RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME 2014-2020

Theme		Strategic Action	Total Funding Available €	Allocated 2017 €	Allocated 2018 €	Allocated 2019 €	Allocated 2020 €	Net Funding Available €	Sub Theme Total Budget €
1	1.1	Activity Tourism	607,500.00	- 177,694.37	- 25,942.68	- 189,229.75		214,633.20	
1	1.2	Culture & Heritage Product Development	472,500.00	- 11,013.65	- 250,300.95	- 74,730.50	- 35,752.50	100,702.40	
1	1.3	Eco Tourism Product Development	14,000.00					14,000.00	
1	1.4	Community Hostels/RV Park, Glamping/Camping	607,500.00	- 143,247.00	- 49,335.00	- 144,884.25		270,033.75	1,701,500.00
1	2.1	Capital Investment in Existing Start -Up Technology, Graduate Orientated Rural Buisiness	1,701,399.35	- 517,579.40	- 429,020.96	- 434,012.20	- 24,875.00	295,911.79	
1	2.2	Capital Investments in Development of Rural Food Businesses	236,422.50	- 200,000.00	- 36,422.50			-	
1	2.3	Investment in Digital & New Media	11,125.50		- 11,125.50			-	
1	2.4	Training to Develop a Social Enterprise Network	13,000.00		- 13,000.00			-	
1	2.5	Fostering a Local Enterprise Culture	32,000.00		- 8,000.00			24,000.00	1,993,947.35
1	3.1		-					-	
1	3.2	Capital Investment in the Development of 1 new Indistrial/Office Facility in a Rural Village	178,200.00		- 178,200.00			-	
1	3.3	Faciliatation & Training of 4 Geographic Clusters to Form Economic Development Zones	28,000.00			- 14,600.00		13,400.00	
1	3.5	Fostering Local Strategy at Village Level	6,000.00	- 6,000.00				-	212,200.00
1	4.1	Encouraging Competition in the Rural Market place	-					-	
2	5.1	Invite Identified Locations to Submit Bids for Investment Support into Community Service Delivery Hubs	1,215,198.22	- 601,118.04	- 152,183.91	- 303,732.55	- 200,000.00	- 41,836.28	
2	5.2	Community Leadership Training for Established Voluntary Groups	24,000.00					24,000.00	
2	5.3	Training for Communities to Support Delivery Service Hubs	-					-	1,239,198.22
2	6.1	Training for Young Rural Dwellers to Support Employment Placement	30,000.00					30,000.00	
2	6.2	Rural Youth Service Delivery Model	46,178.15		- 40,178.15			6,000.00	
2	6.3	Training to Establish a Pilot Care Farming Programme	20,000.00					20,000.00	96,178.15
3	7.1	Training for Local Communities on the Needs & Benefits of Bio-diversity	10,300.00		- 10,300.00			-	
3	7.2	New Action for Capital Project	61,346.00			- 10,533.33		50,812.67	71,646.00
3	8.1	Protection & Sustainable Use of Water Resources	12,000.00			- 11,080.00		920.00	
3	8.2	Exemplar Small Scale Community Project on Water Conservation	40,000.00					40,000.00	52,000.00
3	9.1	Development of Renewable Energy	200,000.00				- 18,000.00	182,000.00	200,000.00
		REDZ	435,000.00					435,000.00	
			6,001,669.72	**- 1,656,652.46**	**- 1,204,009.65**	**- 1,182,802.58**	**- 278,627.50**	**1,679,577.53**	**5,566,669.72**
		Total Allocated (@Stage 15)					**- 4,322,092.19**		
		Additional Budgets;							
Food		West Waterford Festival of Food	33,048.15		33,048.15				
		West Waterford Festival of Food II	64,555.50				64,555.50		
		Legacy Irish Cider Marketing Activity	21,520.00				21,520.00		
		Knockanore Farmhouse Cheese Co. Ltd	159,020.00				159,020.00		
		Cooperation Projects	6,000.00	6,000.00					
		Total of all budgets	**6,285,813.37**				**4,606,235.84**		

An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Circular: 14/2018
From: LEADER Unit

To: All LAGs, Implementing Partners & Financial Partners

Date: Issued: 08/10/2018

Subject: Revised Arrangement – Funding Allocations & LDS Amendments

Further to Circular 1/2018, please find additional information below in respect of (i) budgetary flexibility, (ii) LDS amendments, and (iii) situations where the LAG wishes to deviate from the LDS Action Plan in advance of or in Lieu of amending the Local Development Strategy.

