



Lagan Rural Partnership

NI Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013

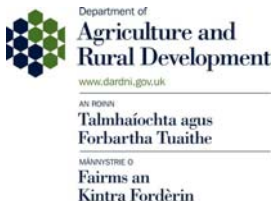
Axis 3 – Rural Life

Information Notes & Measure Sheet

Application Call

Monday 22 August 2011 –
Friday 07 October 2011 @ 5.00pm

Please Note: For any applications for grant under £50,000 that involve capital build / refurbishments, full planning permission must be in place prior to application.



LAGAN RURAL PARTNERSHIP

ABOUT US

Lagan Rural Partnership is the delivery mechanism for Axis 3 of the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 – Rural Life. The Partnership will deliver funding for projects in eligible rural areas within Lisburn City, Castlereagh Borough and Belfast City Council areas.

The Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and is managed by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT CONTACTS:

Address Details:

Lagan Rural Partnership, Economic Development Unit, Lisburn City Council, Island Civic Centre, The Island, LISBURN, BT27 4RL

Staff Details:

Padraic Murphy, Rural Development Manager,
Tel: 028 9250 9383 Email: padraic.murphy@lisburn.gov.uk

Caroline Speers, Rural Business Administration Officer
Tel: 028 9250 9419 Email: caroline.speers@lisburn.gov.uk

Melissa Cunningham, Rural Administrative Assistant
Tel: 028 9250 9489 Email: melissa.cunningham@lisburn.gov.uk

Peter Shortt, Rural Development Officer
Tel: 028 9250 9391 Email: peter.shortt@lisburn.gov.uk

Emma Donaghy, Rural Development Officer
Tel: 028 9250 9389 Email: emma.donaghy@lisburn.gov.uk

THE MEASURES:

Axis 3 (Rural Life) has 6 Measures:

- 3.1 Diversification into Non – Agricultural Activities
- 3.2 Business Creation and Development
- 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities
- 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy and Rural Population
- 3.5 Village Renewal and Development
- 3.6 Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage

WHAT TYPE OF GRANTS ARE AVAILABLE?

Maximum grant per PRIVATE SECTOR applicant is £50,000
Grant-aid @ 50% eligible costs

Maximum grant per SOCIAL ECONOMY / NON DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES / COMMUNITY APPLICANTS is £50,000 but for more strategic projects - £50,000 - £250,000
Grant-aid @ 75% eligible costs

25% contribution can be 20% In Kind but must have at least a 5% cash contribution

Examples of Ineligible Activities:

(Please note that this is not an exhaustive list)

- Service or distribution businesses, unless they are innovative in your area
- Projects that have already started
- Projects where there is a clear statutory responsibility
- Projects that create economic displacement
- Projects that have negative environmental impacts
- Mainstream agricultural/horticultural activities
- Annual or recurring events (the programme can only consider new events)
- Mobile infrastructure (except specialised infrastructure for specific projects)
- Private dwellings

HOW IS YOUR APPLICATION ASSESSED?

All project applications will be assessed by Lagan Rural Partnership's Local Action Group (LAG) and Joint Council Committee (JCC) on a competitive basis. The LAG and Joint Committee members are detailed overleaf.

Also enclosed is a flow diagram detailing the journey of your application. This diagram explains the role of our staff, the Local Action Group and the Joint Committee in the assessment of your application.

LAGAN RURAL PARTNERSHIP LOCAL ACTION GROUP

Local Action Group (LAG) Social Partners

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council Area</u>	<u>Sectoral Background</u>
Zita Graham	Lisburn	Business/Rural Services
Pat McCann	Lisburn	Business /Agriculture
Henry Philips	Lisburn	Community
Barrie Elkin	Castlereagh	Farming
Emma Garret	Belfast	Business/Enterprise
Caroline Price	Lisburn	Community
To be confirmed	Lisburn	Farming
Desmond Meredith	Castlereagh	Community
Colin Preen	Lisburn	Community/Farming
Nessa O'Callaghan	Lisburn	Business/Community
Sean Keenan	Castlereagh	Business/Enterprise

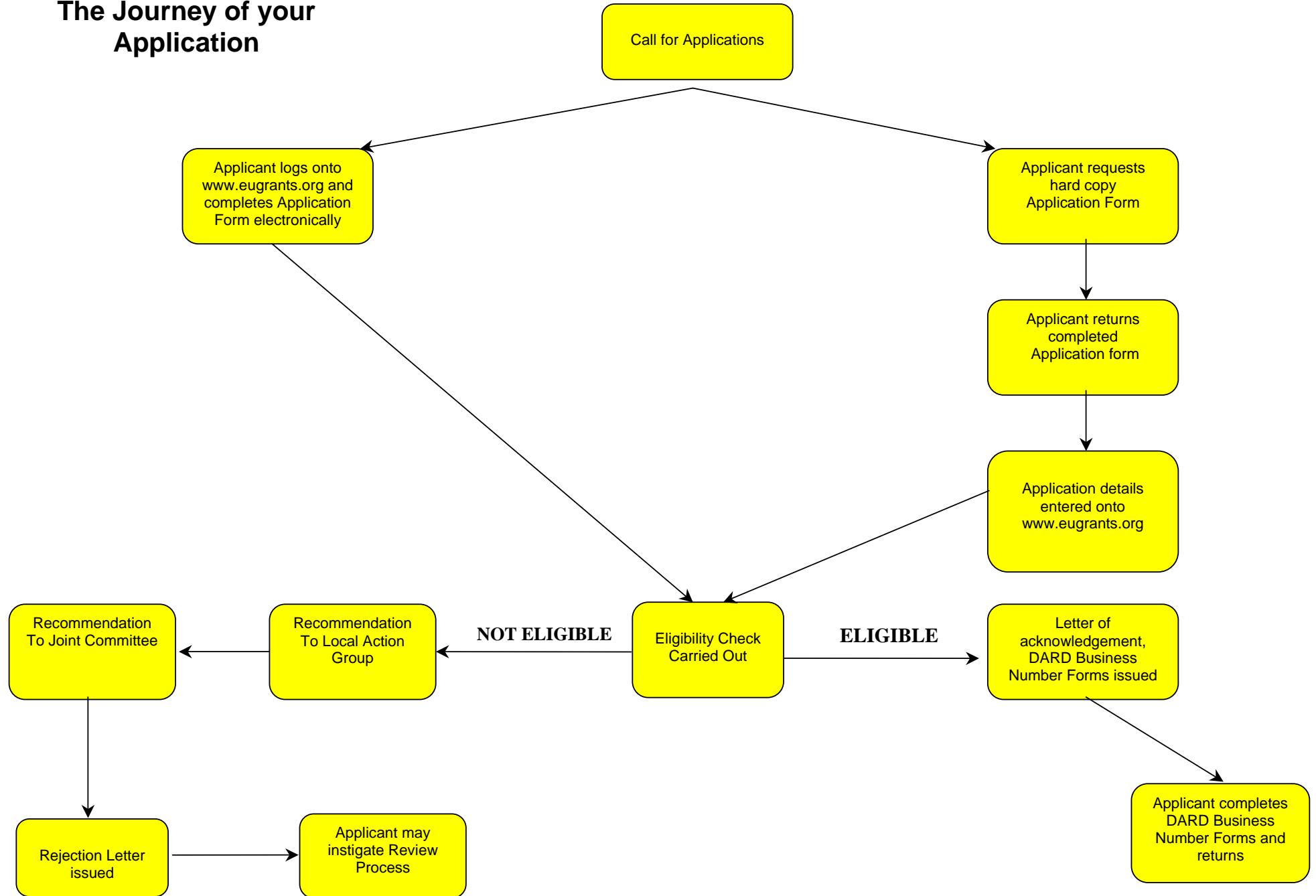
Local Action Group (LAG) Local Government Representatives

<u>Name</u>	<u>Council Area</u>	<u>Political Party</u>
Alderman James Tinsley	Lisburn	DUP
Alderman Allan Ewart	Lisburn	DUP
Councillor Jenny Palmer	Lisburn	DUP
Councillor Margaret Tolerton	Lisburn	DUP
Alderman Jim Dillon, MBE	Lisburn	UUP
Councillor Jennifer Coulter	Lisburn	APNI
Councillor Angela Nelson	Lisburn	SF
Councillor Myreve Chambers	Castlereagh	DUP
Councillor Cecil Hall	Castlereagh	UUP
Councillor Peter O'Reilly	Castlereagh	SDLP
Alderman Christopher Stalford	Belfast	DUP

