

Appendix A – Eligibility and parameters of the REPF programme

Item/Topic	Recommendation
Areas covered by the programme	<p>Areas have been defined as rural areas and exclude High Wycombe, Aylesbury, Chesham, Amersham, Beaconsfield and some of the surrounding villages that are classified as built-up areas and densely populated.. As of 30th Jan 23 Defra released new guidance on areas that can be covered, which can be found using Magic Maps.</p> <p>Magic Map Application (defra.gov.uk)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Select Administrative geographies - Other Administrative Boundaries - Rural England Prosperity Fund <p>Geography will then be shown on the interactive map</p>
Unable to support projects that have received DEFRA funding from other schemes	Ensure that applicants applying are not applying for funds towards a project already DEFRA funded to avoid duplication and double funding.
Size of grants available	We recommend that the programme offers grants of £2,500-£300,000
% of grant intervention offered	We recommend that a grant rate of 40% is offered
Minimal Financial Assistance – Subsidy Control	Grants are limited to £300,000 under the Subsidy Control regime allocation of £315,000, this support cannot be exceeded over a 3 year rolling period
Business size	The fund can only support micro to small enterprises as set out by DEFRA, definitions for which can be found here from the .Gov website
Grant application deadlines	<p>We recommend that the grant application is kept as an open application process, but with published dates of when applications will be considered.</p> <p>A funding panel could meet every 6-8 weeks.</p> <p>Consider time period for assessment and leave flexible</p>
Expressions of interest	To help filter out applications, we recommend that an expression of interest be completed.

Deadline for full applications	We recommend that a deadline is given to applicants when they are invited to complete a full application from expression of interest stage.
2 applications – small and large grants	We recommend 2 types of grant applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - small grants – less than £25,000 - large grants - £25,000-£300,000
Application process	We recommend that an application process similar to the legacy LEADER programme be implemented.
Funding panel	<p>Officers will undertake a thorough review of applications and write up an assessment of what is received.</p> <p>These assessments will be presented to the funding panel and a summary document produced highlighting the impact of the project and whether a project should receive funding.</p> <p>The funding panel will comprise of 5 people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Cabinet Members • 2 x Rural business representatives • Local Enterprise Partnership <p>The panel's recommendations are then passed to a Service Director, S151 Officer and Cabinet Member for decision and sign-off according to the financial scheme of delegation.</p>
Guidance and support	We recommend that support is available to applicants when applying for a grant.
Framework for assessing applications	We recommend that a framework is developed to allow a consistent approach to assessing grant applications. This will need to reflect the detail of the outputs, outcomes and impacts needed from the programme and also look at any additionality.
Final date for grant approvals	We recommend that the Council publicises the final date for applications are December 2024.
Retention of Grant funded assets	Businesses will be expected to retain items funded by the grant for up to 7 years. This will be written into any grant agreements issued to businesses.