

## Brief for Consultant

### LEADER North Northamptonshire Rural Action Partnership

Development and delivery of programme of training and information to support measure 331.

February 2010

#### Background information

The LEADER approach is a delivery mechanism under the new Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) 2007-2013. The LEADER approach is not a scheme, fund or set of objectives, but is a method of harnessing local knowledge to enable a “bottom up”, community led approach to delivery of RDPE funding in rural areas. The LEADER approach can be used to deliver a range of Programme objectives, and will help achieve integration.

LEADER is implemented through Local Action Groups (LAGs, the North Northamptonshire Rural Action Partnership), which represent public and private partners and local interest groups and cover all sectors of the local society and economy.

Types of projects supported through the LEADER Approach are:

- Diversification from farming into non agricultural activities
- Support for creation and development of micro-enterprises promoting entrepreneurship and creating employment opportunities
- Encouragement of tourism activities, making rural tourism business more sustainable through collaboration and resource efficiency.
- Conservation and upgrading of rural heritage and culture
- Provision of training and information, including business skills and technical awareness for the rural community.

In order to promote the fund in a targeted way the Local Action Group would like to deliver a series of events inviting partners, experts in their field and potential applicants together to discuss opportunities for joint working and potential projects that would meet the objectives of the LEADER programme as laid out in the Local Development Strategy.

The LEADER programme manager has already coordinated and delivered one successful event. Our aim was to develop opportunities for enhancing the River Nene corridor in North Northants for tourism opportunities. This event was a breakfast seminar to which land agents, farmers, landowners and other interested parties were invited to hear presentations and network. EMDA, The Environment Agency, Northamptonshire ACRE and others gave presentations to set the context before the group broke into workshops and networking time.

#### 1. Aims and Objectives of the piece of work

- Develop and deliver an information programme for potential beneficiaries of North Northamptonshire LEADER funding.

- Ensure strategic fit with North Northants Local Development Strategy and EMDA's Regional Implementation Plan.
- Jointly work with and be steered by the North Northamptonshire Rural Action Partnership (NNRAP) or its sub-groups on the priorities for the programme
- Work within the defined budget and financial profile for the piece of work.
- Monitor and record outputs

## 2. Activity

The consultant will:

- Discuss with the LEADER programme manager, Local Action Group, its sub-groups and necessary other parties to decide the priority areas and participants for the information programme. Potential themes could be: Local heritage initiatives, local food and drink, renewable energies linked to agriculture and forestry and the provision of quality accommodation. We are particularly interested in engaging with farmers, landowners, estate managers and micro enterprises that are looking to grow.
- Organise 4 information events at locations within North Northamptonshire that are appropriate to the target audience, including booking of venue, refreshments equipment, inviting participants and speakers, preparation of handout material. Recording individual participants/organisations as required by the LEADER programme for monitoring purposes.
- Facilitate each of the events freeing up the time of the LEADER programme team to enable them to network with participants.
- Provide a press release regarding each of the events to Northamptonshire ACRE so that it can circulate to local media, partners and put on relevant websites for publicity.

## 3. Timetable

We aim to contract with a consultant and begin delivery of this programme of work by the end of May 2010 with work completed by the end of December 2010.

## 4. Skills knowledge and experience required:

- Understanding of rural & economic issues as well as social and environmental issues
- Experience of cross-sector working
- Experience in organising and facilitating events

## 5. Indemnity

The consultant will agree to indemnify NACRE against all claims, actions, demands, penalties, liabilities, costs or expenses arising out of or in any way connected with any tax, National Insurance or similar impost or other such payments of a revenue nature which may be found due from NACRE in respect of the consultant.

The consultant will provide any necessary insurance covers for the work involved and be responsible for paying his/her own premiums.

## 6. Budget

The maximum amount available to carry out this piece of work is £10,000; this should include consultancy costs, travel and associated expenses, venue hire, refreshments, postage and other costs associated with running an event.

## 7. Application process

We are inviting applicants to apply to deliver this piece of work under LEADER measure 331. No Match funding is required.

This is a 2-stage application. Applicants will be required to submit an expression of interest form; successful applicants will then be required to submit a full LEADER application form.

EOI forms can be obtained by contacting the leader administrator Ben Haynes on 01604 765888 or emailing [ben.haynes@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:ben.haynes@northantsacre.org.uk).

Applications should be sent via email to Ben Haynes at the above email address by midday on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2010. Signed copies should be posted to:

Ben Haynes  
Northamptonshire ACRE  
The Hunsbury Hill Centre  
Harksome Hill  
Northampton  
NN4 9QX

For further information please contact Carolyn Howe on 01604 825887 or email [carolyn.howe@northantsacre.org.uk](mailto:carolyn.howe@northantsacre.org.uk) .