

Vale REPF 2024/25 - officer evaluation report.

Scoring summary

Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation.

Ref no.	Organisation	Scheme	Total Project Cost	Amount Requested	Suggested score
VREPF2\100065	Tap Social Movement Ltd.	Mezzanine Install and Fit-Out for new Community and Business Meeting Hub / Cafe Extension at Proof Social Bakehouse	£50,520	£37,890	7
			Total Requested	£37,890	
			Total Budget	£103,085	
			Budget Remaining	£65,195	

Scoring and award matrix for REPF Grant applications

Suggested Scores	Scores: The scoring thresholds which identify what priority level the project falls into can be amended, depending on the number of applications received and potential allocation of funds to ensure maximum community benefit. As agreed by the Cabinet Member.
7 - 12	Project is recommended for funding
0 - 6	Project is not recommended for funding

Projects MUST score at least one point in the Project outputs/outcomes section in order to be recommended for funding.

Need for project.

Points		
0	No evidence of need for project has been provided	
1	Limited evidence for need for project has been provided	A small scale survey of employees or service users has been carried out.
2	Good evidence of need for project has been provided	A larger scale survey has been carried out asking the wider community
3	Detailed evidence of need for project has been provided	A full business plan or formal community consultation have been provided.
+ 1	If no other projects like this are located locally	Is there a similar facility or business within a reasonable distance or not. For example, EV charging points, will the project provide the only charging point in a village, or are there already several public charging points available in the village.

Climate Action

Points		
-1	The project will negatively impact on the council's climate agenda,	The project will have a detrimental effect on the local environment without any mitigation in place, this could be via destruction of green space and wildlife habitat, increase in greenhouse gas emissions, installation of non-energy efficient equipment, or purchase of new diesel or petrol vehicles etc.
0	The project has not considered its impact on the environment, or not provided any information in this area.	No evidence of environmental impact of the project has been provided in the application form.
1	The project will have some positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Small scale improvements such as replacing some lightbulbs with energy efficient ones, installing bike racks, implementing an energy smart meter
2	The project will have a positive impact on the council's climate agenda	Installation of EV charging points, renewable energy systems, creation of green spaces for nature, creation of new cycle paths or active travel routes.
+ 1	The organisation applying has a sustainability/climate action forward plan or strategy in place	Evidence of a climate action policy has been provided

Social Action

Points		
0	The project has no wider community benefits	The project only benefits the immediate applicants, such as a private business e.g. installation of equipment to cut costs for the business
1	The project has limited wider community benefits	The project will benefit a small number of groups or individuals, less than 50 people
2	The project has several wider community benefits	The project will benefit a large number of community groups or more than 50 people

Projects MUST score at least one point in one of the following sections.

Projects outputs/outcomes

Applications applying for **Capital grants for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase productivity by over 10% and safeguard 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs safeguarded will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of new to the firm technology or process	number of firms with improved productivity
0	0 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 0 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 0% increase in productivity
1	1-5 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 1 new to firm technology or processes	Expected 1%-5% increase in productivity
2	6-10 jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 2 new to firm technologies or processes	Expected in 6%-10% increase in productivity
3	10+ jobs safe-guarded	Adoption of 3 or more new to firm technologies or processes	Expected over 10% increase in productivity

Applications applying for **Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation areas** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will create a new business and create 3 jobs it will score 3 points. The jobs created will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Jobs created	Number of new businesses created
1	1-5 jobs created	
2	6-10 jobs created	
3	10+ jobs created	New business created

Applications applying for **Capital grants for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups** will be assessed against the following outputs/outcomes. Please note, projects will be scored against their highest achieving output i.e. if a project will increase user numbers by over 50% and increase perceptions of facilities by 20% it will score 3 points. The increase in perceptions will be brought to the grant panels attention but not scored.

