

Transitional LEADER Programme

The Cavan Local Action Group (LAG) has been allocated a budget of €1,307,396 for project under the Transitional Programme. This new Transitional LEADER Programme commenced on **1st April 2021**. Projects under the Transitional Programme must be approved by the Cavan Local Action Group (LAG) on or before **31st December 2022**, and all projects are to be completed before **31st December 2023**.

Aims of the Transitional Programme

- a) Work closely with communities, and particularly those who have not previously benefited from LEADER funding, to build their capacity in preparation for the next programming period and ensure that weaker communities are not left behind.
- b) Promote projects which support communities in a post-COVID-19 environment.
- c) Support job creation, entrepreneurship, enterprise development and innovation in a post-COVID-19 and/or post-Brexit environment.
- d) Explore and develop projects for funding in thematic areas which are likely to feature strongly in the next EU-funded programme. In this regard, projects which address the climate agenda, digital transformation and projects that utilise the Smart Village¹ approach to local area development should be encouraged.

Priorities for the Transitional Programme

1. Supports to rural businesses seeking to reach new markets, expand, innovate and/or diversify in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and/or Brexit, with a particular emphasis on providing support to businesses in the food sector.
2. Community based projects that seek to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. Supports and capacity building for communities that have not previously received assistance under LEADER or other rural programmes, using the Transitional Programme for the LAGs and Implementing Partners to engage directly with new applicants to develop projects and enhance collaboration within communities.
4. Support for new and innovative projects in the areas of climate change, environmental protection and the green economy.
5. Maximising the potential of broadband and the digital economy in communities, including through skills development and building awareness and usage of available remote working facilities.
6. Projects that develop the concept of the Smart Village initiative or Rural Economic Development Zones (REDZs)² which could serve as proof-of-concept for more substantial proposals in the context of the next EU-funded LEADER Programme.