



Monaghan Local Development Strategy – Summary document

Introduction

A total budget of €7.59 million has been awarded for implementation and delivery of the LEADER Rural Development Programme for Co Monaghan until the end of 2020. The funding was awarded based on a Local Development Strategy (LDS) which sets out the priority areas for the programme in Co Monaghan. The priorities in the strategy were identified through extensive consultation with the local community and through a thorough situational analysis conducted in late 2015.

The Local Development Strategy is based on the **Themes** and **Sub-Themes** which were stipulated by the programme guidelines from Government and EU. See attached table ‘*Monaghan LEADER – Summary of Local Development Strategy (2014-2020)*’ which matches local objectives with budgets and some key targets for the programme. The text below sets out the Monaghan LDS under the Themes and Sub-themes, local objectives and the strategic actions. Any project proposed in an ‘*Expression of Interest*’ form submitted to Monaghan LEADER will have to show how it fits under one or more of the local objectives and related strategic actions. If you are unsure where your project idea could fit, contact a member of the Monaghan LEADER Team and complete/submit an ‘expression of interest’ form to Monaghan Integrated Development.

In addition, to the core elements of the Monaghan Local Development Strategy there are also a set of cross-cutting objectives; (1) Innovation, (2) climate change and (3) the environment. These cross cutting objectives form an integral part of the Monaghan LDS with a view to developing projects in keeping with our natural environment, encourage innovative approaches whilst striving to mitigate the impacts of climate change. All project applicants are encouraged to consider how a project proposal can positively impact on the cross-cutting objectives.

Theme 1: Economic/Enterprise Development and Job Creation

Sub-theme: Rural Tourism

Local Objective: 1. Support for development and marketing of tourism accommodation

Strategic Actions:

- 1.1 Expansion / Renovation of current B&B and self-catering tourism
- 1.2 Promote and support the development of new specialised and budget tourism accommodation

Local Objective: 2. Encourage the development and marketing of rural tourism leisure amenities, adventure tourism product and visitor attractions

Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Develop and diversify the recreational tourism product of Co Monaghan.
- 2.2 Support the development and marketing of tourism activity centres and visitor attractions



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Local Objective: 3. Develop and support County tourism network through capacity building, training, mentoring and marketing support

Strategic Actions:

- 3.1 Support the development and capacity-building of County tourism network with a view to maximising the overall tourism opportunities for the county.
- 3.2 Support the development of festivals through shared infrastructure and for promotion of new festivals / elements to current festivals
- 3.3 Provision of quality Tour Guide Training to Rural Community members

Local Objective: 4. Support for utilisation of old buildings for the provision of tourism activities/visitor attractions and overall development of tourism product

Strategic Actions:

- 4.1 Provide support for preparation of feasibility studies, business plans, plans for protected structures to adhere to conservation guidelines
- 4.2 Support the utilisation of old buildings for provision of tourism activities and visitor attractions

Sub-theme: Enterprise Development

Local Objective: 1. Support new start-up and expansion of Small to Medium Enterprise's

Strategic Actions:

- 1.1 Provide capital assistance for start-up and expansion of SMEs
- 1.2 To stimulate the development of the rural economy in the County with a focus on supporting technology based enterprises (existing and start-ups)

Local Objective: 2. Promote and assist the development of social enterprises

Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Support best practice approaches in the development of social enterprises through workshops, conferences, training and mentoring.
- 2.2 Provide capital assistance towards development of social enterprise projects.

Local Objective: 3. Support the development of the artisan foods, handcrafts and farm diversification sector

Strategic Action:

- 3.1 Provision of supports for clusters of Artisan foods / Handcrafts for development, marketing and mentoring support

Sub-theme: Rural Towns

Local Objective: 1. Pilot a Heritage Towns Initiative in two of the five towns in Co Monaghan

Strategic Action:

1.1 Pilot a Heritage Towns Initiative in two of the five towns in Co Monaghan

Local Objective: 2. Support development of new guesthouses /B&B's /self-catering / hostels in rural towns

Strategic Action:

2.1 Support for projects which seek to utilise town buildings for new tourism accommodation.

Local Objective: 3. Support the development of the arts/community infrastructure in towns

Strategic Action:

3.1 Support for the development of arts and community infrastructure in towns.

Sub-theme: Broadband

Local Objective: 1. Support for projects that enhance and maximize the use of broadband where it's available and on being open to innovative approaches to enhancing broadband service provision where possible.

