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**Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant**

Application pack for Community organisations (voluntary organisations and registered charities) and Parish Councils.

Dover District Council has been allocated £400,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) to support rural businesses and communities as follows:

* 2023/24: £100,000
* 2024/25: £300,000

Full details are available on the Government’s [REPF Prospectus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus).

The fund is being used to introduce a new grant scheme for rural businesses and communities to:

1. Develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.
2. Support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.

We are now inviting small businesses and community organisations to submit an Expression of Interest.

**Who can apply?**

The following organisations can apply:

* Community organisations (voluntary organisations and registered charities)
* Parish Councils

Your organisation must have more than 2 employees/trustees and less than 50 employees/ trustees and a turnover under £10 million.

**What projects will be considered for Community organisations andParish Councils?**

**Projects MUST fit one of the following interventions:**

Capital grant funding for:

* investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
* impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places

Projects must be:

* capital projects eg a lasting asset such as a **building** or **equipment** and must have a value of over £10,000.
* unable to be funded by private finance.
* in a rural area. For Rural Fund purposes, rural areas are:
* towns, villages and hamlets with populations below 10,000 and the wider countryside
* market or ‘hub towns’ with populations of up to 30,000 that serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and in providing services.

[A map is available](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx) (please click on Administrative Geographies, Other Administrative Boundaries, Rural England Prosperity Fund).

* able to demonstrate viability.

Projects should be deliverable before March 2025.

**Successful applications will demonstrate how projects will achieve some or all of the following outcomes:**

* Increased users of facilities or amenities
* Improved perception of facilities or amenities
* Volunteering numbers as a result of support
* Improved perception of events

Examples of projects can be found in the [Prospectus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus) and the [Interventions list](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101590/Rural_England_Prosperity_Fund_interventions__objectives__outputs_and_outcomes_list.pdf).

We **cannot** support projects that have received funding from other Government sources including:

* [The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/funding-for-farmers-in-protected-landscapes)
* [The Farming Investment Fund](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/farming-investment-fund)
* [The Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/platinum-jubilee-fund-creates-boost-for-village-halls)

**What is the process?**

* Expressions of interest open 11 March 2024 and will close at mid-day on 30 April 2024.
* Expressions of interest will be considered by our grant panel who will be looking for projects that deliver the greatest **economic**, **environmental** and **social** benefits.
* Applicants will be invited to provide further information to complete their application if the panel feel that they fit the criteria.
* A complete application is one that has all of the required information and evidence submitted:
	+ Completed application form
	+ Quotes
		- Projects with a total value of up to £24,999 require three quotes
		- Projects with a total value of over £25,000 require a formal tender process
	+ Copies of constitution or other relevant documents
	+ Recent bank statement and last full year accounts
* Successful and unsuccessful projects will be notified by the end of April 24.
* Payments may be made retrospectively on receipt of invoices.
* The scheme may be extended if the grant funding is not all allocated.

**To submit your application please complete this form and email it to**

**ddcbusinessgrants@dover.gov.uk**

**Rural England Prosperity Fund
Community and Parish Council grant - Expression of Interest**

**Your organisation and contact details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Organisation name | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Organisation address | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Address of project (if different) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Email | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Telephone | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Website or social media URL | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| What type of organisation are you?[ ]  Charity, Community Group or Social Enterprise[ ]  Parish Council |
| Unique number (Charity Number, Unique Taxpayer Reference or other unique identifier) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
|  |
| What funding have you received in the last three years? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Annual Turnover / Income 2022-2023 | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Projected Annual Turnover / Income 2023-2024 | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Interventions and Outcomes**

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| --- |
| Which intervention does your project fit?[ ]  Capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups [ ]  Capital grant funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places |
| **Which outcomes will your project achieve?**[ ]  Increased users of facilities or amenities [ ]  Improved perception of facilities or amenities [ ]  Volunteering numbers as a result of support [ ]  Improved perception of events |

**Application details**

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| --- |
| What will you purchase with the grant? |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| What is the total cost of your project? |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How much grant funding are you applying for? **Community organisations and Parish Councils may apply for up to 100% of your capital project costs** |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| What will the organisation achieve from this grant funding (details of the outcomes selected above)? Maximum 300 words |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Brief description of project. Maximum 300 words |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Who will it benefit? Maximum 300 words |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How will the impact of the funding be measured? Maximum 300 words |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Are you able to start the project straight away? If not, when will it start? |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |
| What would happen if this funding was not available or you were awarded less than you have applied for? |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Data Sharing**

We are required by law to protect the public funds we administer. In order to do this your information may be shared with relevant parties. [Please read our Privacy Notice](https://www.dover.gov.uk/Website/PDFs/Privacy-Notice-for-Grants.pdf).

**Declaration**

[ ]  The information I have provided is correct.

[ ]  The project is in a rural area, highlighted on the REPF map.

[ ]  I have read and understood the Privacy Notice.

[ ]  I have read and understood the [Prospectus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus) and the [Interventions list](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1101590/Rural_England_Prosperity_Fund_interventions__objectives__outputs_and_outcomes_list.pdf).

[ ]  The project has not received funding from other Government sources.

|  |  |
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| Signed:(Please type your name) | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**What happens next?**

Please email your completed form to ddcbusinessgrants@dover.gov.uk. If we need further information we will be in touch.

Our grant panel will meet and score the completed Expressions of Interest and those scoring highest will be contacted and ask to complete their applications by sending us:

* Quotes
	+ Projects with a total value of up to £24,999 require three quotes
	+ Projects with a total value of over £25,000 require a formal tender process
* Copies of constitution and other relevant documents
* Recent bank statement and last full year accounts
* Photos and/or any other evidence required to support your application