

# NEWS *Update*

Autumn/Winter 2011



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*Get involved...*



**NORTH DOWN**



**ARDS**



**BANBRIDGE**



**DOWN**

# CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

Dates for  
your  
Diary...

Wednesday 12th October 2011 – Wednesday 14th March 2012  
MEASURE 3.5 - VILLAGE RENEWAL & DEVELOPMENT

Support Available

MORE TEXT TO BE SUPPLIED ....

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

Date	Venue	Time
Monday 10th October	Ards	7.30pm
Thursday 13th October	Banbridge	7.30pm
Monday 17th October	Bangor	7.30pm
Thursday 20th October	Downpatrick	7.30pm

## DROP IN SESSSIONS

Monday 24th October Ards 10am – 1pm

Wednesday 2nd November 2011 – Wednesday 14th December 2011  
MEASURE 3.1- DIVERSIFICATION INTO NON-AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES  
MEASURE 3.2 – BUSINESS CREATION & DEVELOPMENT

MORE TEXT TO BE SUPPLIED.....

## INFORMATION SESSIONS

Date	Venue	Time
Tuesday 1st November	Bangor	7.30pm
Thursday 3rd November	Banbridge	7.30pm
Monday 7th November	Downpatrick	7.30pm
Thursday 10th November	Ards	7.30pm

## DROP IN SESSIONS

Monday 14th November Ards 10am – 1pm  
Monday 5th December Ards 10am – 1pm

## ABOUT THE MEASURES

### Measure 3.1

#### Objective of the measure

To assist farm households to diversify into non-agricultural activities on farm and, as a consequence, maintain or increase the income of the farm households and create employment opportunities. This includes those farmers who have previously diversified and wish to expand.

#### Who can apply?

Farm owner or members of a farm family who have written permission to carry out the diversification activities from the farm owner. This permission must also include a statement that the applicant is exercising an agricultural activity on the farm at the time of the support application. Where the applicant is using a category 2 DARD business number (i.e. business number allocated for the diversification project which is separate from that of the main farm business), the standard leasing requirements as detailed in the Terms and Conditions Booklet Para 4.10(j) will apply.

### Measure 3.2

#### Objective of the measure

To create employment opportunities through promoting entrepreneurship and developing the economic infrastructure in rural areas.

#### Who can apply?

The Project must be located in a rural area and the applicant must have less than 10 employees (FTE – Full Time Equivalents) and an annual turnover of less than 2 million euros\*. These limits apply to individual or linked companies.

The applicant may be;

- private individuals, aged over 18 years;
- private companies or partnerships
- social economy enterprises\*\*.

\*The value in Euros can be determined using the exchange rate which applies on the final day of the period of the most recent accounts, by using the link below

<http://www.ecb.int/stats/exchange/eurofxref/html/index.en.html>

Definition: Social Economy Enterprise\*\* (SEE) are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not-for personal profit status.

Where the total project cost is greater than £10K Community/Voluntary groups must be registered as Community Interest Company, Limited Liability Partnership or Company limited by guarantee. Where the total

project cost is £10K or less the Community/Voluntary group must have a constitution in place. In all cases a lease must be in place to cover the duration of the project (1 year, 2 years etc).

LEVELS OF GRANT AID AVAILABLE – MEASURES 3.1 & 3.2

Max grant in private sector is £50,000 based on grant aid @ 50% of eligible costs

Max grant per community group /social economy / non-departmental public body is £250,000 based @ 75% of eligible costs

### Measure 3.5

#### Objective of the measure

To enable and encourage residents of villages and surrounding areas to create a vision and an integrated action plan to ensure the full potential of such areas is achieved; to support integrated village initiatives.

#### Who can apply?

The Project must be located in a rural area. The applicant may be:

- private individuals, aged over 18 years
- private companies or partnerships
- social economy enterprises\*
- non departmental public bodies
- Local councils

\*Definition: Social Economy Enterprise (SEE) are viewed as those organisations that have a social, community or ethical purpose, operate using a commercial business model and have a legal form appropriate to a not-for personal profit status.

Where the total project cost is greater than £10K Community/Voluntary groups must be registered as Community Interest Company, Limited Liability Partnership or Company limited by guarantee. Where the total project cost is £10K or less the Community/Voluntary group must have a constitution in place. In all cases a lease must be in place to cover the duration of the project (1 year, 2 years etc).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROGRAMME MEASURES VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.DOWNRURALAREAPARTNERSHIP.COM](http://WWW.DOWNRURALAREAPARTNERSHIP.COM)

## PLANNING POLICY

Down Rural Area Partnership policy is that if planning permission (to include change of use) is required for a proposed project then applicants must have a planning reference number in place at the time the application is submitted, if not the application will automatically be rejected.

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

– Funding now available

# Successful Projects



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# Welcome to the first edition

Welcome to the first edition of Down Rural Area Partnership's newsletter to update you progress made to date in regard to the delivery of Axis 3 of the NI Rural Development Programme (NIRDP) 2007-2013 in the Down rural area. Down Rural Area Partnership, or DRAP as it is more commonly known, was the first cluster to form its Local Action Group (LAG) in Northern Ireland and was formed as a Limited Company in December 2009 to deliver and award Axis 3 funding to projects based in rural settlements within the four Council areas of Ards, Banbridge, Down and North Down. NIRDP aims to improve the quality of life for those people living in rural areas, protect and enhance the rural environment and contribute to the development of competitive and sustainable rural businesses and thriving rural communities.

DRAP is a fully inclusive and representative body that reflects the range of interests of rural life across the cluster area. DRAP's mission statement is; 'To create actions with the communities and businesses in the Down Rural Area which will lead to a sustainable, dynamic and cohesive region of Northern Ireland, celebrated locally, nationally and internationally as a model of rural good practice.' Approximately £13.5 million has been allocated to the DRAP area for the duration of the Programme until 2013.



**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PROGRAMME MEASURES VISIT  
OUR WEBSITE [WWW.DOWNRURALAREAPARTNERSHIP.COM](http://WWW.DOWNRURALAREAPARTNERSHIP.COM)**

## Frequently asked questions...

### HOW MUCH FUNDING HAS DRAP BEEN AWARDED?

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### WHERE DOES THE MONEY FOR THE FUNDING COME FROM?

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### CAN I REAPPLY FOR FUNDING AGAIN IF I'VE ALREADY HAD A PROJECT FUNDED BY DRAP?

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### WHAT IS RURAL?

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### WHAT IS ELIGIBLE?

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### WHAT IS INELIGIBLE?

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### HOW DO I APPLY?

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*Growth through partnership*