



Appendix B – Version of Section 5.6 of LEADER 2014 – 2020 Operating Rules with changes highlighted in red (for new text) and strikethrough (for deletions).

5.6 Amendment to Local Development Strategy (LDS)

~~A formal LDS Amendment should only be considered where a strong business case exists and this must be based on a full evaluation of the relevant elements of the approved LDS.~~

~~The LAG will only be permitted one amendment of the strategy during the lifetime of the programme.~~

~~At least 50% of the LDS Project Budget must be allocated prior to an LDS Amendment being submitted to the Department.~~

~~LDS Amendment requests should be submitted to the Department by e-mail to rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie together with the completed template file (which can be obtained from the Department) and a copy of the evaluation report.~~

Budgetary Flexibility

Budget Movement between Sub Themes within a Theme Only

It is not necessary for the LAG to notify the Department in instances where money has been moved between Sub Themes, within a Theme only. It should be noted that the LAG will still be required to report on budgetary changes as part of the normal monitoring of the delivery of its LDS, including through the Annual Progress Report to be submitted each year to the Department.



Where the LAG approves such a movement of funds, the signed and dated LAG Minutes recording the approval of the movement of funds **must** detail the following:

- the budgetary changes (including the amount of funding being moved, the Sub Themes involved in the movement of funds: and
- the rationale for the movement of these funds (this must be formally approved and recorded by the LAG in the relevant LAG minutes).

Budget Movement between Themes only

It is **permitted**, where the LAG considers that it is appropriate for the effective delivery of their Local Development Strategy **LDS**, ~~they are permitted~~ to move funding between Themes and Sub Themes with some limitations in place **subject** to:

- the LAG Decision Making Members formally approving such funding movements, and such approval/s being recorded in the appropriate LAG minutes, and a copy of these signed LAG minutes being provided to the Department; and
- a rationale being provided by the LAG to the Department for the funding movements between Themes that demonstrates the changes were warranted (e.g. evidence of animation activities completed etc.); and
- every effort being made by the LAG to bring at least one project forward under each Theme in keeping with the overall objective of their LDS;

This reallocation of funds may be undertaken without the need for a formal amendment to the LDS. - ~~the limits being:~~

- ~~— 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.~~

This movement of funds between Themes and Sub Themes (subject to the above **amendments** ~~limitations~~), including the timing of such moves, is a matter for the LAG to manage **and record**. ~~and details should not be forwarded to the Department for approval.~~

Department approval is not required for these changes but as programme administrators, the reallocation of LDS Theme budgets approved by the LAG, must be submitted to the department at rdp1420@drcd.gov.ie together with the following documents:

- the completed and signed template (Appendix A) which **must** detail the total amount of funding being moved between Themes, broken down by Sub Themes and the rationale for said movement
- the signed and dated LAG Minutes detailing the budgetary changes (including the amount of funding being moved, the Themes and Sub Themes involved, and the rationale for the change(s)).

Please use the subject line 'LDS Budget Changes' to enable your email to be directed to the relevant section of the LEADER Policy & Operations Unit for processing.

NOTE: As per the requirements of article 33.1 (f) of EU regulation 1303/2013, each LAG has outlined in Section 7 of its LDS how it intends to evaluate the delivery of the strategy; as per article 34.3 (g) of EU regulation 1303/2013 each LAG is required to ensure the specific evaluation activities (as per their strategy document) are completed before LEADER 2014 – 2020 programme end.



Textual Changes

Given that we are at the latter stages of the current LEADER programme, the Department is of the view that such changes will no longer be required; however, if the LAG is of the view that such a change is required, please contact the Department (rdp1420@drctd.gov.ie) for further advice.