**York Rural England Prosperity Fund
Community Buildings Fund Guidance for Applicants**

City of York Council is pleased to announce a funding opportunity designed to support community buildings in rural areas of York.
Funded via the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), there is a total of £150,000 capital available to support projects under this theme.

***The fund opens on 1st August 2024 and the closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 6th September 2024. Applications received after this will not be considered.***

**What should your project be about?**

We are seeking to fund capital improvements that support decarbonisation and digital connectivity to community buildings in the rural areas of York, as well as making general improvements and refurbishments.

**The kind of activities we would like to support include:**

* Improving energy efficiency and insulation
* Installing new equipment which will reduce energy usage
* Upgrading or installing broadband and Wi-Fi
* Upgrading or installing hearing loops and similar digital infrastructure
* We are also happy to support general repairs, improvements and refurbishment alongside work to decarbonise or improve digital facilities

**Who is eligible to apply?**

To apply, you must either own or be responsible for running a community building in an area of York designated as rural. You can check whether your building is eligible on this map: [DEFRA Magic Map York REPF area](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx?&startTopic=GreyRasters&chosenLayers=ruralPIndex,baseIndex&box=434002:441499:484193:466158&useDefaultbackgroundMapping=false)

By ”community building” we mean any building which is available generally for use by local organisations and residents for activities which benefit the local community. This includes village halls, church halls, sports clubs and similar venues.

**When can the activities happen?**

Anything we fund must be completed and monies spent by 31st March 2025.

**How do I apply?**

Please complete the attached application form. You can apply for more than one project, but each will need a separate application form.
Please email communitysupport@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk for support and to submit your application.

**How much grant is available?**

We are providing grants at three levels. We expect to provide at least ten grants of up to £5,000, five grants of between £5000 and £10,000 and a maximum of three grants of between £10,000 and £15,000.

Where there are multiple applications from the same village or community, we encourage joint applications and will provide a maximum of £25,000 per village/community.

**Is there any help available to develop my proposal?**

Community First Yorkshire, the North, South and West Yorkshire network member of ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England), will work with applicants to develop their ideas into successful applications. This is best done before submission, and we encourage you to contact the community support team if you want to apply. We may contact you after submission to work with you to strengthen your application prior to a final decision being made.
Email communitysupport@communityfirstyorkshire.org.uk or call 01904 704177

**How will my application be scored?**

Successful proposals will share our vision of improving the sustainability and connectivity of York’s rural community buildings.
Applications will be assessed by a panel who will award points for:

* value for money – maximum 25 points
	+ does the project represent good use of public funds?
	+ is the budget realistic?
* deliverability – maximum 25 points
	+ can the activities be completed within the available timescale?
	+ can the organisation demonstrate the ability to undertake the proposed project on time and to budget?
* impact – maximum 25 points
	+ will the project make a tangible difference to the community building?
* strategic fit - 25 points
	+ how does the project contribute to the themes of decarbonisation and improving digital connectivity?

Successful proposals must score a minimum of 70 points out of 100. For more information, see the [Project Assurance Framework](https://modgov.york.gov.uk/documents/s173066/YorkUKSPFAssuranceFrameworkNov2023.pdf) which is published online.

All decisions made by the panel will be final.

**Publicity**

Applicants should be aware that we may want to publicise their projects. We can do this, for example, by using case studies to understand how your work has helped or benefitted the local area.

**Privacy**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund in York is governed by its own Privacy Notice which can be viewed [at this link](https://www.york.gov.uk/privacy/UKSPF).