

NI Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020: Priority 6: Rural Business Investment Scheme

Overview

Support for the creation and development of micro and small enterprises engaging in non-agricultural activities (including farm diversification and private tourism businesses) in rural areas within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough. The primary objective of this Scheme is job creation, either through an existing business expansion into a new activity or a new business start-up.

What Types of Projects Could be Supported?

Projects that could be supported include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Rural tourism activities including some types of accommodation and tourism service provision
- Development of craft and handcraft activities
- Construction and related services in production and/or processing of non-agricultural goods and materials
- Social service provision such as childcare, eldercare, healthcare, care for disabled, educational farms
- Investment in leisure, recreation and sport activities as an economic activity (project must fit with DCAL's investment strategy on sport)
- IT activities including computer-based and electronic activities and e-commerce
- Provision of services including Architectural, Engineering, Accounting, Technical services

For more information on the eligibility of individual projects please contact Programme staff.

Who Can Apply?

Beneficiaries under this Scheme should be:

- Private Individuals (18 years of age and over) living or working in rural areas within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough with a population of less than 5,000 residents.
- New or existing Micro or Small Enterprises (performing a non-agricultural activity) within a rural area. (An existing business will have operated continuously for a period of more than 1 year prior to application).
- Social Economy Enterprises engaging in an economic activity within a rural area.

An enterprise is considered to be any entity engaged in an economic activity. A Small Enterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs below 50 persons with an annual turnover below €10 million. A Micro Enterprise is defined as an enterprise which employs below 10 persons with an annual turnover below €2 million.

Eligible Expenditure

Examples of eligible expenditure include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Construction/improvement of immovable property
- Enhancement of existing space for accommodation providers (not including additional bed space)
- Machinery and equipment
- Second hand equipment
- Computer software
- Professional fees (up to 10% of eligible costs)
- Processing of agricultural products (Annex 1 products) that produce a not for human/animal consumption or wood processed product
- Website development
- Promotional and marketing materials
- Bespoke training (not currently provided by another statutory body)

Ineligible Expenditure

Examples of ineligible expenditure include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Purchase / Lease of land
- Lease or HP of equipment
- Replacement plant or equipment
- Maintenance costs
- New build accommodation providers
- Renewable energy technologies
- Purchase of vehicles and other transport
- Agricultural machinery
- Improvements to residential properties
- Feasibility studies for renewable energies
- Business legal expenses or VAT
- Traditional retail businesses

For more information on the eligibility of project expenditure please contact Programme staff. **Goods/services purchased prior to award of funding are not eligible.**

What Grants Are Available?

The LAG has set the minimum and maximum grants available under this Scheme in the table below:

Grant Type	Activity	Min Grant	Max Grant	Level of support
Capital	New micro business	£5,000	£30,000	Up to 50% for all applicants
	Existing micro enterprise	£5,000	£50,000	Up to 50% for all applicants
	Existing small enterprise	£5,000	£90,000	Up to 50% for all applicants
Resource	Technical support and bespoke training	£500	£5,000	Up to 50% for all applicants
	Marketing support web based	£500	£10,000	Up to 50% for all applicants
	Marketing support non web based	£500	£5,000	Up to 50% for all applicants

Applications can be made for a capital grant and one (or more) of the resource activities within the same application. Inclusion of any resource activities will reduce the overall grant available towards capital expenditure. Only one project per applicant will be permitted during a call for applications. Grant aid will be capped for private sector applicants at a maximum of €200,000 over a 3 year period.

There will be periodic calls for applications under this Scheme throughout the delivery of the Programme. Please visit www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/work/rural-development for details on when to apply.

What Do You Need to Apply?

- A detailed business plan
- Mandatory full attendance at a local Rural Development Programme Funding Workshop
- Full planning permission (if applicable)
- Evidence of match funding specific to proposed project
- Quotations to support the costs of the project

Full and detailed information on what will be required to submit an application can be obtained at www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/work/rural-development and by attending a mandatory Funding Workshop.

