



Ms Sinéad Breathnach
Waterford City & County Council
Civic Offices
Dungarvan
Co. Waterford

26th January 2023

Expression of Interest (EOI) – Progression to Stage 2 of the Local Action Group (LAG) selection process

Dear Ms Breathnach

I refer to your Expression of Interest (EOI) to be considered eligible to develop and submit a Local Development Strategy in the sub-regional area of Waterford.

An Assessment Panel was convened on 4th January and I am pleased to inform you that your EOI has been deemed eligible by the Panel to progress to Stage 2 of the Local Action Group (LAG) selection process. A list of all eligible applicants following the completion of Stage 1 is available on the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/87e09-leader-programme-for-rural-development/#2023-2027-leader-programme>

You are now invited to develop a Local Development Strategy (LDS) for the delivery of the 2023-2027 LEADER programme for the sub-regional area of Waterford.

Pobal will be assisting the Department with Stage 2 of the selection process by developing guidance documentation in consultation with the Department and assessing the strategies submitted before these are presented to the Independent Selection Committee, which will be convened to consider all LDSs submitted and approve the LDS(s) to be delivered in each sub-regional area. A guidance document and LDS template will be provided to you by Pobal in the coming weeks.

Pobal will also undertake a series of information workshops in conjunction with the Department on the LDS development process and the LEADER themes for the 2023-2027 programme. Full details in relation to these will be provided in due course.

Your LDS must be submitted in accordance with the requirements set out in the guidance document no later than 14th July 2023. As there were no other eligible EOIs in your sub-regional area following the completion of Stage 1, it is open to you to submit your LDS for consideration and assessment earlier than the date specified should it be ready in advance of this date.

Funding in the amount of €50,000 will be provided to you towards the cost of the work associated with the development of the LDS. This will be paid in two instalments, 50% at the start of the process and the remainder on conclusion of Stage 2 in your sub-regional area. In this



regard please sign the attached Funding Agreement Form and return to the Department. On receipt of the completed form the Department will issue the first payment instalment.

Yours sincerely,

Dymphna Harney

Principal Officer,
LEADER Policy & Operations



2023-2027 LEADER Programme - Local Development Strategy – Preparatory Support Funding

Funding agreement between the Department of Rural and Community Development and Waterford Local Community Development Committee

The Department of Rural and Community Development has agreed to provide €50,000 to Waterford Local Community Development Committee towards the costs associated with developing a Local Development Strategy (LDS) in the sub-regional area of Waterford to deliver the 2023-2027 LEADER programme.

This funding will be paid in two equal instalments; the first instalment will be paid on receipt of the signed Funding Agreement and the second on completion of LDS selection process.

Payment of the second instalment is conditional on the submission of a fully completed LDS, developed in line with the guidance document provided, by the date specified by the Department in their letter of 26th January 2023. Certification that the funding provided was used solely for the purpose of developing the LDS will also be required.

Funding is not conditional on the submitted LDS being selected to deliver the programme following the conclusion of Stage 2 of the selection process.

If for any reason you do not submit a LDS within the specified timeframe the Department may seek to recover the initial funding provided.

Signed on behalf of the Department:

Signature of official _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Position _____

Signed on behalf of Waterford Local Community Development Committee:

Signature of official _____ Date _____

Print Name _____

Position _____