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1. Funding to assist rural businesses and communities
The Prince's Countryside Fund will re-open for applications on the 30 April 2018. Organisations and charities that are supporting farmers, rural businesses and communities can apply for grants of up to £50,000. Funding is available for both capital and revenue costs and must meet at least one of the following key rural issues:

- To improve the prospects of viability for family farm businesses
- To sustain rural communities and drive economic vibrancy
- To support aid delivery in emergency and building resilience.

Additional funding is available outside of this period for community projects aimed at reducing isolation in deprived rural areas through the Rural Four project funded by Players of People's Postcode Lottery

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2. Countryside Stewardship Scheme opens for applications

DEFRA has announced a new, simplified Countryside Stewardship Scheme that aims to help more farmers and land managers protect wildlife and enhance the environment. The programme consists of four simpler, quicker to apply for offers:

- Arable
- Lowland grazing
- Mixed farming
- Upland

These will complement the current Higher Tier and Mid-Tier offers. Each offer has a set of options, requirements, payment rates and specific wildlife benefits

The scheme is non-competitive and will give annual payments for 5 years. All landowners who make a valid application for any of the four new packages will be guaranteed funding through the scheme and more farmers and land managers, including those new to Countryside Stewardship or those coming out of previous agreements will be able to apply

Farmers and land managers have until 31 May 2018 to create a paper application pack; those intending to apply online this year will be able to create an Online Arable Offer application pack from 20 February. The deadline for all applications is 31 July 2018

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3. Grants to help early stage Charities and Social Enterprises grow

The Fore Trust has announced that its next round of funding will open for applications on the 3 April 2018. The Fore Trust is the only open-access funder offering development funding and strategic support to help early-stage charities and social enterprises to grow and expand

The Fore will fund any registered charity, social enterprise or community interest company that is small (annual income less than £100,000) and charitable

To apply for grants of up to £30,000, organisations must register at the start of each funding round. As numbers for each round are capped and applicants are selected on a first-come, first-served basis, early registration is recommended. On successful registration, applicants are sent further details of the application process. The closing date for applications will be the 30 April 2018

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4. Funding available to celebrate Armed Forces day

Individuals and local groups that would like to hold an event to celebrate Armed Forces Day Saturday 30 June 2018 can apply for funding from the Ministry of Defence. The event can be anywhere in the UK and the funding can be used for celebrations such as (but not limited to):

- A picnic in the park
- Themed BBQ
- Knees up in your living room
- Street party or fête

Applicants should try to hold their event on or in the weeks around Armed Forces Day. The amount of funding the MoD will provide must cover 50% or less of the total costs of running the event. Event organisers should in the first instance register their event on the Armed Forces Day website and apply before Monday 30 April 2018

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5. The Friends Provident Foundation

The next deadline for applications to the Friends Provident Foundation - Building Resilient Economies programme is the 8 May 2018. The programme aims to build a more resilient, fairer and sustainable economic system. Organisations who want to help transform financial systems into 'engines for social benefit' can apply for grants through the Foundation. Grants in the past have been up to £200,000 to cover capital or revenue funding, core costs or project costs. Activities funded will fit closely with the aims of the Foundation and deliver one of three key outcomes

- Systems Change
- Local Economic Resilience.

Under 'Systems Change' the Foundation will be looking to support projects that develop and demonstrate methods that will effectively change policy and corporate behaviours in pursuit of wider social objectives. Under 'Local economic resilience' the Foundation is looking to support projects that share learning about effective ways for communities to create more sustainable economic systems and retain more of the value generated. This might include creating community assets or new approaches to local finance

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6. Funding for community centres and village halls

The Trusthouse Charitable Foundation is offering Community Centres in deprived urban communities and Village Halls in remote and economically deprived rural areas the opportunity to apply for capital grants of between £10,000 and £45,000. Grants can be used to fund:

- New buildings
- Upgrading, renovating or extending buildings
- Improving or creating outside space (but not car parks).

