



Briefing Note for CLA members

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

Date: April 2023

CLA Briefing Note Reference: BN01-23

Introduction

1. The Government announced the creation of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) in September 2022. This allocates £110m over a two year period from April 2023 to March 2025. It is allocated to local authorities and will be delivered by local government.
2. The REPF is a capital grants programme and is ring fenced for rural areas. The CLA has been engaging with local authorities to ensure a greater understanding as to how different rural economies operate, the challenges they face and determine how these changes can be met.

REPF allocations

3. A number of local authorities have been allocated funding from the REPF with the aim of providing grants for rural businesses and community projects. The allocations are set out in Annex 1.
4. The allocations to local authorities will be made in two tranches:
 - Year 1 (2023 – 2024): 25% of the total allocation;
 - Year 2 (2024 – 2025): 75% of the total allocation.
5. This split will undoubtedly affect the types of grants on offer in year 1, with a potential focus on smaller projects.

Types of grants on offer

6. There will be two types of grants on offer: grants for rural businesses and grants for community groups. Regarding rural business grants, the types of eligible projects will be the responsibility of local authorities. We are aware some councils will follow previous schemes with grants for rural tourism, diversification and food processing. However, we also know that other councils will have a wider range of available grants. This should be made clear in the application round for each local authority.

Maximum grant levels and match funding

7. Defra has said that local authorities retain the right to decide the maximum level of capital grant on offer and whether grants will need to be match funded. This is where the local authority imposes a maximum amount of funding that will be used from the REPF. The rest of the project cost will need to be made up by the applicant. This method has been used very successfully in the past.

8. We are aware that some local authorities will be adopting the match funding approach and this should be made clear in the background information each provides for applicants.

The application process

9. It is the responsibility of each local authority to promote the REPF and ensure that applicants are given sufficient time to apply for a grant. Although Defra offers guidance to local authorities, it is not their responsibility to deliver the REPF. As a result, members should, in the first instance look at their local authority website to see whether the REPF has been and is being promoted. Here, it should be possible to see whether a local authority already has a grant application process ready to use.
10. The CLA will be putting together a database of local authorities and will highlight which have application systems in place, together with appropriate eligibility criteria for applicants and deadlines to be met.
11. For many local authorities, there will be a two stage application process. This will be an Expression of Interest stage where an applicant will be asked to provide a summary of the proposed project. If an application passes stage 1, the applicant will be asked to submit a full application that will set out in detail the proposal.
12. However, there is no obligation on the part of the local authority to apply a two stage process and this is likely to be dependent on the type of support on offer from the local authority.

Member Checklist

13. Members should look at the website of your local authority and see whether an REPF application round has opened. If an application round is open, download all available information, such guidance or a programme handbook. Use this and check to see:
 - The eligibility criteria for applications;
 - Whether there is a maximum grant limit and if there is any maximum level of public intervention – ie match funding;
 - Whether it is a one or two stage application process;
 - What types of grants are on offer and assess whether your proposed project fits the criteria;
 - If there is an Expression of Interest application, complete this and submit on time;
 - What the deadlines are as there is only likely to be one grant round in year 1.
14. We will continue to post further information on the REPF on the CLA website and through E-News.
15. Members should also contact their respective regional offices for more detailed information.

Annex 1: REPF funding allocations (per local authority)

 1. North

Local Authority	Amount of Funding	Authority Type
North of Tyne	£3,043,546	Mayoral Combined Authority
South Yorkshire	£1,434,307	Mayoral Combined Authority
Tees Valley	£624,909	Mayoral Combined Authority
West Yorkshire	£2,567,501	Mayoral Combined Authority
County Durham	£3,512,301	Unitary Authority
East Riding of Yorkshire	£1,801,827	Unitary Authority
York	£400,000	Unitary Authority
Allerdale	£1,298,210	Lower Tier Authority
Carlisle	£474,841	Lower Tier Authority
Chorley	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Copeland	£756,854	Lower Tier Authority
Eden	£1,051,689	Lower Tier Authority
Lancaster	£500,075	Lower Tier Authority
Ribble Valley	£433,680	Lower Tier Authority
South Lakeland	£1,137,962	Lower Tier Authority
West Lancashire	£441,630	Lower Tier Authority
Wyre	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
North Yorkshire	£5,417,114	Upper Tier Authority

 2. East of England

Local Authority	Amount of Funding	Authority Type
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	£3,215,148	Mayoral Combined Authority
Bedford	£552,352	Unitary Authority
Central Bedfordshire	£1,061,854	Unitary Authority
North Lincolnshire	£789,520	Unitary Authority
North Northamptonshire	£1,161,812	Unitary Authority
West Northamptonshire	£1,367,953	Unitary Authority
Babergh	£621,369	Lower Tier Authority
Bassetlaw	£714,251	Lower Tier Authority
Boston	£429,355	Lower Tier Authority
Braintree	£589,191	Lower Tier Authority
Breckland	£1,041,797	Lower Tier Authority
Broadland	£569,552	Lower Tier Authority
Chelmsford	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Colchester	£532,195	Lower Tier Authority

