Rural England Prosperity Fund:

Interventions, Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes for North Somerset

This document describes the Defra interventions applicable to businesses, with their objectives and outcomes (table 1) then similarly for community organisations (table 2). It then gives the outcomes/outputs that projects must achieve, firstly for business projects (table 3) then for community organisations (table 4).

Table 1. Interventions applicable to businesses

Investment priority	Intervention	Example projects	Objectives	Indicative outcomes
Supporting rural business	Funding (capital grants) for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas. Including capital funding for net zero infrastructure for rural businesses, and diversification of farm businesses outside of agriculture to encourage start up,	Creation and expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses. For example: • Creating event venues or farm tourism facilities such as accommodation, wedding venues and leisure facilities • Provision of facilities for pet and equines such as kennels, livery and pet health venues Purchase of equipment for food processing for non-farmer-owned businesses. For example:	Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion. Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to: • undertake innovation	Jobs created. Jobs safeguarded. Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes Number of businesses with improved productivity

	expansion or scale up of these businesses where this involves converting farm buildings into other commercial or business uses.	• Purchasing new process and packaging machinery such as brewing equipment and onsite vending machines • Equipping development kitchens, or modernising existing kitchen equipment for increased energy efficiency or increased productivity through automation (Support for farmer owned businesses is available under the Farming Investment Fund (FIF)). Funding for resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.	• adopt productivity enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques	Number of businesses experiencing growth
Supporting rural business	Funding (capital grants) for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation. This includes:	Creation of multifunctional rural business hubs providing shared workspace and networking opportunities for rural businesses. For example: • Flexible access to commercial kitchens • Co-working spaces	Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion. From capital grant support for visible improvements to local retail to hospitality and leisure sector facilities.	Jobs created Jobs safeguarded Number of businesses adopting new to the firm

			Enhancing rural visitor economy and rural leisure opportunities.	technologies or processes
	• Community businesses • Cooperatives and social enterprises • Research and development sites This intervention corresponds to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) intervention E26.	• Business infrastructure such as broadband and electric vehicle (EV) charging points • Equipment to support the showcasing of local food and drink products such as regional information display boards		Number of businesses with improved productivity Number of businesses increasing their export capability

Table 2. Interventions applicable to community groups/organisations

Investment priority	Intervention	Example projects	Objectives	Indicative outcomes
Supporting rural communities	Funding (capital grants) for **rural circular economy projects.**	Capital grants to enable setting up or enhancement of rural community-led repair cafes or mend workshops. This includes: • Provision of premises • Tools or equipment to support	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes: • Community infrastructure • Local green space • Community-led projects	Improved engagement numbers Improved perception of local facilities or amenities Number of community-led programmes as a result of support
Supporting rural communities	Funding (capital grants) for investment and support for **digital infrastructure** for local community facilities. This intervention corresponds to the UKSPF intervention E15.	Capital grants for provision of gigabit capable digital infrastructure at rural hubs for community use, for example: • Village halls • Pubs • Post offices (Projects must align with the government's Project Gigabit programme).	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes: • Community infrastructure • Local green space	Number of facilities supported, created or installed (output) Jobs safeguarded Increased users of facilities or amenities

				• Community led projects	Improved perception of facilities or amenities
Supporting rural communities	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.	Capital grants for provision of net zero infrastructure for rural communities and to support rural tourism activity, for example: • EV charging points • Community energy schemes such as scaled up biomass, heat pumps or solar Capital grants for kitchens in community hubs which are capable of supporting food and drink entrepreneurs to get accreditation for food production. Funding for resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes: • Community infrastructure • Local green space • Community led projects		Improved perception of facilities or amenities Increased users of facilities or amenities

Table 3. Business Outcome definitions: your project must achieve at least one of these

Outcome	Definition
Jobs safeguarded (measured by number of FTEs)	A safeguarded job is a permanent and paid job that was at risk prior to support being provided, and which the support helped the business to retain. This includes sole traders and business owners. Safeguarded jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g., construction). This includes both part-time and full-time jobs, which should be recorded relative to full-time equivalent (FTE). - FTE should be based on the standard full-time hours of the employer. - At risk is defined as being forecast to be lost within 6 months. - Only count each individual FTE or job once through the lifetime of a project (i.e. it should not be counted every year) - FTE is a measure of an employee's scheduled hours in relation to an employer's hours for a full time workweek
Jobs created (measured by number of FTEs)	The number of new, permanent, paid, full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created following support. This includes both part-time and full-time jobs, which should be recorded relative to full-time equivalent (FTE). FTE should be based on the standard full-time hours of the employer. - New means it should not have existed with that employer before the intervention. - Created jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g. construction). - Permanent means it should have an intended life expectancy of at least 12 months from the point at which it is created. - Only count each individual FTE or job once through the lifetime of a project (i.e. it should not be counted every year) - FTE is a measure of an employee's scheduled hours in relation to an employer's hours for a full time workweek

Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	The number of enterprises introducing a new to the firm technology or process (through external sources e.g., procurement). - Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity. - A technology or process is new to the firm if it did not use a technology or process with the same functionality before, or the production technology or process is fundamentally different from those already used. This may be tangible or intangible. - If an enterprise introduces multiple new technologies or processes, it is still counted as one enterprise.
Number of businesses with improved productivity	Number of enterprises with improved productivity. - Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity. - Productivity refers to the gross value added per hour worked or gross value added per worker.
Number of businesses experiencing growth	The number of businesses reporting that they have experienced growth as a result of the funding received. - 'Growth' can cover different areas, depending on the business' priorities e.g. increased turnover, higher employment, the opening of new facilities etc. - The business must be able to evidence the growth, with a baseline at the start of the project that can be compared with a final figure - It is expected that a business will be able to measure growth within 1 year of the project's beginning
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	The number of enterprises engaged in new or enhanced export-readiness activity, including but not limited to production of an export strategy for the firm, undertaking research into overseas markets or actively preparing a product or service for export. - New means activity that was not undertaken prior to the UKSPF support. Enhanced means additional activity to deepen or widen activity already underway. - Appropriate evidence may include a declaration from the enterprise owner or senior leader that they have undertaken export-readiness activity as a result of UKSPF support.

Table 4. Community Outcome/Output definitions: your project must achieve at least one of these

Outcome/Output	Definition
Number of facilities supported/created/ installed (Output)	The number of new amenities/facilities created or improved. - Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, sports facilities, hospitals and public toilets. - Created means the amenity/facility did not previously exist. - 'Improved' means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating better public space. It does not include routine maintenance of existing facilities. Monitoring of this output will require details of what support/creation or improvement of amenities/facilities was undertaken and the date works were complete. Evidence will be requested.
Improved perception of facilities/amenities (number of people, measured as reporting good or very good before/after)	The number of individuals who report their perception of facilities/amenities as good or very good. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the user could experience it previously (i.e. the perception of facilities/amenities existed previously and isn't new). Measurement should directly relate to the perception change through the UKSPF project (e.g., the facilities/amenities impacted). Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals and public toilets. Reporting will also facilitate the option to report a decrease metric. If you believe your project will result in "improved perception of facilities/amenities" then you will need to measure this change in perception, from those who used your facility before and after the funding took place. We suggest that you use a quick a questionnaire or feedback form with a simple 5-point scale perception question (very poor, poor, acceptable, good, or very good). Ask the same users before the project commences and after to measure this change in perception.

Increased users of facilities/amenities (measured by the number of users before and after the changes)	The increase in number of users of facilities/amenities. Users are the people using facilities/amenities. Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals and public toilets. Reporting will also facilitate the option to report a decrease metric. If you believe your project will result in "increased users of facilities/amenities" then, in order to measure this increase, you will need to capture a 'before' figure (baseline) to compare to an 'after' figure. This should be consistent – for example, you could measure the number of people entering and making use of your building for a month before the changes, then measure the number of people for a month after the changes. If your user numbers change seasonally, you could measure the number of users during a specific month after the changes and compare it to figures from the same month in a previous year.
Improved engagement numbers (measured by the number of people)	The increase in number of individuals engaged in the local area / activity during the last 12 months. Engagement can include physical and digital engagements (eg online workshops). What is classed as the 'local area' where events are recorded should remain consistent throughout the collection e.g. should not include/ exclude events in neighbouring locations which were excluded/included in previous returns. Reporting will also facilitate the option to report a decrease metric. Engagement is involvement with the project or its activities (for example a series of workshops or events). This is measured by how many people were engaged by the project/activity, measured before receipt of this funding and during/after. If this is a new project, the 'before' figure for engagement will be zero.
	The number of community-led programmes either set up, continued, or expanded as a result of the funding received - A 'programme' is a series of projects, training, events or activities led by and involving members of the community. It can be in-person and/or online.

Number of community-led programmes as a result of support	- 'Set-up' means the programme is newly created as a result of the funding and did not exist before - 'Continued' means an existing programme which was at-risk of ending without funding - 'Expanded' means an existing programme which is able to grow (e.g. involve more people or occupy new facilities) as a result of the funding
Jobs safeguarded (measured by number of FTEs)	A safeguarded job is a permanent and paid job that was at risk prior to support being provided, and which the support helped the organisation to retain. Safeguarded jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g. construction). This includes both part-time and full-time jobs, which should be recorded relative to full-time equivalent (FTE). - FTE should be based on the standard full-time hours of the employer. - At risk is defined as being forecast to be lost within 6 months. - Only count each individual FTE or job once through the lifetime of a project (i.e. it should not be counted every year) - FTE is a measure of an employee's scheduled hours in relation to an employer's hours for a full time workweek