All applicants must have secured 50% of the total cost of the work and have local community fundraising underway. Grants will be made to projects centred on 'community centres' in the broad sense, this may include a church, sports facility or other building which offers a range of activities throughout the week which all the community can access. It is expected that the completed venue will provide a range of activities for all ages and abilities which help to promote community cohesion and address local problems of isolation, poverty, lack of local facilities, transport and other issues of relevance to the area in which the centre is located. The Foundation is particularly interested in innovative schemes to bring back disused buildings into full community use i.e. as community hubs, shops and activity venues. Traditional Village Halls are also supported. Applications can be submitted at any time and should show that, in urban areas, the venue is in the most deprived 20% of the latest government Indices of Multiple Deprivation or, in rural areas, in the most deprived 50% of the Indices

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7. Support for children with challenging lives

The Youth Hostel Associations Challenging Lives Support Programme aims to reach those children and young people who are or have recently experienced life threatening medical or mental health conditions, bereavement or homelessness. The programme also offers support to those living with a disability or life threatening medical conditions or who take on a caring role. The two day breaks offer must make a significant difference to a group of children/ young people between the ages of 8 and 18 who meet the following criteria:

- Have a disability or life limiting or threatening condition (please refer to our disability guidance)
- Have experienced homelessness or are living in temporary accommodation
- Have witnessed or experienced domestic violence
- Have witnessed or experienced drug and alcohol abuse
- Have experienced bereavement (either the loss of a parent or sibling)
- Be young carers
- Have a sibling who is a disabled child or a child who has a life limiting or threatening condition
- Live in an area of deprivation (a guidance map is available on the website)

Schools, registered charities, community and voluntary working with children and young people are all eligible to apply

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8. Funding to raise standards in the private sector rented housing market

The next application deadline for applications to the Tenancy Deposit Scheme (TDS) Charitable Foundation is 5pm on Thursday 14 June 2018. The TDS Charitable Foundation aims to improve private rented housing standards. Through its grants programme, the Foundation is looking to support bids which promote knowledge of landlord's obligations or tenant's rights and responsibilities. Charitable organisations including housing associations and community interest companies (CIC's) can apply to one of three funding streams:

- A national funding stream for larger projects with national impact (c £50,000 per project)
- An innovation fund to enable those riskier projects to be funded (c £25,000 per project)
- A community stream for local projects (c £10,000 per project)

The applications will be considered by the Trustees in Late June 2018

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9. Grants to encourage people to play sport

Formally constituted not for profit organisations and statutory bodies including sports clubs, voluntary organisations, local authorities, schools or governing bodies of sport are eligible to apply for grants of between £300 and £10,000 to cover capital and revenue costs for projects that help more people regardless of age, background or ability, to play more sport or to be more active more often. The focus of the Grants Programme is on adults and young people aged 14 or over. Projects working with mixed age groups may be considered if there is a particular focus on people aged 14 plus. The maximum project size is £50,000 and applications can be submitted at any time

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10. Grants to support the armed forces community

The next application deadline for Stage 1 applications to the Royal British Legion's external grants scheme is the 27 April 2018. Grants of up to £50,000 are available to any not-for-profit or non-statutory organisation running, or planning, charitable activities in support of the Armed Forces community. Priority will be given to projects or services supporting the following outcome themes:

- Employment and training
- Family support
- Homelessness and outreach
- Supporting the elderly.

