

Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant

Stroud District Council

Introduction

The Rural England Prosperity Fund is available for rural areas which face challenges of lower productivity rates, poorer connectivity and poorer access to key services. This capital funding is available to support small business projects and community infrastructure to enable improvements to productivity and to strengthen the rural economy and communities.

The total funding for Stroud District for years 2023-24 and 2024-25, is £100,000 and £300,000 respectively, and is for capital projects only.

Grant programme

Eligibility:

- A business or community organisation based in the District (They must be a town, village or hamlet with population below 10,000 or a market town with populations up to 30,000.)
- The grant will fund a capital project (lasting assets such as building or equipment)
- The project will have spent their agreed grant allocation in years 2023-24 or 2024-25
- The project will support new and/or existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities
- The project will support new and/or improved community infrastructure to provide essential community services and assets for local people and businesses.
- Confirmation that the project meets the requirements of the interventions listed for a rural business or community.
- The project will achieve defined outcomes (see below) and those outcomes demonstrate value for money.

Projects not eligible:

The fund cannot support projects that have received funding from DEFRA schemes, including:

- [The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme](#) - funding for farmers and land managers to work in partnership with National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty bodies to deliver projects on climate, nature, people and place
- [The Farming Investment Fund](#) - grants to improve productivity and bring environmental benefits, covering 2 funds - the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund and the Farming Transformation Fund
- [The Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund](#) - grant funding over 3 years (to 2025) to support capital improvement projects for village halls, covering extending buildings and modernising facilities.

Grant Funding

To ensure the Rural Funding will support a wide range of business and community organisations the following criteria will be applied.

- Minimum grant payable: £3,000.00
- Maximum grant payable: £20,000.00
- The grant can cover up to XX% of the total project cost, it is not inclusive of VAT
- Evidence that three quotes have been obtained for the project costs and justification is provided if the lowest price has not been selected.

- Your organisation must be either a business or a community organisation based within a rural location.
- An eligible business organisation will be a micro or small business, with 0-10 employees or a turnover of less than €10million.
- A community organisation is one that supports the area and does not have private membership criteria.
- The grant total will be reimbursed once evidence of payment has been provided.

Grant Application Form

Project Overview

Project Name:	
Application Organisation:	
Application Address:	
Application Post Code:	
Primary Contact (Name & Job Title):	
Email Address:	
Telephone Number:	

Project Interventions

If you are a rural business, please fill in Q.1 and Q.2 below. If you represent a rural community organisation please answer Q.3 and Q.4 below. All applicants should complete Q.5 onwards.

Rural Businesses

Please tick which priority intervention your project will meet:

Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises (0 – 10 employees or a turnover of less than €10million) in rural areas	
Capital grant funding for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation	
Capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy	

Please select which outcomes your project will achieve and the total of the you expect to achieve:

Outcomes	Tick	Est. Total
Jobs created		
Jobs safeguarded		
Creating a new business		
Adopting new to the firm technologies or processes		
Improving productivity of business		
Increasing growth of business		
Increasing businesses export capability		
Increasing business turnover		

Rural Communities

Please tick which priority intervention your project will meet:

Capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	
Capital grant funding for creation and improvements to local rural green spaces	
Capital grant funding for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer	
Capital grant funding for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities	
Capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	
Capital grant funding for impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places	

Please select which outcomes your project will achieve and the total of the you expect to achieve:

Outcome	Tick	Est. Total
Jobs created		
Jobs safeguarded		
Increased users of facilities or amenities		
Improved perception of facilities or amenities		
Creating a new business		
Increased footfall		
Increased visitor numbers		
Increased use of cycle ways or paths		
Improved engagement numbers		
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes		
Improved perception of events		
Improved perception of local facilities or amenities		
Number of community-led facilities as a result of support		
Increase in volunteer numbers		

<p>By ticking this box you confirm you have not received funding from the following:</p> <p>The Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme (DEFRA), The Farming Investment Fund; The Farming Equipment or Technology Fund (DEFRA) or; The Platinum Jubilee Village Hall improvements Grant (DEFRA)</p>	
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Please explain why you require grant funding:

(No more than 500 words)

Total amount of grant funding being applied for:	2023-24 £	2024-25 £
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Please list the capital items the grant will be spent on:

Item	Total (not incl. VAT)
TOTAL (not incl. VAT):	£

By ticking this box you confirm you are able to provide auditable evidence of three quotes for each item the grant will be spent on.

By ticking this box you confirm you will complete monitoring and evaluation paperwork as required by Central Government, as well as providing evidence of outcome achieved. (This to be completed with requirements)

By ticking this box you confirm all information provided is to the best of your knowledge.