

Year 3 of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Background Information

Further to the report dated 23rd May 2025 [Cabinet Members' Items - Report of the Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism Portfolio Holder - A.1 - Rural England Prosperity Fund \(REPF\) transition year 2025/26](#), grants have been made available to businesses and community groups across two themes in 2025/26: Supporting Local Business and Communities and Place.

A high level of interest was received, 51 submissions, across each theme. This document sets out background information for the recommended projects to be chosen for year 3, against the scoring criteria attached at the bottom.

In line with the criteria approved by Cabinet in the link above, On 11 August 2025, two officers from the Economic Growth team applied the scoring criteria to assess the funding bids. These scores were discussed to identify the bids with the highest score against the funding available.

In line with the approved scoring criteria, after selecting applications with the highest scores, and funding remained with various applicants with the same score, they were evaluated on a value for money basis. Please note that lower scoring bids were not successful and have been rejected. There will be the opportunity for rejected bids to request their scores.

Supporting Local Business 2025/26

Allocation for theme: £120,000 – Proposed spend as below: £120,000

Applicant & Project	Proposed Grant Award	Project in Brief (as per applicant summary)	Scores
BENCH-space Studio Ltd	£20,000	The funding will contribute towards the purchase of a second-hand van to be logo wrapped, and for mobile outreach equipment, including portable benches, lighting, and secure tool storage; so that charities and community outreach programmes can utilise the BENCH-space proven methods of making as mindfulness.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
Pandion Property Holdings Ltd	£20,000	The REPF grant will be used to purchase Leica BLK360 G2 scanner Starter Pack Plus with RCS. The scanner will replace the need to outsource measured surveys, which are currently contracted at significant cost for each site.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
Cyclegam Ltd - Castlers Auctions	£20,000	We are investing in packaging and handling automation for our auction house, aimed at improving the speed, safety, and scalability of processing outgoing orders.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
Amobox	£6,884	We intend to utilise the REPF grant funding to acquire a spray booth. Previously, we have relied on a large tent for spraying our mobile units; however, this setup is no longer suitable for commercial operations.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
Black Cactus Studio	£12,250	We will be upgrading our studio equipment, specifically focusing on high-quality preamps, monitor speakers, and analogue gear. This investment is essential to enhance our recording and mixing capabilities, ensuring we can deliver superior sound quality for our clients.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6

Treasure Holt Plants	£7,425	A new replacement polytunnel will enable me to extend my growing season to all year round, which will help me increase productivity and the ability to compete in the local marketplace. The new replacement polytunnel will have guttering which will collect rainwater which will feed into a new rain harvesting irrigation system, which will make watering more sustainable and efficient.	Q1 = 2 Q2 = 3 Total = 5
Angel Landscapes Garden Maintenance	£5,876.87	New gardening equipment. This investment will mean that I can purchase better quality and additional equipment to expand and improve my services, leading to increased capacity to take on a full-time employee in the near future.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 2 Total = 5
Blom Bakery	£8,541	The grant will support the purchase of essential equipment: bread oven, dough mixer, dough tubs and lids, bread tins, cooling racks, fridge, scales, worktops, sink, shelves.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 2 Total = 5
Great Danes	£9,000	Capital investment in The Patio to add bi-fold doors (to block the cold wind, rain, weather), double our retail square footage and benefit from modern heaters to warm the space.	Q1 = 2 Q2 = 2 Total = 5
Pink Parrot Pottery	£5,032	In our studio, we currently use two older style kilns which are showing their age in terms of effectiveness and ecological suitability. We would therefore like to purchase a new Rohde TE100MCC kiln which has additional insulation which is reported to be between 30-40% more energy efficient than the current kiln we use. In addition, the toilet facilities in our party/workshop room are in desperate need of renovation so I would use the funding to ensure that this is brought up to a more presentable and useable standard.	Q1 = 2 Q2 = 2 Total = 4
Bohosew Interiors	£4,991.13	This investment will support the growth of Bohosew Interiors by increasing productivity and expanding the range and quality of services offered. By upgrading equipment and technology, we can deliver a more complete and professional service, from consultation to installation.	Q1 = 2 Q2 = 2 Total = 4

Communities & Place 2025/26

Allocation for theme: £77,761 – Proposed spend, as below: £77,761.

Applicant & Project	Proposed Grant Award	Project in Brief (as per applicant summary)	Scores
Golf Green Public Hall	£8,490.91	We already have a kitchen at Golf Green Hall and 4 volunteers with level 2 food hygiene certificates as well as other volunteers to serve the food etc. However, much of the equipment that was used by the previous lunch club is very dated and needs replacing.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
St Andrews Church	£5,000	We would like to refurbish and remodel the church toilets, replacing the existing Ladies and Gents with 3 or 4 individual	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3

