



Midlothian Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Grant Scheme 2022-25 GUIDANCE



LEVELLING
UP

Introduction

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. It will help places right across the country deliver enhanced outcomes and recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is one strand of a suite of funding which succeeded the old EU structural funds. This money will invest in the following priorities set by the UK Government: Communities and Place, Support for Local Businesses and People and Skills. In addition, there is a pot of funding called Multiply which focuses on improving adult numeracy for those aged 19 plus.

Midlothian Council will receive funding through the UKSPF to be distributed locally. We have submitted an Investment Plan to the UK Government outlining how the money will be spent. We anticipate hearing whether they have accepted our Investment Plan by October. No grants will be paid until we have confirmation of this.

An overview of the programme can be viewed here:

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: overview \(1\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-overview)

Through this grant programme, applications are invited under the following streams:

- Communities and Place
- People and Skills
- Multiply

In 2023/24 and 2024/25 40% of the UKSPF will be distributed by the Council in partnership with City Deal. The City Deal allocation is detailed within the financial profile and applications will be considered.

Who can apply?

Applications are welcome from asset locked community groups, charities and social enterprises, and from statutory organisations. Third sector organisations must be constituted and have a bank account. If you are a new group, you will need a statement of purpose and a bank account in the name of the group. Public Sector Body applications must be approved by the relevant Chief Officer.

Applications received after 23:59 on 7 October 2022 will NOT be considered under any circumstances.

What types of projects are eligible?

The programme outputs and outcomes can be viewed here and will continue to be refined and improved as the programme continues:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068876/UKSPF_Scotland_outputs_and_outcomes.pdf

Successful applicants will have to sign a grant funding agreement and a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Midlothian Council. Throughout the funding period you will be required to attend regular scrutiny, performance and monitoring meetings with monitoring officers. You will also be required to evaluate your project to determine whether the proposed outcomes have been met.

Interventions

Communities and Place

Under the Communities and Place theme, the following types of project will be eligible:

- **S2:** Support and improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects. This could include support for decarbonisation of facilities, energy efficiency audits, and installation of energy efficiency and renewable measures in community buildings (including capital spend and running costs).
- **S7:** Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
- **S8:** Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- **S9:** Investment in capacity building, resilience (including climate change resilience) and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- **S10:** Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.
- **S11:** Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
- **S13:** Support for linking communities together and with employment opportunities with a focus on decarbonisation.

People and Skills

Under the People and Skills theme, the following types of projects will be eligible:

- **S31:** 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.

- **S32:** Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are not economically inactive and who are unable to access other training or wrap around support detailed above. This could be supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.
- **S33:** Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.
- **S34:** Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.
- **S37:** Green skills courses to ensure we have the skilled workforce to support the Just Transition to a net zero economy and climate resilience, with a particular focus on vulnerable or low-income groups who will be disproportionately affected by climate change. Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors, providing career guidance and supporting people to seek employment in other sectors.
- **S39:** Support for education and skills targeting vulnerable young people leaving school, aligning with young person's guarantee, modern apprenticeships and related policy.
- **S40:** Support for community learning and development.

Multiply

Under the Multiply theme, the following types of projects will be eligible:

- **S42:** Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal qualifications.
- **S47:** Innovative programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.
- **S51:** Activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need.

The following costs should not be included in UKSPF interventions:

- Paid for lobbying, entertaining, petitioning or challenging decisions, which means using the Fund to lobby (via an external firm or in-house staff) in order to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political activity including the receipt of UKSPF funding; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action
- Payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC
- Gifts, or payments for gifts or donations
- Statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties
- Payments for works or activities which the lead local authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- Contingencies and contingent liabilities
- Dividends

- Bad debts, costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors, or winding up a company
- Expenses in respect of litigation, unfair dismissal or other compensation
- Costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes

How much money is in the programme?

The total level of funding for each year has been set by the UK Government, and funding should be spent within the financial year it is allocated to – there is no guarantee that any underspend can be carried forward. Applicants should consider how they structure their applications to fit in with the funding breakdown. Please also note that there is a minimum capital spend across the whole programme – this does not mean that every application must have a capital element.

Although these amounts have been submitted as part of the investment plan, there is a percentage of flexibility to redistribute funding between interventions. The funding panel, in conjunction with the Chief Finance Officer, has discretionary powers relating to this. Please note, there is a proposal to transfer the money allocated to City Deal under Intervention S2 from revenue to capital spend but this is not yet confirmed (*).

For the interventions with City Deal (City D) and Management Costs (MGT) the total indicated is not the sum of money that is available to apply for. The management costs will be allocated to the lead partner (Midlothian Council) to ensure the overall programme runs effectively. The City Deal column shows the allocation in years 2 and 3 which we are encouraging applications for although we do not have the final detail of how this will be allocated yet. The Remaining funds column (REMAIN) details the sums which can be applied for under each intervention. This does not include the City Deal allocation which is listed separately.

