

EXECUTIVE

LEADER: Cllr Jeremy Christophers

PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Cllr Tim Golder

DATE: 5 March 2019

REPORT OF: **TONY WATSON**
Interim Head of Commercial Services, Strategic Place -
Economy & Assets

SUBJECT: **RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND
– LOCAL ACTION 2015-2020**

PART I

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is recommended to note the progress of the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group and the Greater Dartmoor Local Economic Action Fund 2015-2020.

Resolve

To note the progress of the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group and the Greater Dartmoor Local Economic Action Fund 2015-2020.

For information only

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to present an update on the Council's involvement in two parallel economic development schemes the South Devon Coastal Local Action Group and the Greater Dartmoor Local Economic Action Fund (SDC LAG and GD LEAF). The Council has contributed £16,400 per annum (2015-20) towards the schemes which have offered European derived funding for small and medium companies to invest, expand and create new employment within the District.

2. BACKGROUND

Programme

The Rural Development Programme for England – Local Action 2015-2020 is jointly enacted in Teignbridge and South Hams/West Devon through the SDC LAG and GD LEAF. The programmes are split roughly evenly between the two Council areas, and within Teignbridge all parishes are included other than Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton, which don't qualify for rural development.

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The two programmes are scheduled to finish in March 2019.

Aims and Objectives

The overall aim of the SDC LAG and the GD LEAF Programmes has been to deliver economic growth in rural and coastal areas, through job creation, business growth and improved productivity. This is delivered through specific objectives, with 70% of funding being targeted at directly delivering jobs and growth;

- Support for increasing farm productivity
- Support for micro and small enterprises
- Support for rural tourism
- Provision of rural services
- Support for cultural and heritage activity
- Support for increasing forestry productivity

Value

The two programmes are firmly on course (96% committed) to jointly deliver around £3.2 million of external funds to local businesses to facilitate new projects valued around £8.6 million and creating approximately 185-190 new jobs in the local area.

Values to end 2018

	SDC LAG	GD LEAF	Combined
Total Project Value (£)	3,994,721	4,172,818	8,167,539
Total Funding Committed (£)	1,402,461	1,732,154	3,134,615
Number of Projects	50	54	104
Number of Jobs created	76	102	178
Programme intervention rate	35%	42%	
Overall Programme Budget (£)	1,453,362	1,808,952	3,262,314
Estimated Budget Remaining (£)	50,901	76,798	127,699

Delivery

The Council's Coastal and Economic Development teams promote the programmes locally and manage the Council's contribution, with DR (an Okehampton based CIC) contracted to act as secretariat and delivery agent on behalf of TDC and SHDC/WDDC. The SDC LAG and GD LEAF are two of approximately eighty such programmes across England and are both in the 'top ten' in terms of delivery and as a consequence have been awarded additional funds to disperse from underperforming areas. There may be a further addition to the budget as final project conversion rates €/£ are applied. The current remaining budget will be allocated to successful applicants by March 2019, although there is a reasonable expectation of further additional funds being made available, with all project activity due to be completed by March 2020. Nationally the intervention rate is reported as being approximately £30,000 grant aid invested per FTE job created, whilst the local figures for SDC LAG and GD LEAF are currently £18,500 and £15,600 per FTE respectively.

Typical range of local enterprises assisted

SDC LAG – businesses assisted in the coastal area have ranged from an award of £5,500 enabling a £13,700 investment by Pitts Shearing based in Kenn Valley create a new 0.8FTE post, through to an award of £47,700 enabling works at the Elizabethan Inn, Luton resulting in the creation of 5 new jobs.

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GD LEAF – business assisted in the moorland area of the District have ranged from £4,400 towards a farm productivity scheme in the Teign Valley (which secured efficiencies and protected existing rather than creating new jobs) through to 6.7FTE jobs being enabled through the award of £22,900 at the Dartmoor Community Kitchen. The largest single award was £128,000 to Partridge Cycles in Kenn Valley enabling an investment of £320,000 and creating 4.5 new posts.

3. MAIN IMPLICATIONS

The annual contribution of £16,400 over five years (£82,000 total) will have enabled the creation of around 190 new jobs through projects valued at £8.6M – approximately half of which has been within the Teignbridge area.

4. GROUPS CONSULTED

The Parish and Town Councils at; Abbotskerswell, Ashcombe/Mamhead, Bickington, Bishopsteignton, Broadhempston, Coffinswell, Dawlish, Denbury & Torbryan, Exminster, Haccombe with Combe, Ideford, Ipplepen, Kenton, Kingskerswell, Ogwell, Powderham, Shaldon, Starcross, Stokeinteignhead, Teignmouth, and Woodland have been informed about the South Devon Coastal LAG.

Similarly Parish and Town Councils at Ashburton/Buckland in the Moor, Ashton, Bovey Tracey, Bridford, Buckfastleigh, Christow, Chudleigh, Doddiscombsleigh, Dunchideock, Dunsford, Hennock, Holcombe Burnell, Ide, Ilsington, Kenn, Lustleigh, Manaton, Moretonhampstead, North Bovey, Shillingford St. George, Tedburn St. Mary, Teigngrace, Trusham, Whitestone, and Widecombe in the Moor were informed about the Greater Dartmoor LEAF.

Both programmes have been promoted to a wide range of business groups and fora, and at appropriate public events, as well as through traditional and social media platforms.

5. TIME-SCALE

Both programmes are in their final stages with all funds expected to be committed by March 2019 and projects completed by March 2020.

6. JUSTIFICATION

An appropriate and value for money programme to access external funding opportunities to enhance the economic viability of the District.

7. DATE OF IMPLEMENTATION (CONFIRMATION OF DECISION SUBJECT TO CALL-IN)

Update report for existing initiative

TEIGNBRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Tony Watson
Interim Head of Commercial Services,
Strategic Place - Economy & Assets

Cllr Tim Golder
Executive Portfolio Holder for
Economy

BELOW TO BE FILLED IN BY REPORT AUTHOR

Wards affected	All except Newton Abbot and Kingsteignton Wards
Contact for any more information	Graeme Smith 01626 215748
Background Papers (For Part I reports only)	
Key Decision	
In Forward Plan	
In O&S Work Programme	
Community Impact Assessment attached:	
Appendices attached:	