



Comhpháirtíocht Leader Waterford Leader
Phort Láirge Partnership

Decision of Evaluation Committee

Project ID	IE31WAT100004
Project Type:	Capital
Project Name:	Blackwater Distillery
Promoters Name:	Blackwater Distillery
Address:	Church Road, Ballyduff Upper, Co Waterford
Description:	Retrofitting of brewery equipment to better meet environmental standards, reduce wastewater handling on site, reduce the time animal feed byproducts are stored on site, and improve operational efficiencies.
Theme:	Theme 1: Economic Development & Job Creation
Sub-theme:	Sub-theme 1a: The Green Economy
Link to LDS	Local objective 1: Investment in indigenous rural enterprises to maximise efficiencies and competitiveness, increase the offering for visitors whilst supporting a greener sustainable environment. Strategic Action 1.1 1a: Green Economy: Capital investment in existing and start up technology that embraces greater efficiency and supports the environment.

Total Project Costs	€25,491.71 (incl VAT); €21,269.96 (excl. VAT)
Eligible Project Costs	€21,269.96 (excl. VAT)
Funding sought by promoter:	€15,952.47
State one of the following: - First Review / Previously Deferred or Not Recommend	First Review
Funding recommended by Evaluation Committee:	€15,952.47
Details of private funding:	Cash in bank on 12/03/2024 = €60,210.98
Voluntary Labour: YES / NO (If yes provide detail)	No
Synopsis of project:	The innovative character of this project is linked to its adaptive nature: the idea is to start from the current set of machinery, retrofit them and add some equipment to make the wastewater handling project viable. Blackwater Distillery wants to use their existing and new technology to environmentally optimise their processes and continue operating in their whisky facility in Ballyduff Upper. An operational distillery will be a significant plus to tourists to the area, bringing visitors to the village and the local area thus supporting economic development locally.

Detail exactly what WLP will be funding (List items from Project Assessment Report)	Detail	Total Cost (Expenditure)	Grant Aid recommend by the Evaluation Committee @ 75%
	Wastewater Pump	€2,914.36	€ 2,185.77
	Pipework retrofitting	€955.60	€ 716.70
	ATEX Walkie Stackler	€14,500.00	€10,875.00
	ATEX rated scales	€2,900.00	€ 2,175.00
Total Funding		€21,269.96	€15,952.47
Was an assessment completed?: Date:	Yes. 15 March 2024		
Are detailed costings provided for the project? Were the costs for the project considered reasonable and how was this measured?	Yes, direct tendering was used and the MEAT process to score tenders.		
Where the procurement process resulted in less than 3 quotes, the EC must show the additional steps taken to ensure the reasonableness of costs:	In all instances three quote were requested but not all were received within the RFT timeline.		
Innovative Element of the project:	The innovative character of this project is linked to its adaptive nature: the idea is to start from the current set of machinery, retrofit them and add some equipment to make the wastewater handling project viable. Blackwater Distillery wants to use their existing and new technology to environmentally optimise their processes and continue operating in their whisky facility in Ballyduff Upper. An operational distillery will be a significant plus to tourists to the area, bringing visitors to the village and the local area thus supporting economic development locally.		
Added Value – How will the added value of LEADER funding be demonstrated in the delivery of this project?	This project will ensure that the Blackwater Distillery in Ballyduff Upper meets its environmental criteria and can restart its operations, bringing economic activity and tourism activity back to the site and the town.		
Consideration of Deadweight:	Consideration was given to deadweight and the promoter provided the following feedback on 22/03/2024: “To confirm, Blackwater Distillery has significant monthly outgoings, including wages of €25K, overheads including insurance and rates of €14K and bank loans of €32K. Additionally, when we make a duty paid sale, typically to ALDI Ireland, we must pay the duty plus VAT to Revenue by the third week of the following month. We produce a number of products for ALDI, but our most regularly ordered product is Boyle’s Gin 700ml 40% alc/vol: one pallet of this is 115 cases/690 bottles. The duty plus VAT element for this pallet is calculated as follows: €42.57 (rate of duty per litre of pure alcohol) x 0.7 (700ml bottle) x 0.4 (alc/vol Boyle’s Gin) x 1.23 (VAT) = €14.66 per bottle, €10,166 per pallet (Ireland has one of the highest rates of duty in the EU!). This means that any pallet of Boyle’s Gin that is ordered today 22 Mar 24 will attract a duty payment of just over €10k which will have to be paid to Revenue by us prior to payment by ALDI being received. This duty payment cannot be deferred and so we must retain sufficient cash in our bank account to meet this demand prior to payment by our customer. It can be quite a challenge to retain sufficient cash to ensure that this payment can be made successfully. We always have duty payments in every month, with peak payments being in the last quarter of any year.”		

