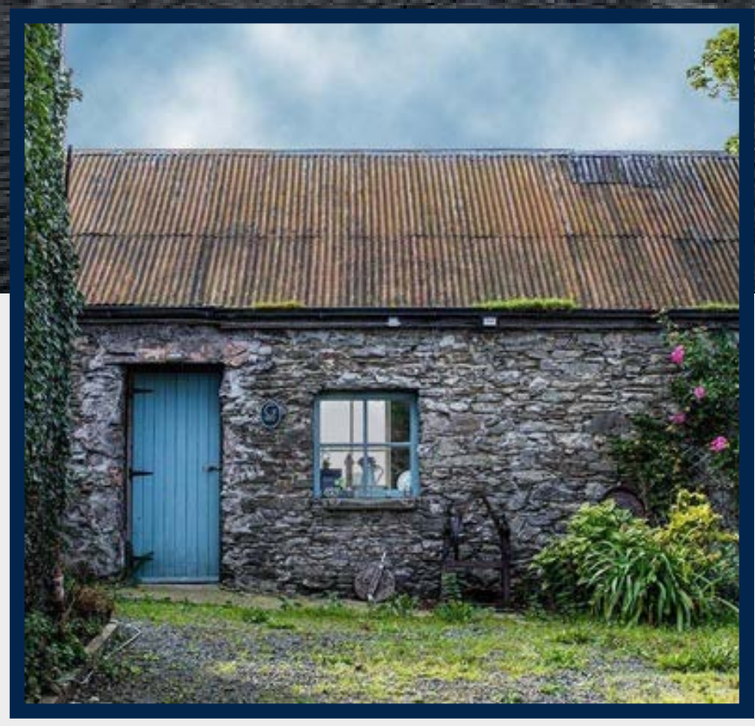
Monaghan Integrated Development

LEADER
Development led by local communities



COUNTY MONAGHAN LEADER
LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2023–2027
SUMMARY DOCUMENT

Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland | Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040
Arna chomhchistiú ag An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta
Co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

Ár dTodhchaí Tuaithe Our Rural Future

Arna chomhchistiú ag an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by the European Union

WHAT IS LEADER?

Funded by the EU and Irish Government, the LEADER Programme aims to develop rural areas both socially and economically

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A Local Development Strategy is a community-led plan. It is developed and driven by rural communities, through local action groups, setting out its vision and objectives for the area

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Provides Grant Funding and guidance for small, local, rural businesses and community groups

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Decisions on funding for projects in Monaghan are made locally in Monaghan

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LEADER is run by Monaghan Integrated Development (MID), who have over 30 years experience delivering the programme

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MID are the Local Action Group for LEADER 2023-2027

LEADER Themes + Sub-Themes

The following are the themes and sub-themes under which support is available

1

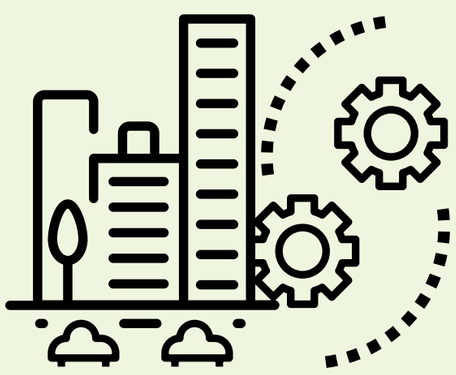
Economic Development and Job Creation

- **The Green Economy**
- **Agricultural Diversification**
- **Rural Tourism and Recreation**
- **Enterprise Development**
- **Rural Food Production**
- **Social, Community and Co-operative Enterprises**

2

Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion

- **Rural Infrastructure**
- **Accessible Services**
- **Optimising Digital Connectivity**
- **Rural Youth**



3

Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment + Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

- **Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment**
- **Climate Change Capacity Building**
- **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation**

THEME 1

Economic Development and Job Creation (€2,310,000)

Green Economy

Invest and encourage engagement of business (incl. Social Enterprises) in the circular economy and the emerging renewable energy and climate change sectors to foster job creation and support a greener economy. **(€325,000)**

1.1 Research, scope potential for circular economy and associated green business development.

1.2 Targeted investment in innovative environmental services and manufacturing businesses.

1.3 Support research and piloting of technologies and processes to utilise waste streams from poultry, mushroom, livestock and green waste sectors for productive purposes.

