

## Devon Place Board notes 11.4.24

At the end of last week, Government announced the allocation of REPF for 2025-26, which is £1,826,589 capital for the DTCCA (excluding Exeter and Torbay and awaiting clarification from DEFRA as to whether these areas could be included). This does not include any funding for management/administration.

TDC provisional allocation is £195,067 capital.

Some guidance has been provided on priorities for the funding (see link below). DTCCA keen to work collaboratively.

### In summary:

[Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus updates for 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

[REPF Output and Outcome Indicator Lists 2025-2026.xlsx](#)

In 2025-2026 Rural Fund provides capital funding to:

- support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy — this includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams but does not support farming/agricultural activity.
- support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy

**Notwithstanding any district views in relation to use of this funding, one approach could be to replicate a capital grant scheme across the rural area of Mid Devon, East Devon, Teignbridge, South Hams, West Devon, Torridge, and North Devon. (Please note - This is the default position)**

The capital grant scheme could offer grants between £5,000 and £49,999 (tbc) to:

- support micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- rural circular economy projects
- boosting rural tourism
- providing rural services (support new and improved community infrastructure)
- providing cultural and heritage activity

### Initial feedback

- Some concerns raised about a pooled grant scheme and districts receiving their allocation.
- Some have own ideas, including capital projects and extending previous grant scheme e.g. decarbonisation, community resilience grants etc.
- If the allocation is ringfenced to the district, potential for pooled grant scheme.
- Concerns re administering grant scheme without funding.
- Opportunity for larger value strategic projects e.g. Teign Estuary Trail but councillors might be interested in smaller scale schemes.
- Any opportunity to streamline the grant scheme.

### Timescales

- UKSPF and REPF investment plan has to be submitted at the same time. Deadline DCC working towards 30.4.25
- Feedback from districts by 18.4.25

NB Financial Instructions up to £200k Exec approval.

Investment Plan cannot be submitted until UKSPF and REPF agreed, timescale by end of April 25.

Options	Pros	Cons	Comments
<p><b>1. Devon Grant Scheme</b> The capital grant scheme could offer grants between £5,000 and £49,999 (tbc) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support micro and small businesses and farm diversification</li> <li>• rural circular economy projects</li> <li>• boosting rural tourism</li> <li>• providing rural services (support new and improved community infrastructure)</li> <li>• providing cultural and heritage activity</li> </ul> <p>Support in its entirety or partial outputs from those listed, ringfenced to TDC applicants.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working</li> <li>• Less/no resource for TDC</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of control</li> <li>• Loss of involvement</li> <li>• Loss of ownership</li> <li>• Potential lack of communication and input re grant recipients</li> <li>• DTCCA/DCC advise monies could/would be ringfenced for district, but they have requested if Exeter and Torbay could receive funding, this does not meet with REPF scheme parameters due to population size</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of the impact of district relinquishing input and control as we move towards DTCCA</li> <li>• Teignbridge's previous grading was 3 (the lowest grade) and Torbay graded the highest grade of 1 due to overall deprivation levels, therefore Teignbridge potentially at a disadvantage for other funding schemes.</li> <li>• We could request specific outputs only e.g. to support Agric-Tech UKSPF allocation, we could ask for farm diversification, cultural and heritage, infrastructure etc to be prioritised</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. TDC Grant Scheme</b> £30k - £50k competitive grant scheme which must fit within the Communities and Place theme (c. 5-6 schemes) based on outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green &amp; blue spaces created/improved</li> <li>• Amenities &amp; facilities created/improved</li> <li>• Footpaths/cycle path created/improved</li> <li>• Tourism, cultural or heritage asset created/improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TDC Ensure local spend where most need</li> <li>• TDC Councillors more included in the process</li> <li>• Applications scored against matrix based on guidance, deliverability, planning permission in place, match funding etc.</li> <li>• A key impactful schemes could be funded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TDC resource required</li> <li>• No admin allocation</li> <li>• Competitive application process could cause issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole of district or any restrictions (previously Newton Abbot, Teignmouth, Dawlish and Kingsteignton excluded).</li> </ul>

<b>3. Hybrid Devon/TDC Grant Scheme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partnership working.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No guarantee that the district would receive its full allocation.</li> <li>• Less control over the funding award/spend priorities.</li> </ul>	
<b>4. Do nothing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No associated administration costs will be incurred.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions will be made without district input.</li> <li>• May not receive the full district allocation.</li> </ul>	