



PERTH & KINROSS COUNCIL



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Media Release

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Launch of new rural Perth and Kinross LEADER funding

The new LEADER, ('Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale'), Rural Development programme for Perth and Kinross will be launched on Thursday 14 January 2016.

Approximately £3.8 million of EU and Scottish Government funding will be invested in the local area over the next five years, bringing a boost to communities and the rural economy.

The funding will be directed towards the priorities identified in the Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER Programme Development Strategy and Business Plan, with the aim of helping to create a long-term legacy of vibrant, healthy and inclusive rural communities.

Funding will be allocated by the Rural Perth and Kinross Local Action Group, (LAG). This independent body consists of representatives from local businesses and public sector and third sector organisations.

Group members are seeking project ideas supporting the Local Development Strategy themes which can be found on Perth & Kinross Council's website

www.pkc.gov.uk/leader

The LAG Chair for the Rural Perth and Kinross programme, Jackie Brierton* said: "The award of £3.8 million of LEADER and Scottish Government funds for the development of rural communities and rural enterprise in Perthshire is a fantastic opportunity for us all.

"The Action Group members have invested considerable time identifying the priorities for rural Perth and Kinross which are set out in the Local Development Strategy for the programme and spend of the funding allocation.

"Implementing the strategy is now the priority and local communities and enterprises are being encouraged to attend our launch event to find out about project funding opportunities and to help the LAG deliver on its objectives.

"Anyone can apply for the funding providing they meet the programme objectives and submit expressions of interest. We would particularly welcome collaborative applications, where communities and businesses have joined forces and brought their projects and ideas together."

The launch event for the Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER programme will be held at Bankfoot Community Church Hall on Thursday 14 January 2016 from 3pm until 6.30pm. Places are limited so please book your place through the Eventbrite website <http://rural-pk-leader-launch.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Alternatively e-mail the Council ruralleader@pkc.gov.uk You can also stay informed through Facebook, Twitter @P_KLeader, #PKLeader or again e-mail the Council ruralleader@pkc.gov.uk to be added to the mailing list.

To submit an expression of interest access a form from the Scottish Rural Network's website www.ruralnetwork.scot/funding/leader/expression-interest-form

Notes for Editors

***Jackie Brierton**

Chair of Perth and Kinross LEADER Local Action Group Jackie Brierton has more than 30 years' experience in business, social enterprise, policy development and EU Funded projects. She is the Enterprise Manager for GrowBiz, Vice-Chair of Women's Enterprise Scotland CIC and Chair of Community Enterprise Ltd.

Photocall

Details: Rural Perth and Kinross LEADER Programme Local Action Group (LAG) representatives, LAG Chair Jackie Brierton and Rural Parliament Amanda Burgauer launch new rural Perth and Kinross LEADER Programme funding of £3.8 million for rural Perth and Kinross. This is the third round of the programme Scotland has been involved with. The Programme is a bottom-up method of delivering support to communities for rural development. It aims to increase support to local rural community and business networks to build knowledge and skills, and encourage

innovation and co-operation in order to tackle local development objectives. Anyone can apply for the funding.

Time & Date: 3pm on Thursday 14 January 2016

Venue: Bankfoot Community Church Centre, Tulliebelton Road, Bankfoot PH1 4BS

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