Tyne & Esk
Rural Communities
Development Fund

Tyne & Esk Local Action Group Membership FAQ

Scottish Government
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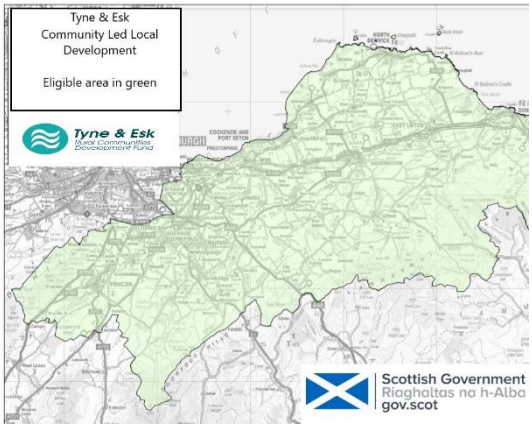
What is Tyne & Esk CLLD Programme?

Welcome to the Tyne & Esk (T&E) Rural Communities Development Fund, which forms part of the Scottish Government's Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Rural Programme. It involves bottom-up decision delivered by representatives from the local area – the Local Action Group (LAG).

The overarching aim of the funding is to increase support to local rural communities, individuals and businesses advancing inclusion, equality and diversity.

What areas of East Lothian and Midlothian will be supported?

Tyne & Esk area funding covers all communities in East Lothian and Midlothian including Dalkeith Country Park ***except*** *for the urban centres of Musselburgh and Dalkeith*



What will the T&E CLLD programme offer?

- small grants for projects of different sizes and types
- support during the whole funding process, so you will never feel alone
- community representatives who ensure funding is spent wisely across the rural communities in East Lothian and Midlothian.

Examples of Projects we have funded can be seen on our website: http://www.tyneesk.co.uk/our-projects

How will T&E CLLD benefit my local community?

The T&E programme will bring a fresh approach to tackling entrenched problems which conventional programming has not managed to solve. It is particularly focused on helping disadvantaged people to find and keep employment locally, to be helped to set up as self-employed or start a business, and to stimulate the local economy to create jobs suitable for local people. Rural communities in East Lothian and Midlothian will benefit from the availability of new services and support. The programme is, by definition, flexible and designed to respond to local people's ideas and needs.

What is the LAG?

The current T&E LAG has 11 Members, with Co-Chairs in place, elected in April 2024. The elections take place every two years. There was not an election in 2022 due to the CLLD Programme being launched in the November.

What is expected from LAG members?

All members

- will be expected to act in what they believe is the best interests of the T&E programme, and not in their own interests or those of any person or company.
- must be willing to listen and treat other members with respect.
- will maintain confidentiality of the LAG and will be required to complete **a 'declaration of interest' form and sign a 'code of conduct'**. Inappropriate behaviour may result in exclusion from the LAG.

What are the time commitments for LAG Members?

The LAG will meet every 3 months. The meetings are expected to last for 3 hours. There may also be communication by email/phone in-between meetings especially when project decisions are needed, which may be agreed by the LAG in meetings or electronically via emails/ voting polls. Sub Groups will be formed with members from the LAG and Observers as and when required to assess processes and procedures.

Members must be prepared for meetings (e.g. read paperwork in advance and scoring project documentation) and contribute to meetings. Project scoring is completed online via the Tyne & Esk website.

Members also need to commit time to reviewing applications, supporting documents and possible applicant visits when required.

Who can apply to join the LAG Board?

Anybody who lives, works, and/or volunteers in the T&E area can apply.

What experience, knowledge and skills do I need to have?

Members come from a wide variety of backgrounds, and we value the varied skills, knowledge and experience that everyone brings to the LAG. We anticipate all members will have arrange of attributes listed within the application form. Training will be arranged for members who require further skills. The LAG will have the power to co-opt additional support.

Will expenses be covered?

Being a LAG member is an unpaid, voluntary role. However, there is a budget allowance for travel and other reasonable 'out of pocket 'LAG expenses.

How will LAG Members be supported within their role?

The LAG are supported by the CLLD Project Officer, who will act as the secretariat for the LAG. They will prepare papers and organise meetings.

I'd like to become a member of the LAG but I also represent an organisation which plans to bid for funding, is this ok?

We welcome members from a wide range of backgrounds and understand the importance of LAG members who deliver services to our target group. However, if you wish to become a LAG member you must act in the best interests of the T&E programme, and not in your own interest or that of any person or company. You would be expected to declare an interest and remove yourself from any discussion or decision about the project.

What should I do if I want to join the LAG?

Please complete the LAG Membership application form. You can access this at Tyne & Esk website or request it by mailto:jadamson3@eastlothian.gov.uk?subject=LAG Membership. The T&E Project Officer will then contact you within 10 working days to confirm the application.

How will the LAG members be chosen?

Applications will be assessed by the current T&E LAG and Accountable Body (East Lothian Council). They will take into account, experience, knowledge and skills, as well as whether you meet the desired criteria. Part of the assessment process will be to ensure that collectively LAG Members complement each other and are representative of the area and its communities.

For further information please contact the T&E Project Officer, Jayne Adamson on 01620 82 7002 or jadamson3@eastlothian.gov.uk

Timeline for 2024-2025 Programme

2024

6th May	Fund opens: Application Form on website
9th May -27th May	Online Application Surgeries with Tyne & Esk Project Officer
3rd June	Final date for Application Forms to be submitted
10th – 24th June	Possible LAG visits and Questions regarding the applications
11th July	Local Action Group will consider each submission
15th July	Applicants informed of LAG decision and Offer of Grant letters issued

2025

28th February	ALL PROJECTS MUST BE FULLY COMPLETED
7th March	Final date for Evidence of Spend and Reports
31st March	All funding to Projects must be paid out before this date