

Appendix B: SELEP-endorsed GPF bids from Kent County Council's administrative area

Project	Green Hydrogen Generation Facility
Project Promoter	Ryse Hydrogen Ltd
GPF Ask	£3,470,000
Total Project Cost	£9,360,000
Project Description	<p>In this project, new hydrogen production company Ryse Hydrogen Limited will install and operate the UK's largest zero carbon hydrogen production system in Kent. This will be powered by way of a direct connection to the on-land substation for the existing Vattenfall offshore wind farms - Kentish Flats and Kentish Flats Extension (in Herne Bay). In so doing, Ryse will demonstrate the economic and practical viability of generating hydrogen from wind energy to produce hydrogen on a bulk scale to be used in zero emission mobility solutions. In this way Ryse will become the first large scale producer of fully renewable and zero emission hydrogen fuel in the UK</p> <p>Ryse will distribute the hydrogen produced in Herne Bay to fuel fleets of hydrogen buses in the South East (first contracts to supply Transport for London buses have been secured). In addition to these first customers for hydrogen buses, the hydrogen supply will eventually expand to serve fleets of trucks, taxis and trains.</p> <p>Ryse requires this public support from the GPF loan in order to accelerate the pace of development. The company has been formed and is well capitalised to develop a first hydrogen production and dedicated hydrogen distribution system.</p> <p>However, without external support, the first system will be installed at a scale required to meet only the initial small customer demands for hydrogen. This leads to poor economics and a risk of a system stuck without capacity for expansion.</p> <p>Requested £3.47m GPF will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver 16 new permanent jobs on site, and 40 permanent jobs in the supply chain. • Deliver 471,000 tons per annum of carbon saving until 2035 • Reduce air pollution by 1,685 tons of NOx, 21 tons of PM2.5, 414 tons of hydrocarbons in the period to 2035. • Result in 6 additional PhD learners, and 29 industrial placements for HE students. • Generate 1,610 sqm of commercial floorspace (current site is former BMX track).

Project	Wine Innovation Centre
Project Promoter	NIAB EMR, based in East Malling
GPF Ask	£600,000
Total Project Cost	£1,550,000
Project Description	<p>The East Malling Trust (EMT) in partnership with NIAB EMR propose to build a facility to host a Wine Innovation Centre at the East Malling Estate. The vision of this project complements NIAB EMR's investment in the only UK research vineyard to support Kent's wine sector to develop as global leaders in innovation.</p> <p>With 3,500 ha viticulture is the fastest growing agriculture sector in the UK. Despite the growing trend the industry is not profitable yet, due to adverse climate conditions and the lack of suitable bespoke agronomy approaches which have a direct impact on crop yields. The Wine Innovation Centre will build on the success of Kent's wine industry and the development of the East Malling Viticulture Consortium which includes members that collectively account for more than 60% of the wine production of the UK (e.g. ChapelDown, Gusbourne, etc). The majority of the UK's vineyards are located in Kent and the SELEP area; making this sector one of the most promising for growth and economic development in the next 10 years.</p> <p>This project will create infrastructure, services and high-tech facilities which will generate upwards of £1m million (over 5 years) in additional annual R&D spend in the region. It will create 50+ new knowledge-based and highly skilled jobs at NIAB EMR and in the wider industry, in addition to safeguarding 20+ jobs.</p> <p>Accelerating investment at East Malling is a priority to ensure that NIAB EMR and its partners remain at the cutting edge of research and innovation and can secure future public and private sector funding. Access to the most advanced facilities is also essential to attract and retain high-calibre staff, provide the 'know-how' that is needed by industry to deliver sustainable growth and productivity gains, and ensure that Kent, and the SELEP area are established as world-class leader in wine making innovation.</p>

