

**Forestry – Lancashire Pennine Moors**

**Call for applications to support investments under the forestry theme in the Lancashire Pennine Moors LAG area**

**1.1 Local context**

We seek to invest in the growth of woodland based and forestry businesses.

There is a vibrant and growing market for wood, our domestic timber sector is successful, and it is a growth industry following the financial crash of 2008.  Lancashire has also seen growth in woodland and timber businesses, particularly in the wood fuel sector.  There is increased end user confidence, prices for good quality standing timber remain very strong.  Wood fuel is in demand as increasing numbers of wood fuel heating systems are being installed, providing a carbon neutral energy solution and a market for local timber.

**2.1 Scope of the Call**

* investments in machinery and equipment to help the production, extraction, mobilising, processing and marketing of timber and non-timber forest products;
* the processing, mobilising and marketing of products for new forestry technologies;
* investments that enhance forestry potential or add value to forest products by processing, mobilising or marketing;
* transportation of wood within a forest by specialised forestry equipment, excluding standard transport activities;

Full details of the eligibility criteria is available in the Lancashire West applicant handbook.

**2.2 Geographical Scope**

All activities are confined to activity and benefit occurring in the Lancashire Pennine Moors LAG. Your postcode can be checked by emailing ruralfunding@lancashire.gov.uk

**2.3 Total funding available**

The total grant funding available for this call is £58,613. Funding will be offered to a limited number of projects. All applications are competitive.

**2.4 Size of grants available**

Minimum grants will be available for this call from £20,000; there is no maximum amount other than the amount of funding available, however projects will need to demonstrate value for money. State aid rules will apply which may affect the amount of grant offered. Further details on state aid rules are available [here](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/state-aid) and in the applicant hand book.

**2.5 Call Deadline**

This is an open call:

The call will open for Expressions of Interest until December 2018 or until all funds are committed.

If the Expression of Interest passes the eligibility and completeness then you will be invited to submit a full application.

Applications will be dealt with on a first come first basis, applications will then be appraised and presented to the LAG Executive for consideration.

Your Project Officer will visit you at full application stage to provide you with advice and guidance.

**3 Outputs to be delivered**

Applications need to show how their project will contribute to the achievement of the following outputs;

1. New full time equivalent jobs created (1 FTE = 30 paid hours per week)
2. Number of businesses supported

Applicants will also be required to demonstrate how they will deliver the outputs they have committed to within their application along with the methodology used. Further detail on the evidence required will be available from your Project Officer.

**4 How to apply**

In the first instance please contact Karen Lawrenson on 01772 538797 or email Karen.lawrenson@lancashire.gov.uk or Louise Kite on 01772 534134 or email louise.kite@lancashire.gov.uk. Louise or Karen can advise you whether your project idea fits with the Programme's priorities and whether you are in an eligible area. If you are eligible you will be invited to submit an Outline Application. Alternatively you can complete our [online register of interest](https://lccsecure.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/questionnaires/runQuestionnaire.asp?qid=586101) and one of the team will contact you to discuss your project.

If your Outline Application is eligible you will be invited to proceed to Full Application. Work must not start on any part of the proposed project before the applicant has received a signed Grant Funding Agreement.

For further information regarding LEADER rural Funding please visit our web site at:

[Rural development - Lancashire County Council](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/rural-development)