Agricultural Diversification

Utilise farmyard and land based assets to repurpose and generate new income streams for farm families. **(€145,000)**

2.1 Provide research, scoping, ideas generation, re-skilling, training, networking opportunities for farm families to generate alternative income streams.

2.2 Provide capital support for alternative land use projects and diversification from intensive agriculture and traditional livestock.

Rural Tourism and Recreation

Enhance rural tourism product using the natural and built resources of the area & develop new attractions to enrich the visitor experience and build capacity in the sector. **(€570,000)**

3.1 Promote and support the development of innovative activity-based and heritage-based tourism.

3.2 Develop the eco-tourism and niche based tourism products and rebuild accommodation base.

Enterprise Development

Strategic and targeted investment in rural business development, encouraging entrepreneurship and innovation, fostering job creation in rural areas. **(€810,000)**

4.1 Support for marketing and provision of capital grant assistance for business start-ups & expansion.

4.2 Supporting the development and sustainability of new and existing enterprise centres and affordable workspace prioritising repurposing of disused buildings.

4.3 Technical assistance for research and development and skills training.

Rural Food Production

Capitalise on the county's agricultural base through adding value to primary produce and encouraging sustainable food production.**(€180,000)**

5.1 Invest in start-up and expansion of food processing capacity for added value and niche food product lines in existing small food producers.

5.2 Support research and development of new food products.

Social Community & Co-operative Enterprises

Diversification of the rural economy through the development of the 3rd sector. **(€280,000)**

6.1 Provide technical and capacity building support towards the development and expansion of sustainable social enterprises in line with the county's social enterprise strategy.

6.2 Provide capital grant support for the expansion of rural services and products while providing job opportunities and revitalising local communities.

THEME 2

Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion (€1,329,334)

Rural Infrastructure

Investment in physical and social capital to enhance quality of life and make the rural areas more attractive places to live and work. **(€650,000)**

Re-establish towns and villages as hubs for economic and social development through the development of physical infrastructure and re-engage human capital. **(€250,000)**

7.1 Targeted capital investment in community facilities, basic amenities and service delivery spaces.

7.2 Training, capacity building and technical supports to enhance and mobilise local social capital.

8.1 Investment in community led SMART Villages public realm & town team projects and local economic regeneration plans.

Accessible Services

Expand and enhance range of services in rural areas and improve access and enhance outreach to existing services to improve quality of life for residents. **(€140,000)**

9.1 Audit of community and voluntary sector and facilities and identify gaps in service provision locally.

9.2 Provide a targeted suite of supports to assist access to funding and support for groups who have not benefitted to date from grant supports.

Optimising Digital Connectivity

Encourage increased broadband usage and maximise the potential of its increased availability. **(€69,334)**

10.1 Provide developmental support, capital, training and technical assistance in developing viable solutions to both pilot and utilise new technology to provide services via ioT to the broader population.