East Hertfordshire	£472,841	Lower Tier Authority
East Lindsey	£1,791,546	Lower Tier Authority
East Suffolk	£1,129,881	Lower Tier Authority
Epping Forest	£437,136	Lower Tier Authority
Great Yarmouth	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	£1,496,455	Lower Tier Authority
Maldon	£430,328	Lower Tier Authority
Mid Suffolk	£821,658	Lower Tier Authority
Newark and Sherwood	£891,417	Lower Tier Authority
North Kestevan	£747,556	Lower Tier Authority
North Norfolk	£1,457,851	Lower Tier Authority
Rushcliffe	£596,193	Lower Tier Authority
South Holland	£699,884	Lower Tier Authority
South Kestevan	£540,460	Lower Tier Authority
South Norfolk	£915,788	Lower Tier Authority
Tendring	£659,335	Lower Tier Authority
Uttlesford	£813,487	Lower Tier Authority
West Lindsey	£795,821	Lower Tier Authority
West Suffolk	£753,701	Lower Tier Authority

3. South East

Local Authority	Amount of Funding	Authority Type
Buckinghamshire	£1,828,695	Unitary Authority
Isle of Wight	£536,049	Unitary Authority
Medway	£400,000	Unitary Authority
West Berkshire	£597,994	Unitary Authority
Ashford	£593,508	Lower Tier Authority
Basingstoke and Deane	£439,567	Lower Tier Authority
Cherwell	£526,831	Lower Tier Authority
Chichester	£718,472	Lower Tier Authority
Dover	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
East Hampshire	£490,618	Lower Tier Authority
Folkestone and Hythe	£571,471	Lower Tier Authority
Guildford	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Horsham	£871,733	Lower Tier Authority
Maidstone	£539,728	Lower Tier Authority
New Forest	£540,115	Lower Tier Authority
Sevenoaks	£501,308	Lower Tier Authority
South Oxfordshire	£733,241	Lower Tier Authority
Swale	£502,995	Lower Tier Authority
Tandridge	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Test Valley	£514,097	Lower Tier Authority

Tonbridge and Malling	£447,450	Lower Tier Authority
Tunbridge Wells	£443,604	Lower Tier Authority
Vale of White Horse	£528,032	Lower Tier Authority
Waverley	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Wealden	£838,120	Lower Tier Authority
West Oxfordshire	£716,216	Lower Tier Authority
Winchester	£745,096	Lower Tier Authority
Rother	£603,963	Lower Tier Authority

4. South West

Local Authority	Amount of Funding	Authority Type
West of England	£827,943	Mayoral Combined Authority
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	£5,567,556	Unitary Authority
Dorset	£2,066,918	Unitary Authority
North Somerset	£442,617	Unitary Authority
Wiltshire	£2,649,324	Unitary Authority
Cotswold	£764,292	Lower Tier Authority
East Devon	£854,298	Lower Tier Authority
Forest of Dean	£614,444	Lower Tier Authority
Mid Devon	£816,672	Lower Tier Authority
North Devon	£1,091,259	Lower Tier Authority
South Hams	£843,317	Lower Tier Authority
Stroud	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Teignbridge	£650,332	Lower Tier Authority
Tewkesbury	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Torridge	£995,347	Lower Tier Authority
West Devon	£838,551	Lower Tier Authority
Somerset	£3,426,745	Upper Tier Authority

5. Midlands

Local Authority	Amount of Funding	Authority Type
Cheshire East	£827,627	Unitary Authority
Cheshire West and Chester	£992,101	Unitary Authority
Herefordshire	£1,705,669	Unitary Authority
Rutland	£400,000	Unitary Authority
Shropshire	£2,589,503	Unitary Authority
Bolsover	£427,884	Lower Tier Authority
Derbyshire Dales	£748,737	Lower Tier Authority
Harborough	£709,681	Lower Tier Authority
High Peak	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Hinckley and Bosworth	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
Lichfield	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority

Malvern Hills	£500,624	Lower Tier Authority
Melton	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
North Warwickshire	£495,639	Lower Tier Authority
North West Leicestershire	£468,090	Lower Tier Authority
South Derbyshire	£400,000	Lower Tier Authority
South Staffordshire	£489,391	Lower Tier Authority
Stafford	£487,936	Lower Tier Authority
Staffordshire Moorlands	£410,353	Lower Tier Authority
Stratford-on-Avon	£1,015,179	Lower Tier Authority
Wychavon	£819,286	Lower Tier Authority



For further information please contact:

Charles Trotman
Senior Business & Economics Adviser, Land
Use
CLA, 16 Belgrave Square
London SW1X 8PQ

Tel: 020 7235 0511
Fax: 020 7235 4696
Email: charles.trotman@cla.org.uk
www.cla.org.uk

Important Information. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action in reliance on or as a result of the material included in or omitted from this publication can be or is accepted by the author(s), the CLA or its officers or trustees or employees or any other persons. © Country Land & Business Association 2023. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, or stored in any retrieval system of any nature without prior written permission of the copyright holder except as expressly permitted by law.