

AN OVERVIEW OF FUNDING IN HEREFORDSHIRE

The main types of funding available in Herefordshire include;

1. EU Structural Funds;

- **Objective 2**

Objective 2 is a geographically targeted programme, and almost all of Herefordshire is designated as Objective 2 status. Herefordshire has access to a substantial amount of money (part of £550 million across the whole region) to fund Economic and Community Development activity. Objective 2 money will on average support up to 35% of a projects costs.

The Objective 2 Programme is based on the four pillars of the West Midlands Economic Strategy;

- i) Creating a Diverse and Dynamic Business Base
- ii) Creating Conditions for Growth
- iii) Regenerating Communities
- iv) Creating a Learning and Skilful Region

Objective 2 also incorporates three themes that each project must address;

- i) Innovation
- ii) Environmental Sustainability
- iii) Equality of Opportunity

Herefordshire projects supported include the Creative Industries and Tourism development programmes; a strategic regeneration package incorporating capital development projects; and a community regeneration funding package.

- **Objective 3**

All of Herefordshire is covered by Objective 3 status, which is focused on supporting vocational training. The key areas funded by Objective 3 include;

- To improve access to learning
- Remove barriers to employment
- Research into issues related to pay, segregation, promotion and discrimination in employment.

Objective 3 has five priorities;

- i) Active Labour Market Policies
- ii) Equal opportunities and social inclusion
- iii) Lifelong Learning
- iv) Adaptability and entrepreneurship
- v) Improving participation of women in the labour market

- **Community Initiatives:**

- i) **'Herefordshire Rivers' - LEADER +**

LEADER + is an EU funded programme, focusing on the communities adjacent to the Rivers Wye and Lugg and their floodplains, it also includes the major tributaries of the Arrow and Frome. Target groups include Young People, Old People, and the Unemployed and Underemployed. The funding for this programme includes 45% from the EU, 22% from DEFRA and 33% from other sources to be secured on an ad hoc basis.

The basis of the whole programme is to increase the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the local area. A Local Action Group Partnership (LAG) has been set up to provide guidance for organisations submitting projects and to determine funding applications. This group is representative of organisations and communities with a clear interest in the themes working within Herefordshire.

There are four objectives within the LEADER + programme, each comprising of priority themes they are;

- i) To enhance the distinctiveness of the countryside, including cultural, history and natural environment
- ii) To use environmental and cultural resources sensitively and sustainably for economic and recreational purposes
- iii) To increase environmental knowledge, awareness and skills among residents and visitors
- iv) To revitalise natural processes inherent in the county's river and floodplain systems

Grants of up to £50,000 are available, to a maximum of 65% of total project costs.

2. Funders from the Regional Development Agency (Advantage West Midlands)

- **Rural Regeneration Zone (RRZ)**

This is a fifteen year long programme administered by Advantage West Midlands covering the majority of Herefordshire, Shropshire and western Worcestershire. RRZ is a major source of match funding for Objective 2 for Economic and Community Development work.

The programme has eight priority themes, called "flagships" which projects must support;

- i) Adult and Community Learning, and multi purpose Community facilities
- ii) Broadband
- iii) Business Growth and Clusters
- iv) Enterprise
- v) High quality natural and built environment and sustainable economic activity
- vi) Industrial Spaces
- vii) Young People
- viii) Catalytic Zone assets

The programme is focused towards supporting the economic growth and development of Herefordshire. Projects supported include the Redundant Building Scheme; feasibility work on the Hereford City of Living Crafts project; and the Tourism and Creative Industries development programmes,

- **Market Towns Initiative**

Funding is available through Advantage West Midlands to support the economic and community regeneration of key Market Towns across the West Midlands. Prioritised towns must first complete a market town "health check" to identify their needs and opportunities, and then put forward an action plan of work and projects to help address the issues found. All Herefordshires market towns have been prioritised for funding through this initiative, and the first phase of projects is now underway.

- **Single Regeneration Budget (SRB)**

SRB is administered by AWM, and provides resources to support regeneration initiatives carried out at a local level by local Partnerships. It's priority is to enhance the quality of life of local people in areas of need by tackling social exclusion and promoting equality.

This funding can be used as match funding for EU structural funds

The objectives of SRB are;

- i) Enhance the employment prospects, education and skills of local people
- ii) Address social exclusion and enhance opportunities for the disadvantaged
- iii) Promote sustainable regeneration, improving and protecting the environment and infrastructure, including housing
- iv) Support and promote growth in local economies and businesses
- v) Tackle crime and drug abuses and improve community safety

The main SRB programme has now ended, with resources being incorporated into the Rural Regeneration Zone. There are a number of existing SRB schemes in Herefordshire which will continue to operate with the funding originally approved. They include the South Wye regeneration programme and Herefordshire in Touch.

3. National Lottery Funding

There are five funding streams stemming from money raised by the National Lottery. They are;

- i) **Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)** – supports all aspects of heritage from Historic Buildings to museums, archives, nature conservation, parks, spoken history and cultural heritage. This is achieved by supporting projects that encourage the involvement of people in making decisions about their local, regional or national heritage, conserving and enhancing the UK's diverse heritage, and ensuring that everyone can access and enjoy their heritage. Grants available are from £500 to many millions.
- ii) **Community Fund** – Priority areas and groups include;
 - Young People
 - Older people
 - Disabled
 - Black and Minority ethnic groups
 - People in areas disadvantaged by social or economic change
- iii) **Arts Council England** – this is the national development agency for the arts. Grants are available for individuals, organisation and national touring.
- iv) **The New Opportunities Fund** – this is the largest of the lottery funders, supporting health, education and environmental projects across the UK. Grants are delivered via various time-limited programmes that are designed to improve the quality of life for people and communities, address disadvantage, and encourage community participation and complement Government Strategies.
- v) **Awards for All** – this is a joint scheme from all the Lottery Distributors. Grants are between £500 and £5000, with work taking place within a year of the award being made. Priority is given to organisations with an income of less than £20,000 per year. Priority areas and groups are in place, the priority areas do not include Herefordshire.