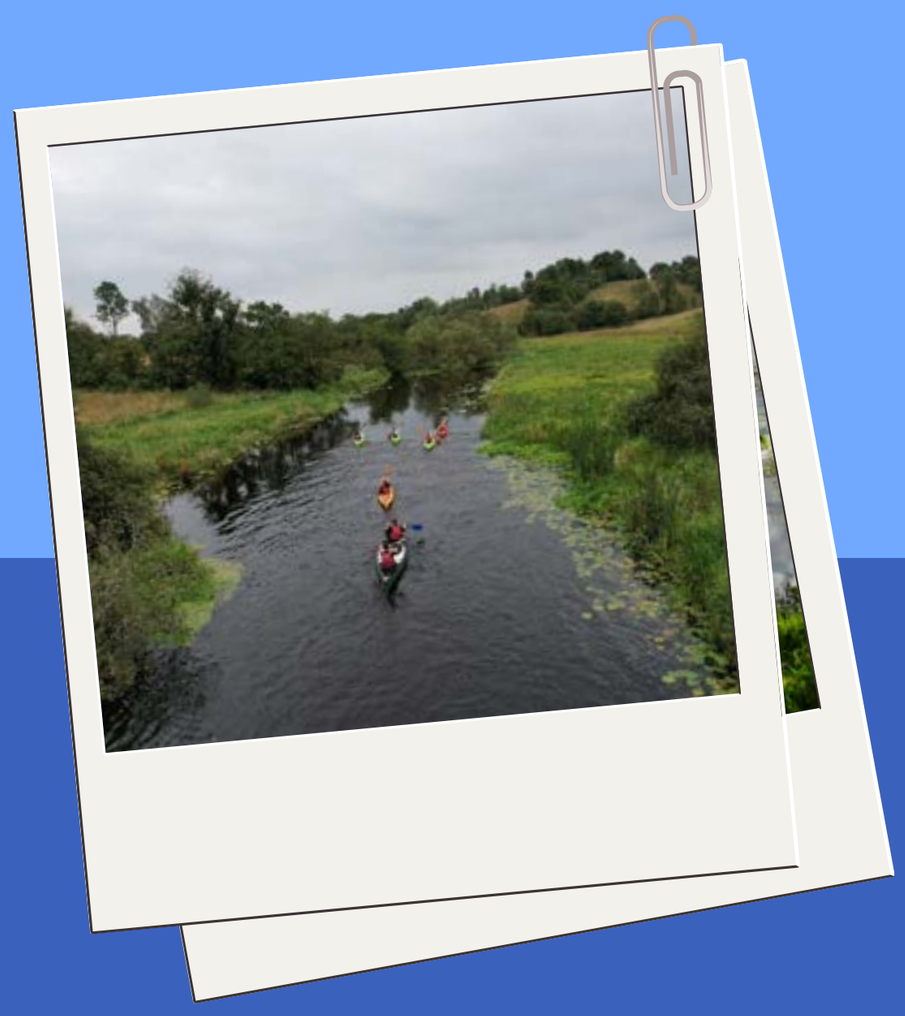
Rural Youth

Build the capacity of youth services and infrastructure and improve participation and engagement of young people and social interaction. **(€220,000)**

11.1 Capital investment in rural youth services and facilities and increase youth space availability.

11.2 Provision of training, youth entrepreneurship, leadership and skills development.

11.3 Research and support the piloting of new rural youth services targeting isolated & hard to reach young people.



THEME 3

Sustainable Development of the Rural Environment and Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation (€850,000)

Sustainable Development of The Rural Environment

Conservation of water resources through education and investment in sustainable water usage, provision of resource materials and encouraging community participation and innovation. **(€80,000)**

12.1 Local community led pilot programmes and training provision for water recycling conservation and encouraging adaptation of citizen science.

Climate Change Capacity Building

Improvement of local biodiversity and priority habitats, encouraging community participation and innovation and incorporation into mainstream local development. **(€120,000)**

Build capacity and knowledge of the need for action on climate change across all sectors. **(€150,000)**

13.1 Pilot community based biodiversity plans, projects and training in partnership with the farming community and support their implementation.

14.1 Local community led training provision for energy usage, energy conservation & renewable energy technologies.

14.2 Support preparation of energy audits incorporating waste and water usage audits.

14.3 Increase awareness amongst communities, farming community and enterprises on needs and opportunities for the circular economy in line with the objectives of the National Circular Economy Strategy.

