

Dear Town & Parish Clerks

The DR Company is writing to inform you about an economic funding programme that may be of benefit to business in your Town or Parish.

**South Devon Coastal Local Action Group (LAG) and Greater Dartmoor Local Enterprise Action Fund (LEAF) Funding Programmes**

For some time now we were not permitted by Defra and the Treasury to publicise the above economic funding programmes, due to uncertainties resulting from the EU referendum. However, clarity has now been provided and the good news is that we can now promote the LAG and LEAF funding programmes which will continue until we depart from the EU. Therefore the DR Company would now like to take this opportunity to provide a little information about the programmes.

**Who are the South Devon Coastal LAG and Greater Dartmoor LEAF?**

The LAG and LEAF are community led organisations who successfully bid for funding from the Rural Development Programme for England 2014-2020 to run a rural grant funding programme focused on the economy and for which South Hams District Council are the Accountable Body.

**Who funds the programmes?**

The programmes are funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

**Aim of the programme:**




The aim of the LEAF and LAG programmes is to create jobs, assist business growth and productivity and benefit the wider rural economy.

**Objectives of the Programmes:**





Below are the objectives of the two programmes. (A list of parishes is attached so that you can determine whether a business or organisation is in the LAG or LEAF area)

**South Devon Coastal (LAG) objectives:**

-  To help our businesses become more profitable and employ more people

-  To target economic opportunity in recognition of the age profile of our population
-  To help our communities become more sustainable
-  To develop our local identity and use that for economic benefit.

### **Greater Dartmoor LEAF objectives:**

-  To support businesses to grow and prosper
-  To offer people in the uplands equivalent opportunities to their lowland neighbours
-  To strengthen key local sectors and capitalise on our natural resources
-  To support enterprising communities

### **Priorities of the programme:**

All projects must support the rural economy by developing and growing local businesses and creating jobs. In addition, projects must contribute to one or more of Defra's 6 National priorities which are to:

1. Increase farm productivity
2. Support for micro and small businesses and farm diversification
3. Boost rural tourism
4. Provide rural services
5. Provide cultural and heritage activities and
6. Increase forestry productivity.

### **Who can apply?**

This funding programme will fund farmers, growers, foresters, local rural businesses, rural community organisations and someone who wants to start a business.

Applications must be for a grant of between £2,500 and £100,000. Grants will typically be limited to a maximum of 40% of the project's total costs and not all projects will be eligible.

### **How to apply?**

Anyone wishing to find out whether they are eligible to apply for funding needs to visit the following websites:

LAG <http://drcompany.co.uk/sdclag/> or

LEAF <http://drcompany.co.uk/gdleaf/>

A simple project idea form is available on the website where the idea can be described in up to 200 words. If the project is considered eligible there then follows a two part process and a member of the DR Company team will help them to apply.

The DR Company hope that the above information provides you with an overview of the programme for your information and awareness. If you know of any business in your Town or Parish that this economic funding programme could assist, subject to meeting the relevant criteria, please refer them to the above websites.