(i) Budgetary flexibility

As noted previously, the LDS Framework Guidance document outlined the indicative nature of the budget assigned to each Objective/sub-theme.

While indicative in nature, the assigned budget is an important indicator of the delivery of each objective and the accuracy of the plan submitted. At the same time, it is acknowledged that LAGs require sufficient flexibility to manage their budgets in line with the evolving situation in each area and in keeping with the guidance provided at the outset of the programme. The bottom-up nature of the LEADER programme means that LAGs are ultimately responsible for meeting the objectives in their Local Development Strategy and should be provided with sufficient flexibility to move funding between themes and sub-themes where that is in keeping with the overall delivery of the objectives in their strategy.

LAGs will now be permitted to move funding between themes and subthemes, where the LAG considers that this is appropriate for the effective delivery of the Local Development Strategy. This will be subject to certain limits designed to ensure that all areas of the LDS are delivered. This reallocation of funds can be undertaken without the need for a formal amendment to the LDS. These limits are as follows:

- The **total maximum amount which can be moved overall must not exceed 25%** of the overall LDS budget.
- The budget associated with **any individual subtheme must not be reduced by more than one third (33%)** of the amount outlined in the LDS.

The movement of funds between subthemes and themes, including the timing of such moves, is a matter for the LAG to manage (subject to the above limits) and details should not be forwarded to the Department for approval. The LAG will report on budgetary changes as part of the normal monitoring of the delivery of its LDS, including through the Annual Progress Report submitted each year to Pobal. Where concerns arise in specific cases, the Department may request further details from individual LAGs.

This replaces the previous advice which allowed *"LAGs flexibility to vary from the allocation outlined for each sub-theme in the Financial Plan of each Local Development Strategy by plus/minus 10% so as to deal with unforeseen circumstances and lower/higher than expected demand under each sub-theme".*

(ii) LDS amendments

If the flexibility outlined above is not sufficient to meet your LAG's requirements, a formal amendment to the LDS may be necessary.

The requirements in respect of LDS amendments are as per Circular 01/2018. While the LDS should be responsive to changing circumstances at a local level, LAGs are reminded that a formal LDS amendment should only be considered where a strong business case exists and based on **a full evaluation of the relevant elements of the approved LDS**

Requests should be submitted to rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie using the attached template. A copy of the Evaluation Report should also be provided with the amendment request. Please use the subject line 'LDS query' in order for your email be directed to the relevant section for processing. All amendment requests are subject to Department approval. Amendments will be considered on the basis of the rationale provided and as supported by the evaluation undertaken. Further guidance on the approach to LEADER evaluation will be circulated in the coming week.

It is advised that LAGs should discuss the necessity for a strategy amendment with the LEADER Unit (rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie) before proceeding.

(iii) ***Situations where the LAG wishes to deviate from the LDS Action Plan in advance of or in Lieu of amending the Local Development Strategy.***

The previous communication (Circular 01/2018) provided for certain deviations from the LDS Action Plan e.g. minor textual changes. The Department is now of the view that this will no longer be required based on the flexibility provided in Section (i) above and the revised requirements outlined in Section (ii) with regard to the LDS changes. However, if the LAG is of the view that such a change is required, please contact the Department (rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie) for further advice.

Any queries in respect of the foregoing should be submitted to rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie. Again please include the subject line 'LDS query' in order for your query to be directed to the relevant section.

ENDS