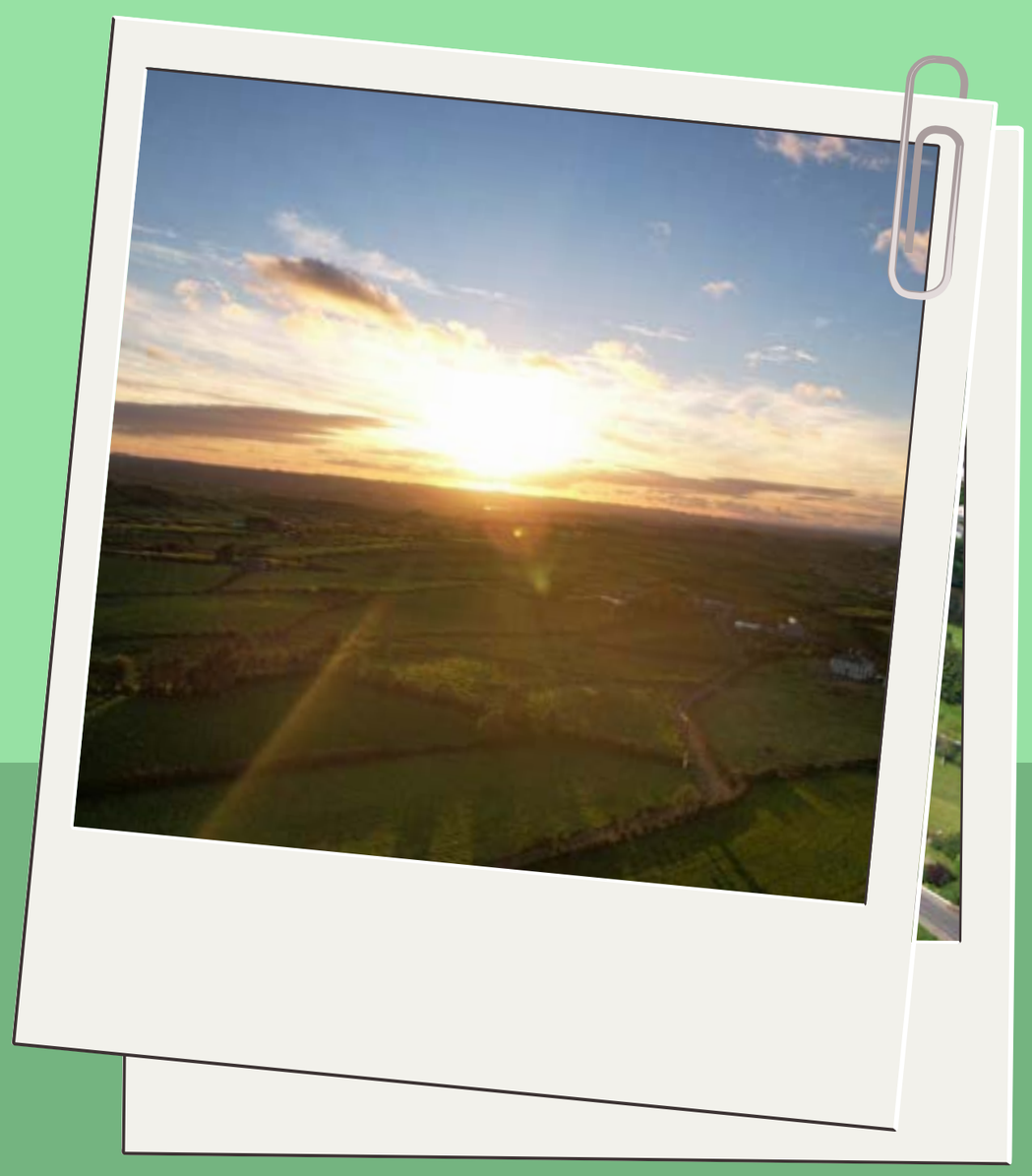
Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation

Investment in sustainable renewable energy deployment & the piloting & application of technologies in the local context. **(€500,000)**

15.1 Deployment of pilot energy conservation and micro-generation projects and provision of a network of demonstration sites of renewable technologies.

15.2 Invest in equipment and infrastructure in community based renewable energy technology and circular economy that embraces greater efficiency and supports the environment.

