**Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant**

Dover District Council has been allocated £120,261 from the Government’s [Rural England Prosperity Fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026) (REPF) for 2025-26 to provide capital grant funding for both businesses and community organisations in rural areas.

This is a competitive grant scheme and therefore it will not always be possible to fund every eligible application.

These grants aim to generate employment opportunities & business growth, strengthen community cohesion & resilience and improve local facilities and amenities.

We are now inviting applications from small businesses, community organisations and Parish Councils.

**What projects will be considered?**

**Location**

* Your organisation MUST be based within the REPF area shown on [Defra's Magic Map](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.html).
(From the navigation panel click 'Map Layers', 'Administrative Geographies', Other Administrative Boundaries', 'Rural England Prosperity Fund')

**Rural Businesses**

Small businesses with less than 50 employees and a turnover under £10 million:

* You can apply for:
	+ funding for equipment that directly supports job creation and retention
	+ up to 50% of your costs, with a maximum grant of £10,000
* You must be ready to make your purchase and your project MUST be completed by 31 December 2025.

**Rural Communities**

Voluntary organisations, registered charities and Parish Councils:

* You can apply for:
	+ funding for equipment that benefits local communities
	+ up to 100% of your costs, with a maximum grant of £10,000.
* You must be ready to make your purchase and your project MUST be completed by 31 December 2025.

**Projects we are unable to fund**

This scheme cannot be used for the purchase of equipment by farmers for food processing that could otherwise be funded under DEFRA’s Farming Investment Fund (FIF).

**What is the process?**

Before you apply please read the [Rural England Prosperity Fund Prospectus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026).

* Applications open Monday 2 October 25 and close Friday 7 November 2025
* Qualifying applications will be considered by our grant panel w/c 10 November and successful applicants will be notified the following week.
* Applicants will be asked to:
	+ demonstrate how their project fits with the REPF investment priorities and the government’s missions
	+ confirm that they have sufficient funds to pay for the project costs upfront as grant payments will be made in arrears.
	+ include three quotes where possible
	+ provide further information including:
		- recent bank statements and accounts
		- Constitution (community organisations)
		- Business plan (new businesses)
* Successful and unsuccessful projects will be notified.
* If the funds are not fully committed the scheme will be re-opened for applications

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to provide further information to complete their applications. This includes recent bank statements and accounts and other relevant documents such as your Constitution.

Funding will be awarded on the basis that applicants have all necessary permissions and licences in place to undertake any activity arising from the equipment purchased with this grant. The council may ask for evidence before a grant agreement is issued, however this is the sole responsibility of the applicant.

**Rural England Prosperity Fund
Application**

**Your organisation and contact details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Your name |  |
| Organisation name |  |
| Organisation address |  |
| Email |  |
| Telephone |  |
| Website or social media link |  |
| What type of organisation are you?[ ]  Small business Maximum: 50 employees, £10.2 million annual turnover, £5.1 million balance sheet[ ]  Charity, Community Group or Social Enterprise[ ]  Parish Council |
| Unique number (Charity Number, Company Registration Number, Unique Taxpayer Reference or National Insurance Number) |  |
|  |
| What funding have you received in the last three years? List all grants you have received |  |
| Annual Turnover / Income |  |
| Projected Annual Turnover / Income 2025-2026 |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Have you checked that your organisation is in a qualifying location? Open [Magic map](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/MagicMap.html), from the menu on the left click ‘Map Layers, Administrative Geographies, Other Administrative Boundaries, Rural England Prosperity Fund’ |

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| **Which outcomes will your project achieve?****Businesses:** [ ]  Jobs created[ ]  Jobs safeguarded [ ]  Adoption of new to the firm technologies or processes [ ]  Improved productivity[ ]  Business growth **Community:**[ ]  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? |
|  |
| What is the total cost of the purchase? |
|  |
| How much grant funding are you applying for? * **Businesses:** up to 50% of your purchase costs, maximum grant £10,000
* **Community organisations:**  up to 100% of your purchase costs, maximum grant £10,000
 |
|  |
| What will your organisation achieve from this grant funding? Maximum 400 words |
|  |
| Who else will benefit from your project? |
|  |
| How will the impact of the funding be measured? Eg Number of new jobs created, increased number of visitors. We may ask for a report and evidence to support this. |
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| Are you able to make the purchase straight away?  |
|  |
| What would happen if this funding was not available? |
|  |

You may be asked to attend an interview at the Council offices in Whitfield. Are you available week commencing 10 November 2025?

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**Declaration**

The information I have provided is correct and accurate.

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If we believe your project fits the criteria for this scheme we will ask you to send us the following documents:

* Three quotes where possible
* Copies of constitution or other relevant documents
* Recent bank statement and last full year accounts

Please email your completed application form to businessgrants@dover.gov.uk