Communities and Place									
	2022/23 (Nov – Mar)			2023/24 (Apr – Mar)			2024/25 (Apr – Mar)		
		Capital	Revenue		Capital	Revenue		Capital	Revenue
S2: Support and improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects	TOTAL	£11,148	£11,910	TOTAL	£33,765	£147,622	TOTAL	£126,679	£333,893
	CITY D	£0	£0	CITY D	£17,686	£123,803*	CITY D	£66,356	£304,346*
	MGT	N/A	£11,910	MGT	n/a	£23,820	MGT	N/A	£29,548
	REMAIN	£11,148	£0	REMAIN	£16,079	£0	REMAIN	£60,323	£0
S7: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.					£8,715	£17,010		£27,065	£40,335
S8: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop			£19,010			£25,637			£64,169

Communities and Place								
social and human capital in local places.								
S9: Investment in capacity building, resilience and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.			£19,010			£25,637		£64,169
S10: Community measures to reduce the cost of living			£38,020		£1,608	£62,529		£13,033
S11: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.			£20,000			£22,863		£53,700
S13: Support for linking communities together and with employment opportunities with a focus on decarbonisation.					£3,215	£22,510		£12,064
								£55,336

People and Skills									
	2022/23 (Nov – Mar)			2023/24 (Apr – Mar)			2024/25 (Apr – Mar)		
		Capital	Revenue		Capital	Revenue		Capital	Revenue
S31: Employment support for economically inactive people	TOTAL		£26,909	TOTAL		£41,820	TOTAL		£74,558
	MGT		£11,909	MGT		£23,820	MGT		£29,548
	REMAIN		£15,000	REMAIN		£18,000	REMAIN		£45,010
S32: Courses including basic skills for those not economically inactive			£15,000			£18,000			£45,000
S33: Enrichment and volunteering activities			£15,000			£18,000			£45,000
S34: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills		£8,000	£12,000		£8,000	£10,000		£20,000	£25,000
S37: Green skills courses	TOTAL		£10,000	TOTAL	£1,608	£31,881	TOTAL	£6,032	£72,668
	CITY D		£0	CITY D	£1,608	£11,259	CITY D	£6,032	£27,668
	REMAIN		£10,000	REMAIN	£0	£20,622	REMAIN	£0	£45,000
S39: Education and skills targeting the vulnerable leaving school			£15,000			£18,000			£45,000
S40: Support for community learning and		£9,148	£8,041		£14,078	£3,922		£60,323	£6,668

People and Skills development									

Multiply									
	2022/23 (Nov – Mar)			2023/24 (Apr – Mar)			2024/25 (Apr – Mar)		
		Capital	Revenue		Capital	Revenue		Capital	Revenue
S42: Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers	TOTAL		£74,318	TOTAL		£85,751	TOTAL		£78,177
	MGT		£18,579	MGT		£21,438	MGT		£10,076
	REMAIN		£55,739	REMAIN		£64,313	REMAIN		£68,101
S47: Innovative Programmes delivered with employers			£55,738			£64,313			£68,100
S51: Provision developed in partnership with community organisations			£55,738			£64,313			£68,100

How much grant can we apply for?

The **minimum** you can apply for across all interventions is £5k per annum. We have not set a maximum grant but we do not anticipate many grants being over £50k. Larger bids are most likely to be considered where there is a substantial amount of funding allocated, for example in Multiply or in S10 Cost of Living Year 3.

Do we need match funding?

UK Government has not made match funding a requirement for this fund but it could strengthen your application if you have additional funding to support your project.

How will grant funding be distributed?

You will be notified of an allocation in principle, this will be confirmed once UK Government approves the Midlothian Investment Plan which is forecast to be approved at the end of October 2022. No funding will be issued until the investment plan has received formal approval.

Grant instalments will be paid in advance in the following ways linked to performance:

- Year 1: one payment
- Year 2: quarterly payments on evidence of meeting targets
- Year 3: 6 monthly payments on evidence of meeting targets

Please note that instalments will only be paid if the Monitoring Officer is satisfied that the project activities are on track and all reporting and monitoring requirements are being submitted in time. Projects may be cancelled and no further payments will be made if these conditions are not being met.

What are the reporting requirements?

If your application is successful you will need to adhere to strict regular monitoring and reporting which will form part of the grant acceptance and SLA.

How will you decide on the successful bids?

We will convene a funding panel.

Successful bids will:

- Strongly meet the themes outlined in the Investment Plan;
- Be deliverable within the timescales;
- Offer good value for money;

We will be seeking a spread of activity to allow us to meet the minimum outputs and outcomes targets per intervention in the Investment Plan.

When will I find out about my application?

You will find out by the end of October 2022 if your application has been successful. Grants cannot be paid out until the Investment Plan has been approved by UK Government.

Further information

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: overview \(1\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: outputs and outcomes definitions \(2\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: reporting and performance management \(3\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: monitoring and evaluation \(4\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: assurance and risk \(5\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: branding and publicity \(6\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: subsidy control \(7\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: procurement \(8\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: equalities \(9\)](#)