

LEADER

What is LEADER?

LEADER funds projects that create jobs, help rural business to grow, and benefit the rural economy. It is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers. You can apply to your Local Action Group (LAG) for funding – LAGs are made up of local public, private and community representatives, who work together to agree priorities and award funding to projects that meet those priorities.

LEADER is part of the Rural Development Programme for England which is managed by the Rural Payments Agency and funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

A total of £138 million is available in the England between 2015 and 2020 under the scheme

There are 9 LEADER programmes in SELEP covering most of the area. The projects funded tend to be smaller scale than under EAFRD with a maximum grant size of up to £35,000 - £50,000. This means that LEADER and EAFRD sit alongside each other and applicants will decide which programme is most relevant for their project idea, according to the size of the grant to be applied for.

The list of contacts for each LEADER area is shown below:

- Kent Downs & Marshes Email: Huw.Jarvis@kent.gov.uk
Phone: 03000 417104
Website: www.leaderprogrammekent.org
Twitter: http://twitter.com/LEADER_KDMEK

- East Kent Email: Huw.Jarvis@kent.gov.uk
Phone: 03000 417104
Website: www.leaderprogrammekent.org
Twitter: http://twitter.com/LEADER_KDMEK

- West Kent Email: Caroline.Lingham@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Phone: 01732 227282
Website: www.westkentleader.org.uk

- Wealden and Rural Rother Partnership
Email: Don.cranfield@plumpton.ac.uk
Phone: 01273 892031
Website: <http://www.warrpartnership.org.uk>

- Sussex Downs & Coastal Plain Local Action Group
Email: rdpeleader@westsussex.gov.uk
Phone: 0330 2228001
Website: <http://www.businesswestsussex.co.uk/261-sussex-downs--coastal-plain-leader.html>

- Essex Rivers (covers parts of Colchester, Chelmsford, Braintree, Brentwood, Rochford and Maldon local authority areas)
Email: beverly.davies@essexrcc.org.uk
Telephone: 01376 574330
Website: www.essexrivers.co.uk

- Heritage Coast (covers a large part of Tendring district)
Email: ruraldevelopment@suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk
Phone: Gavin Talbot on 07734 540707

Website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/business-jobs-and-careers/funding-for-businesses-charities-and-projects/rural-development-funding/heritage-coast-leader-programme/>

- Wool Towns (covers parts of Colchester and Braintree local authority areas)

Contact information as above

- Eastern Plateau (covers Uttlesford and a part of Epping Forest local authority areas)

Email: kari.hall@eastherts.gov.uk

Phone: 01992 531518

Website: <http://www.easternplateau.org.uk>