

Programme period 2014 - 2020, Community Led Local Development, European Social and European Regional Development Fund Project Selection Criteria

CHART PROGRAMME

The Connecting Hastings and Rother Local Action Group (CHART LAG) has established the following project selection criteria which will be applied to all CHART project applications.

A project will only be funded if it has successfully been appraised against the following 7 main criteria:

1. Eligibility for European Regional Development Fund or European Social Fund support;
2. Strategic Fit
3. Value for Money;
4. Management and Control;
5. Deliverability;
6. Compliance procurement- State Aid, publicity requirements, eligibility rules;
7. Cross Cutting Themes.

1. Eligibility for European Regional Development Fund or European Social Fund support; the first and key eligibility requirement

- 1.1 The proposed activity and associated expenditure is eligible for ERDF or ESF support as per the relevant European Regional Development Fund or European Social Fund Regulations and National Eligibility Rules¹.
 - 1.1.1 European Social Fund activity must be in line with **Investment Priority 1.5 of Priority Axis 1** of the European Social Fund Operational Programme ²
 - 1.1.2 European Regional Development Fund activity must be in line with **Investment Priority 9d of Priority Axis 8** of the European Regional Development Fund Operational Programme Eligibility ³

2. Strategic Fit

- 2.1 The proposed activity will support the delivery of the objectives of the CHART Local Development Strategy.
- 2.2 The proposed activity will support participants and or enterprises within the CHART area. If the proposed activity is undertaken by an organisation outside of the CHART area then the grant applicant must either a) identify a delivery partner within the CHART area or b) fully articulate how the activity will reach the enterprises / potential participants within the specific CHART localities.
- 2.3 The proposed activity represents an appropriate, effective and efficient means of delivering the relevant specific outputs and results of the of the CHART Local Development Strategy.
- 2.4 The proposed activity is aligned to relevant local and National priorities.
- 2.5 The proposed activity will add value to and not duplicate, existing provision and must not conflict with national policy.

3. Value for Money

- 3.1 Grant applicants must demonstrate a clear case that the investment will deliver relevant activities, outputs and results that would not otherwise take place.
- 3.2 The proposed activity must represent value for money. In assessing value for money, the Accountable Body/ LAG will take account of:
 - 3.2.1 Efficiency: the rate/unit costs at which the activity converts inputs to the required CHART programme outputs. Positive cost benefit considerations are evident particularly where capital is employed.
 - 3.2.2 Economy: the extent to which the grant applicant will ensure that inputs to the activity are at the minimum costs commensurate with the required quality.

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-structural-and-investment-funds-programme-guidance>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/european-social-fund-operational-programme-2014-to-2020>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-european-regional-development-fund-operational-programme-2014-to-2020>

3.2.3 Effectiveness: the extent to which the activity contributes to CHART programme output targets, results and/or has significant positive strategic impact at local level (CHART area).

4. Management and Control

4.1 The grant applicant must have appropriate management and control systems in place to effectively manage the project and be in a position to evidence the project spend in a regulatory compliant way in order to draw down funding from the Accountable Body.

4.2 The necessary management capacity and processes must be in place to meet the requirements of the Accountable Body in terms of eligibility and monitoring of ERDF/ESF outputs and eligible expenditure.

4.3 Capability to meet the financial requirements and liabilities written as standard into the contracts between the Accountable Body and the grant beneficiary, based on ERDF/ESF funding agreements, including cash flowing all project activities.

5. Deliverability

5.1 The Accountable Body/ LAG will consider whether:

5.1.1 The proposed activity and related outputs and outcomes are deliverable within the requirements of the ERDF/ ESF specific Operational Programme, taking account capacity, risks, constraints and dependencies.

5.1.2 The grant applicant has appropriate arrangements in place to secure the required level of public sector match funding and at the point of formal approval has evidence that required match funding is in place.

5.1.3 The grant applicant has demonstrated that this type of activity is effective, the risks have been considered and can show potential appropriate mitigations can be put in place.

5.1.4 The grant applicant has shown the ability to deliver the project within the timescales of the CHART programme and agreed budget.

6. Compliance

6.1 The proposed activity must be compliant with:

6.1.2 European Regional Development Fund / European Social Fund regulations and national rules

6.1.3 State aid and public procurement regulations, and that procurement undertaken by the grant recipients are compliant with the Managing Authorities' procurement requirements

6.1.4 European Regional Development Fund or European Social Fund publicity requirements.

7. Cross Cutting Themes

1.1 The proposed activity makes a positive contribution to the European Regional Development Fund⁴ or European Social Fund⁵ cross cutting themes of :

- 1.1.2 Gender Equality and Non-discrimination
- 1.1.3 Sustainable Development

Approved by LAG :	
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⁴ ERDF Operational Guidance, Section 11-
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/453888/England_ERDF_operational_programme_FINAL_140815.pdf

⁵ ESF Operational Guidance, Section 11-
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/461596/ESF_Operational_Programme_2014_-2020_V.01.pdf