

## Appendix A

### Explanatory notes on the LEADER programme

The European Union's (EU) Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is a system of agricultural subsidies and programmes. It covers farming, environmental measures and rural development and is the EU's single largest common policy; accounting for more than 40% of the EU budget.

Pillar 1 provides direct payments to farmers and market control measures and Pillar 2 promotes rural development. Under Pillar 2, a minimum of 5% of each member state's rural development programmes are used to support the LEADER approach. In the last programme each LEADER area (most cover populations of 120,000 – 150,000 people) attracted around £1.8m, spread over 5 years. A similar sum pro rata is expected for the next round

Launched in 1991, LEADER delivers Rural Development Programme (RDP) funding at a local level. It is underpinned by seven key features: (i) area based Local Development Strategies, (ii) bottom-up implementation strategies, (iii) local public-private partnerships /Local Action Groups, (iv) integrated/multi-sectoral actions, (v) innovation, (vi) cooperation, and (vii) networking.

LEADER mobilises local resources in ways that do not happen with traditional 'top down' approaches – people use the funding to make the best of assets and development opportunities.

On 11 April 2014, DEFRA published 'A National Delivery Framework (NDF) for LEADER 2014-2020'. This document sets out the requirements and expectations for the next programming period and includes: (a) information about how to prepare a LEADER application and what the selection process will involve, (b) the roles and responsibilities of those involved with LEADER and (c) relevant regulatory and operational requirements. The NDF also explains the policy priorities and measures that Local Development Strategies (LDS) are expected to meet along with some project examples. A LDS is a document created by a Local Action Group (LAG) and wider partnership that describes what LEADER aims to achieve in a given area. DEFRA will assess LDS as part of the competitive application process to receive the next round of LEADER.

Projects funded under the new LEADER Programme (2014-2020) will need to focus on delivering jobs and growth, 70% of all projects funded under LEADER will directly support the rural economy (e.g. through creating and developing micro and small sized rural businesses) 30% of projects will also need to demonstrate that they are contributing to improving the rural economy. The new Programme has 6 priorities

(1) increasing farm productivity, (2) micro and small enterprise and farm diversification, (3) rural tourism, (4) rural services, (5) cultural and heritage activity, and (6) forestry productivity.