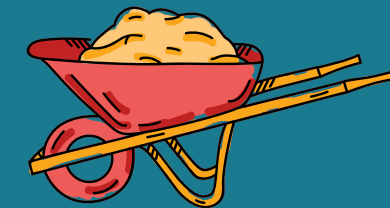
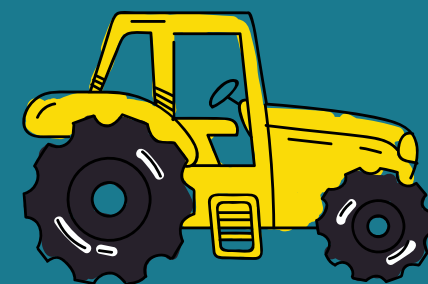


Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

Vale of White Horse District Council Scheme review



RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND

REPF MISSION

The fund set out to support new and existing rural businesses to develop new produces and facilities that would benefit the local economy. This included farm businesses looking to diversity income streams. It also provided support for new and improved community infrastructure.

STRUCTURE

Projects had to take place in a rural area, or in a market or 'hub' town, and funding could only be used on capital expenditure. The scheme opened in 3 rounds, round 1 in 2023/24, round 2 in 2024/25 and round 3 in 2025/26



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

BUDGETS AND THEMES

CAPITAL GRANTS FOR SMALL SCALE INVESTMENT IN MICRO AND SMALL ENTERPRISES

2023/24 - £91,655

2024/25 - £274,965

CAPITAL GRANTS TO GROWING THE LOCAL SOCIAL ECONOMY AND SUPPORTING INNOVATION

2023/24 - £45,828

2024/25 - £137,483

CAPITAL GRANTS FOR INVESTMENT IN CAPACITY BUILDING AND INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

2024/24 - £45,828

2024/25 - £137,483

2025/26 - £158,381

Theme 1: Healthy: Improved health and wellbeing

Theme 2: Inclusive: Bringing communities together and tackling homelessness

Theme 3: Thriving places: Development of the visitor economy

Theme 4. Support for business: Advice and support for businesses

2023/2026: REPF IN NUMBERS

32
GRANTS AWARDED

BUSINESSES SUPPORTED

24

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

7

ADDITIONAL INVESTMENT GENERATED

£433,873

GRANT FUNDING AWARDED

£624,001

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESS

REPF delivered over £543,000 of grant funding directly to micro & small businesses based in our District. This was used to fund everything from Net Zero infrastructure to rodent detection and prevention equipment.

4
FARM DIVERSIFICATION PROJECTS



10
JOBS CREATED



SUPPORT FOR HOSPITALITY

REPF supported six local hospitality businesses to improve or expand their facilities. Projects included the creation of a new pop up campsite on a local farm, a new village store at a local pub, installation of and the weather proofing of pub courtyard.

6

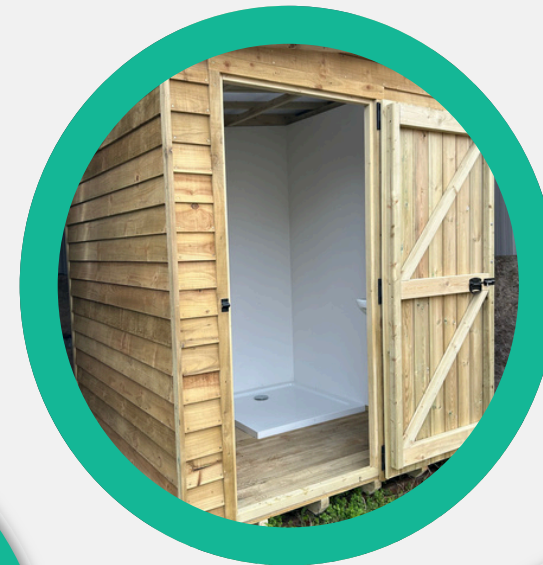
GRANTS AWARDED

17

JOBS SAFEGUARDED

4

TOURISM ASSETS SUPPORTED



DECARBONISATION PROJECTS

REPF supported decarbonisation projects ranging from installation of solar panels at local visitor economy accommodation sites, to the electrification of aging equipment at sports facilities. Without REPF grants these projects would not have been viable due to high initial outlay costs.

10

GRANTS AWARDED

38

JOBS SAFEGUARDED



LOCAL FOOD PROJECTS

REPF has supported local food enterprises by funding new bakery equipment for TAP Social Movement Ltd and solar panels to help reduce running costs for an aquaponics grower. It has also funding new equipment for Down to Earth Community Cafe in Wantage.

