

transport employment  
advice rural development  
farming local growth facilities investment skills villages  
jobs communities environment  
business funding services

**BNED LEADER 2015  
Priorities Survey**

visitor rural local health  
community transport services  
opportunities business investment skills  
development job  
tourism

## BNED LEADER 2015 Priorities Survey

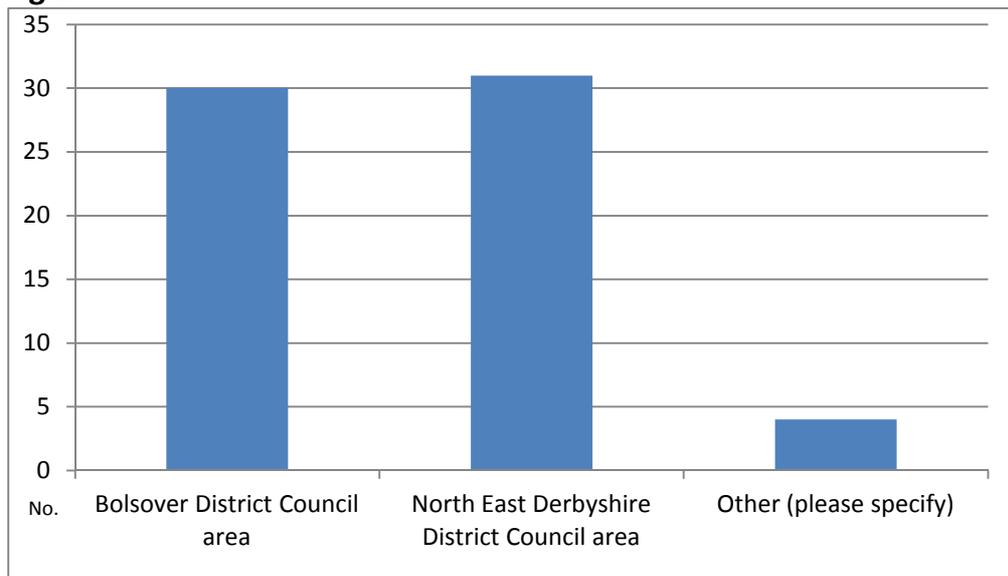
The information that follows has been collated from the BNED LEADER 2015 Priorities Survey via Survey Monkey and is intended to provide an overview of the perceived priorities for activities to be undertaken in the next Rural Development Programme commencing 2015.

The survey was opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 and comprised ten questions, two of which were name and email address (Q1 & Q2, non-compulsory) Invitations were sent out to a wide range of cross-sector respondents including private sector, public sector, agricultural workers and tourism sector.

The survey closed on 28<sup>th</sup> February and has received **65 responses**.

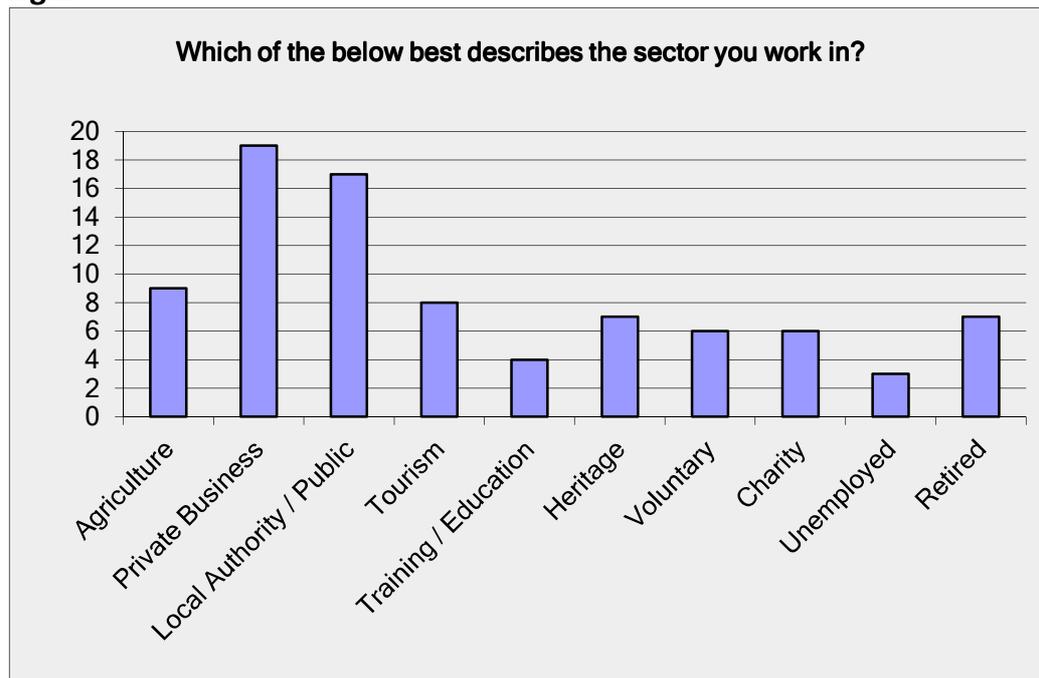
Of the respondents, the vast majority either live or work (or both) in Bolsover and North East Derbyshire with only 4 (6.12%) being from elsewhere as shown in Fig.1 below.

