

Staffordshire LEADER call for bids Round 6

Priority 6 - Support for increasing forestry productivity

From:

Staffordshire Local Action Group

Published:

19th December 2017

Closing date:

11th February 2018 at 12:00 midnight

Fund state:

[Open](#)

Type:

[Support for increasing forestry productivity](#)

Location:

[Staffordshire LEADER Programme Area](#)

Funding source:

[European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development](#)

Total Grant Amount for this Call:

[£100,000](#)

Details

This call invites applications for investments to support more active management of woodlands in Staffordshire, new opportunities to use woodland for the benefit of the rural economy and enhance the market for wood products.

There is potential to generate new business and employment in Staffordshire from new land-based activities and supporting rural enterprise and the local priorities detailed below highlight the areas of opportunity in the Staffordshire LEADER programme area.

The identified local priorities detailed below reflect the areas of intervention that the Staffordshire LEADER programme looks to address, that will help support a more vibrant and sustainable rural economy across the programme area. Call for bids will need to consider and address the local priorities detailed below -

- Supporting local landowners to bring under-managed woodlands back into active management.
- Develop new local woodland supply chains through a collaborative approach (equipment 'pool') that supports the formation of new businesses or expand existing e.g. wood fuel.
- Support the use of new forestry technologies to aid woodland management, including timber harvesting and extraction and processing equipment.
- Support the management, (marketing/processing) of woodland produce that can be brought to market (i.e. venison/charcoal).

NB: The Staffordshire LEADER programme looks to help support and improve the rural economy of Staffordshire. Priority will be given to applications that deliver strong economic benefits (jobs) to the LEADER programme area.

Location

Projects must be located within the rural Staffordshire LEADER programme area (<http://staffsleader.org.uk/map-of-qualifying-area/>).

Value

Grants will be available for this call from £2,500 up to £100,000 depending on *state aid already received.

LEADER intervention rate should be calculated at 40% of total project costs.

A higher grant amount may be awarded to projects that demonstrate exceptional economic outputs including job creation.

** A useful approved EU mechanism for State aid is the de minimis regulation, based on the Commission's view that small amounts of aid are unlikely to distort competition.*

The De Minimis Regulation allows small amounts of aid – less than €200,000 over 3 rolling years – to be given to an undertaking for a wide range of purposes.

Deadlines

Expression of interest deadline Sunday 11th February 2018 at 1200 midnight.

How to apply

There are 2 stages to the application process – an expression of interest and a full application. The Staffordshire LEADER Local Action Group will assess applications at both stages and only the highest-scoring applications will be successful. Applicants will need to fill in 2 application forms to apply for a grant: Stage 1: an expression of interest then if successful Stage 2: a full application

Please refer to the Staffordshire LEADER Applicant Handbook and website (www.staffsleader.org.uk) for further details about the application process.

Registering with the Rural Payments Agency

If an expression of interest is endorsed by the Local Action Group, the applicants will need to register with [Rural Payments Agency](#) before submitting the full application. (If they have already registered, they won't need to do this again.) After registering, applicants will get a Single Business Identifier for their application. Applicants must still register with Rural Payments even if they have a Single Business Identifier.

Applicants needing support to register for Rural Payments can call the Rural Payments helpline on 03000 200 301.

Decisions on expressions of interest

If an expression of interest is endorsed, the Staffordshire LEADER Local Action Group will ask the applicant to submit a full application.

The LEADER Applicant Handbook explains in more detail what an applicant must do to apply for a grant, how grant applications are assessed and how to meet the terms of a grant funding offer if an application is successful.

The handbook is available to download at www.staffsleader.org.uk

Contact details

If you have a question please contact the Staffordshire LEADER Programme Team at cmb.leader@staffordshire.gov.uk