Consideration of Displacement:	Consideration was given to displacement, but Blackwater Distillery is already in existence. The project itself is addressing an environmental issue (water quality).
Economic justification for project:	This project will bring Blackwater Distillery back into operation.
Average Score for Project:	80/100
% level of aid & ceiling:	A maximum of €15,952.47 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser.
E. C. Executive Summary/Rationale for Funding	The Evaluation Committee agreed to recommend funding this project for the following reasons:- 1. The project fits the LCDC Local Development Plan to support County Waterford's rural enterprises under Theme 1 Economic Development and Job Creation. 2. Funding will make the process more environmentally friendly. 3. The project scored 80/100. A maximum of €15,952.47 or 75% of eligible expenditure, whichever is the lesser, with the following condition; - Confirmation in writing that the work will solve the requirements of the EPA.

Jobs Created	Jobs Sustained	Match Funding	Previous Grant Aid Received
1	7.3	25% = €5,317.49	LEADER = €200,000 (2017)

Confirmation on the applicant's position re De-Minimis and double from the relevant agencies.	Date of Confirmation	Signed By
Confirmation was received from LEO. De-Minimis of €6,968.	19 March 2024	Brid Kirby

Detail of Discussion:
- Ms Rossi advised that the distillery has ceased production until they have a solution to their current problem, which was identified by Irish water. This equipment will solve the problem. This year they are starting to sell Blackwater Whisky and have a good customer base in Aldi. The issue of deadweight was raised with them, and they provided a detailed response explaining their significant monthly outgoings including duty and vat to Revenue, which must be paid when they make the sale rather than when they receive payment from the customer.

- The Evaluation Committee asked if the EPA/Irish Water have indicated their satisfaction with what has been proposed? They also commented that there was a substantial sum received from Enterprise Ireland, in last year's accounts, and queried what that was in relation to?
- Ms Rossi advised that she would need to check those details with the promoter.

Amount Recommended: €15,952.47

75 % of Eligible Project Funding: €15,952.47

Signed: _____

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Evaluation Committee

Committee Member

Date: _____

Date: _____

Issues / Queries raised by Evaluation Committee	Project Officers Response
The Evaluation Committee wanted to know whether the proposed solution was supported by Water Ireland	The closure was in agreement with Water Ireland. After the meeting the Project Officer requested the promoter for more correspondence with Water Ireland in addition to what was already on file.

Signed: _____

Dated: _____

WLP Project Officer

Please insert photos below of reference purposes:

(for example a photo of the building to be renovated/machinery being purchased, etc)

See next page



Tank used for first fermentation. Waste product and water were going stright into the drain.



Pipe to be retrofitted so that the waste water can be pumped into an IBC



IBC (1,000 litre) will be filled and then moved to the outside after which it will be taken to a local farmer with other byproducts.



Overall Evaluation Committee Scoring Record

Project Title: Blackwater Disposal	Project Reference no: 18-2145T100004	Date: 24.3.2024	Time:
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Q	Assessment Criteria	Objective	Evaluation Committee comments	Weighting	Score	
1	Has project development officer report indicated that any documentation / information requested has not been provided by the project promoter(s)	Ensure that the project promoter has provided all the required information / documentation requested by project development officer to progress this project.	N/A	N/A	Pass	✓
2	Displacement	Does the project comply with displacement requirements?	Yes	N/A	Pass	✓
3	Compatibility with Local Development Strategy (LDS)	Do the project proposals meet the criteria set out in the LAG's LDS for the relevant measure?	Yes	15	13	
4	Innovation	Is the project innovative in its nature?	Yes	15	13	
5	Project Promoter experience	Does the promoter have the training/skills, track record or experience to deliver?	Yes	15	14	
6	Financial Viability	Do the proposed actions and associated costs appear reasonable and represent value for money, and is adequate funding available to co-fund the project?	Yes	25	18	
7	Sustainability	Is the project viable and will the service continue to be delivered?	Yes	15	12	
8	Requirement	Does the proposal target a specific need or address a specific gap in the market?	Yes	15	10	
9	Deadweight	Would the project proceed without LEADER funding?	YES NO	N/A	N/A	
N.B. Prior to being recommended for approval, projects must: - pass question 1 and 2 - answer no to question 9 - receive a minimum score of 65%.				Total:	106	80

Approved,

Recommendation of the Evaluation Committee:

Signature of Committee Chair:



Date: 27-03-2024

Angeline Drennan

From: John Harnedy <johnjharnedy@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday 3 April 2024 13:49
To: Angeline Drennan
Subject: Re: Draft Evaluation Minutes 27.03.2024
Attachments: image001.gif

Hi Angeline
I've reviewed the attached minutes and all seems in order.
I will talk to you later regarding dates for deferred Projects.
Thanks, John

On Wed 3 Apr 2024, 09:44 Angeline Drennan, <Angeline.Drennan@wlp.ie> wrote:

Hi John,

Attached are the draft minutes for last week's meeting.

Could you please have a read through them and confirm if you are happy that they are correct or advise if you believe there are any errors or omissions?

I will give you a call this afternoon to confirm.

Thanks & regards,

Angeline

Angeline Drennan CPA

Rialaitheoir Airgeadais/Financial Controller

Cúntóir Príomhfheidhmeanneach/Assistant CEO

Comhpháirtíocht Leader Phort Láirge / Waterford Leader Partnership CLG