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UK Shared Prosperity Fund & Rural England for Year 2

[SDC Partnership Advisory Group]

Updated deadline for all SPF/REPF applications

An additional extension of two weeks

The revised final submission date for all applications is now Friday 28th July at 17:00

What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

- A £2.6 billion funding pot, announced as part of the levelling up agenda, to be invested in communities by March 2025.
- A mix of revenue and capital funding that can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build pride in place and improve life chances.
- Investment can complement Levelling Up Fund capital projects, strategic Freeport investments or community-level Community Ownership Fund projects, as well as existing employment and skills provision.
- The fund, designed to be less bureaucratic than accessing EU funding, can be used to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision, to maximise impact and simplify delivery.
- All areas of the UK receive an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.
 - 70% is allocated on a per capita basis, within each region based on Local Authority population size
 - 30% of the allocation uses the same needs-based index previously used to identify UK Community Renewal Fund priority places, namely:
 - Productivity
 - Household income
 - Skills
- **Stratford on Avon District have been conditionally allocated £3,596,031.**

Challenges - Community & Place

Responding to the climate emergency

This challenge is shared by all districts and is prioritised across all strategic literature. The district will do all it can locally to contribute to national carbon reduction targets, fulfil our aim to becoming a carbon-neutral District by 2030 and support measures to adapt to the impact of climate change

Rural Isolation & Community Support

Due to the rural nature of the district unique challenges are presented especially for the more venerable members of the community. As the district has a relatively older population (55th District in the Country), initiatives which provide improvement to health and wellbeing are considered key especially addressing rural isolation and offering improved community support and outreach to the more venerable and in need in the district

Crime related activities

It is recognised that the total number of recorded crimes in the year to July 2021 was 6,72610 for Stratford District. This is a rate of 52 crimes per 1,000 people, which is the lowest rate across Warwickshire. Whilst this is considered a positive position the district remain committed to providing support in this area and to 'design out crime'

Bringing people into the district

Stratford-on-Avon's economy is particularly at risk due to its reliance on the tourism & hospitality. Bringing people in the district is considered key to reinvigorating the economy.

Assets & Infrastructure

New, rural and lower economic communities in the district have indicated challenges with their community assets and infrastructure. Some of which found to be dilapidated, not fit for purpose, requiring modernisation or not currently available. The need to restore pride of place and provide key community activities, which enhance physical, cultural and social ties is to be addressed

Challenges – Supporting Local Businesses

Support Tourism

Stratford-on-Avon's economy is particularly at risk due to its reliance on the tourism industry. Tourism-related jobs are an important part of the District services sector. Resulting benefits will be realised by the hospitality sector which shared the economic pressures created by the pandemic.

Employment rates

Stratford upon Avon experienced the sharpest decline in employment rates pre-pandemic to Q3 2021 at 10.2% and the sharpest increase in unemployment at 1.5%, over the same period. A notable portion of this is attributed to the effect on the Hospitality and Tourism sectors by the pandemic.

Local - Barriers to business growth

It is widely recognised that businesses face a number of barriers to growth. These include access to finance (both the availability of finance at different stages of business growth and the management skills to access it), access to knowledge, access to skills including digital skills, and access to the property or land needed to grow.

Strategic barriers to growth

Currently exacerbated by the “perfect storm” (or “new norm”) of fresh challenges facing businesses in the Stratford Upon Avon District (and all areas of Warwickshire for that matter). These include recovery from the pandemic, rising costs, skills shortages, and changes to international trade arrangements post-Brexit.

Challenges – People & Skills

Employment rates

Stratford upon Avon saw the sharpest decline in employment rates pre-pandemic to Q3 2021 at 10.2% and the sharpest increase in unemployment at 1.5%, over the same period. This is attributed to the effect on the Hospitality and Tourism sectors by the pandemic. Providing skills training to get the people back into work is considered a key challenge

Skills Gap

The district wish to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress into employment, also supplementing local adult skills provision. The most recent Coventry and Warwickshire Quarterly Economic Survey (QES) found that 70% of businesses actively engaged in recruitment are currently experiencing difficulties with the majority seeking workers of a skilled or technical nature

Responding to Emerging & Green industries

Supporting 'further education' initiatives and establishments in adapting to the needs of courses, its facilities and equipment which support emerging and green industries such as EV, Hydrogen or other sustainably led technologies providing a skill base cable of adapting to current and future employment needs and in turn providing a positive contribution to a sustainably minded carbon neutral society.

