

**HOWARDIAN HILLS
AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY
JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
5 NOVEMBER 2009**

THE LEADER PROGRAMME

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To receive information on the progress made to date by the LEADER Local Action Group.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The LEADER initiative is part of the Rural Development Programme for England and is administered via Yorkshire Forward. A partnership of local authorities and community groups came together to develop a bid for a North York Moors, Coast and Hills project area, which includes the AONB.
- 2.2 The Local Development Strategy was produced and Phase 1 approval achieved. The Phase 2 bid was also successful and resulted in a fund of £3.1m for the period 2009 – 2014.
- 2.3 Project staff were appointed in autumn 2008 and governance structures established for the development and administration of projects and grants.
- 2.4 The first full year of the Programme started in April this year and the progress since then with communications, development and project funding is detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Report be received for information.