

WEST LoTHIAN LEADER PROGRAMME

2014-2020



ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	
ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	<p>★Strategic Fit</p> <p>Extent to which the project aligns and delivers against the LDS and is integrated with other related activity and other EU, National and local strategies.</p>
	<p>Return on Investment</p> <p>Extent to which the project will deliver positive economic benefits – including leverage of funding, economic growth and rural development.</p>
	<p>Equality</p> <p>Extent to which the project has considered and can demonstrate a positive impact for groups identified as vulnerable to exclusion or hard to reach in the LDS (and its Equality Impact Assessment) - (e.g. young people, elderly and disabled, business community, carers often women, communities which have had little engagement with CLLD, people on low wages, ethnic minority groups).</p>
	<p>Knowledge sharing</p> <p>Extent to which the project stimulates knowledge sharing between sectors and individuals.</p>
	<p>Fostering Innovation *</p> <p>Extent to which the project is fostering novel approaches and ideas.</p>
	<p>Partnership and collaborative working</p> <p>Extent to which project has identified, engaged and involved appropriate delivery partners to maximise impact and ensure broad based buy in and support to avoid duplication of effort.</p>
	<p>Legacy</p> <p>Extent to which the project will deliver impact/benefit beyond the funding period.</p>
	<p>Engagement and support</p> <p>Extent to which project has comprehensive stakeholder buy in, participation or ownership.</p>
	<p>Meeting a Need or Demand</p> <p>Extent to which the project is responding to evidence of need or gap in provision.</p>
	<p>Additionality</p> <p>Extent to which the need for LEADER investment is evidenced in terms of allowing the project to proceed and enhancing the project through the LEADER approach and investment.</p>
TECHNICAL CRITERIA	<p>Organisational Competence</p> <p>Extent to which the right level of resources with the necessary skills and organisational capability are in place and effective.</p>
	<p>Robust delivery plans</p> <p>Extent to which the project plan (deliverables, timescales and milestones) can be relied upon.</p>
	<p>Outputs</p> <p>Degree of certainty that the projected outputs for the project are deliverable, measureable and achievable.</p>
	<p>Exit Strategy</p> <p>Extent to which there is a clear and sustainable exit strategy in place and there is no risk of grant dependency whilst ensuring the legacy remains.</p>
	<p>Displacement/distortion</p> <p>Extent to which there is evidence of distortion and/or displacement and extent to which distortion and/or displacement will be managed</p>
	<p>Organisational compliance</p> <p>Is the project compliant with all relevant rules and regulations?</p>

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*Innovation

For the use of LEADER LAG's Fostering Innovation may also be demarcated as follows:

- 1) Product Extension: supporting the same basic initiative, perhaps with some slight modifications; or using the same initiative in a new location
- 2) New Platform Product: supporting the development of a new initiative (based on existing) which may itself result in product extensions, as in 1 above.
- 3) New to the Company Products: importing initiatives that have proved successful elsewhere but have not before been tried in the area.
- 4) New to the World product: supporting the development of something that has never been done before, for which at present no market exists.

★**Strategic Fit:** Projects will be assessed against their ability to meet the themes and outcomes of the West Lothian Leader Local Development Strategy:

Themes and Outcomes	
Theme 1:	Well-connected Communities
Outcome 1:	Improved digital inclusion
Outcome 2:	Improved access to affordable transport
Outcome 3:	Improved knowledge sharing and partnership working
Theme 2:	Stronger Communities
Outcome 4:	Improved skills and increased access to job opportunities
Outcome 5:	More sustainable social enterprises and small businesses
Outcome 6:	Reduced rural poverty and improved financial inclusion
Outcome 7:	Making the most of community assets
Outcome 8:	Improved health and wellbeing in rural communities
Theme 3:	Improved Local Environment
Outcome 9:	Preserved and enhanced local heritage, landscape and environment
Outcome 10:	Improved visitor numbers and experience
Cross-Cutting Themes	
Equalities	
Innovation	
Sustainability (by which we mean continuity and/or legacy)	
Partnership Working	