



West Norfolk Rural Communities Project: Expression of Interest Guidance

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is inviting expressions of interest for high quality rural capital projects to create new and improved community infrastructure providing essential community services and assets for local people in our rural areas.

Rural England Prosperity Funding (REPF) capital grants are available for between £10,000 - £50,000 to support up to 80% of eligible project costs.

Expressions of interest must be [submitted online](#) by 8am on Monday 16 June 2025.

Projects must meet the objectives of the [West Norfolk Economic Vision and Strategy](#) which will guide the 2025-26 investment of REPF across rural west Norfolk.

REPF is provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and grants are administered by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

Pre-Application Criteria

To be eligible for REPF grant funding, projects must be delivered within, and directly benefit, a designated rural area for the purposes of REPF.

Before progressing please check whether the project is in an eligible area:

- Open the DEFRA Magic Map: [Magic Map Application](#)
- On the left-hand column click on the diamond symbol at the top to open 'Map Layers'
- Tick the box to the left of 'Magic' and expand 'Administrative Geographies' on the menu.
- Tick and expand 'Other Administrative Boundaries' then select 'Rural England Prosperity Fund'
- Click the diamond symbol again to hide the menu.
- Search for the location by entering the postcode (including any spaces) within the search bar (top left of page) or manually zoom in on a location
- You will find a toolbar of icons above the map. Select the 'i' identify icon and click on the location of your project on the map. A pop-up box will appear notifying you if the area is considered rural for the purposes of REPF.
- Please contact us at westnorfolkspf@west-norfolk.gov.uk if you have any questions on the above.

Investment to benefit our rural communities...

Capital projects are being sought that reflect one or more of the following investment areas:

Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
 Impactful volunteering and social action projects to develop social and human capital.
 Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.
 Rural circular economy projects.
 Creation of and improvements to local rural green spaces.
 Active travel enhancements in the local area.
 The development and promotion of the visitor economy.
 Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
 Existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local heritage offer.

What is a 'Capital project'?

REPF funding is Capital and can only be invested into lasting assets such as buildings or equipment with a minimum usable lifespan of 12 months. Please carefully consider whether the project requires capital investment to enable it to proceed. Costs which include core routine overheads, staff costs or stock purchases are classed as revenue and are not eligible for REPF grant funding.



Project Outputs and Outcomes

Projects must be clearly able to directly deliver REPF defined outputs and outcomes. These should be carefully considered regarding probability of achievement and ability to evidence these. Possible outputs and outcomes are listed below and definitions can be viewed on www.gov.uk: [Rural England Prosperity Fund: output and outcome indicators list for 2025 to 2026](#).

Successful projects must be able to achieve one or more of the following outputs

- **Create or improve green or blue space**
- **Create or improve amenities**
- **Create or improve cycleways or footpaths**
- **Create or improve tourism, culture or heritage assets**
- **Deliver local events or activities**

Thereby contributing to one or more of the following outcomes

- **Increased use of cycleways or footpaths**
- **Increased users of facilities or amenities**
- **Increased visitor numbers**
- **Improved engagement numbers**
- **Community led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes**
- **Creation of volunteering opportunities**

Project Timescales

Grant awards are for the 2025/26 financial year only and projects must be delivered and completed by 31/03/2026. No funding will be awarded for, or paid against, activity after 31/03/2026 under any circumstances.

Grant Funding Available

Organisations can apply for capital grants between £10,000 and £50,000. The maximum grant intervention available is for 80% of eligible project costs. The remaining project budget must be financed by match funding which must be confirmed before grant award. Revenue match funding is acceptable. Forecasted project costs should be based upon a reputable provider. The minimum amount of grant funding required should be indicated. The grant will not fund statutory duties or be invested if alternative financing means are available.

Who Can Apply

Local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, voluntary organisations, registered charities, arms-length bodies of government, social enterprises where they engage in economic activity, organisations representing a specific sector and constituted community organisations located, and operating with legal UK status, within the REPF west Norfolk boundary (see pre application criteria p.1.).

We cannot support projects that have received funding from other Defra funding schemes.

Note: A separate West Norfolk Rural Business Capital Grant Scheme is available for businesses.

Eligibility

Eligible projects must:

- Be located within a rural area for the purposes of REPF: see page 1 'Pre-application criteria'.
- Create new and improved community infrastructure.
- Provide a clear project plan.
- Meet local need and the investment priorities of the [West Norfolk Economic Vision and Strategy](#)



- Deliver one or more output/s and outcome/s defined by [Rural England Prosperity Fund: output and outcome indicators list for 2025 to 2026](#).
- Demonstrate value for public money and financial need.
- Be non-statutory provision.
- Not duplicate existing local provision.
- Provide a minimum of 20% match funding against eligible project costs.
- Be ready to proceed with all relevant permissions in place.
- Be fully deliverable by 31/03/2026.
- Priority will be given to businesses who have not received grants previously through west Norfolk Prosperity Funding (REPF and UKSPF).

What cannot be funded

Please note this list is not exhaustive and eligibility of costs will be subject to Borough Council review.

- Costs incurred before the date of the Grant Offer Letter.
- Revenue costs including running costs, staff costs, stock purchases or promotional activity.
- Costs that are not directly needed to deliver the proposed work.
- The direct replacement or maintenance of infrastructure, items and consumables.
- VAT, unless this cannot be recovered.
- Projects which have already received funding from alternative Defra schemes.
- Fossil fuel powered plant, equipment and vehicles.
- Assets to be used for hire or reward.
- Investments to meet legal or statutory obligations/requirements.
- Those that benefit a private individual such as enhancement of personal premises or assets or vehicles which may also be used privately.
- Private enterprises.
- Political organisations.
- Project costs receiving duplicate funding from other sources.
- Capital purchases which will not have a usable minimum life of 12 months.
- Services that will displace existing provision.
- Sponsored or fundraising events.
- Spend on items which contradict the priorities of the West Norfolk Economic Vision and Strategy
- Contingencies.
- Project activity after 31/03/2026.

The next stage

Completed and submitted Expression of Interest forms will be reviewed and scored by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. Consideration will be given to how project proposals meet the objectives of REPF and the West Norfolk Economic Vision and Strategy, whether they will clearly fill a gap in local provision to benefit the local area, if they are deliverable, well planned and demonstrate value for public investment.

Submissions which are successful at this stage will be invited to a second application stage where additional project details will be requested. Both stages must be completed to enable consideration for REPF grant funding award.

Projects which are unsuccessful at the Expression of Interest stage will receive feedback via email.

Help with your Expression of Interest submission

If you are unsure about what information to include in this form, please contact us via westnorfolksp@west-norfolk.gov.uk as early as possible to ensure that we can provide timely assistance. Responses to enquiries may take up to one week.

The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk is under no obligation to accept an Expression of Interest or to progress project proposals to the second application stage. The Borough council will refer to the Local Authority Capital Finance Framework to ensure that all REPF investment contributes to capital costs. UK Government [Guidance for General Grants](#) and [Managing Public Money](#) will be adhered to in the awarding, administering and monitoring of funding.