Organisations successful at Stage 1 of the application process will be invited to submit a Stage 2 application. The deadline for Stage 2 applications is the 2 July 2018

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11. Grants to support children's health

The next deadline to apply to the DM Thomas Foundation Central Grants Programme is 8 May 2018. Grants of up to £30,000 are available to registered charities for projects that improve education and health for young people in three key areas:

- Children and young people with disabilities
- Children and young people who are sick in hospital
- Children and young people who are life limited (requiring palliative care)

The Foundation is a small charity and generally will not make awards of over £30,000 (per year). Funding can be requested for one-off projects or for up to 2 years work. Applications from schools and hospitals are welcomed if they are made through an appropriate registered charity. Grant applications for up to £5,000 can be approved by the Director, up to £10,000 can be approved by the Grants Committee, and applications for more than £10,000 are recommended to the Trustees for final approval

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12. Idlewild Trust

The Idlewild Trust has announced that the next closing date for applications to its grant making programme is the 6 September 2018. The Idlewild Trust is a grant making trust that supports charities concerned with improving opportunities for young professionals working in the arts, particularly at an early stage in their careers; and supporting the conservation of important works of art and objects that are being lost through the lack of funds to look after these works. The Trust awards around £120,000 each year in grants and makes individual grants of up to £5,000

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13. Ernest Cook Trust grants programme

Schools and not for profit organisations wishing to encourage young people's interest in the countryside; and literacy, numeracy and science can apply for funding to the Ernest Cook Trust. The Trust operates two grant making programmes:

- The small grants programme (under £4,000)
- The large grants programme (grants between £4,000 and £12,000).

The small grants programme deals mainly with requests for support from state schools and small charitable organisations and trustees meet every two months to consider applications. Applications to the small grants programme can be submitted at any time. Applications to the large programme must be submitted by the 31 July 2018 to be considered at the Trustees Autumn meeting. At the Autumn meeting, projects covering environment and countryside, and literacy and STEM subjects are considered

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14. The Radcliffe Trust music grants

The Radcliffe Trust has announced that the next deadline for applications to its Music making grants programme is the 31 August 2018. Through its music grant making programme, the Radcliffe Trust supports classical music performance and training especially chamber music, composition and music education. Youth interests within music education are music for children and adults with special needs, part orchestras and projects at secondary and higher levels, including academic research. Applicants must be a registered charity or an exempt charity

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15. Funding to raise the attainment of disadvantaged school students

The Shine Trust which funds projects that help disadvantaged young people to realise their academic potential, has announced that the Let Teachers SHINE competition has re-opened for applications. The competition aims to find the country's best teachers and some fresh, imaginative and practical ways to raise attainment among disadvantaged students in literacy, numeracy and/or science. Funding of up to £15,000 will be available for 10 winning ideas that help disadvantaged children and teenagers to recognise and then realise their academic potential.

The competition is free to enter and open to any teacher working in England with students aged up to 18. Successful ideas might involve after-school programmes or innovative use of technology; etc. The competition will close on the 17 April 2018

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16. £100,000 opportunity for start-up food businesses

This competitive call invites ambitious start-up businesses to apply to take part in The Seed Fund's Seed Academy. The Academy is a series of summer school events that will take place throughout the country over the course of the summer season. The events are aimed at ambitious small producers and businesses with ideas for new food brands and involve a series of workshops, mentoring sessions and talks covering a wide spectrum of disciplines. Seed Academy attendees are provided with mentoring and invaluable insights into all areas such as raising investment, design and marketing, distribution, social media, marketing, food photography, pricing and finance. The competition is open to small producers who have been awarded a great taste award in the previous year as well as start-ups that have been trading for less than four years.

Up to 12 businesses will be selected to participate with one overall winner chosen to receive £100,000 worth of brand development and on-going expert advice to help launch their brand. The deadline for applications is 30 April 2018

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17. Funding for remote rural communities

Communities that are not connected to the Mains Gas Grid can apply for grants of up to £5,000 through the Calor Rural Community Fund. Projects that could apply for funding could be anything from redecorating community centres or village halls; to new equipment for youth clubs, sports teams or scout groups; etc. Projects will be subject to a popular vote. Projects that receive the most votes on Calor Rural Community Fund website will be shortlisted then reviewed by a panel of judges, who will select the winning projects for funding. In 2018 Calor is offering three levels of funding to suit projects of different sizes:

