

## Support for the provision of rural services

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### National objectives:

- Improve and maintain the wellbeing of rural communities
- Encourage diversification within the rural economy
- Improve rural service provision

### Heart of Wessex objectives:

- Sustaining community facilities and services

### Eligible activity:

- Setting up, improving or expanding essential services for the local community
- Small scale village infrastructure projects, including amenity buildings and village access, for example roads and footpaths
- Community renewable energy production and distribution networks
- Projects which involve visits to farms for educational purposes
- Small scale infrastructure projects and essential services for the local community and contribute to village renewal

### Available funding:

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

### Grant intervention rate:

Maximum grant rate is 100% for investments which are non-profit making, but have a benefit in terms of value added the wider economy. For applications from businesses, the maximum grant intervention is 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?:

New or existing rural based micro and small businesses, rural communities, local authorities (in exceptional circumstances)

### Heart of Wessex LAG Programme Targets:

● Budget allocation 2015-2020	£71,258
● Number of projects supported	3
● Number of businesses benefitting	40
● Number of villages/communities benefitting	3
● Number of population benefitting	1500
● Number of jobs created	2
● Number of jobs safeguarded	2

### For more information:

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

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