Coleraine Office (T): 028 7034 7034

Limavady Office (T): 028 7776 0306

NI Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020: Priority 6: Rural Basic Services Scheme

Overview

Support to access basic services or improvements in social infrastructure and improve the welfare and basic service provision to those living in rural areas. Initiatives will be an integral part of and in line with the Council Community Plan and emerging priorities.

What Types of Projects Could be Supported?

Projects that could be supported include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Projects relating to innovative service delivery such as creation of health hubs to deliver multiple services or community hubs where infrastructure is put in place for services to be delivered to the community
- Facilities providing access to difficult to access basic services in local rural communities
- Capital infrastructure to allow community enterprises to provide basic services to communities where there is demonstrable need e.g. childcare, eldercare
- Capital build for demonstration or pilot projects to enhance existing service provision
- Recreational, cultural and leisure activities which address trends in local economic and social development (any projects relating to sport must fit with DCAL's investment strategy on sport)
- Feasibility studies as standalone projects to determine viability of providing a basic service as a sustainable project eligible for capital funding under the Scheme
- Bespoke training not currently provided by a statutory body.

For more information on the eligibility of individual projects please contact programme staff.

Who Can Apply?

Beneficiaries under this Scheme should be:

- Community Voluntary Sector (including Social Enterprises engaging in non-economic activity)
- Local Council
- Strategic Public Body e.g. Health Body
- Local Council / Private partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient)
- Local Council / Community Voluntary Sector partnership (where the Local Council is the grant recipient)

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is expected to have an input to all projects funded under this scheme. Consultation with Council should be held prior to an application being submitted to this scheme to ensure Council are in support of the project. Council will be expected to make a cash input to the project.

What Grants are Available?

The LAG has set the minimum and maximum grants available under this Scheme in the table below:

Grant Type	Activity	Min Grant	Max Grant	Level of support
Capital	Capital Infrastructure	£5,000	£180,000	Up to 75% for all applicants
Resource	Technical support and bespoke training	£500	£5,000	Up to 75% for all applicants

*Applicants to this Scheme must match fund projects at a rate of 25%. Contribution In Kind is acceptable under this Scheme. Minimum cash contribution of 5% required. Contribution in kind to a project must therefore not exceed 20%. Contribution in kind can only be considered in direct implementation of the project. Further information will be provided at the mandatory Funding Workshops.

Advance payments may be available for applicants not otherwise able to access funding to commence project. Further details are available upon request.

Applications can comprise of a capital and (or) resource activity within the same application. Inclusion of a resource activity will reduce the overall grant available towards capital expenditure. Only one project per applicant will be permitted during a call for applications.

There will be periodic calls for applications under this Scheme throughout the delivery of the programme. Please visit www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/work/rural-development for details on when to apply.

What Do You Need to Apply?

- Project / Action must be non-profit taking led by organisations operating within the Community & Voluntary / Third sector or Public sector
- Project must relate directly to Local Council Community plan
- Full planning permission (if applicable)
- Evidence of match funding
- Agree an appropriate legal charge/debenture in favour of DARD in implementation of a capital project.
- A detailed business plan
- Mandatory full attendance at a local Rural Development Programme Funding Workshop
- Quotations to support the costs of the project

Full and detailed information on what will be required to submit an application can be obtained at www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/work/rural-development and by attending a mandatory Funding Workshop.

