farm Diversification, Micro Ent. Support & Rural Tourism
- Low demand Rural & Basic services & Forestry (duplication with nat progs)
- Increased use of land agents
- How to make offer different to other funds – EAFRD & Rural Growth Network?



European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)



EAFRD Programme 2014-20

- Known as RDPE Growth Programme
- Funding for Rural Areas to create **jobs and growth**
- Managed by Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on behalf of DEFRA
- Eligible Area – Rural areas of Northumberland, Durham or Gateshead and priority to areas within Rural Growth Network Boundary (covers all LEADER areas)
- North East LEP area has £9.75m – National allocation £177m
- Small proportion of £3.5bn Rural Development Programme
- Competitive process – applications submitted via “Calls for Funding”
- **Current national calls - Business Development: Food Processing & Tourism Infrastructure - opened January 17 close 31 January 2018**
- Final Grant claims by 31.3.19 – by exception by 31.12.19
- Minimum Grant £35,000 maximum varies but c£170k

Local Involvement

- Local ESIF Sub Committee agree strategic priorities for EAFRD detailed in STS – Strategic Targeting Statements
- NE Priorities – Business Development £1.39m
 - Food Processing - £1.62m
 - Rural Tourism Infrastructure - £6.73m

Potential for Broadband later

- ESIF Sub Committee assess strategic fit for each application
- North East use RGN Executive also responsible for £6m RGN Local Growth Fund
- Monthly case conferencing with LEADER & RGN to avoid duplication & best fit for applications

Rural Growth Network - Local Growth Fund

- NE was one of 6 National RGN Pilots (2012-15)
- Identified a continuing role for local rural economic growth funds
- Success led to £6m LGF from NELEP (2014-20)
- Covers Rural Northumberland, Durham & small area Gateshead
- Offers Strategic Economic Infrastructure Funds - £40k-£500k grant
- Rural Business Growth Funds £10k-£60k
- Capital Funding for equipment & accommodation



Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)

- Part of CLLD – very similar to LEADER approach (LAG, LDS, Lead Partner)
- Support directly linked to fishermen, aquaculture, processors, harbours & ports
- North of Tyne FLAG – one of 6 in England
- Includes 13 settlements from Berwick to North Shields
- £800k EMFF allocation (25% M&A)
- Can access further funds from national EMFF
- Covers Coast & Lowlands LAG area (no duplication of activity as FLAG only fishing)

FLAG Experience – so far

- Little experience of engagement with fishing sector
- Partnership of Northumberland CC, North Tyneside Council & Northumberland Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority (NIFCA) developed bid
- LDS – engagement with fishing sector – positive
- Priorities – Small scale infrastructure at Ports & harbours
- Marketing, branding & processing
- Training, diversification & CFP reform
- research between fishermen & scientists
- Good response from sector for FLAG membership
- Officer appointed & official launch 16 March 2017
- Programme to close by December 2019

Any Questions ?