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Rural England Prosperity Fund

Introduction and Project Ideas

What is the Rural England Prosperity Fund?

- A total of up to £110 million is available for financial years 2023 to 2024 and 2024 to 2025.
- The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) is a top-up to the UKSPF and is available to eligible local authorities in England. It succeeds EU funding from LEADER and the Growth Programme which were part of the Rural Development Programme for England.
- To access funding under the Rural Fund, Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) has been asked to provide specific additional information as an addendum to the UKSPF investment plan. The intention is to make the process as simple as possible. The forms have been aligned as much as possible what is already being done for the UKSPF.
- The fund is for capital projects only and understood to be split across 2 years at 25% & 75% per year respectively

There are two extra interventions enabling funding for:

- small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
- rural circular economy projects

The list of interventions also provides example projects which could be funded, such as grants for:

- food processing equipment to scale up from domestic to commercial kitchens (non-farming businesses only)
- converting farm buildings to other business uses
- rural tourism such as investments in visitor accommodation and farm diversification for event venues
- **Stratford-on-Avon District have been conditionally allocated £1,015,179**

Challenges and Opportunities – Approach

- SDC are undertaking a review of the challenges presented to the district in the following ways;
 1. **Local Context** – SDC has reviewed the following strategic documents to understand the priorities currently set out in the district, however not limited to;
 - A. Council Plan
 - B. Covid Recovery Plan
 - C. State of the district 2021 and 2022
 - D. Social Inclusion Statement
 - E. Stratford Industry and Economic Strategy
 2. **Stakeholder Engagement** – Building upon the comprehensive stakeholder engagement to identify key challenges and potential projects of its stakeholders that correspond with the additional interventions

How does SDC receive the conditional allocation?

- Approval of a completed addendum Investment Plan
- This must set out how SDC as a lead authority intends to use / allocate the fund over the 2 year funding period.
- The two Investment Priorities to be covered by the fund are;
 - Supporting Rural Communities
 - Supporting Rural Business
- Three broad stages to development of the Investment Plan;
 - Local context - challenges and opportunities
 - Selecting outcomes and interventions
 - Delivery – Approach to delivery and governance, Expenditure and deliverables, Capability and resource

New Interventions for REPF

Intervention	Objectives	Example Projects
<p>Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</p>	<p>Create jobs and boost community cohesion.</p>	<p>Creation and expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creating event venues or farm tourism facilities such as accommodation, wedding venues and leisure facilities - provision of facilities for pet and equines such as kennels, livery and pet health venues. <p>Funding for resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.</p> <p>Purchase of equipment for food processing for non-farmer-owned businesses. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - purchasing new process and packaging machinery such as brewing equipment and onsite vending machines - equipping development kitchens or modernising existing kitchen equipment for increased energy efficiency or increased productivity through automation.
<p>Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities</p>	<p>Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community infrastructure and local green space - community-led projects 	<p>Capital grants for provision of gigabit capable digital infrastructure at rural hubs for community use. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - village halls - pubs - post offices
<p>Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects</p>	<p>Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - community infrastructure and local green space - community-led projects 	<p>Capital grants to enable setting up or enhancing rural community-led repair cafes or mend workshops. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - providing premises - tools or equipment to support this activity

Project Ideas

SDC have developed a Project Ideas Form for stakeholders to complete to help inform its considerations when developing its Rural England Prosperity Fund addendum investment plan.

Please find the Rural England Project Ideas form here <https://forms.office.com/r/VdiWRij0EE>.

We ask all interested parties completing the form to complete as many questions as possible relating to the nature of the organisation they represent and to give an idea of what a proposed project would like to achieve such as supporting rural business or supporting rural communities.

The deadline to receive project idea forms will be Wednesday 16 November 2022.

For any clarifications, please email ukspf@stratford-dc.gov.uk

English (United Kingd... ▾)

 LEVELLING UP

Stratford on Avon DC - Rural England Prosperity Fund Project Ideas Form

It would be beneficial to have read this background information before completing this form
(insert link)

The form will take approximately 10 minutes to complete, depending on how much information you would like to provide. This form asks for project ideas to help us develop the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in Stratford-on-Avon District. Please note that this form is not a guarantee of receipt of any funds but will be used towards determining potential need for investment through this scheme.

This form closes at 12 noon on Wednesday 16 November.

For any questions related to this survey or about delivery of the REPF at Stratford on Avon District Council, please direct them to ukspf@stratford-dc.gov.uk

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) Statement
We only collect information we know we will genuinely use and the information will be kept for the duration of the programme. This is in accordance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation. Through this survey, we ask for a contact name and contact email address. You are under no statutory or contractual requirement or obligation to provide us with this personal information. However, we require these details so we might continue to liaise with you as a potential stakeholder in the REPF in an efficient and effective manner. The legal basis for processing your data is based on your specific consent, which we ask for at the end of this form.

If you wish to opt out and you no longer want us to hold your personal details, please email ukspf@stratford-dc.gov.uk or data-protection@stratford-dc.gov.uk

The SDC Privacy Policy is available at this link. [Data Protection | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

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* Required

1. Name of your Organisation or Business *

2. How would you categorise your Organisation or Business

Not for Profit

For Profit

3. To which of the following areas does your business or organisation most closely align?

Community asset such as a village hall or pub

Conservation and environment