



What is Kelvin Valley LEADER?

Kelvin Valley LEADER is part of the new Scotland Rural Development Programme 2007-2013, aimed at promoting economic and community development within rural areas. It will replace the LEADER+ programme, a European-funded Community Initiative that ran from 2000 to 2006, and will encourage new and experimental approaches to rural development.

LEADER is a bottom-up method of delivering support for rural development through implementing a local rural development strategy. Support will be aimed primarily at small-scale, community-driven projects that are pilot and innovative in nature.

Kelvin Valley Programme LEADER priorities are:

- Revitalising Communities; and
- Conservation of the Rural Environment

The aim of **Kelvin Valley LEADER** is to increase the capacity of local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, innovate and co-operate in order to tackle local development objectives, which are:

Kelvin Valley Programme LEADER objectives are:

- joined-up action between the two Local Authorities;
- improved co-operation and connectivity between strategic and local partners;
- generating ideas and innovative approaches;
- building on existing natural and historic assets; and
- environmental sustainability.

To achieve this, applications will be reviewed under three measures, which are directly related to the SRDP.

Kelvin Valley Programme LEADER measures are:

1. Encouragement of Tourism

An example of potential projects might be encouraging market development: arts and crafts, mountain biking, equestrian related activities.

2. Basic Services for the economy and Rural Population

An example of a potential projects might be improve quality of life for residents and especially for target groups, through access to training and education and increasing job opportunities.

3. Conservation and Upgrading of the Rural Heritage

An example of a potential project might be conservation and conservation training.

What areas are eligible?

- Kelvin Valley LEADER area is situated across both North Lanarkshire and East Dunbartonshire local authorities and includes the key settlements of **Kirkintilloch, Kilsyth, Lennoxton, Queenzieburn, Milton of Campsie, Kelvinhead, Twechar, Banton, Clachan of Campsie and Croy.**
- The Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme will be led through our Local Action Group (LAG), comprising representatives from the main community groups within the area and public sector bodies.

Who can apply?

- Constituted community groups, social enterprises, micro or small businesses, voluntary organisations or public sector bodies with a project idea that will benefit the rural community can apply.
- Individuals who have public support for their project, submitting proposals which implement the local strategy can also apply in some cases. However these projects **must be** community driven and will benefit a wide section of the community rather than an individual.

When and how can communities apply?

- The Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme was officially launched on Tuesday, 7th October 2008. A minimum of three funding rounds is anticipated during the Programme period, with the first closing date for applications due 8th December 2008. Second and third round application deadlines will be in April & Aug 2009. Please contact the Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme Co-ordination Team for further information on funding round dates.
- Further information on the Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme and initial enquiry forms for project funding are available online at www.kelvinvalleyleader.org.uk.
- In the meantime, to keep abreast of developments, you can also telephone a member of the Co-ordination Team on 01698 302446.

Do any restrictions apply?

Yes.

- Applicants **will need** to have **match funding, normally 50%** or more of the total project cost, of which **in-kind support cannot account for more than 25%**. The LEADER grant cannot be released until this match funding is in place. Since LEADER is aimed at community benefit it is expected that match funding will be largely from other public bodies. Letters of intent from match funders will suffice. A minimum project cost of £10,000 applies (i.e. the minimum amount you can apply to LEADER for is £5,000).
- Funds must be spent within the calendar year of award.
- Applications are restricted to a **maximum of 2 years**
- Monitoring and evaluation requirements of LEADER will result in successful projects being visited at least once during the lifetime of the project.
- The Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme Co-ordination Team will explain the conditions of grant and restrictions to you; however, detailed guidance will be provided to all applicants on award of LEADER funds

Where can I go for assistance or guidance?

You can seek assistance with your application from a member of the Co-ordination Team. The team are responsible to the LAG to facilitate projects under LEADER and work with community projects to develop these into a final application for the LAG to consider.

What information do I need to supply with the community application?

You will need to supply a variety of information, details of which will depend on the nature of each project coming forward - examples might be; details of the community Group and constitution, any planning permission or building warrant, estimates of equipment/services being provided, detailed proposals of communities own contribution and match funding being in place.

What will happen to applications once they have been submitted?

An overview of the application process for the Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme is provided:

Initial Step: Applicant makes contact with the Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme Co-ordination Team. Meeting with a team member arranged to discuss the project in greater detail and establish eligibility. Project enquiry form completed and submitted by the project applicant

Application Stage 1: Upon successful review of the applicants Project enquiry form, applicants notified of Kelvin Valley LEADER funding rounds timetable. Application pack, guidance and further support relating to the application provided by the Programme Co-ordination Team.

Application Stage 2: Submit fully completed application form to the Programme Co-ordination Team within funding round timescales for initial appraisal.

Application Stage 3: LEADER Programme Co-ordination Team carry out initial technical check of all applications and forward to LAG appraisers for scoring. Each application assessed by a minimum of three independent LAG members using agreed, consistent scoring matrix.

Application Stage 4: Programme Co-ordination team compile caselist of applications for review at LAG meeting where all formal decisions are made.

Application Stage 5: Notification of outcome of grant application, and where appropriate, grant award letter issued from lead agency on behalf of the Kelvin Valley LAG.

Where can I find more details about LEADER?

Web-based information and guidance on the wider LEADER Programme is available on the Scottish Government website www.scotland.gov.uk/srdp. Additional guidance and information on the Kelvin Valley LEADER Programme is available online at www.kelvinvalleyleader.org.uk and through the Co-ordination Team on 01698 302446.

What sort of commitment do I need from the community?

If a project is to have any success in gaining LEADER funding then it has to have the buy-in of the community including financial support from public agencies.