- Up to £1,000
- Up to £2,500
- Up to £5,000

The 20 projects in the £1,000 category and the 10 projects in both the £2,500 and £5,000 with the most votes will go through to the finals. The closing date for applications is the 30 April 2018

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18. Schools invited to enter the Shell Bright Ideas Challenge

Secondary school students, aged 11-14 have the opportunity to enter the Shell Bright Ideas Challenge. Now in its third year, the challenge invites young people to use their creativity, problem solving, teamwork and STEM skills to devise innovative solutions that could power cities of the future. "What will cities look like in 2050? How will they be powered to be vibrant, healthy and clean places to live?". Cash prizes of £750-£5,000 are available to boost their schools' STEM offering. 1 addition there are:

- Cash vouchers for students
- Prototype workshops for students to see their ideas really come to life.

A funded VIP experience at Make the Future Live in London, where the finalists' prototypes will be on display and put to a public vote to pick the 2018 champion. The deadline for submitting entries to the challenge is 5pm on the 27 April 2018

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19. New support programme for Social Enterprises

Unltd's new social accelerator programme, Thrive, offers a combination of bespoke business support from a dedicated Venture Manager and potential to access finance through Unltd and/or their partners. Designed to give social ventures the chance to grow their business and deliver greater social impact, up to 20 ventures that are improving access to employment for those distant from the labour market will be supported in 2018. Eligible applicants must be:

- Based on the UK
- Focused on employment or employability
- Have a trading and social impact track record.

Interested businesses are invited to contact the Thrive Team to discuss their application impact applying

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20. Free football kit and equipment for primary schools

Teachers who are teaching pupils aged 5-11 years old in primary schools have the opportunity to apply for free resources through the Premier League Primary Stars programme being run in partnership with Nike and delivered by the Football Foundation. This national curriculum-linked education initiative provides resources and ideas for teachers to inspire girls and boys in the classroom and playground and on the sports field encouraging them to learn, engage and be active.

Designed to be used for active classroom sessions and PE lessons, the Premier League Primary Stars Kit and Equipment programme provides teachers with either a Nike football kit or a range of equipment that can be used across the curriculum to get children active including footballs, floor mats and giant dice. Teachers must first register on PLPrimaryStars.com with only schools that did not receive a Premier League Primary Stars Kit or Equipment pack in 2017 eligible to apply at this time. Parents or carers who would like their child's school to be involved can also register an interest in the programme and the school will then be contacted and encouraged to apply. The closing date is Friday 6 April 2018. Successful schools will have kit and equipment delivered in the autumn term 2018

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21. Music grants for older people

The registered charity, Concertina which makes grants of up to £250 to charitable bodies which provide musical entertainment and related activities for the elderly has announced that the next deadline for applications is the 30 April 2018. The charity is particular keen to support smaller organisations which might otherwise find it difficult to gain funding. Concertina has made grants to a wide range of charitable organisations nationwide in England and Wales. These include funds to many care homes for the elderly to provide musical entertainment for their residents

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22. Funding to support the economic regeneration of coastal communities

The Big Lottery Fund has announced that the Coastal Communities Fund has re-opened for applications. The Fund aims to encourage the economic development of coastal communities by awarding funding to create sustainable economic growth and jobs. At least £40m of new funding will be available in England from 2019-20 with funds becoming available from April 2019. In this funding round public, private and voluntary sector organisations in coastal communities can apply for projects over £50,000 for projects that:

- Supports economic diversification and innovation
- Supports improvements in productivity in the coastal economy
- Provide SME support
- Address seasonality in the tourism industry
- Improve public places
- Address issues of flooding/coastal erosion/ bathing water quality where these pose an economic threat and where they are part of an economic regeneration strategy that will create/safeguard jobs.