15.3 Support the implementation of local climate change/energy master plans and the expansion and enhancement of the activity of the SEC network of community led initiatives in the county.



LEADER APPLICATION PROCESS

Expression of Interest (EOI)

- Talk with a member of our LEADER Project Team about your project idea
- Applicant will then be invited to fill in an EOI form

Application

- Development Officer will evaluate the EOI - in principle you will be invited to full application if your project is eligible.
- The applicant must submit all supporting documentation along with the Application Form eg. Business Plan, Planning Permissions, Quotes etc.

Evaluation

- The project is presented and evaluated by a Monaghan-based Independent Evaluation committee (IEC).
- Project recommendations from the IEC are then presented to the LAG.

Approval

- If project is approved by the LAG, a letter of offer and contract is issued to the applicant.
- The letter of offer and contract must be signed and returned within 15 days from the date of offer.
- The successful applicant can then commence with the project (any commencement prior to receipt of returned + signed letter of offer will be deemed ineligible for funding).

Grant Payment

- Grant Funding is paid retrospectively - upon completion of the project/based on completion in phases
- All paid invoices, receipts, bank statements and other supporting documents must be submitted to the Project Officer before any grant aid payments are received

ELIGIBILITY

ELIGIBLE

- Capital projects involving construction works:
  - Retro fits
  - Refurbishments
  - Purchase of Machinery + Equipment
- General Expenditure linked to any of the above points, eg.
  - Oversight by Architect/ Engineer
- Marketing Materials
- Training (non-mainstream)
- Analysis and Development - Feasibility Studies, community plans etc.
- Intangible Investments including:
  - Development of Computer Software
  - Acquisitions of Patents, Licences, Copyrights, and Trademarks

NOT ELIGIBLE

- Primary Agriculture and Horticulture
- Conventional Retail Operations, excluding community based shops and farm shops, outlets selling locally produced produce
- Courses of instruction or training which form the part of normal education programmes/systems at pre-school, primary, secondary, or higher levels up to and including FETAC & QQI Level 1
- Continuous Professional Development Courses
- Operational Costs - eg. Salary/overheads etc.
- Reclaimable VAT
- General Maintenance works of Public Bodies
- Childcare, Healthcare, and Nursing Homes
- Housing, Cars, and Trailers
- Improvements/Refurbishment of private resedential Property
- Projects where products being funded are made and kept outside of Ireland

PLEASE NOTE, THIS IS NOT AN EXHAUSTIVE LIST

PLEASE CONTACT US TO DISCUSS CLARIFICATION ON ELIGIBILITY

RATES OF AID

Project Type	Applicant	Max. % Aid	Max. Funding
Investment & other supports (including promotion undertaken as part of the implementation of a project)	Private/ Community	75%	€200,000
	Community (under accessible services sub-theme targeted at hard to reach communities)	90%	
Analysis and Development	Private/ Community	90%	€30,000
Training	Private/ Community	100%	€200,000

SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF LEADER

1 BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

Places local communities at the centre of local development processes, incorporating collective decision-making.

2 AREA-BASED APPROACH

Focuses on coherent sub-regional areas and seeks to target the priorities and opportunities of the LDS area as a whole.

3 THE LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

The Local Action Group (LAG) is a central element of the CLLD approach and must comprise partners from public, private and civil society.

4 INTEGRATED AND MULTI-SECTORAL STRATEGY

The LAG and their LDS should seek to capitalise on links and synergies between different sectors in their area

5 NETWORKING

Networking is also a central element of the LEADER approach and seeks to support networking and exchange at local, national, and European levels.

6 INNOVATION

Supporting innovative solutions to local enterprises.

7 CO-OPERATION

Fostering and supporting co-operation and collaboration between LAGs at national and European level.

Monaghan
Integrated
Development

Monaghan Integrated Development
Unit 9 Drumillard Business Park, Castleblayney, County Monaghan, A75 HR59
T: (042) 974 9500 E: LEADER@midl.ie www.midl.ie

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