



# Scottish Borders Leader+ Programme



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**'Stimulating Local Creativity and Innovation'**

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# Programme Aim



- To empower and enable local communities and businesses to take advantage of the many unrealised opportunities relating to the sustainable use of local natural and cultural resources
- To support an integrated rural development strategy

***Making Best Use of our Natural and Cultural Resources @***



# Guiding Principles



- Innovation
- Community Involvement
- Equal Opportunities
- Sustainability
- Transferability

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# Target Groups



- Young People
- Women
- Micro-businesses
- Under-employed
- Remote communities

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# Innovation Areas

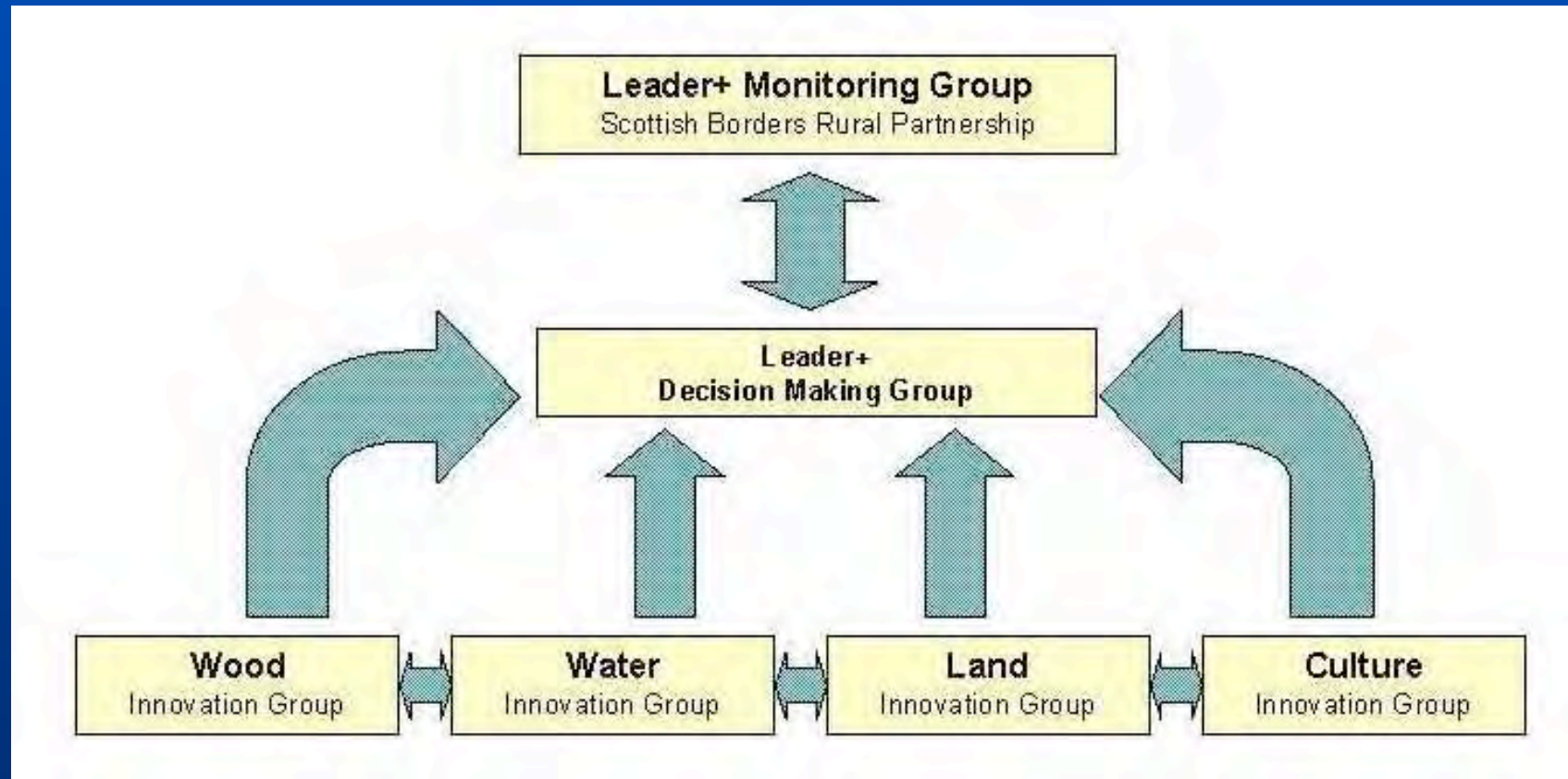


- Innovation Areas
  - Wood
  - Water
  - Land
  - Culture

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# Local Action Group



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# Innovation Process



- Application Criteria
- Decision Making Group
- Innovation Group

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# Ideas Day



What can Leader+ do for us?



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# Innovative Projects Ideas Day



Youth Chex - grants for young people's project ideas:

- Five youth decision making groups
- Capacity-building training
- Devolved budgets
- Match-funding from Social Inclusion Partnership, Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Natural Heritage



# Innovative Projects Land Group



## Land Based Skills Apprenticeships:

Cooperation between:

- Education and training providers (Borders College, Borders Training Group)
- Industry representatives (Borders Machinery Ring, Borders Construction Forum, NFUS)
- Agencies (Scottish Enterprise Borders, Careers Scotland)
- NGOs (Southern Uplands Partnership, BFRS, In Touch)



# Innovative Projects Water Group



## Tweed Start:

Cooperation between:

- Angling business
- Education professionals
- Environmental organisation (Tweed Foundation)



# Innovative Schemes



- Making Tracks - South of Scotland Nature Based Tourism project



– Support for farmers, land-based businesses & mainstream tourism businesses to work together to develop sustainable nature-based tourism products



# Innovative Schemes



- New Ways Events Innovation Scheme



- Grants for community based events/ festivals
- Event development & marketing support
- New Ways Events Forum



# Conclusions



- Innovative processes are just as important as outcomes
- Broad involvement brings fresh perspectives
- Ideas are 'easy', implementing them is the hard bit
- Challenge of short-term funding and long term commitment
- Innovation involves taking a risk!

*'If I have a thousand ideas and only one turns out to be good,<sup>@</sup>  
I am satisfied'* Alfred Nobel



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