

SENT ON BEHALF OF DAVID HUNTER

Dear LEADER Local Action Groups,

Following the Government's announcement on 13 August about European Union Funding after the EU referendum, I am writing to set out the immediate arrangements for the Rural Development Programme (RDP) and attach a copy of Defra's communication to its 2014-20 RDPE Programme Monitoring Committee members.

All RDP projects signed or agreed before the Autumn Statement will be fully funded, even when these continue beyond the UK's departure from the EU. Natural England, Forestry Commission and RPA will shortly be contacting current applicants for funding where decisions can now be communicated about whether they have been successful. The Treasury will work with departments to put in place arrangements for considering those EU funded projects that might be contracted after the Autumn Statement, but while we still remain a member of the EU.

For LEADER specifically, this welcome news means that you are now able to contact successful applicants and issue offer letters; and that you should continue to work through Expressions of Interest, Outline and Full Applications that can be appraised and contracted before the Autumn Statement, the date for which will be announced in due course. These arrangements leading up to Autumn Statement are to ensure projects in the pipeline can be processed and agreed in the short term. Our Regional Teams will be in touch shortly to set up calls with you to discuss these issues in further detail, including how we approach promoting and handling new applications over the coming months.

We appreciate that there may be other questions and will provide more detailed information as soon as we are able to. In the meantime, any further questions that you have should be sent to RDSocioEconomicSchemeOffice@rpa.gsi.gov.uk and we will respond to those. You can find the announcement, including a comment from our Secretary of State and a letter from the Chief Secretary to the Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, on GOV.UK.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-philip-hammond-guarantees-eu-funding-beyond-date-uk-leaves-the-eu>

We will, of course, continue to work closely with you over the next few months and be happy to provide any support you need to ensure that we can give common messages to applicants.

ON BEHALF OF

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