**A logo for a city council

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**Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant**

**Application pack for businesses**

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?**

Small businesses with:

* at least 2 employees and less than 50 employees
* an annual turnover under £10 million

**What projects will be considered for business grants?**

**Projects MUST fit this intervention:**

* **Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.**

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:**

* Jobs created
* Jobs safeguarded
* Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes
* Number of businesses with improved productivity
* Number of businesses experiencing growth

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 and** **environmental** benefits.
* Successful applicants will be invited to provide further information to complete their application.
* 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**](mailto:ddcbusinessgrants@dover.gov.uk)

**Rural England Prosperity Fund**

**Business Grant - Expression of Interest**

Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises

**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 does your business do? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How many employees do you have?  (Must be between 2 and 49) | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Is your annual turnover less than £10.2 million and balance sheet less than £5.1 million? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Unique number  (Company Registration Number, Unique Taxpayer Reference or National Insurance Number – please indicate which) | 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. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project outcomes** | |
| How many jobs will be created through this project? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| How many jobs will be safeguarded? | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Will your project included the adoption of new to the firm technologies or processes? If yes please give details. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Will this project improve productivity? If yes please give details. | Click or tap here to enter text. |
| Will this project result in business growth? If yes please give details | Click or tap here to enter text. |

**Application details**

|  |
| --- |
| What will the grant be used to purchase? |
| 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?   * Businesses may apply for up to 50% of the 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 the 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 and evidenced? 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](mailto:https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx).

I have read and understood the [Privacy Notice](mailto:https://www.dover.gov.uk/Website/PDFs/Privacy-Notice-for-Grants.pdf).

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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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](mailto: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