**Fig.1**



The various sectors that respondents work in were more evenly spread but the majority was from the private sector with public sector/local authority at a close second as shown in the chart below (Fig.2).

**Fig.2**



### European Commission Preferences

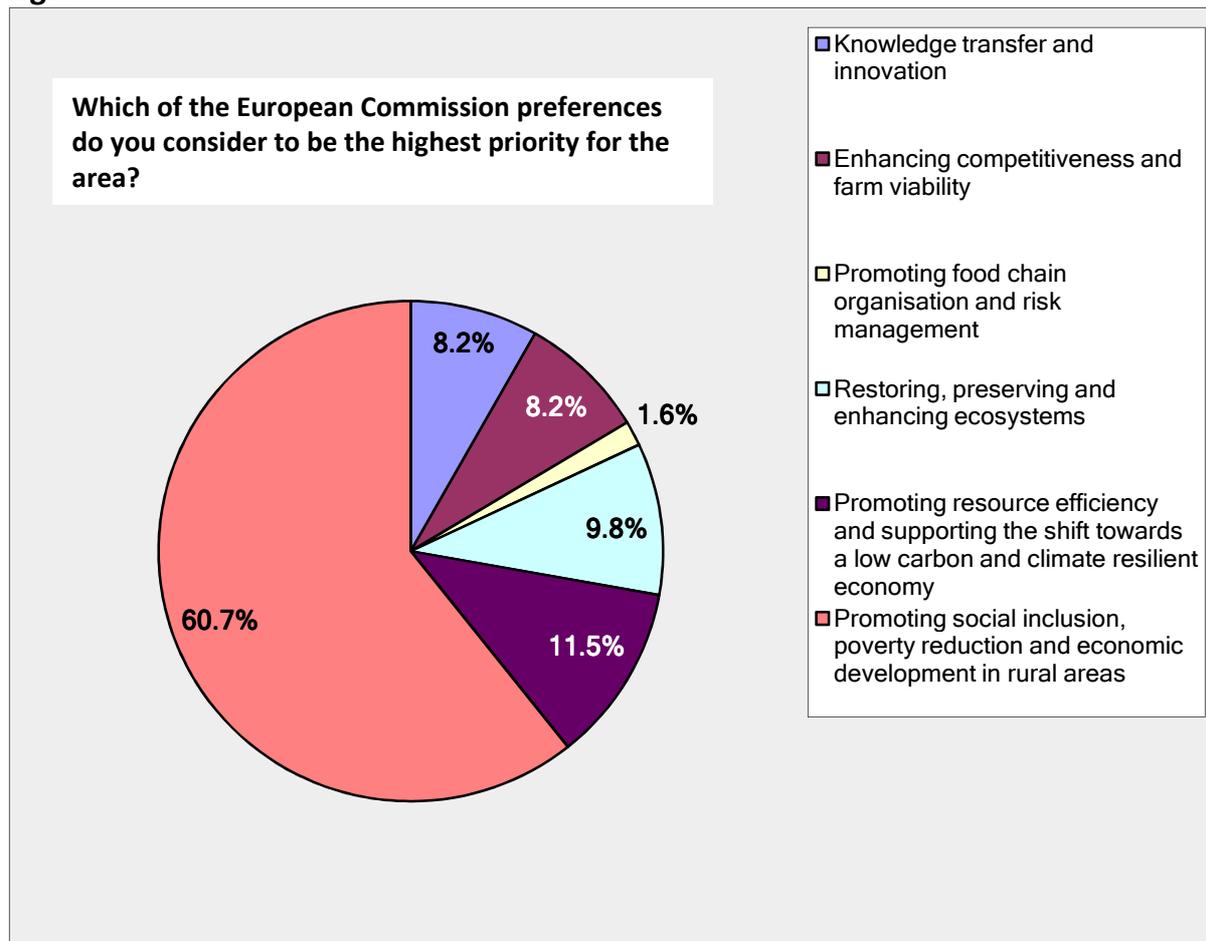
Question 5 asked which of the European Commission preferences you would consider to be the highest priority for the area.

