

Winchester City Councillor report June 2023

UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Fund

As part of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda, Winchester District has been awarded almost £1.75 million by to spend on local investment through both the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and The Rural England Prosperity Fund.

Both funds have been designed to align with the levelling up agenda, and the council's local objectives of:

- Tackling the Climate Emergency and Creating a Greener District
- Vibrant Local Economy
- Living Well
- Your Service, Your Voice

Two drop-in sessions to support businesses and community groups with their REPF applications will take place next week:

Micheldever - 7 June - 09:30 - 11:30 - The Warren Centre

Bishops Waltham - 7 June - 13:00 - 15:00 - Jubilee Hall - Ruby Room

The UK shared prosperity fund is £1m to be spent over three years throughout the district on projects that focus on inspiring pride in place, helping the district to become greener faster and supporting a vibrant local economy.

In addition, Winchester City Council is announcing four grant funding calls in its rural areas under the Rural England prosperity fund. There is a total of £745,000 over two years to support capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure projects.

Applications for the Rural England Prosperity Fund for Businesses and Community groups are now open and will close on 3rd July 2023.

Grants are for between £10k to £25k and cannot be subject to other grant funding and businesses have to contribute 50%.

Many of the projects discussed at the parish councils, from solar panels on the village hall with EV points to the improvement of green spaces for the community, on the face of it, fall squarely under this funding and so I wanted to bring this to everyone's attention. Also, it is important that we get this message out to local rural businesses as this could really help with capital projects and the creation of jobs.

We don't want our rural community to miss out on economic stimulus.

<https://www.winchester.gov.uk/business/uk-shared-prosperity-fund>

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