



Report to: Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development
 Decision Date: 8th October 2025
 Portfolio Holder: Cllr Claire Penny
 Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director for Planning and Growth
 Lead Officer: Neil Cuttell, Business Manager Economic Growth & Visitor Economy
 Sarah Husselbee, Economic Development Programmes Manager

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open report
Report Title	UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund grant awards (2025-2026)
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on recent grant awards funded through UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).
Recommendations	<p>This report proposes that the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development notes:</p> <p>a) The list of successful grant applications recently awarded grant funding, approved by the Section 151 Officer (in accordance with the process and criteria approved at Cabinet), to be funded by UKSPF and REPF, as shown in Appendix A of this report.</p>
Alternative Options Considered	This report is for the provision of information and noting. The delivery of the grant scheme and approval of individual grants follows the process as set out and approved by Cabinet.
Reason for Recommendation	The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund provides funding towards projects that deliver the Council’s Community Plan objectives and helps accelerate community, skills and business support provision across the district. The delivery process undertaken is objective, open and transparent, avoiding any conflicts of interest, as set out as a clear requirement within the Governments Grants Functional

	Standard, demonstrating a best practice approach to managing grants.
Decision Taken	

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 18 February 2025, a report was presented to Cabinet to announce the UK Government’s 12-month extension to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme from April 2025 to March 2026, to the value of £1.34m in Newark and Sherwood. The report confirmed local uses of the UKSPF funds in 2025/2026, committing the grant to several existing projects across three themes of Communities and Place, People and Skills and Supporting Local Businesses and specifically, £100,000 for a small business grant scheme.
- 1.2 On 10 June 2025, an additional report was presented to Cabinet to present the 12-month extension to the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), until March 2026, known as the ‘top-up’ to UKSPF, for eligible rural areas. This provided a further £267,369 of capital funding for the district, in addition to the £1.34m of UKSPF previously reported, with a requirement to spend by 31st March 2026. Cabinet approved the use of additional REPF for the purpose of delivering a rural capital grant scheme, as well as the approach for managing the schemes. This included delegation to the Section 151 Officer to approve individual grant allocations, following a robust appraisal process and criteria presented to Cabinet.
- 1.3 In summary, the Cabinet approvals resulted in two grant schemes throughout 2025/2026:
 - Business Growth and Productivity Grant Scheme - valued at £100,000 for individual grants between £2,500 and £10,000.
 - Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant Scheme - valued at £267,369 for individual grants between £10,000 and £40,000.
- 1.4 Following Cabinet approval, officers finalised both sets of grant criteria, applications and appraisal documentation, in accordance with requirements and conditions of the UKSPF and REPF prospectuses. Grant related information was promoted through multiple channels and on the Newark and Sherwood District Council website as well as through briefing sessions. This included engagement with Members, and wider stakeholders to share both the funding opportunities and the evaluation and assessment process.
- 1.5 The submission window was open for both schemes between June and July 2025. The appraisal arrangements adopted reflect the [Government Grants Functional Standard](#), ensuring an open, fair and transparent process is adopted to the allocation of funding, helping to drive value for money and equal opportunities.

1.6 Following the appraisal of applications, proposed grant funding awards were approved by the Section 151 Officer, subject to due-diligence checks. The shortlist of successful UKSPF and REPF grant applications are detailed within Appendix A of this report. Officers will continue to work with the grant recipients to facilitate the delivery of selected projects by 31st March 2026 and issue grant funding agreements. A future update will evidence the success of investment, with all projects required to report on a variety of UKSPF and REPF programme outputs and outcomes over the coming months.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 This report proposes that the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Economic Development notes:

- a) The list of successful grant applications recently awarded grant funding, approved by the Section 151 Officer (in accordance with the process approved at Cabinet), to be funded by UKSPF and REPF, as shown in Appendix A of this report.

2.2 The delivery process undertaken and approved by Cabinet on 10 June 2025 has been objective, open and transparent, avoiding any conflicts of interest, as set out as a clear requirement within the Governments Grants Functional Standard, demonstrating a best practice approach to managing grants.

3.0 Implications

3.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

3.2 There are no known equality, diversity or inclusivity implications within this report, however, the guidance for UKSPF and REPF seeks to support projects that contribute towards the EDI agenda therefore the project selection and appraisal process reflected this.

3.3 A draft funding agreement has been developed with Legal and all grant awards will be subject to compliance of the agreement. Funding agreements will not be issued until due-diligence checks are complete including planning, conservation, subsidy control, finance etc.

3.4 There are no sustainability implications within this report, however, the guidance for UKSPF and REPF seeks to support projects that contribute towards the sustainability agenda therefore the project selection and appraisal process reflected this.

4.0 Financial Implications – FIN25-26/2294

- 4.1 The report to Cabinet on 18 February, committed £100,000 of the SPF revenue grant to the Small Businesses Grant Scheme. In Appendix A - Table 1 below shows the proposed commitments against this allocation of £101,344.30. The overspend of £1,344.30 is to be covered from the allocation of £54,000 - the Management and Evaluation allocation.
- 4.2 In Appendix A - Table 2 below shows the proposed commitments against the REPF Capital allocation of £267,369. The Scheme outlined in this table below shows a spend of £255,994.40. This spend can be met wholly from the REPF Capital allocation. If progressed, this will leave an uncommitted balance of £11,374.60. As approved at Cabinet, uses of this funding against the council's capital programme were approved by the Section 151 Officer to ensure best use of time sensitive grant monies.
- 4.3 External funding was fully received on 11 August, 2025 (£1,345,487 SPF and £267,369 REPF).