61 respondents answered this question and the chart below (Fig.3) shows that the overwhelming majority of those respondents (60.7%) placed promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas as the highest priority. Table 1 shows the breakdown of the selections.

**Table 1**

Preference	No.	%
Knowledge transfer and innovation	5	8.2%
Enhancing competitiveness and farm viability	5	8.2%
Promoting food chain organisation and risk management	1	1.6%
Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems	6	9.8%
Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy	7	11.5%
Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.	37	60.7%

**Fig.3**



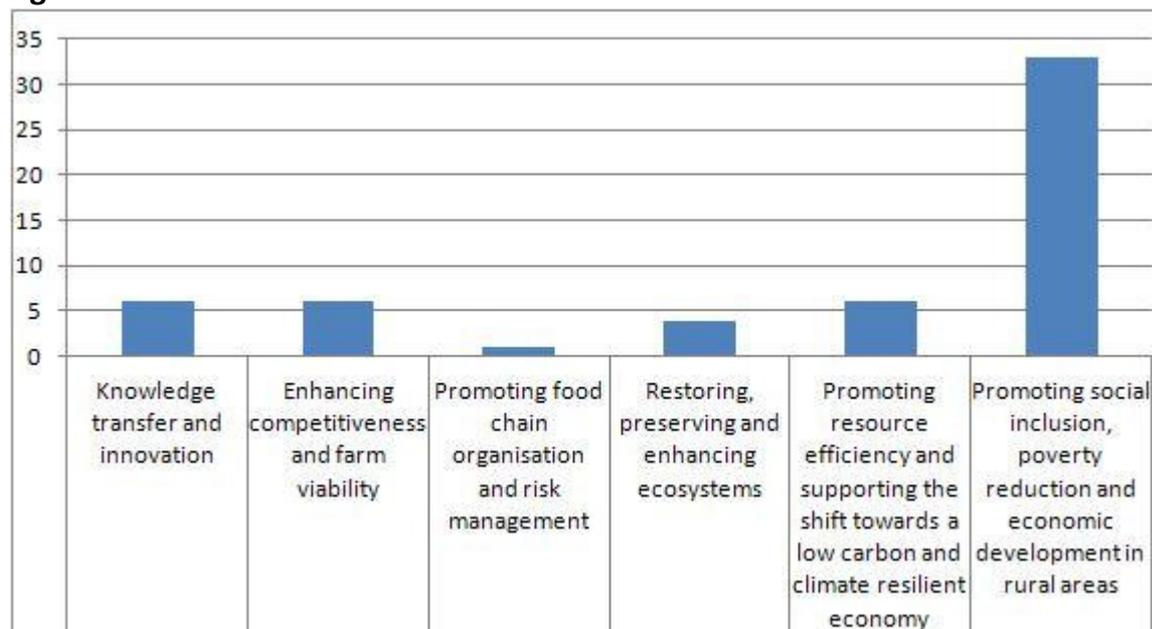
Respondents were further asked to give reasons for their choice of priority and these are shown at Appendix A.

Respondents were then asked to rank the priorities in terms of importance and relevance to the BNED area. 56 respondents answered this question and Fig.4 below shows the number of first priority choices. Table 2 shows how often each priority was ranked as first.

