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| **April 2017** |
| Capital Funds for Rural Businesses |
| Are you a business located in the rural areas of the North East looking for capital support to help you grow?Three capital funds are currently available which might be able to access. Generally these can provide up to a maximum of 40% of total eligible project costs, although in some instances projects that don’t make a profit may be able to access more. All are subject to State Aid Regulations.We know it is complicated because each grant scheme is different. However, the **Rural Growth Network Team** can help you understand which, if any, grant scheme would be right for you to apply to and point you in the right direction. The three capital funds are:-         Rural Growth Network         LEADER          RDPE Growth Programme  A summary of each is provided in this Ezine along with direct contact details.If you are unsure which one to go for please contact Katy McIntosh or JulieBullen in the Rural Growth Network Team.

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| [www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-business/rural-growth-network-2-1](http://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-business/rural-growth-network-2-1) |

 | http://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/uploads/headshot/338c073766c6a81f51b8b61a86046691.jpg**Katy McIntosh**  01670 528489   katy.mcintosh@arch-group.co.uk**cid:image026.jpg@01D2B845.D7E4DC80****Julie Bullen**       01670 528476 julie.bullen@arch-group.co.uk                               |
| Rural Growth Network (RGN) Funds Coming Soon |
| CBP_1669Kibblesworth Village Millenium Centre – received SEIF to create small office accommodation for rural businessesIMG_0032Woodfuel Barn – received RBGF to expand wood fuel products business | The remaining £1.2m RGN funds will open once again to applications at the end of April. There will be some changes to the scheme to make sure support does not duplicate the LEADER and RDPE Growth Programmes and to fill any identified gaps in provision.This will be an open call, open until the 31st January 2018. Funding will be available on a first come first served basis. However when making an application you are competing with other applicants and all applications will be assessed to see how well they fit the priorities for funding. Grant will not be given automatically.There will still be two grant schemes available, offering up to a maximum of 40% of eligible project costs. Value for money will be based on a minimum of £15,000 of grant per job created. Applicants must demonstrate a clear need for the project.**Strategic Economic Infrastructure Fund (SEIF)** – no changesAvailable to SME and large businesses.Grants of £40,000 to £500,000 for creation of multiple business units or enterprise hubs, site preparation works to unlock economic development sites and strategic tourism projects. **Rural Business Growth Fund (RBGF)** - changesWill only be available to medium sized businesses (over 49 employees) with clear growth plans to create new jobs.Micro and Small businesses that are unable to access LEADER or RDPE Growth Programme funds may also be considered.Tourism accommodation has been added to the target sectors which include energy and environmental products, food and drink production, manufacturing, knowledge intensive businesses and niche tourism projects. Grants of £10,000 to £60,000 will be available to expand productivity or diversify into new markets. Grant can be used to fund expansion or improvements to business premises and/or to purchase capital machinery and equipment.Contact:  Julie or Katy in the Rural Growth Network Team – details above.**For further information:** [www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-business/rural-growth-network-2-1](http://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-business/rural-growth-network-2-1) |
| LEADER Funding   |
| For farmers, foresters and other local businesses and communities to help develop the local economy and create jobs. Minimum grant is £2,500. No upper limit but restricted by State AidsUp to 40% - 100% of eligible costs depending on the type of project.There are four LEADER groups covering the North East area. **Northumberland Uplands** – contact Gillian Cowell Gillian.Cowell@northumberland.gov.uk **Northumberland Coast and Lowlands** – Contact Ivan Hewitt Ivan.Hewitt@northumberland.gov.uk **North Pennines Dales (NPD)** - contact PJ Harding northpenninedales@durham.gov.uk **Durham Coast and Lowlands** -contact Sarah Marshall durhamcoastandlowlands@durham.gov.uk   | **Priorities**Micro and small businessesFarm diversificationRural toursimFarm productivityForestry productivityRural ServicesCultural and heritage activitiescid:image029.jpg@01D2B845.D7E4DC80      cid:image030.png@01D2B845.D7E4DC80 |
| RDPE Growth Programme Funding  |
| cid:image031.jpg@01D2B845.D7E4DC80**For more information contact the NE Advisors:****Tuppy Kearse**Tel : 020776 43997**Pippa Heron**Tel: 020776 43866 | The RDPE provides funding for projects in England which create jobs and growth in the rural economy.They are looking for projects that will grow a business, create jobs or bring more money in to the rural economy. Grant funding can help pay for constructing or improving buildings, and buying new equipment and machinery. Capital grants will fund up to 40% of your project cost. The minimum grant is £35,000. This means that the overall project cost will need to be over £87,500 to be eligible for the funding. Businesses must be located in the eligible rural areas of County Durham, Northumberland and Gateshead and within the North East Rural Growth Network boundary.[**Click here for map**](https://www.archnorthumberland.co.uk/arch-business/rural-growth-network/rural-growth-network-eligibility-map#8/55.137/-1.965)**(Note – some areas of Gateshead are not within the eligible area and you are advised to check)**Three grant funds are available for:-         Food Processing          Tourism infrastructure, including tourism accommodation        Rural Business Development grants for small and micro businesses. Priority sectors are manufacturing and engineering, pharmaceuticals, food and drink, knowledge intensive business services and creative businesses. Activities include diversification of a farm business into non-agricultural activities.   |
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| **For further information please contact:**Julie Bullen **|** North East Rural Growth Network Implementation OfficerEmail: julie.bullen@arch-group.co.uk **|** Tel: 01670 528476 |
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