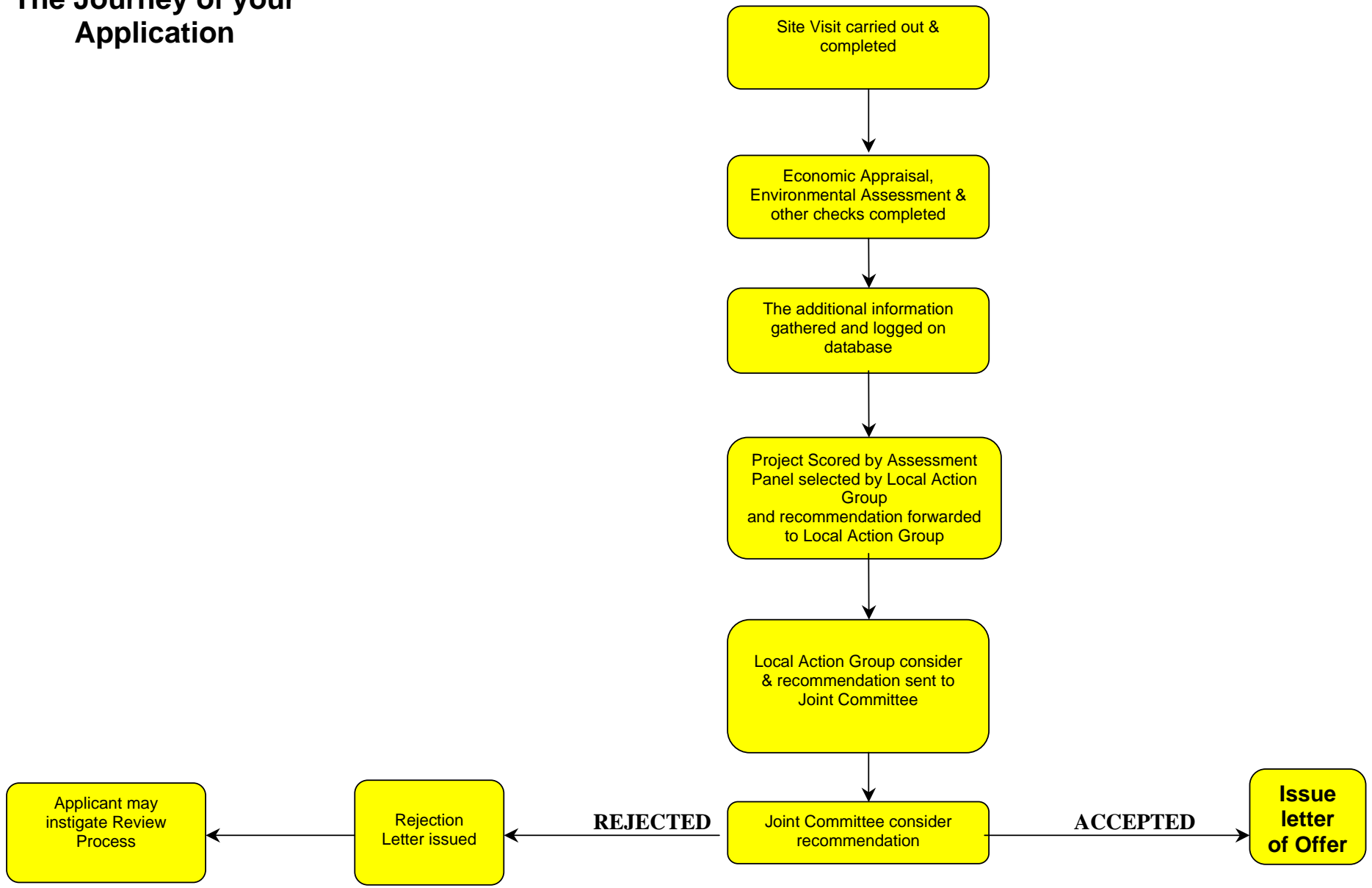
Joint Committee Representatives

Councillor Paul Stewart	Lisburn	DUP
Councillor Thomas Beckett	Lisburn	DUP
Councillor Andrew Ewing	Lisburn	DUP
Councillor Uel Mackin	Lisburn	DUP
Councillor James Baird	Lisburn	UUP
Councillor Alan Carlisle	Lisburn	UUP
Councillor Pat Catney	Lisburn	SDLP
Councillor Ann Beattie	Castlereagh	DUP
Councillor Jack Beattie	Castlereagh	DUP
Councillor Tim Morrow	Castlereagh	Alliance
Councillor Conor Maskey	Belfast	SF

The Journey of your Application



The Journey of your Application



Measure 3.1 Diversification into Non – Agricultural Activities

What will this Measure do?

