



# **Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)**

## **Year 3 (2024-2025)**

**Mark Wathen, John Tonge, Anne  
Solomon**



# What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)?

- 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.
- Community and Place, Business Support, Skills



# Website Application and Guidance

This is the third year of the three year Shared Prosperity Fund and year 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.

All documentation can be found on the SDC website: It is best to go to the Stratford District Council website and in the search front page, type in UKSPF to access all the guidance and documentation

[www.stratford.gov.uk](http://www.stratford.gov.uk) and then click on the specific link for the Year 3 pages, namely UKSPF & REPF Year 3 Call

[UKSPF & REPF Year 3 Call | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)



# SPF Community & Place 2024-2025 Year 3 Budget

## Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Interventions -Communities and Place

	Capital	Revenue
<b>E1: Funding for improvements to town centre &amp; High Streets</b>	£47,467.00	£0.00
<b>E2: Community &amp; neighbourhood infrastructure projects</b>	£0.00	£2,036.00
<b>E5: Built &amp; landscaped environment to "design out crime"</b>	£70,000.00	£5,831.00
<b>E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area</b>	£0.00	£2,500.00
<b>E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area</b>	£0.00	£23,941.00
<b>E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects</b>	£0.00	£25,937.00
<b>E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams &amp; leagues</b>	£200,000.00	£20,831.00
<b>E14: Relevant feasibility studies</b>	£11,970.00	£0.00
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>£329,437.00</b>	<b>£81,076.00</b>



# What is the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)?

The Rural Fund is a top-up to the UKSPF and is available to eligible local authorities in England. It succeeds EU funding from LEADER and the Growth Programme, which were part of the Rural Development Programme for England.

The Rural Fund supports the aims of the government's Levelling Up White Paper and Future Farming Programme:

- **Support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities** that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. **This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams**
- **Support new and improved community infrastructure**, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy

You must use funding on capital projects. This means **you must spend grants on lasting assets such as a building or equipment.**



# Rural England Prosperity Funding (REPF) Year 2 Budget 2024-2025

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Interventions	Capital	Revenue
<b>Intervention 1.1: Supporting Rural Businesses.</b> Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas	£323,554.00	0.00
<b>Intervention 2.1: Supporting Rural Communities.</b> Capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities	£137,049.00	0.00
<b>Intervention 2.7: Supporting Rural Communities.</b> Capital grant funding for rural circular economy projects.	£319,781.00	0.00
<b>Total (including Year 2 underspend to date)</b>	<b>£780,384.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>



# What are we doing differently this year and why?

- **Community and Place** - launching an open community and place call for projects on a more targeted and focused basis than the previous two years as originally set out in the three year investment plan.
- **Rural** - launching Rural England Prosperity Funding (REPF) calls once, unless the fund is under-committed then we will run another call.
- **Business support** - no open call for business support projects, as we are partnering with other County and other Local Authorities to extend six joint county-wide programmes from Year 2 into Year 3 over a longer period.
- **Skills** – *first and only year of funding for Skills*
  - working on a *joint tender with County to deliver the revenue skills funding to support those furthest from employment and upskilling those in work;*
  - supporting a *County wide Multiply programme teaching fundamental maths;*
  - aligning the Growing Opportunities actions with SPF skills opportunities.
- **Zero carbon green skills** – utilising the E39 capital funding to *support Stratford-on-Avon college develop as a centre for excellence in future green skills* especially Automotive electric vehicle training courses subject to approval by Cabinet in April.



# Funding already ringfenced to joint delivery with other LAs etc.

**Community & Place:** *E5 Built and landscaped environment to design out crime (new intervention for Year 3): **£200k capital committed to SDC for CCTV** and security infrastructure subject to SDC cabinet approval in April*

## **Business support :**

**£518k funds committed** to extend and increase activity related to Year 2 business support contracts (*some limited funding held back for consideration to examine the deployment of this by SDC linked to town centre support*)

## **Skills Funds:**

**£625k capital funding ringfenced for** to an intended SDC grant to Stratford-on-Avon to support an Automotive EV college training facility subject to SDC Cabinet approval in April

**£578k of revenue funds committed to joint County tender** targeted to two separate projects, one for social mobility and those most in need for training and support NEETS and a second for upskilling people in businesses





# Skills and Training

**E33** - *Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths\* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.*

- **Objective** - Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills  
Both will be Intensive barrier breaking programmes that engages some of the hardest to reach and focus on soft skills for the workplace, training and education such as:
- **16 – 24-Year-old NEETS Programme - Skills for Your Future**
  - Focused on moving closer to and into employment, education and training.
- **25+ Programme - Skills for Work**
  - Focussed on moving closer to and into work.



