

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Draft Programme Guidance – March 2023

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About UKSPF

This fund has been designed to support the aims of the UK Governments Levelling Up agenda; more specifically it has an overarching objective of ‘Building pride in place and increasing life chances’. Rochford District Council has been awarded £1m of funding to be spent between Dec 2021 and March 2025. Government has allocated funding on a yearly basis, and it includes both capital and revenue spend.

The two Interventions presented in this call are part of Rochford District Councils UKSPF Investment plan, which was informed through local consultation - (see the visual below). The Council can only use UKSPF to fund projects that support these Interventions. You will need to deliver and evidence UKSPF selected outputs and outcomes for each Intervention selected.

Communities and Place	Communities and Place
 <p>E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs</p>	 <p>E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer</p>

Examples of what a project **might** look like

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public realm improvements eg street art, street furniture • Regenerating a town square/high street • Delivery of participatory programmes for community spaces, and public libraries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development, restoration or refurbishment of local natural, cultural and heritage assets/sites • delivery of outreach, engagement and participatory programmes for local assets/sites.
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Grant funding Calls

Call 1 for Interventions E1 and E4 will open for project delivery between June 2023 and March 2024. Applications are requested for grant values between £5,000 and £15,000. Mandatory draft applications are required by **9th May 2023** to allow for feedback. The final application date is **19th May 2023**.

All applicants will be notified of panel decisions 1st June 2023
 Grant Funding commences 1st June 2023 (at own risk until grant agreement signed)
 Funding agreements to be signed and returned latest, 15th June 2023

Funding available for projects delivered between June 2023 and March 2024

Investment Priority	Intervention	Capital 23/24	Revenue 23/24
Communities and Place	E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs	£4,532	£27,157
Communities and Place	E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer	£9,200	£54,177

These amounts are provisional and may change subject to the incorporation of any underspend from 2022/23. The Council reserves the right to make reasonable adjustments to these allocations, including to the capital-revenue split, within overall parameters set by UK Government. The Council further reserves the right to not distribute the full allocations specified above should insufficient quality applications be received.

We would recommend you read about the fund in more detail:

[UKSPF Prospectus](#) – an outline of the funding

Who can apply?

Any organisation with legal status can receive funding to deliver a UKSPF Intervention. This may include local authorities, public sector organisations, arms-length bodies of government, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations and registered charities. Applications from individuals cannot be accepted.

If you are delivering a project as a partnership only the lead partner should be listed as the applicant.

How much can I apply for?

For this round you can apply for a grant between £5000 and £15,000. Please note the split available in total between capital and revenue and apply accordingly.

Please note that 50% of your award will be paid once your funding agreement is signed and 50% three weeks before the end of your project.

What can be funded?

Your project must support at least one UKSPF Intervention, and for each intervention at least one output and one outcome. In addition, projects will be expected to

demonstrate that they align with key elements of the [Rochford Business Plan, 2020-2023](#).

In the tables below we have outlined for your information the UKSPF outputs and outcomes, and targets for 2023-2024. Remember outputs and outcomes need to link to the funding and your project, and you will need to include them as part of your project proposal.

Intervention E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs	
Type	Description
Output	Amount of public realm created or improved (measure in m ²)
Output	Number of decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support
Outcome	Jobs created as a result of support (measure FTE equiv.)
Outcome	Increased footfall
Outcome	Increased visitor numbers
Outcome	Improved perception of facilities/amenities
Intervention E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer	
Type	Description
Output	Number of organisations receiving non-financial support
Output	Number of Tourism, Culture or Heritage assets created or improved
Output	Number of events/participatory programmes
Outcome	Increased footfall
Outcome	Increased visitor numbers
Outcome	Improved perception of facilities/amenities

We strongly recommend that you look at the two documents below to make sure you understand what is meant by each UKSPF Intervention and the definitions and evidence need to support outputs and outcomes.

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs – England](#)

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

What UKSPF cannot fund:

- 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
- payments made in cash
- 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
- more than one bid per applicant
- retrospective bids, i.e. where work has already commenced prior to funding award
- hospitality and catering (but volunteer refreshments are eligible)
- organisation running costs unless these are directly related to the project delivery and ongoing costs incurred post project completion e.g. maintenance of equipment or licences/subscriptions
- exclusively religious or political activity
- funding for projects delivered outside the Borough of Brentwood

How we will assess your project

Each application will be scored against the information provided in the application form and the criteria set out in the Scoring Matrix. It is anticipated that in the first full year of the grant we may get a higher number of applications than funding. In this instance selection will be based on highest scoring projects.

How to apply

Call 1 for Interventions E1 and E4 for project delivery between June 2023 and March 2024 will open on the 20th April 2023. Applications can be for grant values between £5,000 and £15,000. Mandatory draft applications are required by **9th May 2023** to allow for feedback. The final application date is **19th May 2023**.