Project	Herne Relief Road – Bullockstone Road
Project Promoter	Kent County Council
GPF Ask	£3,500,000
Total Project Cost	£7,700,000
Project Description	<p>The Herne Relief Road – Bullockstone Road Improvement Scheme is located within Herne Bay.</p> <p>Bullockstone Road is currently a constrained weight restricted narrow single carriageway unclassified route which does not provide a safe and suitable route for all users. Despite this, Bullockstone Road is regularly used as a “rat run” between the Greenhill area of Herne Bay and the A291 to Canterbury. Furthermore, the constrained nature of the route as a result of abutting hedges / vegetation and properties do not allow for the provision of walking and cycling.</p> <p>The A291 which travels through the centre of the village of Herne is a key corridor in the area as it provides access between the A299 and the A28 and thus further afield. The strategic importance of the A291 results in this route and the village of Herne being subject to large volumes of traffic. Consequentially, the already highly constrained village of Herne suffers from severe congestion which is documented within the 2017 Canterbury Local Plan.</p> <p>The Herne Relief Road improvements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the widening of Bullockstone Road to 7m • the provision of pedestrian and cycling facilities between A291 Canterbury Road and Lower Herne Village • improvements to drainage • construction of new roundabout junctions at Lower Herne Village and A291 Canterbury Road <p>The scheme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce congestion and traffic volumes in Herne • Provide infrastructure that supports the construction of around 2,500 new homes • Provide walking and cycling routes and easier access to bus routes

Project	No Use Empty Commercial Phase 2
Project Promoter	Kent County Council
GPF Ask	£2,000,000
Total Project Cost	£4,000,000
Project Description	<p>KCC is seeking £2m GPF funds to deliver a second phase of NUE Commercial which will bring more long term empty commercial properties back into use.</p> <p>KCC received £1m from GPF2 to deliver its NUE Commercial project (2018-2020). Phase II will enable KCC to build on the success of NUE Commercial and continue to provide short term-secured loans (up to 3 years) to landlords so they can bring empty commercial properties back into use, for alternative commercial, residential, or mixed-use purposes.</p> <p>Changing consumer demand has impacted the town centres. The national town centre vacancy rate was 9.9% in January 2019, up from 8.9% in January 2018. During this period footfall dropped by 0.7% marking a 14th consecutive month of decline (source: Retail Gazette). COVID-19 has undoubtedly had a further negative impact on town centre.</p> <p>This NUE C II scheme will continue to focus on town centres (particularly in coastal areas of Kent) to help support their regeneration.</p> <p>The NUE scheme is intended to provide pan-Kent benefits, with property owners from across the 12 districts able to apply for a loan. KCC have extended the invitation to work with Medway Council.</p> <p>Requested £2m GPF will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • return 18 empty commercial units back into use and • create 36 new residential homes.

Project	No Use Empty Residential
Project Promoter	Kent County Council
GPF Ask	£2,500,000
Total Project Cost	£5,000,000
Project Description	<p>KCC is seeking £2.5m GPF funds to scale up the No Use Empty (NUE) initiative to return an extra 100 long term empty properties back into use to provide much needed homes.</p> <p>KCC's award winning NUE initiative is the longest running empty homes initiative in the UK. Operating since 2005, it was expanded across all 12 districts in Kent (2009) returning an average of 400 empty homes back into use per year through a variety of interventions.</p> <p>The £2.5m will be used to provide short term secured recyclable loans (units of £25k), either as a 1st or 2nd charge, using the established application, approval and monitoring processes used by the NUE team.</p> <p>The scheme is intended to provide pan-Kent benefits, with property owners from across the 12 Kent districts able to apply for a loan. NUE are also willing to work with Medway Council to extend the scheme to cover the Medway towns as well.</p> <p>Lack of traditional finance remains a barrier when it comes to bringing empty homes back into use. Latest Council Tax records show a total of 6,738 long term vacant dwellings in Kent and Medway (5,340 in Kent and 1,398 in Medway). The number of long-term vacant dwellings has increased: Kent (12 districts) by 312 and Medway by 284.</p> <p>Requested £2.5m GPF will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • return 100 empty homes back into use and • create 50 new 'direct' jobs, and 40 new 'indirect' jobs.