Strategic Actions:

1.1 Support for targeted new / upgrading of existing community based ICT training suites of SMEs

1.2 Implement a series of public initiatives to raise awareness of the potential uses of high speed broadband combined with follow up targeted training & upskilling

Theme 2: Social Inclusion

Sub-theme: Basic Services – Hard to reach communities

Local Objective: 1. Support for the provision and upgrading of Community Facilities /Infrastructure for all members of the community.

Strategic Action:

1.1 Support for the provision and upgrading of community and recreational facilities/infrastructure to facilitate better access and use of facilities for members and groups within a community.

Theme 2: **Social Inclusion** cont'd

Local Objective: 2. Support for programmes and training which support multipurpose community development activities.

Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Supports for the provision of community Training and Mentoring programmes.
- 2.2 Support for the development and establishment of networks, peer learning, social media applications and pilot initiatives that support community development and volunteerism and that aim to disseminate information to all members of the community

Sub-theme: **Basic Services – Hard to reach communities** cont'd

Local Objective: 3. Training & Support Programmes targeted at groups who are hard to reach, to build capacity and up-skill community members

Strategic Actions:

- 3.1 Training and developmental support programmes which aim to prepare individuals for the labour market including training, workshops and mentoring targeted at hard to reach individuals, small holders / community groups and start-up artisan producers.
- 3.2 Series of traditional skills workshops and training for rural dwellers primarily to develop traditional building, farm and artisan skills (e.g. working with lime mortar, thatching & thatch growing, hedge row conservation, traditional stone wall building, woodworking, artisan producers etc.)
- 3.3 Support activities which encourage Non-Irish Nationals, migrants, ethnic minorities and host community members to socialise and effectively integrate into Monaghan communities

Sub-theme: **Rural Youth**

Local Objective: 1. Support for the provision and upgrading of facilities, infrastructure and equipment targeting Rural Youth.

Strategic Action:

- 1.1 Support for the provision of facilities / infrastructure, additional equipment and resources for new and existing facilities which directly targets Rural Youth

Local Objective: 2. Support for the provision of Training and Support Programmes targeting Rural Youth

Strategic Actions:

- 2.1 Support for youth training programmes that empower young people to better access the labour market
- 2.2 Support for initiatives /training which empowers youth to become more active and effective members of their community and equip rural youth with the skill sets to deal with life issues, including youth leadership.

Theme 3: Rural Environment

Sub-theme: Protection of Water Resources

Local Objective: 1. Support a mix of awareness raising, capacity building and project development which supports the protection and sustainable use of water resources.

Strategic Actions:

- 1.1 Supporting initiatives which raise awareness of importance of water resources, and that value and conserve these resources.
- 1.2 Provide support for new innovative projects that aims to protect, sustain and improve water resources.

Sub-theme: Protection of Biodiversity

Local Objective: 1. Support for programmes and training which raise awareness and public interest in maintaining and protecting biodiversity.

Strategic Action:

- 1.1 Supporting initiatives which conserve, protect, sustain and restore our natural habitat and promote greater awareness of our Biodiversity

Local Objective: 2. Support for the practical implementation of biodiversity projects within rural areas

Strategic Action:

- 2.1 Supporting practical initiatives which conserve, protect, sustain and restore our natural habitat and promote greater awareness of our biodiversity

Sub-theme: Renewable Energy

Local Objective: 1. Support awareness raising projects and projects that have the potential to deliver sustainable energy alternatives, with possible areas being biomass heating, solar power, wind turbines, water/marine turbines and community-based heating systems.

Strategic Actions:

- 1.1 Provision of training and support programmes which target awareness raising and capacity building in relation to renewable energy technologies
- 1.2 Assist community groups and enterprises to develop and implement renewable energy technologies within their community groups and enterprises.

For further information on the Monaghan LEADER programme, the application process, time-limited calls and public information sessions please visit our website www.midl.ie If you have a query, contact Monaghan Integrated LEADER Team on 042 9749500 or email LEADER@midl.ie .

Monaghan Local Action Group (LAG) is administering the LEADER RDP 2014-2020 in County Monaghan for the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development. The County Monaghan Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is operating as the LAG for the County. Monaghan Integrated Development the Local Development Company for County Monaghan is the implementing partner and Monaghan County Council is the lead financial partner.