This Measure will provide support to members of farm households who wish to diversify into non-agricultural activities (project must be based on the farm – projects based off-farm are ineligible under this Measure but may be eligible under other Measures).

Why?

In order to maintain or increase the income of the farm households and create employment opportunities.

Who can benefit?

By members of a farm household we mean any member of the farm household who derives benefit from the farm or who contributes to the household income.

Please note: This is a competitive programme.

What type of projects can be supported?

Here are a few of the activities that might be supported under this Measure

- Light engineering
- Innovative services
- Traditional skills
- Equestrian services
- Crafts
- Recycling facilities
- Renewable energy initiatives

Please note: See further details of eligibility overleaf.

What type of grant and how much?

Activity	Level of support	Maximum Grant
1. Technical support for business plans or feasibility studies to help new businesses become established and to help existing businesses consolidate and expand	Up to 50%	Up to £5,000.
2. Bespoke training, directly related to individual project applications, which is not on offer from any other provider	Up to 50%	Up to £5,000.
3. Marketing support	Up to 50%	Up to £5,000
4. Grant-aid towards capital and resource costs (large grant)	Up to 50%	Up to £50,000

Eligible Applicants

Farm owner or members of a farm family who have written permission to carry out the diversification activities from the registered holder of the DARD farm business reference number and that you currently carry out an agricultural activity on the farm.

Non Eligible Activities

Annex 1 Products – (refer to the instructions on the link below)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/state-aid/agristate-aid/index.htm>

B&B bed space

Retail*

Mobile Infrastructure**

Any activity that could be funded by another statutory body/council.

Employment grants

Running costs e.g. heat, light etc

Training***

* Except where integral part of a craft production facility or farm shop

** Except specialised mobile infrastructure for specific project requirements

*** **Except bespoke training when linked to a project**

DARD, Diversification Challenge

Diversification Challenge Business Planning; helps participants develop the skills necessary to investigate the viability of a new business idea and to produce a business plan.

The course is delivered over 6 evenings by the College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (CAFRE) and areas covered include:

- Market research
- Resources and legislation
- Pricing products or services
- Making financial projections
- Sales & marketing and
- Compilation of a business plan

The course is delivered free of charge to farmers and members of farm families. For further information please contact Joe Mulholland Tel: 028 8675 7500 or e-mail

joe.mulholland@dardni.gov.uk.

Measure 3.2 Business Creation and Development

What will this Measure do?

This Measure will provide support to existing micro-enterprises or social economy businesses or to persons or groups wishing to set up a new micro-enterprise. Please note that this Measure is not applicable to businesses which will be based on-farm.

Why?

To create employment opportunities and develop economic infrastructure in rural areas.

Who can benefit?

Existing micro-enterprises and social economy businesses (not more than 10 employees). Persons wishing to set up a new micro-enterprise or social economy enterprise. **Please note: This is a competitive programme.**

What type of projects can be supported?

Activities could be similar to those funded via the Northern Ireland LEADER+ Programme. Types of projects that might be supported under this Measure could include:

- Day-care facilities
- Traditional skills
- Innovative manufacturing businesses
- Light engineering
- Renewable energy initiatives

Please note: See further details of eligibility overleaf.

What type of grant and how much?

Activity	Level of support	Maximum Grant
1. Technical support for business plans or feasibility studies to help new businesses become established and to help existing businesses consolidate and expand	For all of these grants the level of support is up to 50% for the private sector and	Up to £5,000.
2. Bespoke training, directly related to individual project applications, which is not on offer from any other provider	75% for social economy enterprises including	Up to £5,000.
3. Marketing support	Community	Up to £5,000
4. Grant-aid towards capital and resource costs (large grant)	Groups.	Up to £50,000

- **Social economy enterprises may provide match funding in the form of contribution in kind (20%) and cash contribution of at least 5%**

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be located in a rural area and have less than 10 employees (FTE – Full Time Equivalents) and an annual turnover of less than euros 2 million. These limits apply to individual or linked companies.

