

Report of the Gower AONB Team Leader

Gower AONB Partnership Steering Group – 19 September 2016

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (RDP) & LOCAL ACTION GROUP (LAG)

What is the RDP?

- European Union programme
- Bring rural development in line with EU priorities
- Identify and agree areas where EU support can give the most added value
- Part of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The CAP for Wales enables the funding of activities which support farmers, the countryside and rural communities. These activities encourage the sustainable management of agriculture and the environment in four key areas:

- Agriculture
- Forestry, environment and countryside
- Supply chain for agriculture and forestry
- Quality of life in rural areas

What is the LAG?

An unincorporated association:

- building the capacity of local organisations and individuals to develop and implement projects
- drawing up a transparent selection procedure, which avoid conflicts of interest, ensure that at least 50% of the votes in selection decisions are cast by partners which are not public authorities
- prioritising projects according to their contribution to meeting the objectives and targets in the Local Development Strategy (LDS)
- preparing and publishing calls for proposals or an ongoing project submission procedure & defining selection criteria
- receiving and assessing applications for support
- selecting projects, agreeing level of grant support before approval. £445k grant pot, 80% intervention rate. Lead body will ensure compliance & eligibility.
- Monitor implementation of LDS, projects supported and carry out evaluation of activities linked to strategy.

City and County of Swansea is the lead body.

The LDS vision and objectives are attached.

Current Membership of the LAG and the three sub-groups is attached.

Brexit

CCS is currently delivering the following EU funded programmes:

Project/programme	EU grant £	End date
Rural Development Plan	1.4m	31 Dec 2021
Workways +	1.4m	30 Nov 2018
Communities for Work	1.6m	31 Mar 2018
Cynydd	1.6m	28 Feb 2019
Total	6m	

Wales European Funding Office (WEFO) expect that these existing funding commitments will be honoured. Extensions currently limited to whenever Article 50 is triggered and the 2 year countdown to full exit is set. The longer Article 50 is delayed, the longer the programmes can run, unless there is agreement to let the programme complete during formal negotiations once Article 50 is triggered. Welsh Government is seeking assurances on being able to deliver the RDP to the current agreed end date, the end of some programmes may be at risk depending on the trigger date.

Chris Lindley
12 September 2016