

GROWING THE RURAL ECONOMY

Grant Funding Opportunities Leader Update

Presentation to Regeneration and Development Panel
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
19th October 2016
By Andy Thorpe Local Action Group (LAG) Manager



GROWING THE RURAL ECONOMY



The European Agricultural Fund for
Rural Development: Europe investing
in rural areas



 **Norfolk** County Council

Agenda

- Reminder - What is Leader?
- Review - Our First Year
- Looking Forward – A New Beginning
- Your Help – What We Ask of You

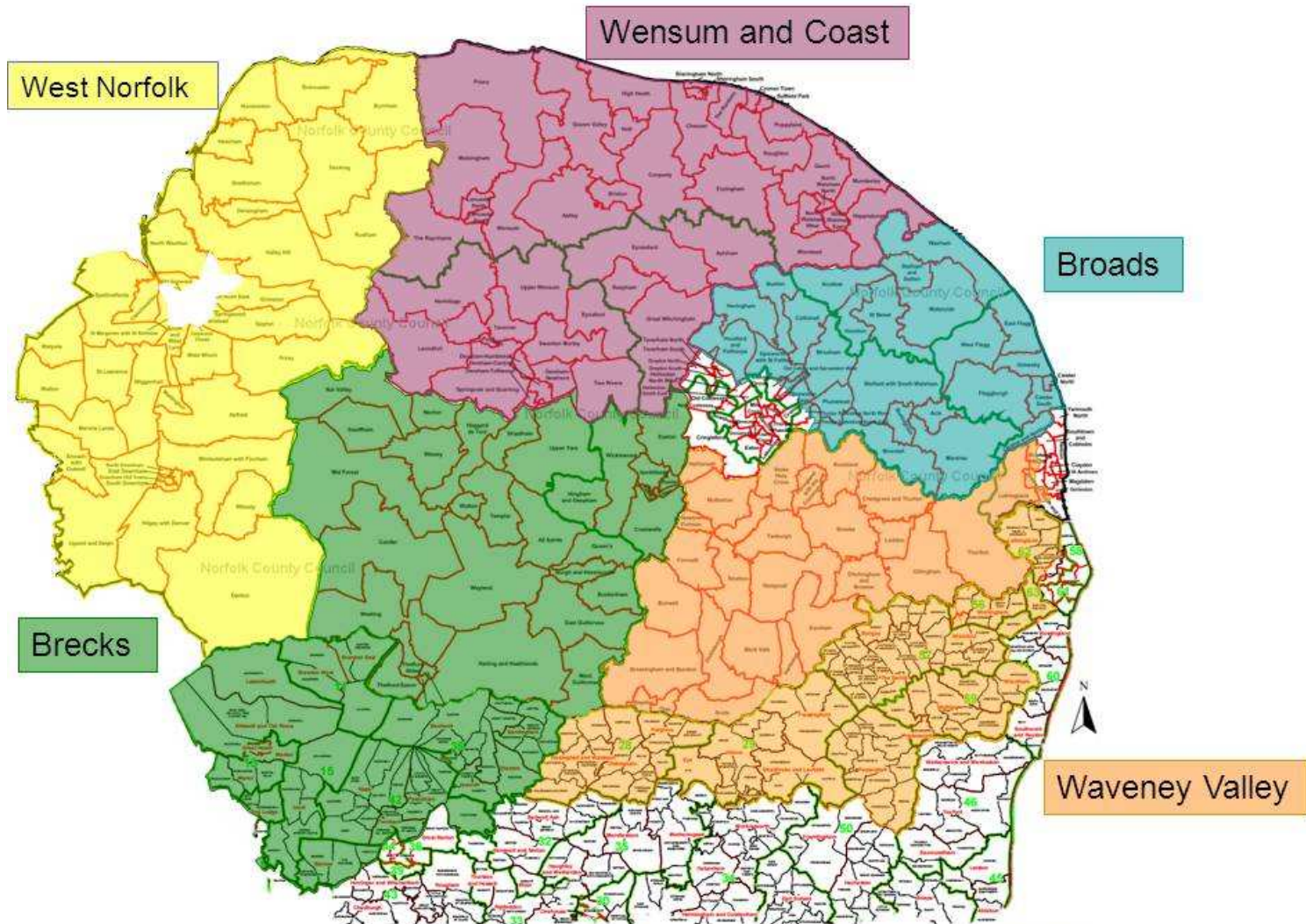


What is LEADER?