They may be:

- private individuals, aged over 18 years
- private companies or partnerships
- social economy enterprises*.

Definition: Social Economy Enterprise* (SEE) are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not-for personal profit status.

This measure will not provide support for applicants eligible under measures 3.1 and 3.3

Non Eligible Activities

Annex 1 Products – (refer to the instructions on the link below)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/state-aid/agristate-aid/index.htm>

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Retail*

Mobile Infrastructure**

Any activity that could be funded by another statutory body/council.

Employment grants

Running costs e.g. heat, light etc

* Except where integral part of a craft production facility or farm shop

** Except specialised mobile infrastructure for specific project requirements

Measure 3.3 Encouragement of Tourism Activities

What will this Measure do?

This Measure offers new and existing tourism providers an opportunity to develop, promote or expand tourism activities and infrastructure.

Why?

- To improve the marketing, co-ordination and promotion of tourism activities,
- To increase visitor numbers to the region,
- To create employment opportunities and
- To encourage sustainable, eco-friendly tourism developments

Who can benefit?

Private sector and social economy tourism businesses and public bodies that have a tourism remit. **Please note: This is a competitive programme.**

What type of projects can be supported?

New and existing tourism products can be supported under this measure e.g.

- Activity based tourism
- Self-catering accommodation
- Renewable energy initiatives
- Tourism initiatives

Please note: See further details of eligibility overleaf.

What type of grant and how much?

Activity	Level of support	Maximum Grant
1. Grant-aid towards capital and resource costs to help develop activity based tourism projects.	For all of these grants the level of support is up to 50% for the private sector and 75% for social economy enterprises including Community Groups. Non Dept Public Bodies and local Councils.	Grants available up to £250,000.
2. Grant-aid towards self catering accommodation in support of recreational development		Grants for private sector applicants are capped at £50,000.

- **Social economy enterprises, non departmental public bodies & councils may provide match funding in the form of contribution in kind (20%) and cash contribution of at least 5%**
- **Applicants can also apply for technical support, bespoke training & marketing support under this Measure**

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be located in a rural area. They may be;

- private individuals, aged over 18 years
- private companies or partnerships
- social economy enterprises*.
- Local councils
- non departmental public bodies

* Definition: Social Economy Enterprise (SEE) are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a non-for personal profit status.

This measure will not provide support for applicants eligible under measure 3.1.

Non Eligible Activities

Annex 1 Products – (refer to the instructions on the link below)

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/policy/state-aid/agristate-aid/index.htm>

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Retail*

Mobile Infrastructure**

Any activity that could be funded by another statutory body/council.

Employment grants

Running costs e.g. heat, light etc

Existing Festivals

* Except where integral part of craft production facility or farm shop

** Except specialised mobile infrastructure for specific project requirements

Measure 3.4 Basic Services for the Economy & Rural Population

NOTE:- Contact Office Regarding Eligibility Of Project

What will this Measure do?

This Measure offers new and existing businesses/organisations/groups an opportunity to develop, promote or expand basic rural services. This programme offers service providers and communities an opportunity to develop innovative, tailor made solutions that meet service provision needs at a local level.

Why?

To improve the access to and provision of rural services.

Who can benefit?

Applications are invited from the private sector, social economy sector, public bodies and community-based (not for profit) organisations

Please note: This is a competitive programme.

What type of projects can be supported?

- Capital Improvements to premises used to deliver the following services in rural areas – health and wellbeing, education, benefits, jobs, financial and debt counselling, play development
- Infrastructural improvements to community facilities
- Sharing of equipment and premises in order to deliver value for money services
- Strategic rural service delivery projects
- Renewable energy initiatives

Please note: See further details of eligibility overleaf.

What type of grant and how much?

Activity	Level of support	Maximum Grant
1. Grant-aid towards services that meet the identified needs of the rural community. Potential projects should evidence how their projects will strategically address the needs identified within the Partnership area and also take into consideration the needs of children & young people and/or older people	For all of these grants the level of support is up to 50% for the private sector and 75% for social economy enterprises including	Grants available up to £50,000. Grants of £50,000 - £250,000 available for projects on a case by case basis – please contact office for further details.
2. Grant –aid towards local community based service provision	Community Groups. Non Dept Public Bodies and local Councils.	

