

Support for micro and small business and farm diversification



National objectives:

- Promote sustainable economic development in rural areas
- Contribute to increasing employment in rural areas

Heart of Wessex objective:

Generating a diverse and sustainable rural economy and support for entrepreneurial activities

Eligible activity:

- Support for new business start-ups
- Projects which encourage innovation and help existing businesses to grow
- Projects which strengthen the supply chain
- Projects which make the best use of underutilised assets, e.g. redundant buildings to provide affordable workspace
- Construction costs or establishment costs for workshops, factories, premises and facilities
- Purchase of equipment and machinery
- Processing and marketing of agricultural and non-agricultural products
- Developing crafts activities

Available funding:

Minimum grant approximately £10,000. Maximum grant approximately £150,000

Grant intervention rate:

Maximum 40% of the total project's eligible costs. Grant payments are paid in arrears and therefore applicants need to demonstrate that they have sufficient funds to bankroll the project until grant payments are received. Reimbursement of grant claims are usually paid quarterly.

Who can apply?:

All types of business can apply, including social enterprises, rural based micro and small businesses, people who want to start a business in a rural area that will employ people and / or farm businesses that want to diversify.

Heart of Wessex LAG Programme Targets:

• Budget allocation 2015-2020	£570,064
• Number of projects supported	31
• Number of holdings benefitting	10
• Number of businesses benefitting	30
• Number of jobs created	52
• Number of jobs safeguarded	5
• Number of farmers supported	10

Other information:

There will also be funding available under the Countryside Productivity Scheme (CPS). More details and contact information is available at www.gov.uk

For more information:

This information sheet is intended for use and a brief introduction. Please contact a member of the Heart of Wessex Programme Management Team for more detail.

info@heartofwessex.co.uk 07826 907361 www.heartofwessex.co.uk