Points	Expected improved perceptions of facilities or amenities	Increase users of facilities or amenities
1	1-25% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	1-25% expected increase in user numbers
2	26-50% expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	26-50% expected increase in user numbers
3	50%+ expected increase in perception of facilities or amenities	50% + expected increase in user numbers

Tap Social Movement Ltd.	Ref	VREPF2\100065
Project Name: Mezzanine Install and Fit-Out for new Community and Business Meeting Hub / Cafe Extension at Proof Social Bakehouse		
<p>Project Description: Proof Social Bakehouse currently welcomes hundreds of unique visitors to its space every week. Many of our customers are local residents, the majority travelling on foot or by bicycle, and vary from working professionals to new mothers and families, students, elderly neighbours, and everyone in between. We host an inclusive, all abilities run club every Thursday, and events in the space include a book signing, supper clubs, student and business away days, filming projects, and more. We are regularly approached by local businesses, schools, and members of our community enquiring about using our venue for meetings, workshops, meetup groups, etc., however we often have to turn them away due to a lack of space and an inability to accommodate them.</p> <p>The bakery was generously supported by the first round of the REPF grant programme in order to allow us to upgrade the manufacturing equipment in order to keep up with demand for the baked goods produced on site in order to service new wholesale customers as well as the on-site cafe, thereby safeguarding and creating jobs and serving the community. In the short time since the last award, Proof's success has been further recognised by our inclusion in the 'Britain's Best Bakeries' publication and being named by the Daily Telegraph as one of the best 13 bakeries in the UK. However, the bakery cafe currently offers indoor seating for only 25 people. The bakery itself takes up a substantial portion of the building, and the only opportunity for additional seating is a mezzanine. With the continued support of the REPF, we would like to invest further in the success of Proof as a community asset, in order to treble seating capacity, creating a dedicated business and community hub for flexible working and business and leisure meetings.</p>		
Application Theme: • Capital grants for growing the local social economy and supporting innovation.		
Location of Project: Proof Social Bakehouse. Unit 68, Sandford Lane Ind. Estate, Kennington, Oxford, OX1 5		
Number of Staff: 50 (36 FTE)		
Project Start Date: 07 October 2024		Project End Date: 31 January 2025

Total project cost	£50,520
Organisation's contribution	£0
Other secured funding	£12,630
REPF Grant Requested	£37,890
Organisation's latest bank balance	£140,900.03

Scoring

<p>Need for Project No direct evidence of need for project has been provided such as a surveys or community consultations. However, the application states there are no other facilities in the immediate area, allowing them to score 1 point.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>1/4</p>
<p>Action on Climate Emergency The project will have some positive impact on the councils climate agenda by providing local facilites for working from home residents, and will encourage residents in the area to 'buy local' and socialise locally. The are able to score an additional point as they have provided a copy of their sustainability plan</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>2/3</p>
<p>Social Action 50 or more people will benefit from the project, from staff to local residents, and current customers who number over 500</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>2/2</p>
<p>Project Outputs 6-10 jobs will be created by the expansion of the café facilities. Jobs would be both full and part time and include hospitality and baking roles. TAP Social have an inclusive employment background and employ staff from disadvantaged backgrounds including ex-offenders, local people with poor mental health or learning disabilities.</p>	<p>Score</p>	<p>2/3</p>
<p>DEDUCTIONS, CONCERNS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS This project fits with the following council objectives – Food action working group action plan.</p>	<p>Total score</p>	<p>7/12</p>

Applicant responses

Need for Project

How do you know there is a need for your project?

Proof is located directly between Kennington, Radley, and Sandford-on-Thames, in a highly residential area with over 7000 residents. Despite the growing population and increase in housing (such as the Redrow Lawns new builds directly behind Proof, the Radley Reach, and the Church Farm property developments), there are very few amenities for local residents. There are only three small village halls available for private hire in the area, and just one pop up cafe (open two days/week only). The options for no or low cost hire are very limited, as is the provision of freshly baked goods and locally roasted coffee.

We are regularly contacted by members of our community wishing to hire our space or book an area for events, meetings, local meet-ups, and more. By installing a mezzanine space, Proof would treble current capacity and would be able to offer free meeting and workspace for our community.

Further, the extra capacity would require more team members to service customers, creating additional employment opportunities for people in prison, prison leavers, and locals.

Is there a facility or business providing a comparable service or product nearby?

Social Action

How many people in the wider community will the project benefit?

The project will benefit more than 50 people

Who will benefit from your project and how?

