

# RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND



**Funded by  
UK Government**

**LANCASTER  
CITY COUNCIL**

*Promoting City, Coast & Countryside*

In partnership with



**LANCASHIRE**  
COMBINED COUNTY  
AUTHORITY

# REPF: OVERVIEW

The Rural Fund is integrated into the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which supports productivity and prosperity.

REPF funds capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas.

The REPF supports the aims of the government's Missions and Farming and Countryside Programme.

# The Rural Fund provides capital funding to:

- ▶ 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 & businesses to benefit the local economy





# Eligibility



The funding is entirely designated as '**capital**' funding - '**lasting assets such as buildings or equipment**'.



Cannot fund farming equipment or infrastructure or to diversify **within agriculture**. Applicants looking for funding for this type of activity must use existing Defra grant schemes.

## **Alternative funding - DEFRA**

Farming in Protected  
Landscapes programme

Farming Investment Fund

Platinum Jubilee Village Hall  
Improvement Grant Fund

## Rural areas defined as:



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- towns, villages and hamlets with populations below 10,000 and the wider countryside

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- market or 'hub towns' with populations of up to 30,000 that serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and in providing service

# REPF – Lancaster District

The Lancaster district has been allocated £149,994 for 2025/26



Indicative breakdown of funding:









Support Local  
Business (£49,994)

Communities &  
Place (£100,000)

# REPF – Lancaster District

- £500,000 of investment into our district in 2023-2025
- Partner and stakeholder input to the original investment plan for REPF
- There will be a continuation of REPF ‘interventions’ aligned to this government's ‘missions and themes’



Priority	Theme	Subtheme	Intervention
Supporting Local Business	Support for Business	Advice and support to business  	Growing the local social economy and supporting innovation
			Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
Communities and Place	Thriving Places	Development of the visitor economy  	The development and promotion of the visitor economy
			Existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local heritage offer
			Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
	Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities	Inclusive: Bringing communities together, tackling homelessness.  	Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups
			Rural circular economy projects
			Impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital
			Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities
		Healthy: Improve health and wellbeing  	Creation of and improvements to local rural green spaces
			Active travel enhancements in the local area



**Kickstart Economic Growth**



**Break Down Barriers to Opportunity**



**Build an NHS fit for the future**

# Support For Business



Likely 40% maximum 'intervention rate' from REPF



Social Economy



Farm Diversification outside of agriculture



Small Scale Investment – outcome creation to wider economy and community

# Communities

Improvements to green and blue spaces

Active travel enhancements

Community facility and asset improvements

Community led events and festivals

# How to Apply and outcomes