The following types of organisation can apply (either individually or in partnership) to the CCF in England:

- Coastal Community Teams
- Local Authorities
- Other public sector bodies
- Charities
- Voluntary and community co-operatives
- Social enterprises, including co-operatives and community ownership initiatives
- Private sector companies
- Local Enterprise Partnerships

Within this funding round there are 2 separate funding rounds, each with their own timetable:

- A 'fast track' early round for revenue projects only for which some funding will be available in 2018 to 2019. Stage 1 closing date 2 April.
- The main funding round for which funding will be available from 1 April 2019. Stage 1 closing date 30 April.

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23. New fund to help foster relationships between frontline professionals and young people at risk of sexual exploitation

The Home Office has launched a new £13 million fund to help youth workers, police, nurses and other professionals form close, protective relationships with children and young people aged 10 - 17 at risk of sexual exploitation, gang crime or relationship abuse. The Trusted Relationships Fund will shortly invite local authorities to apply for funding to run projects aimed at fostering relationships between frontline staff and at-risk children. Through the fund, local authorities are encouraged to work with local partners to improve the way professionals, including social workers, youth workers, police and voluntary sector practitioners, work together to support vulnerable young people. Local authorities will be asked to design projects that fit their needs. But the projects could see frontline workers organising or becoming involved with:

- Establishing a safe space where young people can share their concerns with professionals who will listen to them.
- Providing specialist counselling services
- Delivering positive activities including sport, music, arts and volunteering
- Improving the way local organisations work together to support the most vulnerable young people
- Working with children who repeatedly go missing to ensure that they are kept safe and well.

There will be a two-stage application process for the fund. Local authorities are eligible to be lead bidders and are encouraged to work with local partners in developing and delivering projects, which could include other statutory organisations, the voluntary and community sector and the private sector

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

24. Grants for projects that help disadvantaged and neglected children

Not for profit organisations such as schools, registered charities, voluntary organisations, churches, and community interest groups; etc., can apply for grants of up to £10,000 per year for up to 3 years for projects that help children and young people overcome the effects of:

- Illness, distress, abuse or neglect
- Disability
- Behavioural or psychological difficulties
- Poverty and deprivation.

The fund can support projects that make differences in children's lives and prevent or overcome the effects of the disadvantages they face. Projects achieve these differences by either working directly with children or seeking to improve their social and physical environments. The closing date for applications is the 13 May 2018

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25. Funding to support family based projects

Registered charities whose activities support and encourage the family to work as a cohesive unit in tackling problems that face one or more of its members can apply for grants of between £1,000 and £5,000 through the Kelly Family Charitable Trust. The fund also welcomes applications from sports and health-related charities whose activities comply with the above criteria. The trust will consider both capital and revenue grants. The Trust is happy to support requests for core funding as well as project-based grants, and actively encourages applications from relatively new organisations to help them become established. The three areas of activity that the charity wishes to support are:

- Interventions that support families and help them in ways that prevent the fracture of the family unit, e.g. practical family support, relationship counselling, mediation
- Families where sexual abuse, physical abuse, domestic violence, alcohol abuse and drug abuse threaten the integrity of the family unit
- Prisoners and in particular their families, during and after the period of imprisonment.

The trust prefers to support charities whose income is below £500,000. However, larger charities with pioneering pilot projects will be considered. The closing date for applications is the 1 September 2018

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

26. Grants to enrich the quality of life of sick children in hospitals

Wallace & Gromit's Children's Charity provides grants of between £100 and £10,000 to registered charitable hospitals and hospices to enhance and enrich the quality of life of sick children in hospitals. In 2013, Wallace & Gromit's Children's Charity has given over £2 million in grants to 291 projects in 93 different hospitals and hospices, providing life-saving medical equipment, free family accommodation, a range of arts, music and play therapy programmes, sensory equipment and facilities and respite care. Organisations working within hospitals and hospices are eligible to apply where they have a supporting reference from the hospital/hospice itself. Preference is given to projects conceived by and developed in hospitals and hospices that provide geographically regional health care services to a wide range of children; that are not discriminatory; and that will promote the work of the Charity in their area. The deadline for applications to the Charity is the 30 April 2018

