

COTSWOLDS LEADER PROGRAMME UPDATE

Summary: To present an update on the progress of the LEADER Programme

Recommendation: That the update report be noted.

Officer Ref: James Webb, LEADER Programme Manager (01451) 862033

Programme Performance

The Programme is now fully allocated and has supported 56 projects with a collective grant total of £1,738,527. This investment has created 80 jobs.

In terms of spend, 40 out of our 56 projects have successfully completed their project and claimed their grant. This equates to £1,115,216. Most of the remaining claims will be processed/ paid between now and March 2020, i.e. when programme staff are still here.

We have recently received/ processed a number of claims from:

- Cotswold Printing Co towards a large scale Printer, Laminator and digital cutter. The equipment was purchased in September and seven jobs have already been created.
- Elements Brewery, west Oxfordshire towards and a canning line.
- Farmers across the region for direct drills and a fertiliser spreader.
- Wholly Gelato, Gloucestershire – following an earlier grant towards a Gelato production facility, a second grant has supported a milk vending machine and associated equipment.

We have three applications in development that we are still progressing. These applications will be brought forward as 'reserve projects' in case we experience an unexpected withdraw from a contracted project and need to fill the gap.

Dissemination of programme results – capturing the legacy for the Board

- We are currently working with a film company to produce a series of short videos about the programme. These will be showcased on the website and will also be used for digital marketing.
- We are producing case studies that will be used on our website, shared with our stakeholders and will ultimately form part of the end of Programme report. An example forms part of this update.
- The website is undergoing a change from delivery phase to legacy phase and will increasingly be populated with case studies and the videos.
- We will be hosting an event and a series of tailored meetings in order to feedback to our key supporters and stakeholders.

Defra visit

On 12th September a Defra Policy team visited the Cotswolds to see some of the LEADER projects. We took them to Cotswolds Seeds education centre, Bledington community shop & café, the training barn at Jive Pony and finally, lunch at Vegetable Matters. The day went really well. Our applicants were brilliant; full of enthusiasm, great projects and also gave their perspective of the application process etc. All useful stuff for Defra to hear. I followed up with a key messages paper to Defra and we have asked if the ELMs visit can be re-scheduled sooner.