

4 November 2019

Grant funding for projects in England which create jobs and growth in the rural economy - what is available and how to apply

The next round of the RDPE Growth Programme has now launched and the handbooks are available on [RDPE Growth Programme - GOV.UK](#)

The handbooks contain information on which projects are deemed eligible for a grant and how to apply. Interested parties need to send an Expression of Interest form to the Rural Payments Agency, outlining how they meet the criteria for the scheme – from creating new jobs, increasing business turnover, and improving productivity by **midnight on the 16th of February 2020**.

The RPA has kindly agreed to host two EOI workshops at their offices at RPA Polwhele, Newquay Road, Truro, Cornwall, TR9 4AD on the following dates:

Monday 2nd December 2019 (10:30 – 12:30)

Monday 6th January 2020 (10:30 12:30)

At these workshops information will be available about what types of projects are likely to be successful, what makes a good application and a Q & A session. There will also be an opportunity for individual businesses to talk one to one with RPA colleagues about their projects if required. If you would like to book a place at one of these workshops please let me know and I will pass on your request to the RPA.

Cornwall Council cabinet portfolio holder for Culture, Economy and Planning Bob Egerton said: “We have been working with DEFRA for a number of months to secure this funding for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly as it provides an opportunity for our farming, food and rural businesses to secure investment to help deliver growth in our economy. We particularly welcome the reduction in the minimum grant figure from £35,000 to £20,000 as this is something we lobbied for in order for the scheme to be accessible by many of our smaller businesses”.

Mark Duddridge, Chair of the Local Enterprise Partnership also welcomed the announcement adding: “The farming, food and tourism sectors represent a large proportion of our economy so the opportunity presented by the £5 million funding boost will stimulate further growth in these sectors. As a predominantly rural region the opportunity it presents businesses located in rural areas is key to delivering our future ambitions for sustainable growth. I would encourage any business interested in growing their business to contact the [Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Growth and Skills Hub](#) (www.ciosgrowthhub.com) for advice and guidance on what support may be available to help them develop their submissions”.

As always I am more than happy to help with preparing any submission so please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. As Cornwall Council and the LEP is keen that all the funds allocated to Cornwall and the IoS are used please feel free to forward this email to anyone you think may be interested in applying.

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