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27. Funding for local good causes

Any not for profit organisation or group with an idea for a project that will make a difference to the local community can now apply to be a Co-op local cause. The Co-op Local Community Fund awards cash generated from Co-op own brand products and carrier bag sales to local good causes chosen by its members. Up to three projects are chosen for support in each round and displayed in store and online, so that Co-op members can choose which Project they want to support in their own community. A total of £20 million is available and funding rounds are open once a year. Organisations that can apply include:

- Community groups and Unincorporated associations
- Co-operative and Community benefit societies
- Credit unions
- Community interest companies, Companies limited by guarantee and social enterprises
- Charities registered in the UK and Small unregistered charities (who have less than £5,000 income a year)
- Organisations recognised as a charity for tax purposes by HMRC
- Community amateur sports clubs (CASCs)
- Church or chapel that's an 'excepted' charity
- Scout, Guide or Woodcraft Folk groups

All projects or events must take place in the UK or Isle of Man and still be running after October 2019. Preference is given to projects run by small, local organisations that make a real difference to people in their community. The closing date for this funding round is 8 April 2018

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

28. Funding support for former mining communities

The Coalfields Community Investment Programme, which provides grants to community and voluntary groups to tackle key challenges that still affect the top 30% most deprived coalfield communities in England will re-open for applications on the 9 April 2018. Grants totalling £125,000 will be available in this funding round for projects that address the following themes:

- Skills - growing the skills of people in order to increase their opportunities;
- Employment - developing pathways to increase the number of people in work;
- Health - supporting projects that increase participation in activities/services that improve health and wellbeing.

The maximum grant per project will be £10,000. Applicants are advised to consult the eligible wards list on the website before making an application. To apply, organisations need to complete an eligibility survey to determine whether the applicant organisation/group meets the criteria to apply for funding from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT). The closing date for submitting the eligibility survey will be the 8 June 2018 and the deadline for submitting applications is the 15 June 2018

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29. Funding for organisations to become a Public Service Mutual

The Government's Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has announced £1.7 million in funding for organisations who would like to grow as a Public Service Mutual i.e. organisations which have left the formal public sector but continue to deliver public services to create positive social impact, and have a significant degree of employee ownership, influence or control in the way the organisation is run. A total of £1.2 million will go towards creating new Mutuals and £500,000 used to pilot support programmes. Organisations eligible for support will be those that have left the public sector (also known as 'spinning out'), continue to deliver public services, aim to have a positive social impact and that have a significant degree of staff influence or control in the way they are run. Existing Mutuals in the first 5 years of operation can also apply. No minimum or maximum grant levels have been specified but match funding in cash must be provided by the applicant. Applications can be submitted at any time

To be redirected to the funders website click [here](#)

30. Community Shares Booster Programme

The Community Shares Booster Programme is a funding scheme to support community share offers. It will invest equity up to £100,000 to match community shares in societies that can demonstrate higher than average levels of community impact, innovation and engagement. The programme will also provide development grants of up to £10,000 to help societies get investment ready and meet standards of good practice. Match funding will be in the form of equity held on equal terms with other community shareholders. The objectives of this new Booster Programme are to help disadvantaged and under-represented communities develop successful community businesses, especially in under-represented trade sectors, and financed through community share offers based on new forms of investment proposition, institutional support, and business appraisal methodologies. The programme is aimed at new and existing community businesses; it is not suitable for newly formed community groups that are in the early stages of developing a community business proposal. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis, with grant and investment decisions made within eight weeks of application. Development grants are aimed at societies requiring support to prepare their community share offers and obtain the Community Shares Standard Mark. Applications for equity match are open to societies that are investment ready, including those that have already launched their share offers

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31. Rural Broadband Infrastructure