- European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD)
- LEADER – French acronym for '*Liaison among actors in rural economic development*'
- Or 'bottom up' community development - 5% of funds or £138m in UK.
- Rural Development Programme for England - Defra is Managing Authority working through the Rural Payments Agency.
- Norfolk County Council is the Accountable Body for five Local Action Groups across Norfolk and North Suffolk.
- Local Action Group (LAG) represents public, private and social organisations and discusses and review projects in line with their Local Development Strategy. 80 groups nationally.
- Local Development Strategy was created by each LAG to define local priorities and actions which they wish to fund in their respective area.



Five LEADER Areas covering 100% of Rural Norfolk:



Funding split across five LAG areas

Funding is for the period ending 2020 across the following LAG areas:

LAG	Award
Broads	£1.513
Brecks	£1.755
Waveney Valley	£1.764
West Norfolk	£1.921
Wensum & Coast	£2.061
TOTAL	£9.014



Funding Guidelines

Who Can Apply?	Businesses (up to 50 employees), people who want to start a business, communities, social enterprises, farmers, foresters – private, public, voluntary
What is the funding for?	Depend on the local strategy for the area. Projects must support one or more of the 6 national LEADER priorities.
What will be delivered for WN's £1.9m?	Priority is to generate jobs and growth : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71 jobs created • 61 projects supported
Funding rates	Typically limited to maximum of 40% of total budget Average grant size £20,000 - £30,000
Jobs and Growth	70% of spend must directly create news jobs and growth 30% of spend indirectly create new jobs and growth



DEFRA Priorities: 2014/2020 Rural Development Programme:

1. Support for increasing farm productivity
2. Support for micro and small enterprises and farm diversification
3. Support for rural tourism
4. Provision of rural services
5. Support for cultural and heritage activity
6. Support for increasing forestry productivity



Applying to LEADER

Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two stages – Outline application followed by Full application • Approximately three to four months • Reviewed by Local Action Group at quarterly meeting
Full application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Match funding needs to be in place • Planning permission has been approved • Applicants need to be a business or ‘constituted body’ with bank account • Proof of demand / need of the project • Demonstrate wider benefits for the area – i.e. indirect jobs and growth • Smallest grant £2500 – no upper limit • €200,000 grant limit in three year period under state aid regulations
Claims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In arrears, in pre-determined stages once work has been completed and paid for



GROWING THE RURAL ECONOMY



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas



Our First Year

The Challenges

- A late start – 18th November 2015
- West Norfolk – A New LAG
- 2 Periods of Purdah
- Brexit
- Programme Uncertainty
- Cautious Business Approach



Our First Year

What We Have Achieved Across 5 LAGs

- Received 73 Outline Applications
- Received 33 Full Applications
- Appraised and presented 20 Projects to LAGs
- Contracted with 17 Projects
- Approved Grant Funding of £633,857.63 (8.58% of budget)
- Pipeline of a further £856k (total 20.16% of budget)



Our First Year

What We Have Achieved in West Norfolk

- Received 10 Outline Applications
- Received 6 Full Applications
- Appraised and presented 4 Projects to LAG
- Approved 2 Projects – Contracted with Belmont Nurseries, finalising detail on other
- Approved Grant Funding of £65,560.47 (4.16% of budget)
- Pipeline of a further £302k (total 23.34% of budget)



Our First Year

What We Have Achieved in West Norfolk

- 2 Projects supporting water saving

Belmont Nursery, Terrington St Clement was awarded funding of £33,155 by West Norfolk LAG to enable this cut-flower and bulb growing business to make better use of rainwater collected on the glasshouses, thus reducing the need for extraction by beneficially working in collaboration with neighbouring businesses



Our First Year

What We Have Achieved across Norfolk

- Sunset Barn Care Farm
- Flint Vineyard



Our First Year

What We Have Achieved across Norfolk

- Squilla & Squidge
- Panther Brewery



Our First Year

What We Have Achieved across Norfolk

- Bluebell Wood Burial Ground
- Buxton Potato Processing
- Havensfield Eggs
- WV Business Park
- Waveney River Centre
- Lamberts Livery
- Brisley Bell
- Godwick Hall
- Branthill Brewery
- Improving Sennowe's Soils
- Dann's Dairy



Looking Forward

A New Beginning

- Chancellor's Statement – funding guaranteed until we leave EU
- A strong pipeline
- Simplified Processes Promised by Defra/RPA

Something New

- ESF (European Social Fund)



Our Ask

Where You Can Help Us

- Promotion of Fund
- Referrals
- LAG Membership

Website: www.norfolklags.co.uk

Twitter: [@NorfolkLAGs](https://twitter.com/NorfolkLAGs)

Facebook: [NorfolkLAGs](https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkLAGs)

LinkedIn: [Norfolk LAGs](https://www.linkedin.com/company/NorfolkLAGs)

E-mail: leaderteam@Norfolk.gov.uk

Telephone: 01603-222930



Q&A

Any
Questions?