- **Social economy enterprises and non departmental public bodies may provide match funding in the form of contribution in kind (20%) and cash contribution of at least 5%**

- **Applicants can also apply for technical support, bespoke training & marketing support under this Measure.**

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be located in a rural area. They may be;

- private individuals, aged over 18 years
- social economy enterprises
- non departmental public bodies
- local councils

* Definition: Social Economy Enterprise (SEE) are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not-for personal profit status.

Non Eligible Activities

Any activity that could be funded by another statutory body/council.
Employment grants for private business or non strategic posts.

Measure 3.5 Village Renewal and Development – Phase 3

NOTE:- Only Applicants With Approved Lagan Rural Partnership Village Action Plans Can Apply

What will this Measure do?

This Measure offers new and existing businesses/organisations/groups an opportunity to develop, promote and implement village regeneration actions.

Why?

This programme offers local people an opportunity to develop an integrated approach to regeneration to meet the challenges and contribute to the sustainability of the village.

Who can benefit?

Applications are invited from the private sector, public bodies, social economy sector and community-based organisations.

Please note: This is a competitive programme.

What type of projects can be supported?

- Village Action Plans
- Streetscape improvements & Aesthetic improvements
- Promoting greater community inclusiveness/participation
- Greater use of existing buildings
- Renewable energy initiatives

Please note: See further details of eligibility overleaf.

What type of grant and how much?

Activity	Level of support	Overall Allocation for Lagan Partnership	Grant for Rural
1. Grant-aid to support physical and environmental regeneration improvements as outlined in the above village regeneration plans	For all of these grants the level of support is up to 50% for the private sector and 75% for social economy enterprises including Community Groups. Non Dept Public Bodies and local Councils.	Grants available up to £250,000 per project.	Grants for private sector applicants are capped at £50,000

- **Social economy enterprises and non departmental public bodies may provide match funding in the form of contribution in kind (20%) and cash contribution of at least 5%**
- **Applicants can also apply for technical support, bespoke training & marketing support under this Measure**

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be located in a rural area. They may be;

- private individuals, aged over 18 years
- social economy enterprises*
- non departmental public bodies
- local councils

* Definition: Social Economy Enterprise (SEE) are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not-for personal profit status.

Non Eligible Activities

Any activity that could be funded by another statutory body/council.
Employment grants for private business or non strategic posts.

Measure 3.6 Conservation and Upgrading of Rural Heritage

NOTE:- This Measure Includes Strategic Projects At £50,000+

What will this Measure do?

This Measure offers new and existing businesses/organisations/groups an opportunity to develop, promote and implement projects to preserve and upgrade rural heritage and to use the natural and built environment as the basis for sustainable economic growth in rural areas.

Why?

The diversity of natural and cultural resources, if properly nurtured and their use carefully encouraged, represent considerable economic potential for a confident and distinct rural Northern Ireland. To assist and encourage an increased knowledge and/or access to rural heritage sites, stewardship of environmental resources and localised heritage, culture and history projects.

Who can benefit?

Applications are invited from the private sector, social economy sector, public bodies and community-based organisations.

Please note: This is a competitive programme.

What type of projects can be supported?

- Monument/heritage site conservation and protection
- Access/signage/information re heritage sites
- Culture, history and heritage
- Renewable energy initiatives

Please note: See further details of eligibility overleaf.

What type of grant and how much?

Activity	Level of support	Maximum Grant
1. Grant-aid to support locally based rural heritage initiatives.	50% private sector and 75% for social economy enterprises	Grants available up to £250,000 per project.
2. Grant-aid towards the strategic development of rural heritage initiatives in the area.	including Community Groups. Non Dept Public Bodies and local Councils.	Grants for private sector applicants are capped at £50,000.

- **Social economy enterprises, non departmental public bodies & councils may provide match funding in the form of contribution in kind (20%) and cash contribution of at least 5%**

- **Applicants can also apply for technical support, bespoke training & marketing support under this Measure**

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be located in a rural area. They may be;

- private individuals, aged over 18 years
- social economy enterprises*
- non departmental public bodies
- local councils

* Definition: Social Economy Enterprise (SEE) are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not-for personal profit status.

Non Eligible Activities

Any activity that could be funded by another statutory body/council.

Projects which are not uniquely rural.

Employment grants for private business or non strategic posts.

Renewable Energy Sources

Renewable Energy Sources may be funded only where it is part of a capital spend project for a new or expanding business. The project must also create employment.