**Table 2**

Priority based on 56 respondents	Ranked as first	%
Knowledge transfer and innovation	6	10.71
Enhancing competitiveness and farm viability	6	10.71
Promoting food chain organisation and risk management	1	1.79
Restoring, preserving and enhancing ecosystems	4	7.14
Promoting resource efficiency and supporting the shift towards a low carbon and climate resilient economy	6	10.71
Promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas.	33	58.93

**Fig.4**



**BNED LEADER Activities**

Question 7 asked which activities should be priority for BNED LEADER to deliver in the next programme.

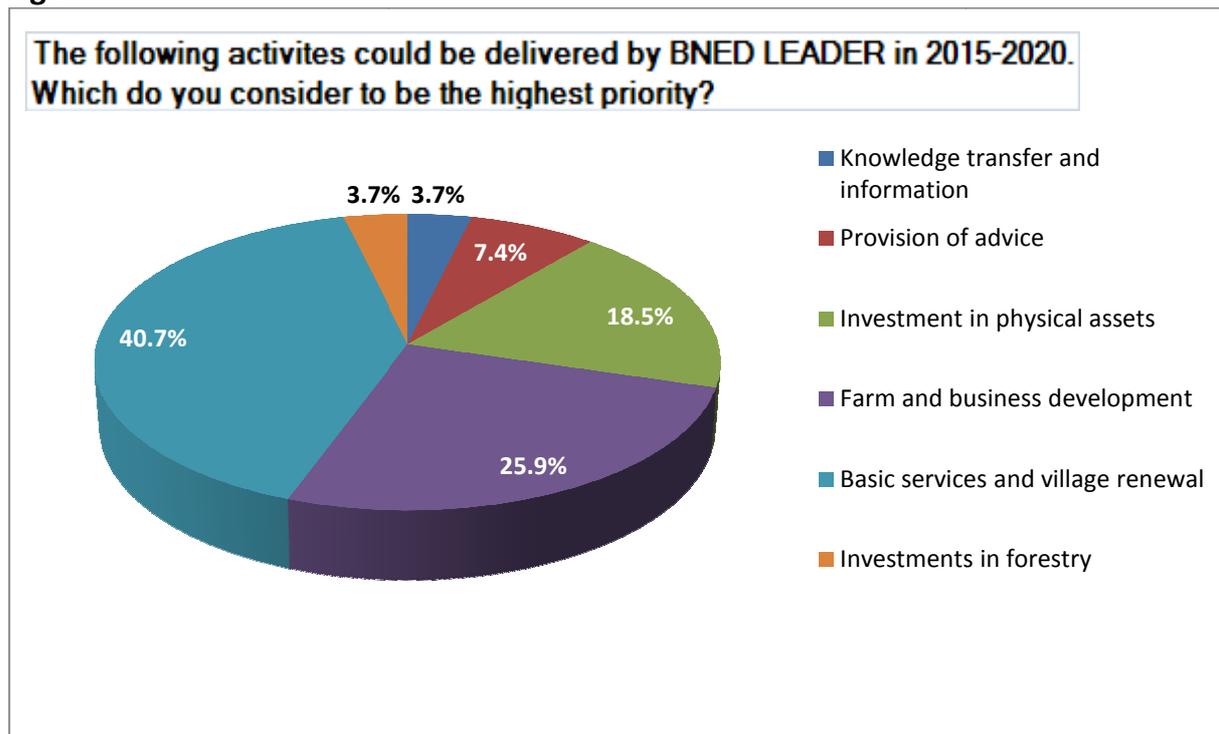
54 respondents answered this question and the majority of those respondents (40.7%) placed basic services and village renewal as the highest priority. Fig.5 overleaf shows how the activities were voted upon and Table 3 provides a breakdown of the voting.

