

## Parish and Partners Foreword

Dear All,

The UKSPF and REPF grant scheme is one of the few remaining funds designed to help local businesses and provide facilities. Please look positively at this opportunity and see whether it would be appropriate for you to apply for a grant which could take your business or organisation forward. The REPF, in particular, is extremely crucial in aiding rural businesses and projects around Stratford-on-Avon district. We want to ensure that we are genuinely assisting rural businesses and communities which get fewer opportunities to bid for funds. I therefore urge all applicants to find out as much as they can about the scheme and put forward an application. Please follow this link to watch the recording of the first information webinar held to answer questions and aid applicants, <https://ow.ly/JxBJ50QVGQO>



**Councillor  
George Cowcher**

Portfolio Holder for  
Planning and Economic  
Development

## What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)

- A £2.6 billion funding pot, announced as part of the Levelling Up agenda, to be invested in communities by March 2025.
- A mix of revenue and capital funding that can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build pride in place and improve life chances.
- Investment can complement Levelling Up Fund capital projects, strategic Freeport investments or community-level Community Ownership Fund projects, as well as existing employment and skills provision.
- Community and Place, Business Support, Skills
- Total 2024-2025 funding allocation from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is £2,286,796 for UKSPF.

All documentation can be found on the SDC website: [UKSPF & REPF Year 3 Call | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)

## What is the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

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.

The Rural Fund supports the aims of the government's Levelling Up White Paper and Future Farming Programme:

- **Support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities** that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. **This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams**
- **Support new and improved community infrastructure**, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy
- Total 2024-2025 funding allocation from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is £761,384 for REPF.

You must use funding on capital projects. This means you must spend grants on lasting assets such as a building or equipment.

All documentation can be found on the SDC website: [UKSPF & REPF Year 3 Call | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)



## Important Advice

- **Call for projects opens on 11th March and closes at midnight on 9th April 2024.**
- **Drop dead deadlines:** all funding and all outputs MUST be delivered and spent **by end of March 2025.**
  - **Failure to do this may result** in monies being **clawed back** by the local authority on behalf of DLUHC.
  - **Any unused monies** must be declared and returned to SDC.
- **EARLY notice of any variation from expected progress and timelines,** please discuss with SDC at the earliest opportunity.
- **Grant limits:** minimum grants of **£2k** and maximum grants of **£50k.**
- **Applications started** can be saved as you progress. Please include details of any public sector grants you have received since 1st April 2022 in your application form to enable compliance with subsidy control requirements and please provide a copy of your Data Protection Policy.



Tractor bought with Year 2 UKSPF grant for local business

## What are we doing differently this year and why?

- **Community and Place** - launching an open community and place call for projects on a more targeted and focused basis than the previous two years as originally set out in the three-year investment plan.
- **Rural** - launching Rural England Prosperity Funding (REPF) calls once, unless the fund is under-committed then we will run another call.
- **Business support** - no open call for business support projects, as we are partnering with other County and other Local Authorities to extend six joint county-wide programmes from Year 2 into Year 3 over a longer period.
- **Skills** - first and only year of funding for Skills
  - working on a joint tender with County to deliver the revenue skills funding to
  - support those furthest from employment and upskilling those in work;
  - supporting a County wide Multiply programme teaching fundamental maths;
  - aligning the Growing Opportunities actions with SPF skills opportunities.
- **Zero carbon green skills** - utilising the E39 capital funding to support Stratford-on-Avon college develop as a centre for excellence in future green skills especially Automotive electric vehicle training courses subject to approval by Cabinet in April.

## Key timelines

- **Monday 11th March 2024:** Calls open for projects for Community and Place and Rural England Prosperity Fund (with the possibility of a second call being decided soon)
- **Wednesday 13th March** (18:30-20:00): Webinar delivered alongside Chris Freeman from WCAVA,
- **Thursday 21st March** (08:30-10:00): Webinar delivered alongside Chris Freeman from WCAVA.
- **Tuesday 9th April:** Calls close.
- **Monday 3rd June:** The report will proceed to go through The Cabinet.