Expenditure Profile (Actual Year 1 & Adjusted Year 2)

	22/23	23/24	24/25	total
Admin	£30,032	4%		
Community & Place	£181,380	£474,327	£543,852	£1,198,667
Supporting Local Business	£100,000	£523,496	£544,267	£1,198,687
People & Skills Development	£0	£0	£1,198,677	£1,198,677
Total	£321,412	£997,823	£2,286,796	£3,596,031

Note: The figures above have been submitted to UKSPF. Currently these figures are indicative subject to further evaluation during delivery of the fund

Scoring Methodology

Information Only (IO) - Unscored

- These questions are to provide understanding of the applicant and the project they wish to submit.
- The questions relevant for information only are: 1, 2, 4, 5, 6.

Pass/Fail

- SDC reserves the right with these questions to fail the applicant if an adverse position is observed. These questions and their response are considered a minimum standard of compliance which the applicant must achieve. Compliance with the questions' requirements and/or appropriate supporting information to assure compliance will be awarded a Pass.
- The questions appropriate for this type of assessment are 3, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11.

Scored Question

- The responses will be scored objectively in line with the scoring criteria set out for each. Questions 18, 19, 20 and 22 will be assessed against the following criteria and the 5 key questions which will be scored and their allocated weightings are:
 1. Outputs and Outcomes - (35%)
 2. Cost - (35%)
 3. Risk Analysis – (10%)
 4. Added Value - (12%)
 5. Match Funding – (8%)

Evaluation process

For 2023-2024, each application received 3 separate evaluations by;

- 3 x Stratford-on-Avon District Council Officer
- 1 x Procurement Officer for moderation

The evaluations will then be moderated to reach a consensus score for each question

A report for recommendation for approval will be sent to the Local Productivity Advisory Panel

Evaluation process (Continued)

- Once the moderation had taken place the results have undergone a 5 stage process

Stage 1

- Apply the weighted score to each application in line with the agreed moderated scoring
- Collate into a long list of projects for each intervention
- Applying a RAG status to the projects which took into account the following;
 - The projects strategic alignment to the intervention
 - The projects deliverability for Year 1
 - Risks presented by the project which could jeopardise any of the previous two bullet points
 - Deliverability of Outputs and Outcomes

Stage 2

Rank the submissions based on the weighted scores from Stage 1

Challenge RAG status applied to reach a further consensus view with the project team

- try to see how many of the amber projects could be considered Green or
- are the issues identified prohibitive of the projects capability to be delivered in line with the UKSPF guidelines

Stage 3

Re-order the rankings based on the RAG status to determine the projects which are considered deliverable (green projects)

Evaluation process (Continued)

• Stage 4 (Expenditure)

- Split out the projects from a Revenue / Capital perspective
- Apply Budget allocations to each intervention
- Identify the projects which could be awarded within the budget allocation
- Identify underspend once initial allocations (within budget) have taken place
- Identify the underage of spend

Stage 5 (Sensitivity Analysis)

- Reviewing which viable projects could be awarded within the budget constraints
- Any underspend from the budgets to be re-allocated to maximise the number of projects awarded

UKSPF Interventions – Year 2 (2023/2024)

The following interventions have been selected to allocate funds for year 2 to the following intervention priorities;

- Community & Place
- Supporting Local Business

E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects

E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments

E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.

E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects

E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together

E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living

E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies

E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy

E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development

E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' & accelerators' for local enterprise

E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises

E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment

SPF and REPF Funding (2023/2024)

			2023-24	
	Investment Priority	Intervention	Capital	Revenue
UKSPF	Communities & Place	E2: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects	£0.00	£51,000.00
	Communities & Place	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces	£137,149.71	£0.00
	Communities & Place	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area	£0.00	£51,500.00
	Communities & Place	E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	£0.00	£9,954.35
	Communities & Place	E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	£62,852.95	£100,000.00
	Communities & Place	E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	£18,691.86	
	Communities & Place	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	£7,476.74	£18,691.86
	Communities & Place	E14: Relevant feasibility studies	£17,009.59	£0.00
	Local Business	E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy		£68,367.01
	Local Business	E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development		£111,991.67
	Local Business	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems		£196,310.98
	Local Business	E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators		£34,183.50
	Local Business	E26: Growing the local social economy		£9,766.72
	Local Business	E28: Export grants to grow overseas trading etc.		£102,876.07
REPF	Supporting Rural Business	Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	£101,517.90	
	Supporting Rural Communities	Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	£45,683.06	
	Supporting Rural Communities	Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	£106,593.80	