**Table 3**

Activity based on 54 respondents	No.	%
Basic services and village renewal	22	40.7%
Farm and business development	14	25.9%
Investment in physical assets	10	18.5%
Provision of advice	4	7.4%
Knowledge transfer and information	2	3.7%
Investments in forestry	2	3.7%

A detailed explanation of the types of activity that fall into the above categories can be found at Appendix D

**Fig.5**



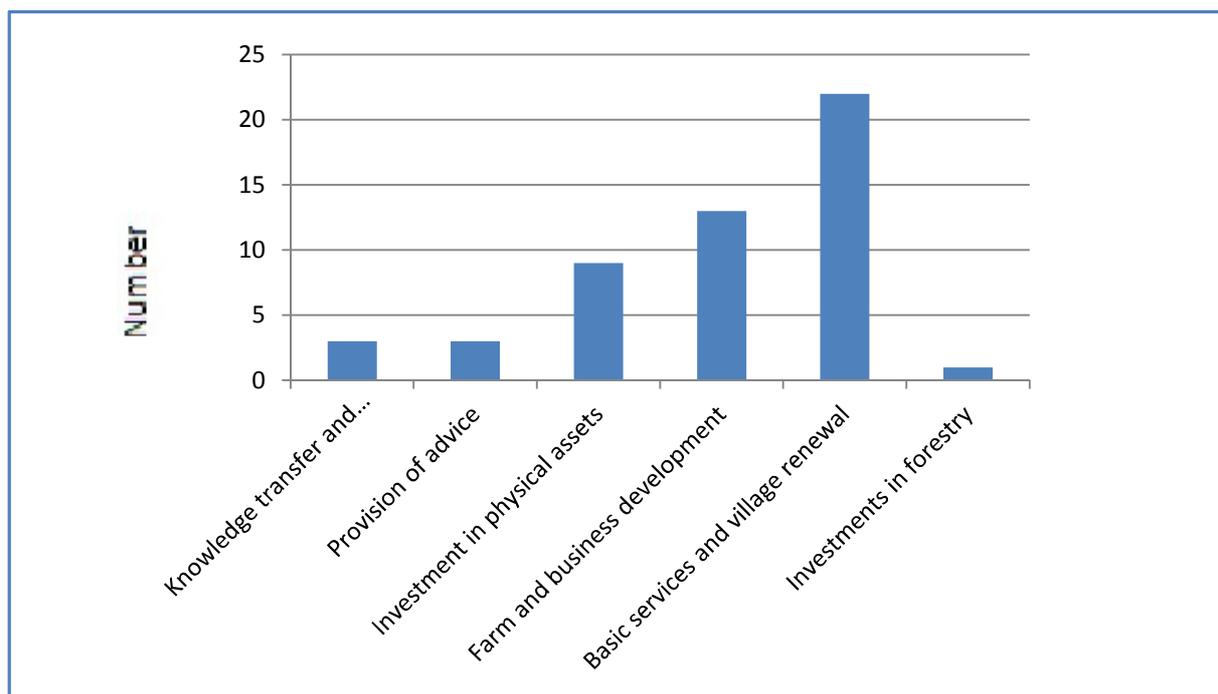
Respondents were further asked to give reasons for their choice of priority and these are shown at Appendix B.

Respondents were then asked to rank the activities in terms of importance and relevance to the BNED area. 51 respondents answered this question and Fig.6 below shows the number of first priority choices. Table 4 shows how each priority was ranked as first.

**Table 4**

Activity based on 51 respondents	No.	%
Basic services and village renewal	22	43.14%
Farm and business development	13	25.49%
Investment in physical assets	9	17.65%
Knowledge transfer and information	3	5.88%
Provision of advice	3	5.88%
Investments in forestry	1	1.96%

**Fig.6**



### **Additional Activity**

Respondents were finally asked to highlight an activity or activities not included in the above list that they would like to see included in the next programme. 13 respondents answered this question and the comments can be seen at Appendix C.

### **Conclusions**

Of the EC preferences of activity in the next rural development programme, over 60% of respondents placed promoting social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas as the highest priority for the BNED area. The comments that were received to explain the choices include *“economic development is the key to future inclusive growth”*, *“decreasing poverty and increasing economic development is the foundation on which the other priorities can be built”* among others (see Appendix A).

Of the BNED LEADER preferred activities, 40.7% of respondents placed basic services and village renewal as the highest priority. This is followed by 25.9% opting for farm and business development as the highest. The responses to the ranking of the activities gave a slightly different outcome. After applying a simple weighting formula (the F1 system) to the rankings 1 – 6, basic services and village renewal came out on top followed by investment in physical assets. This is explained through there being a large number of respondents placing physical assets as the second highest priority.

