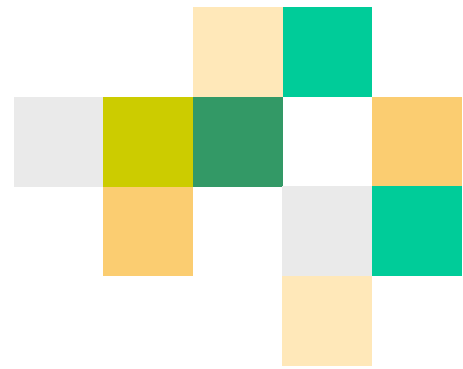


North York Moors, Coast & Hills LEADER Information Sheet 1



The Local Action Group

1. What is the Local Action Group?

The Local Action Group is a requirement of the LEADER programme. It is a group of individuals who broadly represent the interests of the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER area and its communities. The Group will help to set policy and provide strategic steer to the LEADER programme. In addition the LAG will appoint the LAG Executive and delegate decision making powers to them.

2. How many members will it have?

There is no minimum or maximum number of members required. We anticipate that the group will have approximately 50 members. Membership is currently being invited through an open registration process.

3. What is the membership constitution?

The group must be made up of at least 50% representatives from the non-public sector. We are currently accepting open registrations and anticipate that we will achieve this required constitution by default. Therefore, we need to know whether the organisation you are representing is from the public or private sector.

Public sector organisations include:

Parish Councils
Government bodies (including quangos)
Local Authorities (including District Councils, County Councils, National Park)

Private sector organisations include:

Voluntary organisations
Registered charities
Individuals
Private businesses

4. How often will the Local Action Group meet?

The group will meet every six months with one additional annual seminar.

5. Where will the Local Action Group meet?

The meetings will be located throughout the LEADER area and will move around in order to fairly distribute travelling distance by members.

6. How can I find out about sharing lifts to meetings with other members?

After the LAG is formed we hope to circulate a list of members with whom car sharing to meetings is possible. We are unable to do this until it can be agreed at the first full meeting of the LAG.

7. Will meeting venues be accessible by public transport?

We will try to ensure that meetings can be accessed by public transport but unfortunately we can't promise it because of the rural nature of the area and the limited number of venues there are for large numbers of people to meet. More information will be provided when the dates and locations of meetings has been set.

8. I have a disability or another condition which means that I have particular requirements to help me attend a meeting. What should I do?

Firstly, by letting us know. If you have particular requirements, for example you use a wheelchair then please inform us of this on your registration form. Having this information in advance will help us to find meeting venues which meet everybody's needs.

9. If I become a member what is expected of me?

As a member you would be expected to participate fully in the Local Action Group and try to attend the meetings of the group whenever possible. As a LAG member you would be expected to comment and agree on a range of issues including the delegation of decision making powers to the LAG Executive Group, strategic steer of the programme etc. You can only have your say or vote on a particular issue if you attend a LAG meeting. There will be no proxy or postal voting.

Your membership of the LAG will remain current until your resignation or until the end of the LEADER programme (late 2013).

10. Will my out of pocket expenses be reimbursed?

Only those members who are not from public sector organisations can claim out of pocket expenses for travel. Time cannot be claimed for. Further detail about how to claim out of pocket expenses will be available in due course.

11. How will I be informed about what's happening with LEADER?

Updates and information will be sent out when there is a specific need to do so. This information will be sent by email. If you do not have email or wish to be sent information in the post then please let us know on your registration form.

12. How do I become a Local Action Group member?

By completing the Local Action Group Registration Form and sending it to the North York Moors National Park Authority by Friday 24 October 2008. Assuming that your registration is successful you will become a member of the group. Registration forms are available from www.moors.uk.net/content.php?nID=168 or by contacting Jennifer Smith (contact details below).

13. What happens next?

After we have received your completed registration form and any other information we might request from you, your details will be added to the list of Local Action Group members. You will then be formally invited to the first full meeting of the Local Action Group which will be held on Wednesday 12 November 2008 at Chop Gate Village Hall from 2.30pm – 5.00pm (a map will be made available later).

14. Can I become a LAG member later in the LEADER programme?

We will constantly review the number of members on the LAG. It is highly likely that open recruitment for new LAG members will take place from time to time during the LEADER programme lifespan.

15. Who has overall responsibility for the Local Action Group?

Essentially, the LAG are responsible for themselves. Support will be provided by the North York Moors National Park (as the Lead Partner) and North Yorkshire County Council (as the Accountable Body). Coordination of the LAG will be undertaken by a Programme Manager (based at the National Park) who will be appointed shortly.

16. What are the priorities for funding in our LEADER area?

There are three key priority themes or areas of investment for the North York Moors, Coast and Hills LEADER programme as identified by the Local Development Strategy (see www.moors.uk.net/content.php?nID=698) for more details. Please indicate on the Registration Form which of these areas you feel you would bring particular expertise or knowledge of to the Local Action Group. The definitions outline, very broadly, some of the envisaged activities.

A. Sustainable rural communities

- Support of rural business including micro-enterprises, diversification, social enterprise
- Community development including community action planning, volunteering, training and skills

B. Conservation and enhancement of the rural heritage, recreation opportunities and environment

- Heritage – including improved understanding of the historic environment, support for traditional skills and crafts, using heritage assets to benefit of people (health, economy etc)
- Support for conservation related projects (environmental and biodiversity enhancements)
- Recreation – including new networks (cycling, walking, riding), new opportunities for adventurous activities, provision of interpretation and information
- Tourism – including enhancing the tourism benefits of the heritage and environment, sustainable use of assets

C. Village renewal and development

- Village enhancement and coherence including support for festivals, events, local greenspaces and other public spaces, improving community cohesion.
- Basic access to services including support for joint amenities and cooperative facilities, small scale transport, mitigating loss of existing services

17. What is the Local Action Group Executive?

The Local Action Group Executive is a smaller group of elected and nominated members who will make decisions relating to applications for funding. The process of their appointment is subject to the agreement of the wider Local Action Group at their first full meeting. More information about the Local Action Group Executive is available on Information Sheet 2.

18. I have another question which has not been answered here – who can answer it for me?

If you wish to discuss any issue relating to the Local Action Group then please contact:

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