Expenditure Profile

Intervention Ref	E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators	E26: Growing the local social economy	E28: Export grants to grow overseas trading etc.
Total	£68,367.01	£111,991.67	£196,310.98	£34,183.50	£9,766.72	£102,876.07
Capital						
Revenue	£68,367.01	£111,991.67	£196,310.98	£34,184	£9,766.72	£102,876.07

	Year 1 Forecast	Year 1 actual	Year 2 forecast	Total (All 3 Years)
Admin		£30,032	4%	
Community & Place	£305,488	£181,380	£474,327	£1,198,667
Supporting Local Business	£130,923	£100,000	£523,496	£1,198,687
People & Skills Development	£0	£0	£0	£1,198,677
Total	£436,412	£321,412	£997,823	£3,596,031

Intervention Ref	E2: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces	E7: Support for active travel enhancements	E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	E14: Relevant feasibility studies
Total	£51,000.00	£137,149.71	£51,500.00	£9,954.00	£162,852.95	£18,691.86	£26,139.00	£17,010.00
Capital		£137,149.71			£62,852.95	£18,691.86	£7,447	£17,010
Revenue	£51,000.00		£51,500.00	£9,954	£100,000		£18,692	

Note: The figures above have been submitted to UKSPF. Currently these figures are indicative subject to further evaluation during delivery of the fund

REPF Interventions – Year 1 (2023/2024)

Intervention	Objectives	Example Projects
Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	Create jobs and boost community cohesion.	Creation and expansion of rural leisure and tourism businesses. For example: - creating event venues or farm tourism facilities such as accommodation, wedding venues and leisure facilities - provision of facilities for pet and equines such as kennels, livery and pet health venues.
		Funding for resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.
		Purchase of equipment for food processing for non-farmer-owned businesses. For example: - purchasing new process and packaging machinery such as brewing equipment and onsite vending machines - equipping development kitchens or modernising existing kitchen equipment for increased energy efficiency or increased productivity through automation.
Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes:	Capital grants for provision of gigabit capable digital infrastructure at rural hubs for community use. For example:
	community infrastructure and local green space	village halls
	community-led projects	pubs post offices
Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. This includes:	Capital grants to enable setting up or enhancing rural community-led repair cafes or mend workshops. This includes:
	community infrastructure and local green space	providing premises
	community-led projects	tools or equipment to support this activity

REPF Interventions – Year 1 (2023/2024)

Intervention	Output	Outcome
1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of businesses supported Number of farm businesses supported Number of farm diversification projects supported Number of micro businesses supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs created Jobs safeguarded Number of new businesses created Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes Number of businesses with improved productivity Number of businesses experiencing growth
Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organisations receiving grants Number of facilities supported, created, or installed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs created Jobs safeguarded Increased users of facilities or amenities Improved perception of facility or infrastructure project Improved perception of facilities or amenities
Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of organisations receiving grants Number of people reached 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved engagement numbers Improved perception of local facilities or amenities Number of community-led programmes as a result of support

UKSPF & REPF (2023-2024 / 2024-2025)

Investment Priority	Intervention	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Annual Expenditure Totals
Communities & Place	E2: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects	£80,032.00	£51,000.00	£2,036.45	£133,068.45
Communities & Place	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces	£0.00	£137,149.71	£0.00	£137,149.71
Communities & Place	E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'	£0.00	£0.00	£277,466.67	£277,466.67
Communities & Place	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area	£0.00	£51,500.00	£2,500.00	£54,000.00
Communities & Place	E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area	£0.00	£0.00	£23,940.89	£23,940.89
Communities & Place	E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	£60,000.00	£9,954.35	£25,937.08	£95,891.43
Communities & Place	E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	£0.00	£162,852.95	£200,000.00	£362,852.95
Communities & Place	E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	£60,400.00	£18,691.86	£0.00	£79,091.86
Communities & Place	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	£0.00	£26,168.60	£0.00	£26,168.60
Communities & Place	E14: Relevant feasibility studies	£10,980.00	£17,009.59	£11,970.44	£39,960.03
Local Business	E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	£0.00	£68,367.01	£90,637.64	£159,004.65
Local Business	E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development	£0.00	£111,991.67	£0.00	£111,991.67
Local Business	E21: Development of innovation infrastructure at a local level	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Local Business	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	£0.00	£196,310.98	£271,912.92	£468,223.90
Local Business	E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators	£0.00	£34,183.50	£45,328.82	£79,512.32
Local Business	E26: Growing the local social economy	£90,000.00	£9,766.72	£0.00	£99,766.72
Local Business	E28: Export grants to grow overseas trading etc.	£0.00	£102,876.07	£136,388.07	£239,264.14
Local Business	E31: Support relevant feasibility studies	£10,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£10,000.00
People & Skills	E33: Employment support for economically inactive people	n/a	n/a	£384,363.59	£384,363.59
People & Skills	E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses	n/a	n/a	£189,313.41	£189,313.41
People & Skills	E39: Green skills courses	n/a	n/a	£625,000.00	£625,000.00
Supporting Rural Business	Intervention 1.1: capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	n/a	£101,517.90	£304,553.70	£406,072.00
Supporting Rural Communities	Intervention 2.1: capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	n/a	£45,683.06	£137,049.17	£182,732.00
Supporting Rural Communities	Intervention 2.7: capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects	n/a	£106,593.80	£319,781.39	£426,375.00

