

19 October 2009

Subject: Two Local Charities benefit from the Leader 4 programme

Details for press release:

The Leader 4 Torrridge and North Devon Local Action Group has approved two new grants totalling £104,290 for two local charities.

Wings South West has been allocated £75,500 towards developing and piloting two new Progression courses for young people aged 16-25 who are Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEETs). The training will combine practical skills in motor mechanics with confidence building, literacy and numeracy. The focus of the new courses is to engage or re-engage local young people so that they can improve their chances and progress into the worlds of work and formal training.

Project manager, Paul Bowser states: "Contrary to early predictions it is young people who are suffering the most in the current economic crisis and the number who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) is likely to continue to increase. This new initiative will not only give young people a better chance of progression towards learning, training and future employment but also have the potential to become a blueprint for other disciplines and other agencies including local and national government".

The Museum of British Surfing has been offered £28,790 grant towards the costs of a full business, design and environmental feasibility study into the development of a permanent museum in North Devon. The charity has a unique touring collection of over 1,000 surfing artefacts, which trace 200 years of British surfing and almost 100 years of Devon surfing heritage.

"We are delighted that our application for funding through the Leader 4 programme has been successful and would like to thank everyone who helped with our bid," said Museum of British Surfing founder Peter Robinson. "The museum will be unique in Europe and this grant is the key to our future success as a new sustainable visitor attraction in North Devon."

In total, £3.8million grant is available for rural projects in North Devon and Torrridge over the next five years. The grant funding comes from the Department for the Environment and Rural Affairs and the European Commission through the Rural Development Programme for England.

The programme is managed by a local partnership made up of community, business and public sector representatives known as the Local Action Group, with North Devon+ providing legal, administrative and financial management services to administer the funds.

For further information on the programme, please check www.leader4.org