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**Expression of Interest 2025/26**

**Rural England Prosperity Fund**

Background to REPF

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) is a Government funding source, with English rural councils receiving an allocation. It has been running since the 2023/24 financial year, initially for two years but has now been extended into the 2025-26 financial year

The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs oversees the administration of the fund.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund seeks to strengthen the rural economy and rural communities, by funding capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas. The Rural Fund will support the government’s mission in rural areas to:

* kickstart economic growth
* break down barriers to opportunity
* build an NHS fit for the future

Each of the above priorities has sitting underneath it themes and sub-themes and a set of ‘interventions’ that the fund is able to support. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026>

Cotswold District Council has been awarded **£229,240 in 2025-26**. The available funding is for capital-only projects. **Please note that ordinarily we would not award grants of less than £5,000 or more than £25,000 in this round of applications. A minimum of 20% match funding is required, but your application will be strengthened if you are able to provide more.**

Project promoters are being invited to submit proposals. Please complete this (EOI) form to focus on current opportunities and challenges in Cotswold District Council and describe how your project or intervention fits within the prescribed REPF objectives, outputs and outcomes – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026>.

Please send this form to Paul James, Economic Development Lead, Cotswold District Council by email to paul.james@cotswold.gov.uk by **5pm** on **Friday 30th** **May 2025**. This information will be used to assess the project, in consultation with the Council’s REPF Assessment Panel, and determine whether it will form part of the Council’s spend in 2025-26.

By completing this EOI you are confirming that you certify to the best of your knowledge the information submitted on this form is true and correct and you have the appropriate level of authority to submit this EOI on behalf of your organisation.

**Project Contact Information**

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| Project Name (be specific not general, to avoid confusion with other similar projects or locations) |
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| Applicant Organisation |
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| Applicant Address |
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| Primary Contact (name and role in the organisation) |
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| Contact Telephone Number and Email Address |
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**Project summary**: In this section you will be required to give more details on your project outcomes and community benefits.

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| Describe your project idea clearly and succinctly, including what the investment would buy and why it would meet the aims of the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Include the potential timeframe and any significant drivers or constraints related to the scheduling of the investment. Include details of the organisation(s) that would be involved in its delivery and why public funds are needed. (Max 1250 characters) |
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**Project Status**

In this section you will be required to give details of the current status of your project and milestones.

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| How confident are you that the project will be completed before February 2026? Please provide details. |
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**Project Objectives**:

This section looks at the key objectives set out by the Government and how your project relates to both those and the key priorities of Cotswold District Council.

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| Investment theme: tick the primary theme that best fits your project |
| Communities and Place |  |
| Support for Local Business |  |

Please highlight which of the Cotswold District Council priorities your project is best related to:

Link to Cotswold District Council Corporate Plan here: <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/s9243/Annex%20A%20Corporate%20Plan.pdf>

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| Cotswold District Council priority: tick the primary theme that best fits your project |
| Supporting the economy |  |
| Responding to the climate emergency |  |
| Supporting communities |  |
| Delivering good services |  |

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| Strategic Fit (max 1000 characters) (Please expand on the local context for your project). Having identified Cotswold District Council’s priority/priorities in the above question, please expand on this and explain how your project aligns with the objectives of the Council and its partners. |
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| Partnership working and collaboration. Does your project intend to work with other places or organisations to deliver this project? If so, please provide details. |
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| Summary of benefits/outcomes that will be delivered. Expanding on your summary, provide information on the tangible benefits, measurable outputs and outcomes that would be delivered. These could address challenges or capitalise on opportunities, including those associated with solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity. List the expected outputs and outcomes and indicate the timescales. Please refer to the REPF list of outputs and outcomes – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026>. Please also include any outputs and outcomes your project will deliver which are not included in the Government’s list. (Max 1250 characters).  |
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| Evidence of need or demand (Max 1000 characters)Give details of the evidence you can reference that supports your case that there is a need or demand for this project. |
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| How will the project support Cotswold District Council Net Zero goals? Does the project contribute to wider environmental considerations such as resilience to natural hazards and the 25-year Environment Plan?See Cotswold District Council’s Climate Emergency Strategy<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/8d8eab9716634de/cdc-climate-emergency-strategy-adopted-2020_09_23.pdf>  |
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| Summary of the SPF Investment(s) requested and other sources of funding: (Estimated total cost of the project, and (if available) list the main elements of the budget. Provide details of any potential or secured source(s) of funding and the likely shortfall.) |
| Total Project Cost (please break down into main elements if possible) | £ |
| Other sources of funding either agreed or in process (please specify amounts and sources) | £ |
| Current estimated funding shortfall | £ |
| Ask of REPF (Capital) | £ |
| If we cannot offer you the full amount, what is the minimum amount that you would be able to accept in order to deliver this project in the necessary timescale? | £ |
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| Please provide a brief explanation of the project’s status, including whether any necessary approvals and consents, e.g. planning permission, landowner consent, have been obtained. (Max 700 characters) |
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| Please provide a brief explanation of the project milestones (Max 700 characters) |
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| What are the key challenges and risks associated with the successful delivery of this project?  |
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| Equalities and diversity: Does your project have any positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation? <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics> |
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REPF EOI form May 2025