# Skills and Training

**E37** - Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.

- **Objective** - Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g.: both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.
- **Skills Escalator Fund** - Skills grant funding for Stratford District's small/medium employers and sole traders to upskill staff, allow staff to move upwards within the company, increase the number of hours worked and reskill to suit skills gaps.



# Skills and Training

**E39** - *Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.*

- **Objective** - Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

Supporting the extension of the existing Automotive training facility at Stratford-on-Avon college, specifically for electric vehicles.



# Key Timelines

- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March**: Calls open for projects for Community and Place and Rural England Prosperity Fund (with the possibility of a second call being decided soon)
- **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March (18:30-20:00)**: Webinar delivered alongside Chris Freeman from WCAVA, - [Webinars: Stratford UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funding Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March (08:30-10:00)**: Webinar delivered alongside Chris Freeman from WCAVA - [Webinars: Stratford UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Funding Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)
- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April**: Calls close.
- **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June**: The report will proceed to go through to the Cabinet Forum and Cabinet
- **Monies despatched on signing of contract approximately a week later**



# Important Advice

- **Before doing anything else, read the guidance in full and take note, then CHECK the pre-qualifying criteria before proceeding**
- **Open and closing of call: opens on 11<sup>th</sup> March and closes at midnight on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**
- **Drop dead deadlines:** all funding and all outputs **MUST** be delivered and spent **by end of March 2025**.
  - **Failure to do this may result** in monies being **clawed back** by the local authority on behalf of DLUHC.
  - **Any unused monies** must be declared and returned to SDC.
- **EARLY notice of any variation from expected progress and timelines**, please discuss with SDC at the earliest opportunity.
- **Grant limits:** minimum grants of **£2k** and maximum grants of **£50k**
- **Applications started** can be saved as you progress. Please include details of any public sector grants you have received since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 in your application form to enable compliance with **subsidy control requirements** and please provide a copy of your Data Protection Policy.



# Important Advice: project specific detail

- **A project** must align with one main intervention theme and demonstrate at least one output and outcome which can be evidenced.
- **Project details:** where part of a larger project or a sister project, please make this clear, ensuring your application focuses on the details and deliverables of this SPF/REPF funded project specifically.
- **VAT not payable in any funds granted:** If your organisation/business is VAT registered, please do not include any VAT element (inclusively or separately) in your application as UKSPF/REPF funding does not cover VAT
- **Risk register:** All permissions required for your Project (e.g.: planning, licencing) must be in place before 4 June 2024. If this is not the case, this **MUST** be included as a risk on your Risk Register.



# Important Advice: project specific detail

- **Record keeping:** you must keep all records that relate to your bid. These include quotes, invoices and permissions. These may be asked for should the project be audited and to provide evidence of the project delivery.
- ***All invoices over £2k must be notified to us in the quarterly returns***
- **Outputs:** quantifiable numeric values must be provided (£, %, km, m<sup>2</sup> etc). If the Output or Outcome states a '% increase' then you must **provide a baseline measurement** from which you will be starting and perceptions may need a survey.
- **Checking funding availability for a theme:** please refer to the Funding Budget Table in Appendix 1 to establish if it is Revenue or Capital monies that are available in your chosen Intervention and check this suits your grant request.

*\*If it does not appear to be adequate monies available in the relevant Intervention's budget, you may still wish to apply for funding as if we have underspent against some themes after assessment, we may be able to consider further\**



# Scoring Methodology

**There are three categories of questions to be answered in the application form we can run through with you**

## **Information Only (IO) - Unscored**

- These questions are to provide understanding of the applicant and the project they wish to submit.

## **Pass/Fail Questions**

- 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.

## **Scored Question**

- The responses will be scored objectively in line with the scoring criteria set out for each. There are several key questions to which weightings are attached for scoring purposes, namely those to do with:
  1. Outputs and Outcomes - (35%)
  2. Cost - (35%)
  3. Risk Analysis - (10%)
  4. Added Value - (12%)
  5. Match Funding - (8%)





# Brief run through website information

- [www.Stratford.gov.uk](http://www.Stratford.gov.uk)
- [UKSPF & REPF Year 3 Call | Stratford-on-Avon District Council](#)



# Frequently Asked Questions

**Please direct questions to THIS EMAIL ADDRESS:**

[UKSPF@stratford-dc.gov.uk](mailto:UKSPF@stratford-dc.gov.uk)