Challenge Fund – Content considerations

Stage 1

The challenge fund requires the following information from a project submission at minimum;

1. Project Owner
2. Organization Information
3. Project Name
4. Project Information
5. Grounds for Mandatory & Discretionary Exclusion
 - a. Participation in a criminal organization
 - b. conviction of corruption & fraud
 - c. money laundering
 - d. terrorist financing
6. Timeline availability – Are the appropriate resources available to deliver the project in line with projects deliverables
7. Declarations
8. Conflicts of interest
9. Code of conduct – Grant recipient code of conduct compliance

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/771152/2019-01-15_Code_of_Conduct_for_Grant_Recipients_v.1.01.pdf

Stage 2

The challenge funds process will set out specific qualitative questions to assess (however not limited to):

1. **The capability** of the Project owner/SRO/or organization to achieve the outcome
2. The project's ability to be **delivered in the periods set** by the fund (this is for the applicant to interpret against the guidance set out in the UKSPF)
3. The **value for money** offered by the project (this will be assessed in 4 ways);
 - a. Overall relevance/alignment with the intervention itself.
 - b. value in the spending of the fund i.e. multiple quotes, value solutions and or otherwise
 - c. value based on the outputs and outcomes said to be achievable if allocation the funds
 - d. Cost
 - e. Risk
4. **Added value** will be sought by including a question which enables the applicant to set out additional benefits offered as a result of the project.

(Note: This cannot be assessed proportionately per additional benefit however can be qualitatively assessed in an objective way against the scoring methodology)

 - a. Added value items will be captured to be incorporated into the performance management standards the project will be monitored and reported in line with the fund's governance requirements
5. A question will also be set which requires the applicant to set out any **capability to Match fund** and will all encompass a requirement to set out (if private) why the project cannot be funded with private finance.

Call for project process - REPF & UKSPF similarities & difference
Consider wording -performance management standards

Proportionality - The questions have been developed to enable answers of the applicant to be done in a proportionate way based on the size nature and complexity of the project. Applicants should provide succinct responses, guidance will be provided to make clear the requirements of each question. It is in the interest of the fund for applicants to achieve optimum scoring, te guidance will seek to enable this to be the case.

Application and Guidance

Shared Prosperity Fund/Rural Shared Prosperity Fund

This is the second year of the three year Shared Prosperity Fund and the first year of two for the Rural Shared Prosperity Fund. There is one application form for both and you will need to specify which fund you are applying for when completing your application, accompanied by a legal document that also requires completion. The link to the online application form is Shared Prosperity Fund Application 2023-2024 Page 1/9 (snapsurveys.com)

UKSPF Year 2 - Call for projects | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

Rural England Prosperity Fund - Call for projects | Stratford-on-Avon District Council

UKSPF REPF Application Guidance Final 22docx FINALdocx 31may 2023.pdf (stratford.gov.uk)
and 10.42 scoring guidance

Interventions list for England - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Fund Year	Financial Year	Indicative Amount *
Year 2	2023/2024	£ 997,823
Year 3	2024/2025	£ 2.29m


* Approximately rounded figures.

The breakdown of the funding available for each theme and the split of capital or revenue funding available can be found in the application guidance notes below.

The online application form is the same one for both SPF and REPF applications, including the Legal document as well as the guidance are attached below:

[Online application form link](#) 

[SPF and REPF application guidance](#) 

[Legal document](#) 

Performance Management

1. **Process evaluation:** which typically analyses whether an intervention is being implemented as intended, whether the design is working, what is working more or less well and why;
2. **Impact evaluation:** an objective test of what changes have occurred, the scale of those changes and an assessment of the extent to which they can be attributed to the intervention; and
3. **Value for money (VfM) evaluation:** a comparison of the benefits and costs of the intervention (for more information on VfM please refer to Minimum Requirement Four: Business Case Development)

Frequently Asked Questions

Please direct questions to:

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