

Clare Local Development Strategy: Rural Tourism Products Objective 2 / Action 2

Rural Tourism Capital Supports

Issue date: 15th September 2017

Clare Local Development Company

Call for Rural Tourism Applications

under

LEADER Rural Development Programme

for

Capital Supports for the Development of Innovative Rural Tourism Products.

Theme: Economic Development, Enterprise Development and Job Creation

Sub Theme: Rural Tourism

Overall Budget for the Call: €200,000

Maximum Level of Funding: €40,000 per project

While the maximum grant is €40,000, it is envisaged that the average grant allocation will be between €10,000 and €20,000.

Minimum Level of Funding: €5,000

Timeline: **Call opens September 15th 2017 - Call closes December 15th 2017**

Deadline for Expression of Interest - October 2nd 2017

Projects will be selected based on submission of fully completed applications and supporting documentation and subject to scoring and Board Approval. Minimum score of 65 required (see scoresheet).

Subject to Departmental approval, LEADER grant offers will be issued in April 2018.

There will be an appeals process for unsuccessful applicants.

Maximum Grant Aid Level: 50% for private projects 75% for community projects

Type of projects to be funded: The provision of capital supports for the development of innovative rural tourism products in the following areas:

- Rural Recreation & Activity Tourism
- Culture and Heritage Tourism
- Artisan Food, Arts, Craft and Design Tourism
- Innovative Accommodation Products

Target Groups: • Supports for wheelchair accessible tourism facilities / amenities
New and existing tourism businesses

Geographic Area: All of Co. Clare

Notes:

- On completion of an Expression of Interest form, a Rural Development Officer will be appointed to you.
- LEADER Applications will be assessed by a committee as per the attached Score Sheet.
- Failure to submit a completed application form and supporting documentation by the deadline will result in significant delays in processing your application.

Application documentation:

1. Completed and signed LEADER *Application Form* (available from a Rural Development Officer, who will assist you in completing same).
2. Signed and dated Data Protection Form (available from www.cldc.ie).
3. Completed and signed *Business Plan*.
4. 3 year Financial Projections (cash flow, balance sheet, profit and loss).
5. 3 month bank statements
6. Planning permission (if required) or evidence from Clare County Council that planning is not required.
7. Ownership documentation (if relevant).
8. Details of co-funding and bridging finance and phased payment requirements.
9. Audited Accounts for existing company/business, management accounts if not a limited company (3 years, if available).
10. Quotes as per National Public Procurement Guidelines- see thresholds and guidelines as set out in www.etenders.gov.ie and www.procurement.ie.
11. Completed Schedule of Quotes (template available from www.cldc.ie).
12. Accommodation must be in compliance with Failte Ireland regulations.
13. Current eTax Clearance Certificate.
14. Evidence of VAT registration (if registered) and evidence from Revenue if not.
15. Evidence of company formation, certificate of incorporation, memorandum and articles of association and details of directors and shareholders (if a company), trading name and/or business name.
16. Other documentation as requested by CLDC.

Points of note:

- Please fill out an expression of interest (EOI) form, if you have not already done so. See form on www.cldc.ie/leader
- It is advised to submit a draft proposal in advance of the deadline so as to avail of feedback from a Rural Development Officer. Please leave plenty of time for this, as staff will be inundated close to the deadline. A site visit from a Rural Development Officer may also be required.
- Please submit an application form with guidance from a CLDC Rural Development Officer and in conjunction with the LEADER Application Handbook available from www.cldc.ie/leader
- Please note application forms will be issued after a draft proposal has been submitted and feedback given.
- CLDC LEADER team members will assist you in any way they can to make the application process as straight forward as possible. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the LEADER team.

Please note it is an important function of the LEADER RDP to return Performance Indicators on projects funded. Indicators required for your application will be issued to you.

Score Sheet

Assessment of all applications will be based on a maximum score of 100 and will be divided as outlined below:

Assessment Criteria	Actual Score	Weighting	Comment
1. Eligibility – A. Does the project comply with eligibility criteria as set out in the Local Development Strategy? B. Does the project comply with eligibility criteria as set out in the LEADER Operating Rules?		Pass/fail	
2. Deadweight – Does the project actually require LEADER funding to proceed?		Pass/fail	
3. Innovation – Is there something new about the project in terms of the concept or idea, the technology/production method, the promoter and/or the location?		20	
4. Displacement/Competition – Will the project be in direct competition with an existing local business and could it result in displacement of jobs elsewhere?		10 (10= no competition)	
5. Promoter Background/Skills – What is the promoter's track record and have they the skills and experience necessary to make a success of the project?		10	
6. Market Research/Need - Has the project been adequately researched? Has the need/market/demand for the project been firmly established?		10	
7. Marketing Plan – Is there an adequate marketing or promotion plan in place for the project?		10	
8. Financial Viability/sustainability – Can the project demonstrate its financial viability going forward?		20	
9. Job Creation – Will the project result in job creation - full time, seasonal or part time? Or will existing jobs be sustained/secured by this new project?		10	
10. Impact/Benefits – How will the project benefit the promoter, the wider community or the environment? Added Value – Is there added value from the project for the overall tourism development of the county?		10	
Total		100	