Eligible Expenditure

Examples of eligible expenditure include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Construction, acquisition (including leasing) and improvement of immovable property. Sport or leisure related projects (including community halls) must comply with DCAL strategy for sport and are subject to design review by Sport NI before application assessment.
- New machinery and equipment integral to project.
- Professional fees (up to 10% of eligible project costs)
- Intangible investment e.g. Computer software, Licences, Trademarks

Ineligible Expenditure

Examples of ineligible expenditure include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Running costs connected to the leasing contract (if applicable) e.g. Insurance, Interest refinancing costs
- Purchase of land (including leasing) as part of a project
- Replacement investments i.e. like for like and maintenance costs on buildings or equipment
- Renewable energy technologies
- Purchase of vehicles and other transport
- Agricultural machinery
- Feasibility studies for renewable energy
- Projects that are not an integral part of the Local Authority Community Plan and not financially supported by the Local Authority

For more information on the eligibility of project expenditure please contact Programme staff. **Goods/services purchased prior to award of funding are not eligible.**

Coleraine Office (T): 028 7034 7034

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NI Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020: Priority 6: Village Renewal Scheme

Overview

Support for the drafting of integrated village plans and the renewal of rural villages through various actions detailed within village plans. Village renewal plans and actions should fit with Council Community Plan and village plans supported under the previous Rural Development Programme. The Scheme aims to address rural dereliction and prioritise the reuse of existing derelict buildings, particularly to provide community infrastructure.

What Types of Projects Could be Supported?

Projects that could be supported include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Development or updating of integrated village plans for Local Government Districts
- Village investments emanating from village plans such as: derelict and vacant site enhancement, environmental improvements, shop frontage improvements, conservation/upgrading of rural culture and heritage (natural and built), except monuments and wall murals, gateway projects

For more information on the eligibility of individual projects please contact programme staff.

Who Can Apply?

Beneficiaries under this Scheme will be Local Authorities and community groups. Local Authorities will be the applicant but must work in partnership with the rural community to roll out village plans.

Eligible villages benefitting under this Scheme should be within 'village' development limits and within the programme definition of rural, either:

- Without a village plan
- With a village plan funded under the previous Rural Development Programme or from another source (e.g. Council)

What Do You Need to Apply?

- Project must relate directly to Local Council Community plan
- A detailed business plan
- Full planning permission (if applicable)
- Evidence of match funding
- Quotations to support project costs
- Agree an appropriate legal charge/debenture in favour of DARD in implementation of a capital project.
- Mandatory full attendance at a local Rural Development Programme Funding Workshop

Full and detailed information on what will be required to submit an application can be obtained at www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/work/rural-development and by attending a mandatory Funding Workshop.

What Grants are Available?

The LAG has set the minimum and maximum grants available under this Scheme in the table below:

Grant Type	Activity	Min Grant	Max Grant	Level of support
Capital	Capital Infrastructure	£5,000	£150,000	*Up to 75% for all applicants
Resource	Technical support and bespoke training (not village plans)	£500	£5,000	*Up to 75% for all applicants
	Technical support - village plan (new)	£500	£4,000	*Up to 75% for all applicants
	Technical support - village plan (updated)	£500	£2,000	*Up to 75% for all applicants

*Applicants to this Scheme must match fund projects at a rate of 25%. Contribution in kind is acceptable under this Scheme. Minimum cash contribution of 5% required. Contribution in kind to a project must therefore not exceed 20%. Contribution in kind can only be considered in direct implementation of the project. Further information will be provided at the mandatory Funding Workshops.

Applications can comprise of a capital and (or) resource activity within the same application. Inclusion of a resource activity will reduce the overall grant available towards capital expenditure. Only one project per applicant will be permitted during a call for applications.

There will be periodic calls for applications under this Scheme throughout the delivery of the programme. Please visit www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/work/rural-development for details on when to apply.