		gender-neutral toilets, including one accessible toilet with baby changing facilities.	Total = 6
Spring Meadow Primary School	£8,324	We are seeking funding to purchase a practical, modular stage that is easy to assemble and disassemble, assessable and inclusive for all users, and adaptable to a wide range of events and settings. The stage will be based at Spring Meadow Primary School but will be accessible to the entire Tendring community.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
The Mayflower Primary School	£2,721.60	This project trains school staff for free, by the Esse and Herts Air Ambulance, to become CPR Champions who can then train our Year 5 and Year 6 pupils (aged between 9 and 11) to do basic CPR, dial for an ambulance and use a defibrillator. The only costs for this project would be the equipment. All primary schools in Harwich are invested in this programme and keen to be able to roll it out next academic year.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
VIY	£18,125	This project involves improvement works at Weeley Village Hall, including refurbishing toilets/washrooms and redecorating the main event space. The work will be delivered by at least 15 local young people aged 16–24 who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET. They will learn and apply vocational trade skills while working alongside and being mentored by professional tradespeople.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
The Harwich Festival	£1,966.79	We propose a series of capital improvements to our community garden at the Harwich Arts & Heritage Centre — a shared green space used year-round by local families, older people, and community groups. The project will install two raised beds, a water harvesting system, fixed seating, a tool shed, bird habitats, and a permanent gazebo to create a more inclusive, welcoming, and sustainable environment	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
Colchester Cat Rescue	£20,000	We have a very rural site with no mains gas or oil. We have to use electricity for all our power, ie lighting, heating and washing all the cat bowls and bedding. We would like to install solar panels on site to help with these costs.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
Reynolds Newsagent	£8,903.57	The purpose of this project is to introduce an additional banking facility in Dovercourt Town Centre. In recent years, the number of banks on the High Street has decreased significantly, from six different banks to a single building society and the Post Office. This reduction in banking services has presented considerable challenges for local residents and businesses, negatively impacting the vitality of the High Street.	Q1 = 3 Q2 = 3 Total = 6
We are Music Ltd	£4,229.13	We are Music requires portable equipment to support our expanding outreach programme across Tendring. Currently operating across 15 primary schools and 2 secondary schools. New equipment will enable us to maintain quality delivery while expanding capacity, supporting afterschool clubs, SEND provision at Market Field, and regular sessions in Harwich and Jaywick.	Q1 = 2 Q2 = 3 Total = 5

Rural England Prosperity Fund 2025/26 Scoring Criteria

This scoring criteria set out below was published by Tendring District Council in Cabinet report [Cabinet Members' Items - Report of the Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism Portfolio Holder - A.1 - Rural England Prosperity Fund \(REPF\) transition year 2025/26](#) (Appendices: [A1 Appendix A1 - Criteria business](#); [A1 Appendix A2 - Criteria community](#)).

Supporting Local Business Scoring Criteria:

Stage 1 - Pass or Fail Ts & Cs

If any of these questions are failed, and not sufficiently amended by the applicant upon request, the rest of the application will not be scored.

1. Is the location within the eligible area as defined by the DEFRA Magic Map?
2. Has proof of match funding been provided in full?
3. Has proof of costs been provided in full?
4. Are the published Terms & Conditions otherwise adhered to?

Stage 2 - Scoring Criteria

As well as the pass/fail questions, there are 2 scored questions as part of the application process, meaning the overall score will be out of a maximum of 6 as per the table below. Two people will score individually, then discuss to agree one overall score out of 6. No grant will be made with an application scoring lower than 4 points overall. Those scoring at the lower end of eligibility, 4, will be subject to a value for money consideration and are therefore unlikely to receive a grant of the full maximum, but may be accepted for a lower amount/offered a lower amount than requested where appropriate.

1. What will you use the REPF Grant for, specifically?
2. How will the investment help your business to grow and/or diversify?

Scored Questions:	
0	Wholly Unsatisfactory
	No response or the whole response is irrelevant to all of the question and evaluation criteria.
1	Unsatisfactory
	The response only covers a minor element of the question and evaluation criteria and does not provide evidence to all points mentioned in the question
2	Partially Acceptable
	The response covers more than one element of the question and evaluation criteria but does not fully evidence all points mentioned in the question
3	Acceptable
	The response addresses the question provides sufficient evidence for all aspects of the question

Communities & Place Scoring Criteria:

Stage 1 - Pass or Fail Ts & Cs

If any of these questions are failed, and not sufficiently amended by the applicant upon request, the rest of the application will not be scored.

1. Is the location within the eligible area as defined by the DEFRA Magic Map?
2. Has proof of costs been provided in full?
3. Are the published Terms & Conditions otherwise adhered to?

Stage 2 - Scoring Criteria

As well as the pass/fail questions, there are 2 scored questions as part of the application process, meaning the overall score will be out of a maximum of 6 as per the table below. Two people will score individually, then discuss to agree one overall score out of 6. No grant will be made with an application scoring lower than 4 points overall. Those scoring at the lower end of eligibility, 4, will be subject to a value for money consideration and are therefore unlikely to receive a grant of the full maximum, but may be accepted for a lower amount/offered a lower amount than requested where appropriate.

1. Please outline in more detail what your proposed project involves, and what it will achieve.
2. What specific need will your project proposal address in the community?

Scored Questions:	
0	Wholly Unsatisfactory
	No response or the whole response is irrelevant to all of the question and evaluation criteria.
1	Unsatisfactory
	The response only covers a minor element of the question and evaluation criteria and does not provide evidence to all points mentioned in the question
2	Partially Acceptable
	The response covers more than one element of the question and evaluation criteria but does not fully evidence all points mentioned in the question
3	Acceptable
	The response addresses the question provides sufficient evidence for all aspects of the question