



NEWS FLASH

The LEP launched the Greater Lincolnshire Feasibility Challenge Fund in February and received 29 completed bids from across the LEP area by the deadline. Bids were received from a range of different areas and include targeted support for our key sectors. Bids totalling over £2m in feasibility costs were received from both public and private sector applicants. A report will be submitted to the Investment Board to seek formal approval to award the £300K allocation to individual schemes. Details of the initial call for projects are online at:

<http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/funding/feasibility-fund>

For further information contact Cathy.Jones@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the first Greater Lincolnshire EU Funding bulletin.

My name is Pat Doody and I chair the Greater Lincolnshire EU Funding committee.

The purpose of this newsletter is to tell the local business community about how you can bid for funding. We have an allocation of funding totalling roughly £120m for the period 2014-2020. My committee wants to use this funding, and government funding too, to grow the economy.

We have a strategic economic plan which sets out the LEP's priorities and we regularly encourage bids for funding to come forward through a process called 'calls'. We still have a substantial amount of funding available, and we want to make sure that it is used to help your business or organisation to move forward.

Therefore please read the articles in this newsletter. Hopefully they will stimulate ideas and where they do then please make contact with the LEP team. They would be delighted to hear about your ideas and to advise you on how to take them forward.

I look forward to working with you.

Funding Streams



ERDF

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion. The focus of activity is around six priority axis areas:

- Priority Axis 1
To support **Research and Innovation** infrastructure where we currently have just over £3million of ERDF grant funding to allocate
- Priority Axis 2
To enhance access to and use of **Information Communication and Technology** where we currently have just over £0.600m of ERDF grant funding
- Priority Axis 3
To promote **SME competitiveness** where we have £11.5 million of ERDF grant funding to allocate
- Priority Axis 4
Supporting the shift towards a **low carbon Economy** where we have just over £15million of ERDF grant funding to allocate
- Priority Axis 5
Promoting **climate change adaptation**, risk prevention and management where we have just over £2million of ERDF grant funding to allocate
- Priority Axis 6
Preserving and protecting the environment where we have £4.8million of ERDF grant funding to allocate

Local call up-date:

The latest calls for activity, where all priority areas were open to applicants, closed on 29th January 2016.

The next calls for activity will be open in April 2016 and they will be specifically targeted at activity covering **Priority Axis 3** SME Competitiveness, **Priority Axis 4** Low Carbon and **Priority Axis 6** Preserving and Protecting the Environment

Call details will be published on the Greater Lincolnshire LEP website <http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/funding/eu-funding>

Further calls are likely to be opened again in July and October 2016 but please do get in touch with us with your ideas.

Contact: Susannah.Lewis@lincolnshire.gov.uk or Charli.Whittaker@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Funding Streams

EAFRD

European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which aims to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, the environment and the countryside and the quality of life and management of economic activity in rural areas. The main focus areas are:

- Fostering innovation, cooperation and the development of the knowledge base in rural areas
- Facilitating the supply and use of renewable sources of energy, of by products, wastes, residues and other non-food raw material for the purpose of the bio economy
- Fostering local development in rural areas
- Enhancing accessibility to, use and quality of information and communication technologies (ICT) in rural areas.

Local call up-date

This budget is specifically for rural businesses and organisations to bid for. Limited calls for activity were announced in March and August 2015 which were targeted at supporting businesses in the Agri-Food sector and investment in the tourism sector. These projects are currently being assessed by DEFRA.

We expect that you will be able to bid again in the summer 2016. Please let us know if you plan to bid.

For further information contact: Susannah.Lewis@lincolnshire.gov.uk



Funding Streams



ESF

The European Social Fund (ESF) is focused on training and improving employment. The two priority areas are:

- Inclusive Labour Markets
- Skills for Growth

This fund is particularly important to universities, colleges, and voluntary organisations.

There are 3 organisations helping LEP's deliver activity by providing match funding. These are Big Lottery, DWP and SFA and which are otherwise known as opt-in partners.

The GLLEP have been working with the Big Lottery Fund to develop a European Social Fund programme that supports social inclusion. The Building Better Opportunities Fund offers organisations the opportunity to apply for funding to tackle the issues raised within each of the grant calls offered for the Greater Lincolnshire area.

We have already developed programmes covering:

- Considering Employment options
- Engagement into learning
- Money and debt advice

There will soon also be the chance to bid for schemes to support the economically inactive.