5
LOCAL FOOD PROJECTS

19
JOBS SAFEGUARDED



VIBRANT HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

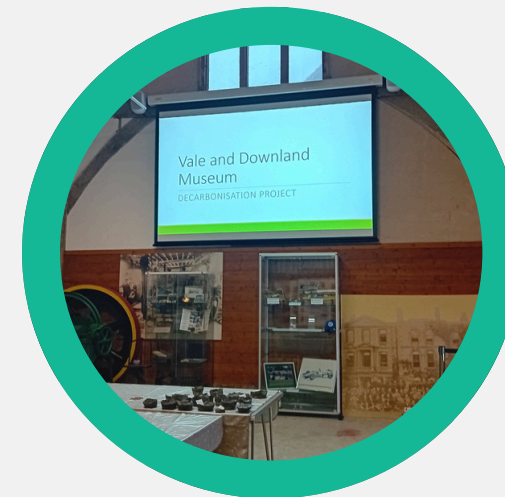
REPF has supported communities through grants that have delivered improvements to signage on local walking routes, upgrades to a Vale & Downland museum IT infrastructure and upgraded equipment for a local football club.



7
COMMUNITY PROJECTS



9
JOBS SAFEGUARDED



FULL LIST OF REPF PROJECTS SUPPORTED

2023/2024

- *Tap Social Movement Ltd, Bakery Equipment Upgrade, awarded £18,940*
- *Velocity Cycle Couriers, Enabling short food supply chains, awarded £9,983*
- *Smart Greens UK, Aquaponics conversion to solar power, awarded £16,141*
- *Faringdon Town Football Club, Net zero on electric, awarded £28,376*
- *Down to Earth Community Cafe CIC, Provision of warm space meal, awarded £1,330*

2024/2025

- *AG Dental (Equipment) Ltd, Solar PV system, awarded £12,192*
- *East Challow Parish Council, Exploring the rural seven villages between Wantage and Uffington awarded £3,116*
- *Vale and Downland Museum, Museum Decarbonisation Project, awarded £23,215*
- *B&B Rafters, Attract more visitors with EVs to the area, awarded £16,154*
- *H L Binning & Son, Wedding venue upgrade, awarded £10,000*
- *Vermtek Ltd, Investment into heat treatment, awarded £35,994*
- *Ashbrook 2009 LLP, Installation of solar panels and battery storage, awarded £27,000*
- *Bishopsland Educational Trust, Renovation of Grade II listed farm buildings to low carbon-impact teaching workshops, awarded £41,458*

- *Tap Social Movement Ltd, Install and Fit-Out for new Community & Business Meeting Hub/Cafe Extension at Proof Social Bakehouse, awarded £37,890*
- *The Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, North Dormitory Improvement Project, awarded £28,288*
- *Letcombe Cricket Club, Electrification of Ageing Equipment, awarded £5,599*
- *Faringdon Town Football Club, Upgrade of finishing mower, awarded £8,100*
- *Buscot Manor, power upgrade to mains supply, awarded £9,420*
- *Amos Hospitality Ltd, The George At Upton Village Store & Café, awarded £75,000*
- *G D Lay & Partners, Farm and Office Solar Project, awarded £60,000*

FULL LIST OF REPF PROJECTS SUPPORTED

2025/2026

- *Westbrook hotel company, Weatherproofing the Courtyard, awarded £17,527*
- *Vermtek Ltd, Rodent source detection & prevention, through drain surveying and proofing, awarded £30,000*
- *Bishopsland Educational Trust, Creative Workshop fit-out, awarded £20,154*
- *Den Boer Farming - Simon & Donna Rogers, Mill Farm Eco-Friendly Pop-Up Camp Site, awarded £8,371*
- *Vale and Downland Museum, Museum Digital Infrastructure Project, awarded £9,833*
- *Hill End Outdoor Education Centre, New Electric Utility Vehicle, awarded £18,748*
- *Sustainable Wantage, Bike generator and garden tools for Library of Things, awarded £7,854*
- *Velocity Cycle Couriers, Zero emission deliveries of chilled produce from Vale producers to Oxford kitchens, awarded £18,743*
- *National Trust Coleshill, Buscot & Coleshill Estate Walking Routes, awarded £9,757*
- *Down to Earth Community Cafe CIC, Equipment to support our wellbeing community meals, awarded £2,880*
- *Great British Revivals Ltd, Design and implementation of bespoke CRM-e-commerce website and supporting CZUR ET24 Pro scanner, awarded £8,050*
- *The Pump House Project, The Hearth: Community Fridge Shopping System Upgrade, awarded £3,888*

CONCLUSIONS

The scheme has delivered strong place-based outcomes by combining targeted capital investment with local leadership and partnership working. Across tourism, hospitality, community infrastructure, cultural venues, food systems, skills and enterprise, projects have modernised facilities, adopted new low-carbon and digital technologies, improved productivity and resilience, and increased local use and visitor footfall. The scheme has helped safeguard and create jobs, supported greener operations (including renewable energy, electrification and zero-emission logistics), and strengthened community wellbeing through improved access, inclusion and essential services. Taken together, the portfolio shows that relatively modest grants—when matched with clear need and delivery capacity—can unlock long-term social, economic and environmental value for rural communities.

WITH THANKS TO OUR ADVISORY PANEL

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