

How we support responsible businesses

The Economic Development Team

Economic Responsibility

- Creating local jobs
- Supporting local procurement
- Supporting local businesses

Social Responsibility

- Promoting inclusivity
- Encouraging fair wages
- Encouraging CSR and community wellbeing
- Upskilling workforce

What is a responsible business?

Good Business Practice

- Good governance
- Transparent practices
 - Compliant

Environmental Responsibility

- Encourage reduction of footprint
- Improving waste management
 - Encouraging sustainable development & ways of working

What we've done so far...

Economic Responsibility

- Partnership with growth hub
 - Promotion of district
- Supporting planning apps

Social Responsibility

- UKSPF & REPF projects
 - Skills engagement
- Support to Social Enterprises
- Improved digital connectivity via the county-wide Fastershire programme

Environmental Responsibility

- County wide decarbonisation policies in development
- Support via funding (UKSPF & REPF)
- Green audits & support via the Growth Hub
- Sustainable initiatives and marketing

Good Business Practice

- Supporting community hubs to upskill staff
- Tender opportunities available to businesses with required policies
- Support via growth hub to understand needs for growing businesses

UK Shared Prosperity Funding

Stroud was awarding £1,378,985 for the years 2022-25

17 Grants have been awarded

Split of grants:

Business organisations: 8

Community organisations: 9

Rural England Prosperity Fund

Stroud was awarding £400,000 for the years 2023-25

The district has awarded 51 capital grants during this time.

Split of grants:

Community organisations: 28

Businesses: 13

How were projects awarded funding?

Assessment of applications included:

- Is the project delivered by a formed business, community organisation or local education / government body?
- Does it have strategic fit with SDC corporate priorities
 - Alignment with county wide and national policies
 - Is there evidence for project need?
- Can the project be completed in required time scale?
- Does it meet the objectives of the funding parameters?
 - Does the project support net zero ambitions?

What are we doing next?

- Reviewing and refreshing the Economic Development Strategy
 - Reviewing The Natural Place
 - UKSPF 25/26 funding
 - REPF 25/26 funding
- Updated Council Plan priorities

Thank you & any questions

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