

FAO: Dominie Dunbrook
LEADER Scheme Manager
Economy & Planning
B3W
County Hall
Taunton
Somerset
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2 September 2014

Dear Dominie

Somerset Levels and Moors LAG, Local Development Strategy - Local Enterprise Partnership Endorsement

Thank you for submitting your draft LDS for review by the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership.

The process of working with the Local Action Groups across the HotSW area, to ensure that investment in supporting rural economic growth is aligned and co-ordinated, has been extremely beneficial to the LEP and I hope has proved similarly so to your LAG.

I am pleased therefore, that having reviewed your submission, I can confirm that your draft LDS aligns with the objectives which we as a LEP set out in our guidance documents for LAGs. As such, your draft LDS accords with our Strategic Economic Plan, European Strategic Investment Framework, and our proposed approach to allocating EAFRD funding.

I am pleased, therefore, to endorse your submission and very much hope that it is a success. As one of the terms of our endorsement, we would ask that you keep us informed of the progress of your submission, and I would suggest that that this can take place through the regular LAG/LEP meetings, and through the LAG representative on the Rural Special Interest Group.

You will no doubt also be aware that guidance on spend priorities for our EAFRD allocation is still to be confirmed. Similarly, you will be awaiting the outcome of your bid and if successful further guidance in the form of the National Operational Manual. Given this situation, I would also ask as a further condition of our endorsement that ongoing dialogue between your LAGs and the LEP would continue, so that we can continue to refine our combined proposals and they therefore will deliver the best possible outcome for our rural areas.

Mobile: 07817 497135 email: chris.garcia@heartofswlep.co.uk

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Local Enterprise Partnership

Creating opportunities in Devon, Plymouth, Somerset and Torbay

To this end, we look forward to hearing of a successful outcome for your bid and to continuing to work with you in the future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Chris Garcia
Chief Executive
Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership