

Leader 4 Torrridge and North Devon



What is Leader 4?

It is a new programme with £3.8 million grant to provide project funding and development support to improve the economy, environment and quality of life in rural areas.

What area does Leader 4 cover?

The programme area includes all of rural Torrridge and North Devon districts except for the six central wards that make up Barnstaple town (Pilton, Yeo Valley, Forches & Whiddon Valley, Newport, Central Town and Longbridge).

Leader 4 Torrridge and North Devon Programme Objectives:

1. To raise and support growth aspirations of rural micro businesses.
2. To improve access to services and employment in deprived rural communities.
3. To develop the assets and resources of the high quality environment as an economic driver.
4. To improve the environmental performance of communities and businesses to create a low carbon economy.
5. To build capacity, leadership and cooperation for sustainable community led regeneration.

For more information
go to our website or contact us:

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Host and accountable body



Business Growth Small Grant Scheme



Part financed by The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in Rural Areas

What is the aim of the scheme?

The Business Growth Small Grant Scheme is designed to meet the Leader 4 Torridge and North Devon Objective “to raise and support growth aspirations of rural micro businesses”. It will provide small grants for activity that improves productivity and supports sustainable growth.

To qualify for the scheme, your business or social enterprises must have:-

- Under 10 full-time equivalent employees (including directors who are not share holders)
- A business trading address in the Leader 4 area – rural Torridge and North Devon districts, **excluding** six central wards of Pilton, Yeo Valley, Forches & Whiddon Valley, Newport, Central Town and Longbridge.
- Been trading for at least 12 months, evidenced by a set of accounts;
- Have an annual turnover of less than £1.7million.

How do I apply?

Application to the scheme is through a competitive process and priority will be given to businesses who demonstrate sustainable growth.

Application forms are available from the Leader 4 office or our website (www.leader4.org). The Leader 4 team will advise you on whether your proposal will be eligible for the grant, and provide advice on completing the application form. The Business Grant Scheme Panel will consider applications and make recommendations on grant decisions to the SW Regional Development Agency.



What can I use the grant for?

The grant will provide up to **50%** of eligible project costs up to a **maximum of £7500** (with a minimum grant of £1000). The grant can be used for activity that will help your business to take the next step to expand. You will need to demonstrate that the things you are applying for are necessary to develop the business and that they are additional to existing activity.

Some examples could be:

- Purchase of equipment (but not replacement or upgrading of existing equipment).
- Installation of new technology
- Product development and testing.
- Technical support to lead to business growth
- Introduction of a new marketing technique
- Improving energy efficiency/reducing environmental impact/waste minimisation
- Adaptations/improvements to premises
- 6 months wage subsidy (this must be a new post)



What cannot be funded?

- Vehicles
- Basic ICT equipment and software, such as office computers, printers, word processing and spreadsheets etc.
- Actions to meet Health and Safety or other statutory requirements.



When will I know if my application has been successful?

We must receive your full completed application at least two weeks before the grant Panel meeting (details on the website) at which it will be considered. Please allow at least two months between submitting your application and planned start date.

Please note that Leader 4 cannot provide retrospective funding, therefore do not purchase items or agree contracts prior to receiving a decision.