

## **BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of the Executive on 14 April 2025**

### **Report on Rural Economic Prosperity Fund**

### **Report of the Portfolio Holder for Growth**

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Karen Hanson, Chief Executive

## **PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT**

This report seeks the agreement of Executive to accept Rural Economic Prosperity Funding (REPF) totalling £128,333 from the East Midlands Combined County Authority and to agree the associated investment plan.

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## **REPORT DETAILS**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Government's prospectus for UK SPF 2025/26 issued in January 2025 stated that EMCCA would be lead authority for UKSPF and would receive the region's allocation of funding for 2025/26.
- 1.2 The EMCCA Board meeting in February 2025 confirmed that delivery of some of the funding received by EMCCA would be delegated to the non-constituent Councils i.e. Districts and Boroughs (i.e. a mixed model was agreed). This was for the UKSPF allocation, as set out in the 'UKSPF Report.'
- 1.3 UKSPF for the period 2022-2025 included for a separate grant fund of Rural Economic Prosperity Funding (REPF). The Government confirmed a further allocation for a 1-year period on 28 March 2025, with Bolsover District Council receiving a grant award of £128,333, with delivery commencing from 1 April 2025 through to 31 March 2026.
- 1.4 On 2 April 2025, EMCCA confirmed the allocation, and that it would be allocating the funding direct to the seven district councils (4 in Derbyshire and 3 in Nottinghamshire) to spend on local interventions. The investment plan proposals were to be completed and submitted to EMCCA by the close of play on 11 April 2025 to meet the deadlines of being able to submit a return to Government on both UKSPF and REPF.

- 1.5 As with the UKSPF timescales, it has been necessary to agree an investment plan at pace because of the date of this decision by EMCCA to allocate funding to the Council in relation to the time allowed to submit an investment plan to draw down the funding and commence activities as early as practicable in 2025/26 and complete those activities by no later than 31 March 2026.

## **2 Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 REPF aims to support the delivery of capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure in rural areas, to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities.
- 2.2 The following table set out the details of the investment plan that has been submitted to EMCCA and the proposed delivery partners. It sets out a brief description of the activities that will be funded by the Council's allocation of REPF for the financial year 2025/26 and delivered from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Glapwell Cricket Club Pavilion Building (Glapwell Colliery Cricket Club)	Installation of a disabled ramp and access improvements to the pavilion building, including new accessible toilet.	£35,000
Pinxton Community Hub (Dragonfly Management (Bolsover) Limited)	To produce RIBA Stage 2 drawings for the construction of a replacement community centre, to provide improved and accessible accommodation for community groups.	£53,333
The Anchor public house, Clowne (Clowne Parish Council)	To produce RIBA Stage 0-2 drawings and associated business plan for the construction of a community centre in a former public house building.	£40,000

## **3 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 Accepting the funding is in the best interests of the District and by doing so, the Council will receive the funding and support local rural communities.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 No alternative options were considered reasonable due to the urgency to provide clarity on the investment plan to allow the Council to draw down its allocation of REPF for 2025/26. It can deliver a range of activities that meet the eligibility criteria within the timelines and those activities will stimulate social and economic regeneration for the District.

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## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. To accept the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) totalling £128,333 from the East Midlands Combined County Authority.

2. To endorse the associated investment plan as set out in the report.

Approved by Councillor Tom Munro, Portfolio Holder for Growth

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

<b><u>Finance and Risk</u></b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Details:</b> There are no financial implications, due to the expenditure being covered by external grants  On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<b><u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u></b> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Details:</b> An extensive grant funding agreement has been issued from EMCCA to the local authority, which will be signed to confirm the funding.  Contracts and/or Service Level Agreements will be required between the Council and delivery partners, setting out the funding, forecast outputs and outcomes and additional conditions, where required.  On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		
<b><u>Staffing</u></b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Details:</b>  There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report  On behalf of the Head of Paid Service		
<b><u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u></b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<b>Details:</b>  There are no equality, diversity or consultation implications arising directly from this report.		
<b><u>Environment</u></b> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment. <b>Details:</b>  There are no environment implications arising directly from this report.		

## **DECISION INFORMATION:**

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Please indicate which threshold applies:</b></p> <p><b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p><b>Revenue (a)</b> Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or <b>(b)</b> Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.</p> <p><b>Capital (a)</b> Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or <b>(b)</b> Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.</p> <p><b>District Wards Significantly Affected:</b> <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i> Please state below which wards are affected or tick <b>All</b> if all wards are affected:</p>	<p><b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>(a)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>(b)</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>(a)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>(b)</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>All</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p> <p>If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i></p> <p><b>Consultation carried out:</b> <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i></p> <p><b>Leader</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   <b>Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>Members</b> <input type="checkbox"/>   <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/>    <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p>

### **Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing**

The projects commissioned align to the Council's ambitions, particularly those relating to the economy and environment.

**DOCUMENT INFORMATION:**

Appendix No	Title

**Background Papers**

***(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive, you must provide copies of the background papers).***

None