Table 5 below shows the change to the activity ranking following the weighting being applied.

**Table 5**

<b>Activity after weighting applied</b>	<b>Score</b>
Basic services and village renewal	<b>924</b>
Investment in physical assets	<b>829</b>
Farm and business development	<b>826</b>
Knowledge transfer and information	<b>720</b>
Provision of advice	<b>702</b>
Investments in forestry	<b>487</b>

**The activities that could be delivered in the BNED LEADER area in the next programme in terms of importance are therefore as shown in Table 5.**

## Question 5 comments

Below are the comments received in respect of respondents' reasons for prioritising the EU preferences.

The planet is not just for humans
My work is in landscape conservation, restoration and enhancement.
Economic development leading to job creation and protecting and enhancing the environment will lead to reducing poverty and raising expectations leading to benefits for all in our community.
Because if food can be produced and delivered locally to underprivileged families it ought to be cheaper and more wholesome
Economic development is the key to future inclusive growth.
The onset of fuel poverty and support for future generations.
The most obvious problem needing urgent attention
There is a need in this deprived area for this
Area of social deprivation - we need jobs, improved self esteem, ambition
It is perhaps the biggest challenge facing everyone!
I just agree with the comment. I have not thought about it before asked to take this survey
Because the area is economically disadvantaged following the decline over the last few years of manufacturing and coal mining industries
This area suffers high levels of deprivation. Educational attainment is poor, and employment prospects are low. Promoting economic development, and encouraging more people to enter into business and to grow businesses is essential in helping to reduce the levels of poverty and need in this area.
By improving competitiveness on farm the businesses can invest in new technology and often reduce their carbon footprint. Restoring, enhancing ecosystems is important but not through Leader. 87% of RDPE is destined to the Environment via Natural England schemes. The best way of reducing rural poverty is by having efficient viable rural businesses and where best to start but farm based businesses.
Rural Poverty is harder to reach than Urban Poverty, impacts on the internal and external perception of an area and social cohesion
Eckington and Marsh Lane need regenerating before any more local services are lost.
The shift from rural to urban employment has rendered villages and small towns as economic deserts.
By supporting businesses to diversify and individuals to consider innovative new ways to set up enterprises in this locality. Making financial advice available to all in an understandable format would encourage new ideas and give people confidence to develop new business and reduce unemployment.
Agriculture extremely important. Concern about producing enough food for growing population. Concern about external pressures which hinder competitiveness.
Decreasing poverty and increasing economic development is the foundation on which the other priorities can be built.
The area still suffers from low aspirations and poor economic opportunities. The Creswell Heritage Trust has always sought to make a contribution to the economic and social regeneration of the area in which we sit.
Growth to the area
It is important that we reduce poverty and provide equal opportunities in our communities for all to thrive and to be able to develop creative local initiatives
Work in Outdoor leisure using the environment for both physical and educational purpose. Therefore important to protect and sustain both Natural and historical built environment. Need to achieve this in a way that brings investment as well as benefits to user. Sustainable future through use.
Job creation is of paramount importance
Whilst many people enjoy a commuter existence, there is a clear need to reduce the disadvantages of both living and working in the countryside and the resulting rural poverty.
Sometimes these areas seem to be left out

### Question 7 comments

Below are the comments received in respect of respondents' reasons for prioritising the activities of BNED LEADER in the next programme.

