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# Rural England Prosperity Fund

Investment plan for Stratford-on  
Avon-District

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# 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 Fund 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 2 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
- The council also wishes to call for potential projects which could support Digital Infrastructure & Connectivity for rural areas
- **Stratford-on-Avon District have been conditionally allocated £1,015,179**

# Challenges and Opportunities – Approach

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- 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
    - D. Social Inclusion Statemen
    - E. Stratford Industry and Economic Strategy
  2. **Stakeholder Engagement** – Building upon the engagement undertaken for the UKSPF application, additional engagement is in progress to seek projects which deliver upon the outputs set by the UKSPF & REPF prospectus. Feedback from the questionnaire will be utilised along with the UKSPF feedback & strategic needs of the district to inform the REPF application

# How does SDC receive the conditional allocation?

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- Approval of a completed 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;
  - Communities and Place
  - Supporting local 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

# REPF Interventions (UKSPF Linked)

REPF Intervention	UKSPF Intervention Link	UKSPF Financial Allocation
Intervention 1.2: capital grant funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation	E26: Growing the local social economy	£130,690
Intervention 1.3: capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy	E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	£159,005
Intervention 2.2: capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	£91,140
Intervention 2.3: capital grant funding for creation and improvements to local rural green spaces	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces	£120,822
Intervention 2.4: capital grant funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer	E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer	£0
Intervention 2.5: capital grant funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities	E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities	£0
Intervention 2.6: capital grant funding for active travel enhancements in the local area	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area	£9,796
Intervention 2.8: capital grant funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places	E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	£72,598

# REPF Interventions (New or Undersubscribed)

REPF Allocation / Intervention	UKSPF Intervention Link	UKSPF Financial Allocation
Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	E15: Digital connectivity for local community facilities	No allocated UKSPF funds
Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	No link to UKSPF	£0
Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	No link to UKSPF	£0

SDC will be utilising data from the UKSPF feedback so will not need to re-engage on interventions which have previously been considered. New interventions will be responded to enable SDC to understand the level of need to enable financial allocation.

Digital Infrastructure has been included due to its undersubscription from the last application and its relevance to the districts strategic drivers and the fact its outputs have not been accommodated by other interventions required outputs and outcomes.

# Call for information – Relevant Interventions

Intervention	Objectives	Example Projects
<p><b>Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas</b></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"> <li>- creating event venues or farm tourism facilities such as accommodation, wedding venues and leisure facilities</li> <li>- provision of facilities for pet and equines such as kennels, livery and pet health venues.</li> </ul> <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"> <li>- purchasing new process and packaging machinery such as brewing equipment and onsite vending machines</li> <li>- equipping development kitchens or modernising existing kitchen equipment for increased energy efficiency or increased productivity through automation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities</b></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"> <li>- community infrastructure and local green space</li> <li>- community-led projects</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>- village halls</li> <li>- pubs</li> <li>- post offices</li> </ul>
<p><b>Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects</b></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"> <li>- community infrastructure and local green space</li> <li>- community-led projects</li> </ul>	<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"> <li>- providing premises</li> <li>- tools or equipment to support this activity</li> </ul>

# Stakeholder questionnaire


SDC developed a project ideas form for stakeholders to complete to help inform its considerations when developing the Rural England Prosperity Fund application.

We asked all parties completing the form to complete as many questions as possible relating the nature of the organisation and project they represent i.e. supporting local business or support for communities.

The deadline to receive project idea forms was 16 November 2022.

Results from this exercise helped to inform the development of the investment plan submission as an addendum to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund application previously submitted.

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](mailto: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](mailto:ukspf@stratford-dc.gov.uk) or [data-protection@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto: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



# Stakeholder engagement results

Investment priority	Intervention selection	Nr of potential projects	Ratio	Average project value	Total Value of projects submitted
Supporting Rural Communities	Funding (capital grants) for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.	6.00	14%	£22,500.00	£135,000
Supporting Rural Communities	Funding (capital grants) for rural circular economy projects.	22.00	50%	£73,795.50	£1,623,501
Supporting Rural Business	Funding (capital grants) for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas. Including capital funding for net zero infrastructure for rural businesses, and diversification of farm businesses outside of agriculture to encourage start up, expansion or scale up of these businesses where this involves converting farm buildings into other commercial or business uses.	16.00	36%	£63,437.50	£1,015,000
		44.00	100%	£53,244.33	£2,773,501

# Intervention allocations

The following considerations have led to the proposed allocation of REPF funds:

- Strategic need (challenges and opportunities)
- Stakeholder engagement feedback
- Supporting interventions which enable a diverse capability to support projects across by both the REPF & UKSPF schemes

Investment Priority	Intervention	Investment Priority Split	Total Allocation	Year 1	Year 2
Supporting Rural Business	Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	40%	£406,071.60	£101,517.90	£304,553.70
Supporting Rural Communities	Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	18%	£182,732.22	£45,683.06	£137,049.17
	Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	42%	£426,375.18	£106,593.80	£319,781.39
		100%	£1,015,179.00	25%	75%

# Next Steps for REPF

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- **Stakeholder Feedback Analysis** – Complete
- **Final drafting** – Complete
- **Application Submission** – Complete
- **Investment Plan Approval** – Date not confirmed
- **Year 1** – April 2023 to March 2024
- **Year 2** – April 2024 to March 2025

# UKSPF & REPF Indicative combined allocations

	Investment Priority	Intervention	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
UKSPF	Communities & Place	E2: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects	£58,683	£1,000	£2,036	£61,719
	Communities & Place	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces	£108,672	£12,150	£0	£120,822
	Communities & Place	E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'	£0	£0	£277,467	£277,467
	Communities & Place	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area	£5,796	£1,500	£2,500	£9,796
	Communities & Place	E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area	£0	£0	£23,941	£23,941
	Communities & Place	E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	£36,706	£9,954	£25,937	£72,597
	Communities & Place	E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	£0	£262,853	£200,000	£462,853
	Communities & Place	E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	£72,448	£18,692	£0	£91,140
	Communities & Place	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	£0	£26,169	£0	£26,169
	Communities & Place	E14: Relevant feasibility studies	£23,183	£17,010	£11,970	£52,163
	Local Business	E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	£0	£68,367	£90,638	£159,005
	Local Business	E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development	£0	£111,992	£0	£111,992
	Local Business	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	£0	£196,311	£271,913	£468,224
	Local Business	E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators	£0	£34,184	£45,329	£79,513
	Local Business	E26: Growing the local social economy	£120,924	£9,767	£0	£130,691
	Local Business	E28: Export grants to grow overseas trading etc.	£0	£102,876	£136,388	£239,264
	Local Business	E31: Support relevant feasibility studies	£10,000	£0	£0	£10,000
	People & Skills	E33: Employment support for economically inactive people	n/a	n/a	£384,364	£384,364
	People & Skills	E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses	n/a	n/a	£189,313	£189,313
People & Skills	E39: Green skills courses	n/a	n/a	£625,000	£625,000	
REPF	Supporting Rural Business	Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	n/a	£101,517.90	£304,553.70	£406,072
	Supporting Rural Communities	Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	n/a	£45,683.06	£137,049.17	£182,732
	Supporting Rural Communities	Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	n/a	£106,593.80	£319,781.39	£426,375