



**UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Update  
Sittingbourne Area Committee  
February 2025**

The current UKSPF programme runs from April 2022 to March 2025, and the REPF programme commenced in April 2023 and concludes in March 2025. The programme is split into 3 priorities, and a further priority for REPF. The projects in the programme are listed below with the latest update:

Community and Place

- Town Centre Radio Scheme – completed. Linking town businesses with CCTV in Sheerness, Faversham, Sittingbourne and Leysdown.
- Town Centre Action Plans/Grants – ongoing. Open competition for grants of up to £10,000, for community focused projects. In Sittingbourne, projects which received funding include:
  - Remembrance Event 2023 (Historical Research Group of Sittingbourne); floral displays in Milton High Street (Milton Regis Society); Sittingbourne Carnival 2024; Swale Media Arts Centre exhibition; paper making workshops in the Forum Shopping Centre (AMTeC Heritage Science CIC); The Sick Dolls, Toys and Books Clinic (Sittingbourne Heritage Museum)
  - Lift at the Avenue Theatre to improve accessibility; refurbishment of public toilet at Swale Community and Voluntary Services (CVS), new CCTV in Milton Regis, and Swale Wassail high street event organised by AMTeC Heritage Science CIC.
- Faversham Town Centre Capital Project – ongoing. Wayfinding investment for the town.
- Sittingbourne Town Centre Capital Project – ongoing. The restoration of and creation of a public space at Periwinkle Mill.
- Isle of Sheppey Capital Project – ongoing. Trinity Gardens improvements and feasibility work for the Old Library.
- Sheerness Levelling up Fund support – ongoing. Work at Beachfields as part of Sheerness Revival Project.
- Community Infrastructure Grants for community facilities (also funded through the REPF) – ongoing. Small capital grants scheme to support community facilities with carbon reduction measures and digital connectivity. In Sittingbourne, funded projects include:
  - Community Hub “Space in the Park” at Milton Creek Country Park; amenity enhancements at Murston Old Church (Murston All Saints Trust); paving and accessibility improvements at Sittingbourne and Kemsley Light Railway.
  - Contribution towards the refurbishment of Heather House Community Centre (applications from SATEDA, Swale Community Care Project, Age UK Kent Rivers); and creation of a new sanctuary space at New Leaf Support.



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- Capacity building the CVS in Swale – ongoing. Working with local civil society organisations to improve capacity and efficiency through improved collaboration.
  - TS Hazard feasibility work – ongoing. Study to explore feasibility of community operation of building

#### Support for business

- Community business support – Pilot to introduce specialist support for the development of community run businesses in Great Easthall, Sittingbourne.
- Market feasibility work – Feasibility work to look at the markets in the Borough and how they can be developed for the future.
- Visit Swale photo/video – ongoing. Revenue investment in creating marketing materials to support the visitor economy.
- LUF Capital Support (Sheerness) – ongoing. Contribution to Sheerness Revival project – match funding for development of workshops at Masters House.

#### People & Skills

- Programme providing employment and skills support, digital inclusion and engaging local employers in upskilling existing staff.
- Capital Investment in an adult learning space in Swale House.

#### REPF

- Rural Swale Small Business Grant – ongoing. Grants to support micro and small businesses to invest in capital projects and grants for the development and promotion of the visitor economy.

The government recently announced a further allocation of £554,150 UKSPF funding for the 2025/26 financial year. The Economy and Regeneration Committee will consider the future programme on the 20 March 2025.