Through training development and skill transfer the community and organisations can increase their capacity and use this to develop other areas e.g. forestry & land management and business development.
The weblink above does not work! Local communities are being marginalised by the concentration of services etc in urban areas
It's no good giving advice without some actual investment
local farms are important to the communities they are close to
Basic services need to work properly to ensure economic growth.
There is a need to produce physical assets that will benefit local people, local economy and those assets should be sustainable and able to be further developed.
The hardest to do commercially
This will support businesses and farming which in turn will support more employment
We need to capitalise on the potential for job creation amongst rural, farm, heritage and tourism sectors - this should include provision of training
Essential to support business development to improve the economy, jobs, livelihoods & help regenerate villages & towns
We need to preserve the built fabric of our towns and villages whilst maintaining a full range of local services
There are a lot of budding entrepreneurs who need advice on how to set up their new business
By providing advice and support to new and existing businesses, multiple new job opportunities can be created. The past record for BNED LEADER shows that the most cost effective interventions, in terms of £/job created has come from programmes providing training and support to new businesses.
For similar reasons to Q5.
Support for the ongoing development of the Greenway network will increase access to low carbon sustainable transport offer and act as a catalyst for future recreation/tourism business development
Without viable communities local villages will become ghettos.
As the last response
Any business needs a customer base. This will only be possible by having a stable community with good transport services and a safe environment.
villages and communities should be working to become self sufficient - bringing the hearts back into village life
Agriculture/industry very important to support area
Villages are the heart of rural communities providing employment, tourism and services.
Providing infrastructure and development of facilities will increase community cohesion and pride and tackle the idea that there is 'nothing to do' in rural villages.
Improve the area
I own a small area of under-managed woodland
This should be a requirement for all to help sustain a quality of life and prosperity

### Question 9 comments

Below are the comments received in respect of respondents' suggestions for activity/activities not included in the list for BNED LEADER to feature in the next programme.

Investment in Tourism and Leisure in conjunction with increasing access to the landscape
Investment in ecosystem services.
Clear investment in rural skills for local people
Support and funding for volunteers and paid workers in rural areas
Development or renewal of tourism assets, resulting in increased spend into the local economy.
Promotion of health, wellbeing and sporting activity in the community
Transport improvement
Building wind and solar energy farms to reduce our reliance on fossil fuels whilst bringing revenue into the area.
Support for the development of ICT / e-commerce inc the provision of high speed broadband to rural areas.
Preservation of the Historical Environment. Buildings, Archives and Green Spaces.
Increasing job opportunities for people living in rural communities, to encourage them to stay, work and spend in the local community.
Where does transport provision come in? Improved links between towns and heritage sites would generate improved visitor figures to the area and as a by-product more jobs etc.
Enhancement of areas to build on local network of asset which will attract tourism, enhance the local community, attract business
Facilitate better access to funds from lenders at affordable rates, to redress the lending crisis caused by the high street banks.



## **BNED LEADER Activities**

Below are further details of the types of activity that could be undertaken in the next Rural Development Programme.

### **Knowledge transfer and information actions (Article 15)**

Vocational training and skills acquisition for those engaged in agricultural, food and forestry sector, land managers and other economic actors which are SMEs operating in rural areas - costs of organising and delivering the knowledge transfer or information.

### **Provision of advice (Article 16)**

Help farmers, young farmers as defined in Article 2, forest holders, other land managers and SMEs in rural areas benefit from the use of advisory services for the improvement of the economic and environmental performance.

Promote the setting up of farm management, farm relief and farm advisory services, as well as forestry advisory services.

Promote the training of advisors.

### **Investments in physical assets (Article 18)**

Improve the overall performance and sustainability of the agricultural holding.

Processing, marketing and/or development of agricultural products.

Modernisation or adaptation of agriculture and forestry, including access to farm and forest land and the supply and saving of energy and water.

### **Farm and business development (Article 20)**

Business start-up aid for non-agricultural activities in rural areas.

Investments in creation and development of non-agricultural activities, micros, small enterprises.

### **Basic services and village renewal (Article 21)**

Plans for the development of municipalities, and villages in rural areas and their basic services

Creation, improvement or expansion of all types of small scale infrastructure including investments in renewable energy.

Broadband infrastructure - creation, improvement and expansion.

Setting-up, improvement or expansion of local basic services for the rural population, including leisure and culture.

Recreational infrastructure, tourist information and small scale tourism infrastructure.

Maintenance, restoration and upgrading of the cultural and natural heritage of villages, and rural landscapes and high value nature sites.

Relocation of activities and conversion of buildings.

### **Investments in forestry (Articles 22, 27)**

New forestry technologies, processing, mobilising & marketing of products.

Enhancing forestry potential or relating to processing, mobilising & marketing adding value to forest products.

### **Cooperation (Articles 36, 44)**

Agriculture sector, and food chain and forestry sector and among other actors that contribute to achieving the objectives and priorities of rural policy.

Creation of clusters and networks.

LEADER covered in A44, support for ITC and TNC, process published the establishment and operation of operational groups of the EIP.