

Rural England Prosperity Fund FAQs

What can I spend my grant on?

You must use funding on capital projects. This means you must spend grants on lasting assets such as a building or equipment which are expected to be used for a period of at least one year. This may include enhancements to existing assets which significantly lengthen the life of the asset, significantly increase the value of the asset, or significantly increase usefulness of the asset. It will not include minor repairs or routine maintenance.

Grants must be for business or community purposes. You cannot use grants to fund domestic property improvements or to buy private vehicles.

You cannot spend grants on revenue costs such as running costs, commissioning advice, design and project management costs for any projects, or promotional activities.

Who can apply?

Your organisation can apply if it is:

- a business, an incorporated voluntary or community organisation (this includes charitable incorporated organisations (CIO) and community interest companies (CiC), and charitable companies limited by guarantee) or a parish or town council; and
- your activities take place within the East Hampshire District

If your organisation is not incorporated, you can still complete the application form, but EHDC will not provide funding for private individuals unless they can evidence that they are sole traders and have a separate business bank account away from their personal account.

You cannot apply if your activity takes place outside of East Hampshire, or within an excluded part of East Hampshire (please see Q3 below).

The information collected in the application form is necessary to process the grant application.

The lawful basis to collect this information is that it is necessary for the performance of the potential contract (i.e. the grant award).

EHDC will keep the information on file in line with its retention schedule -

<https://www.easthants.gov.uk/privacy-policy/your-personal-information/how-long-do-we-keep-your-personal-information>.

You have a number of rights about how your data is used.

For more information go to - www.easthants.gov.uk/privacy-policy/service-privacy-notice.

Applications must be submitted by email to business@easthants.gov.uk. This is to ensure that all of the data collected and the scoring applied to each application is available in the event of queries from both the applicant or central government.

Which parts of East Hampshire are excluded? Why?

Projects must be in a rural area. Parts of Clanfield, Horndean and Longmoor have been excluded from this grant programme by DEFRA.

They have based this on the Office of National Statistics 2011 definition of 'rural' which states that rural areas are:

- towns, villages and hamlets with populations below 10,000 and the wider countryside
- market or 'hub towns' with populations of up to 30,000 that serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and in providing services
- they have also defined the excluded areas on their mapping system called [MAGIC](#).

To access, please follow these instructions:

1. Users should click on 'get started' the from the table of content.
2. Expand administrative geographies/other administrative boundaries.
3. Click in the white box next to the red square labelled "Rural England Prosperity Fund" to apply to the map.
4. You can zoom in or search by place or postcode.
5. The REPF status can be checked by clicking on the Identity button (the 5th button along the row at the top) and then clicking the area on the map.

Please contact EHDC if you have any questions or concerns about these geographic boundaries.

1. What are you aiming to deliver with these grants?

Central government has allocated these capital funds to help implement the outputs and outcomes highlighted in The Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan relevant to East Hampshire.

The capital funding will also deliver additional outcomes highlighted by central government as small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas and capital funding for rural circular economy projects.

EHDC has set its priorities as supporting capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy, and capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.

Your project should also demonstrate value for money and additionality. You should also consider how investments contribute to net zero and nature recovery objectives, and social benefits (if appropriate).

2. Can I apply for this grant fund if I already have other funding, or other applications outstanding.

You can apply for this grant fund even if you have applied to other funds from EHDC or other organisations. You just need to tell us about them to help us make a final decision.

EHDC is unable to fund projects if you already have funding for that specific project from the [Farming in Protected Landscapes Programme](#), the [Farming Investment Fund](#), or the [Platinum Jubilee Village Hall Improvement Grant Fund](#).

The grant fund also cannot be used to support projects or costs where there is a statutory duty on you to provide them.

3. Do I have to provide match funding?

Match funding is not compulsory for the grant fund, but if you are able to show that you have access to other resources it will assist your application (because it will show that EHDC is providing value for money with the grant pot available).

EHDC will use its discretionary rights to require 50% match funding from businesses applying for a business purpose/outcome, and will request 0% match funding from charitable organisations providing a community purpose/outcome.

4. You've asked me if the amount of money I've asked for will be classed as a subsidy – what does that mean?

This question is answered more fully in the guidance notes, part 19.

5. How will the applications be processed and scored?

EHDC will provide a frontline team of officers (the Rural Support Officers) who will be available to answer questions and help with completing the form. They will be hosting webinar advice and a live forum.

Once the application period has closed a separate team of officers (the Rural Project Managers) will assess all of the applications based on the scoring matrix.

Once they have assessed the applications the final decision will be made by the Rural Project Board, which will consist of senior council officers and councillor(s). The decision of the Rural Project Board is final and there is no right of appeal. We will however provide written comparative feedback on your application.

EHDC will guide organisations to apply when the second year of funding opens, if appropriate.

6. What is the timetable for Year One of the Grant Scheme?

The timetable for this grant process is:

- 11 July 2025 - launch year three grant scheme
- 27 August 2025 - close year three grant scheme
- 28 August - 19 September 2025 - first assessment and grading of applications
- 20 September - 26 September 2025 - final board approval of applications
- 30 September 2025 - announcement of outcomes of all applications to all applicants

7. Who can I talk to about my application?

EHDC Rural Support Officers are available to answer your questions during normal office working hours.

The contact details are:

Email: business@easthants.gov.uk

Telephone number: 01730 266551

Address: Economy & Regeneration Team (REPF), East Hampshire District Council,
PO Box 310, Petersfield, GU32 9HN