

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

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meeting date: TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2024  
title: RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND (REPF)- TWISTON  
DEFIBRILLATOR  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
principal author: HASSAN DITTA

## 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update Committee on an Expression of Interest received into the Rural England Prosperity Fund grant scheme and to seek approval for funding.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities:
- Residents, their health and wellbeing
    - Working with Town and Parish Council we will bring together our villages and town so that everyone can achieve their full potential
    - Maximise opportunities for residents to be physically and mentally active
  - Valuing our Place and our Environment
    - Provide and support the installation of low carbon energy
  - Building a strong economy
    - Encourage economic development

## 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 3 September 2022 the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) was launched. This fund is complementary to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and is a top-up to the UKSPF available to eligible local authorities in England.
- 2.2 The Council successfully submitted an addendum to the UKSPF investment plan which has resulted in the award of £433,680 capital funding which is to be invested in rural capital projects with £75,000 available year 1 of the funding (2023/24) and a further £358,680 available in year 2 (the current financial year 2024/25.)
- 2.3 The following interventions were approved at Policy & Finance Committee on 8 November 2022 which formed the basis for the addendum and steered the proposed spend for REPF;

### **“SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES PRIORITY**

***Funding (capital grants) for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation. This includes:***

- *community businesses*
- *cooperatives and social enterprises*
- *research and development sites*

*This intervention corresponds to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) intervention E26.*

***Funding (capital grants) for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as:***

- *local attractions*
- *trails*
- *tourism products more generally”*

This intervention corresponds to the UKSPF intervention E17.

**“COMMUNITY AND PLACE PRIORITY**

***Funding (capital grants) for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities. This intervention corresponds to the UKSPF intervention E15.***

***Funding (capital grants) for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. This intervention corresponds to the UKSPF intervention E11.***

***Funding (capital grants) for creation of and improvements to local rural green spaces. This intervention corresponds to the UKSPF intervention E3.***

***Funding (capital grants) for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer. This intervention corresponds to the UKSPF intervention E4.”***

- 2.4 At Policy and Finance Committee on 10 September 2024, all the REPF funding was allocated to schemes across the Borough will fall into one of the interventions above.

### **3 EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**

- 3.1 In October 2023 the Ward Councillor contacted the Council’s Economic Development Officer to enquire whether the provision of a defibrillator in Twiston could be considered under REPF funding. Initially it was considered such a project may be suitable and the Councillor was advised to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI).
- 3.2 Later in 2023 it was identified that as Twiston does not have a Parish Council completing the EOI was difficult. As Twiston is in the Parish of Downham it was suggested that Downham PC submit the EOI on behalf of the community of Twiston.
- 3.3 The EOI was not received until August 2024 and on consideration of the proposals it was not possible to support the scheme via REPF funding as it was not considered that the project fell within any of the identified interventions. Additionally, as advised at Committee in September, the volume of full eligible applications into the REPF fund exceeds the available funding by in excess of £200,000.
- 3.4 The residents group keen to install a defibrillator on Twiston Lane were directed to the Voluntary Organisations grants as an alternative source of possible funding however there is no properly constituted organisation within Twiston to apply into this fund.
- 3.5 The provision of a defibrillator on Twiston Lane is considered to be a worthwhile project particularly as the next nearest facility is a 5-minute drive away in Downham and Committee approval is sought to approve the £1500 required to deliver this one-off facility on Twiston Lane from another Council funding stream.

## **4 RISK ASSESSMENT**

4.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources – The amount requested of £1,500 could be financed from the remaining balance on the current year's Voluntary Organisation Grant budget.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – N/A
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – N/A
- Equality and Diversity – work in relation to this report supports the Council's aim in delivering a sustainable local economy to the benefit of all its community.

## **5 RECOMMEND THAT COMMITTEE**

5.1 Approve the grant request of £1500 to enable the delivery of a defibrillator on Twiston Lane.

NICOLA HOPKINS  
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

BACKGROUND PAPERS