As with round 1 - beneficiaries can be broken down into tiers, from those who most deeply and clearly benefit on the top tier to those who get more passing or occasional benefit on the lower tiers. On the top tier of beneficiaries we have our team of around 14 dedicated staff whose jobs will be safeguarded by the project and 5-10 new hospitality staff members who we would be able to employ as a result of the expansion which will treble the size of the hospitality space, including those team members who join us through our prison leavers employment programme (either on day release from custody or immediately following release). On the next tier down we have our very regular customers, who number at least 500 and are vocal in their support of the business and their desire to see a larger on-site cafe and meeting space, and an alleviation of the current crowding and queues which are the result of our popularity combined with our current tiny seating and accommodation area. The other beneficiaries would fall into a larger category of other existing and future customers of the business, in particular local residents in need of meeting and flexible working space. We give an estimated figure for this group of 3500 or so, this would be assuming under half of the expanded population of Kennington and Radley following the completion of all current housing developments, making some occasional use of the amenity, bearing in mind we also have over 4000 unique social media followers and this doesn't take into account the large number of individuals and community groups (cycling, rambling and running clubs etc.) who take advantage of our proximity to the Thames path and Sandford Lock to visit us from Oxford and further afield.

Action on Climate Emergency

The project is expected to make an impact on the following -

Decrease energy use, Decrease use of vehicles with a combustion engine, Reduce air pollution (outdoors), Increase use of active travel, Reduce or prevent waste

Looking at your answers above, please describe how your project will help to achieve these actions.

See attached summary of environmental impacts of car / motorised road travel for commuting and leisure. A shortage of facilities close to where people live which are suitable for flexible working and socialising / meeting space for business and community leisure groups exacerbates these climate impacts by giving residents of the Vale of White Horse little option but to travel longer distances, generally by car, to work and socialise. This is why the current Vale corporate plan identifies the need to "Review the use of community buildings maximise usage ... ensure communities have spaces in which to come together. Places with sustainable transport, utilities, and social infrastructure. Places with access to the natural environment for the sake of our health and wellbeing as well as the planet." The provision of flexible working and meeting space close to people's homes and with good public transport links / active transport options reduces use of cars, energy use from transport and air pollution caused by road transport options and it also reduces and prevents waste associated with commuting and working regularly away from home (see attached).

Whilst home working arrangements have become much more common following the pandemic, it is increasingly recognised that lone home working, particularly for residents in rural areas, can have negative welfare and mental health impacts if not combined with opportunities for regular human connection, and opportunities for home working are unequally distributed depending on resident's access to suitable home working environments (e.g. quiet dedicated home-working spaces away from family / house-mates, secure internet connection etc.) Practically speaking many jobs also require face to face meetings both internally for teams and externally between employees and outside business contacts. (sales leads, clients, partner businesses, professional advisers etc.)

Many of the kinds of community hub spaces which would traditionally have been used to host formal or informal business and social meetings or which could have been adapted to provide shared flexible working space for residents close to their home are under pressure or are disappearing, such as rural pubs (80 pub closures in the UK per month in 2024, majority being redeveloped for private housing) and village and church halls (many of those which remain face financial pressure e.g. from soaring energy costs for heating and lighting etc.)

The Kennington and Radley area has over 7000 residents with the population growing rapidly due to new housing developments (such as the Redrow Lawns new builds directly behind Proof, the Radley Reach, and the Church Farm property developments) however there are very few amenities for local residents. There are only three small village halls available for private hire in the area, and just one pop up cafe open 2 days a week and 2 pubs operated by national chains (Hungry Horse and Greene King) neither of which advertise any business or community use or hire and both of which play live sport with volume in public areas and so do not provide a suitable option for most flexible working or community meeting use.

Project outcomes

Micro & small business outputs

10+ jobs safe-guarded

Social Economy outputs

6-10 jobs created, New business created

Civil society outcomes

In fewer than 300 words, please explain how your project will meet the above outcomes.

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The bakery was generously supported by the first round of the REPF grant programme in order to allow us to upgrade the manufacturing equipment in order to keep up with demand for the baked goods produced on site in order to service new wholesale customers as well as the on-site cafe, thereby safeguarding and creating jobs and serving the community. In the short time since the last award, Proof's success has been further recognised by our inclusion in the 'Britain's Best Bakeries' publication and being named by the Daily Telegraph as one of the best 13 bakeries in the UK. However, the bakery cafe currently offers indoor seating for only 25 people. The bakery itself takes up a substantial portion of the building, and the only opportunity for additional seating is a mezzanine. With the continued support of the REPF, we would like to invest further in the success of Proof as a community asset, in order to treble seating capacity, creating a dedicated business and community hub for flexible working and business and leisure meetings.