Background Papers and Published Documents

- REPF Prospectus [Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)
- UKSPF Prospectus [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)
- 18 February 2025 Cabinet Report; UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26
- 10 June 2025 Cabinet Report; UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Grants 2025-2026

Appendix A

Table 1. Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant Awards 2025 – 2026 (subject to due diligence checks)

Applicant	Project Summary	Award	Match Percentage	Forecasted Outputs and Outcomes
Caythorpe Cricket Club	Rural Community Grant - Purchase of equipment to improve ground management.	£23,352.00	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1000 people reached (the number of people attending events, participating in groups and using facilities as a direct result of the project intervention) • 1 community premises improved • 35,000m² green space improved
Feel Good Gardens CIC	Rural Community Grant - Community organisation growing produce and practicing social and therapeutic horticulture. Grant funding for facility upgrades and building improvements.	£12,350.00	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 1080 people reached (users and volunteers) • 2 jobs created • 3 new technologies/processes • 5 new products/services • £20,000 increased annual turnover • 1 improved commercial/community premises improved
Thorney St Helens Community Group	Rural Community Grant - Community Hub at Thorney will deliver a new community space. Funding will support installation of underfloor heating, a levelled floor and upgraded electrics and lighting.	£40,000.00	82%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 350 people reached (users and volunteers) • 1 community premises created or improved
Southwell Music Festival Charity	Rural Community Grant - Charitable company running an annual music festival since 2014. The project will support the financial sustainability of	£22,292.00	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4800 people reached (attendees of festival) • 4 new products/services • £10,000 increased annual turnover

	the festival through purchase of specialist equipment.			
Southwell Brincliffe United Hockey Club	Rural Community Grant - Funding request for improvements to facilities supporting the hockey club.	£10,838.40	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 300+ people reached (users of facility) • 20+ volunteers engaged
Farnsfield Cricket Club	Rural Community Grant - Relocation and upgraded cricket net facility: ECB-approved surfaces, perimeter cages, and shock-absorbent surfacing throughout.	£40,000.00	38%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 improved community premises • 100 increased facility users of facility • 250 additional annual visitors
Balderton Cricket Club	Rural Community Grant - Installation of specialist sports equipment to allow for all-weather pitch provision.	£11,299.00	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 people reached (users of facility) • 1 improved community premises
Norwood Park Partnership	Rural Business Grant - Glamping accommodation and visitor economy offer development with mains water connection, landscaping, fixtures and fittings and decking surround.	£23,163.00	53%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3000 people reached (new site visitors) • 1 new product/service • £30,000 increased annual turnover • 1 commercial premises improved • 1.2 new jobs created
Bilsthorpe Miners Welfare Scheme and Blidworth and Bilsthorpe Bengals Football Club	Rural Community Grant - Facilities and building improvements at the sports pavilion.	£40,000.00	20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 750 people reached (users of facility) • Increased footfall by 750 people • 100 additional people engaged (new users)
Bilsthorpe Parish Council	Funding to progress the Bilsthorpe village community hub/facility scheme through RIBA stages 4 to 6, following UKSPF investment for RIBA stages 1 to 3.	£32,700.00	34%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 job created • 1 community premises created/improved
Total		£255,994.40		

Table 2. UKSPF Business Growth and Productivity Grant Awards 2025 – 2026 (subject to due diligence checks)

Applicant	Award	Match Percentage	Forecasted Outputs and Outcomes
Transform Middlebeck Ltd	£10,000.00	80%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 jobs created • 2 new technologies • 3 new products/services • £10-15 per hour GVA uplift • 1.5 - 2 tonnes CO2e saved
The Social Action Hub	£6,575.87	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 jobs created • 2 new processes • 2 new services/products
Deadwood Ltd	£9,091.70	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 jobs created • 1 new process • 1 new product • £35,000 increased annual GVA • 110 tonnes CO2e reduction
24Three Consultants Ltd	£10,000.00	59%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 jobs created • 1 new technology
Norwood Park Partnership	£10,000.00	56%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.2 jobs created • 3 new technologies • 1 new service • 3 new processes • Up to £60,000 increased turnover • 5% reduction in CO2e.
Gudrum Classics Ltd	£9,840.00	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 - 2 jobs created • 2 new technologies
Influence Landscape Planning & Design Ltd	£9,574.20	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 jobs created

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new technologies • 1 new service
Big Dish Energy Ltd	£2,500.00	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 job created • 1 new service • £40-50k increased turnover
Yoga Squad	£10,000.00	48%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 jobs created • Up to £42,000 increase in annual turnover • 2 new services
Great British Sports Cars Ltd	£3,399.23	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 new process • 3 new products/services • Up to £50,000 increased turnover
Grid Creative Studio Ltd	£4,868.30	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 new technologies/processes • 6 new products/services • Up to £30,000 increase in annual turnover • £100 increase in GVA per hour
Zak Mobility Limited	£10,000.00	72%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 job created • 1 new technology/process • 1 new product
Noquet Building Services Ltd	£5,495.00	89%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 job created • 1 new technology/processes
Total	£101,344.30		