Eligible Expenditure

Examples of eligible expenditure include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Technical support with development and implementation of integrated village plans
- Small-scale capital investment with a lesser amount towards resource investment
- Features that promote shared community heritage and cultural aspects of a village
- Marketing to create greater awareness and interest of the concept of a respective project under the Village Renewal Scheme
- Bespoke training (not through a statutory body) intrinsic to the implementation of projects or programmes under the Scheme
- Professional fees (up to 10% of eligible costs)

Ineligible Expenditure

Examples of ineligible expenditure include (*this list is not definitive*):

- Running costs connected to the leasing contract (if applicable) e.g. Insurance, Interest refinancing costs
- Purchase of land (including leasing) as part of a project
- Replacement investments i.e. like for like and maintenance costs on buildings or equipment
- New build tourism accommodation
- Lease-purchase / higher purchase of new machinery and equipment
- Renewable energy technologies
- Purchase of vehicles and other transport
- Agricultural machinery
- Feasibility studies for renewable energy
- Projects that are not an integral part of the Local Authority Community Plan and not financially supported by the Local Authority

For more information on the eligibility of project expenditure please contact Programme staff. **Goods/services purchased prior to an award of funding are not eligible.**

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NI Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020: Priority 6: Rural Broadband Scheme

Overview

To assist rural dwellers who cannot avail of broadband and help address rural 'not spots' not within the scope of other government initiatives.

What Types of Projects Could be Supported?

Projects are limited to small broadband infrastructure schemes. Causeway Coast and Glens LAG are currently undertaking developmental work to identify need within the Borough and potential projects to be supported under this scheme.

Projects that could be supported include:

- Creation of, and enabling access to broadband infrastructure including backhaul facilities and ground equipment (e.g. fixed, terrestrial wireless, satellite-based or combination of technologies)
- Projects with a minimum speed of 5mb
- Any area not eligible for any other government broadband scheme

For more information on the eligibility of individual projects please contact Programme Staff.

Who Can Apply?

Beneficiaries under this Scheme should be:

- Local Authorities
- Community Voluntary sector (including Social Enterprises engaging in non-economic activity)

Any project/area benefitting from investment from this Scheme will not be eligible for any other government schemes.

What Do You Need to Apply?

- Detailed business plan
- Mandatory full attendance at a local Rural Development Programme Funding Workshop
- Full planning permission (if applicable)
- Evidence of match funding specific to proposed project
- Quotations to support the costs of the project

Full and detailed information on what will be required to submit an application can be obtained at www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/work/rural-development and by attending a mandatory Funding Workshop.

What Grants are Available?

The LAG has set the minimum and maximum grants available under this Scheme in the table below:

Grant Type	Activity	Min Grant	Max Grant	Level of support
Capital	Capital Infrastructure	£5,000	*£100,000	Up to 75%* for all applicants

*The maximum grant is subject to review. The maximum grant may change depending on the outcome of research currently being undertaken by the Causeway Coast and Glens LAG into the need for broadband within the Borough.

Applicants to this scheme must match fund projects at a rate of 25%. Contribution in kind is acceptable under this Scheme. Minimum cash contribution of 5% required. Contribution in kind to a project must therefore not exceed 20%. Contribution in kind can only be considered in direct implementation of the project. Further information will be provided at the mandatory Funding Workshops.

Advance payments may be available for applicants not otherwise able to access funding to commence project. Further details are available upon request.

Eligible Expenditure

Examples of eligible expenditure include:

- Construction, acquisition (including leasing) and improvement of immovable property
- Purchase or lease-purchase of new machinery and equipment
- Professional fees (up to 10% of eligible costs)

For more information on the eligibility of project expenditure please contact Causeway Coast and Glens LAG.

Ineligible Expenditure

For information on the eligibility of project expenditure please contact Programme staff. **Goods/services purchased prior to award of funding are not eligible.**

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NI Rural Development Programme 2014 – 2020: Priority 6: Co-operation Scheme

Overview

The LAG Board will be the applicant to this scheme.

The Co-operation Scheme will specifically focus on co-operation activities taking place in the following geographical areas:

- Northern Ireland
- United Kingdom
- Ireland
- Wider European context

The Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) considers Co-operation actions to be a priority activity for the 2014 - 2020 Programme with a particular emphasis on cross border projects.

Causeway Coast and Glens Local Action Group in determining appropriate Co-operation actions will consult with local rural communities where necessary.

It is expected that local communities will have an active role to play in the development and implementation of Co-operation projects.

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