The Skills Funding Agency ESF opt-in activity is due to be procured by the end of April with delivery starting in September. The first activity to be procured is likely to be for training people in work, with training support for unemployed people after that. The LEP has done a lot of work to make sure that this activity meets local needs.

The Department for Work & Pensions Opt In proposal for unemployed people is nearly complete subject to some last minute queries from the lead LEP (Humber). Tenders will be out late May/ early June. The activity will be delivered January 17 onwards.

Direct bidding – We still have substantial funding available. We would like to know about any schemes and ideas that you have as there may be funding available for you. Please contact Andrew.Brooks@lincolnshire.gov.uk for more information.



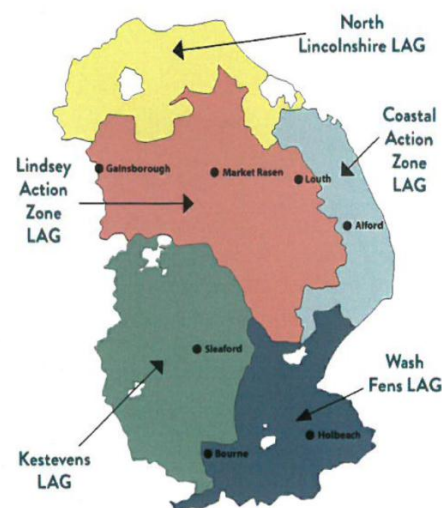
Funding Streams

LEADER

LEADER funding is for small rural business and communities delivered through Local Action Groups (LAG) which are made up of representatives from the local community and the local public and private sectors. LAGs decide which projects they will fund in their areas to address local needs. This depends on their priorities but all projects must create jobs or economic growth in the rural economy and support one or more of the 6 national priorities for LEADER.

These are to:

- Support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- Boost rural tourism
- Increase farm productivity
- Increase forestry productivity
- Provide rural services
- Provide cultural and heritage activities



All 5 LEADER programmes are now open and accepting outline application forms.

The Local Action Groups are:

- Coastal Action Zone LAG covers the coastal area of East Lincolnshire (north of Boston Borough)
Contact: Judy Bell – 01507 354561
<http://www.coastal-rdpe.co.uk/>
- Kestevens LAG covers West Lincolnshire (South of Lincoln)
Contact: Wendy Moore - 01522 552223
<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/kestevens>
- Lindsey Action Zone LAG covers the Wolds countryside and market towns and West Lindsey
Contact: Judy Bell—01507 354561
<http://www.lindseyactionzone.co.uk/>
- Wash Fens covers South East Lincolnshire
Contact: Frances McIntyre – 01775 764496
<http://www.washfens-rdpe.co.uk/>
- Northern Lincolnshire LAG covers rural North and North East Lincolnshire
Contact: Shalon Perkins – 01724 297768
www.leaderfunding@northlincs.gov.uk

Upcoming Events/Workshops

Green Infrastructure Workshop

On Tuesday 26th April, DCLG in conjunction with DEFRA, Natural England & the Environment Agency are holding a Green Infrastructure workshop at Wolverhampton University. The purpose of the event is to bring LEP's and/or LNP representatives together

- Agreed approach for P6 projects – demarcation with EAFRD
- Discuss issues that are preventing projects coming forward
- Support and good practice from DEFRA family organisations

For further information contact Thomas.Blackmore@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Low Carbon Event

In partnership with Local Enterprise Partnerships, DECC and DEFRA, DCLG ran a Low Carbon Workshop in the East and West Midlands.

The aim of the workshop was to:

- Provide clarity and support to LEP partners on Priority 4;
- Provide technical expertise from DECC and DEFRA;
- Discuss barriers to bringing forward low carbon activity;
- Provide local feedback on Priority 4 delivery; and
- Have an opportunity to network.

For further information contact Thomas.Blackmore@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Business Forum Event

A forum for business support providers was held on 10th February to raise awareness of what is being delivered in the local area, ensure activity is co-ordinated and offer networking opportunities. Partners were also up-dated on EU Growth Programme activity, including when the next calls for activity are likely to be announced.

For further information contact SamanthaLHarrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Strategic Review Group

The group provide specialist strategic advice and local intelligence on project proposals to ensure fit with local strategic priorities and assist ESIF Committee members with a better understanding of how those proposals fit within the wider GLLEP priorities.

Please contact Susannah.Lewis@lincolnshire.gov.uk for more information.



European Union
European Structural
and Investment Funds