



**LEVELLING
UP**



Bucks Rural Business Grant

Buckinghamshire Council

Rural Forum update



Buckinghamshire Rural Business Grants- Background

The Bucks Rural Business Grant (BRBG) is a capital grants programme for rural businesses funded through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) by DEFRA.

Buckinghamshire Council has been allocated £1.8million of this funding which is set to be delivered over two years (2023/24 and 2024/25)

2023-24 : £457,174

2024-25 : £1,371,521

The capital grants funding is for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.

The required outcomes of this grant are:

- Number of new business created
- Numbers of new business experiencing growth
- Number of jobs created

Parameters of programme

- The Council will run the process as a rolling call for projects, specific dates will be published when applications are considered by a funding panel
- Anticipated grant amounts offered will range from £2,500-£300,000
- Grants will initially be offered at a 40% rate with businesses needing to match fund the remaining 60%.
- Projects being supported through REPF cannot have received funding through another DEFRA scheme and the Council will need to ensure that projects are not being double funded.
- Applicants will need to inform the Council whether they are in receipt of any state aid within the last 3 rolling years, to ensure they are not over the limit.

Types of projects that can be funded

The fund is for rural businesses with typical projects including



Tourism projects



Foresters



Farm diversification

Our funding process

Applicants will need to complete an Expression of Interest outlining details of their business, what they want the grant for and how much they are applying for.



This EOI will then be assessed and if eligible, applicants will be sent a Full Application.



Eligible applicants will be invited to complete a full application.

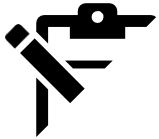


Applicants will be supported through the process and guidance notes will be provided



Applications will be assessed on impact of outputs and outcomes and value for money

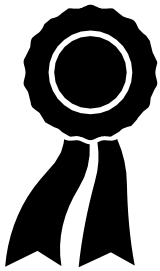
Programme Update



61 Applications have submitted an expression of interest



49 Applicants have been invited to complete a full application. We recently carried out our first panel meeting



3 grants have been awarded totalling **£219,540**

7 full time jobs and 6 part time jobs will be created in Buckinghamshire as a result of these grants being awarded

£1,609,155 remains available.

Currently assessing wave 2 applications