

NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

ELIGIBILITY AND GUIDANCE

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Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the Government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF) which the UK continues to participate in until 2023.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund is delivered at a local level and is shaped to meet the local needs of the area. This means there will be variations in the type of interventions supported across local authorities.

North East Lincolnshire Council have been allocated funding until March 2025 to deliver the activities determined as priority interventions for our local area as submitted to government in our Investment Plan in July 2023. This funding will support activities and services for our communities and businesses.

For further information please visit:

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/business-and-investment/support-for-businesses/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-ukspf/>

Priority area 1 - Communities and Place

Communities and Place - objectives

Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging by investing in activities that enhance physical, cultural, and social ties through access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and community-led projects.

Building resilient, healthy, and safe neighbourhoods in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to buildings, access to digital infrastructure, and low carbon initiatives.

Communities and Place - eligible activities

The Communities and Place strand of UKSPF falls into two distinct categories

1. Supporting local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities, and activities to encourage visits to the area.

E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area

E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy

These are events and activities that will be procured through a range of processes, including procurement, commissions, and grant opportunities. If you are an events delivery organisation or want more information, please contact us grimsbycreates@nelincs.gov.uk

2. Community and neighbourhood

E2: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects

E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration

E15: Investment and support for digital connectivity for local community facilities

There will be an open call for community projects which can fulfil the outputs and outcomes as defined in the Output Definitions and Evidence Requirements document (see our website). We would encourage activities such as, but not limited to, the following to come forward:

- Capital grants for community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects such as the installation of low or zero carbon energy which results in CO2 reductions.
- Capital grants for improvements to neighbourhood/community facilities to improve perception and increase the number of users.
- Capital grants to improve the digital connectivity of neighbourhood/community facilities.
- Revenue grants to support activities or events in neighbourhood/community facilities which increase engagement numbers and/or support volunteering opportunities.
- Revenue grants to support the activation of meanwhile spaces which result in volunteering opportunities, jobs created, improved engagement numbers or users.
- Capital and revenue grants to support new and diverse activity in Grimsby Town Centre which will give enterprises the best opportunity of self-sustainability in the future and result in volunteering opportunities, jobs created, improved engagement numbers or users.

There is potential to match fund a project with the Activation and Community Engagement Fund, a capital grant scheme focusing on projects located in Grimsby Town Centre, for more information please visit [Town Deal - NELC | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#).

Communities and Place – grant values and intervention rates

The following amounts will be ringfenced for the above interventions ([see note](#))

Year 2 - April 2023 / March 2024	Year 3 - April 2024 / March 2025
Revenue - £175,000	Revenue - £575,000

Revenue Funding

Revenue funding of **up to 75%** of the project cost is available ([see note](#)) but preference will be given to organisations who can demonstrate how this funding will enable the project or activity to become sustainable in the future.

As we expect a diverse mix of projects to come forward, we are not putting restrictions on the amount of revenue funding requested, we would however ask you to consider the following guidelines.

1. There will be an expectation that you can show how funding will assist the project to become sustainable, so we would expect costs for additional staffing, rent, etc to be short term (say, 6 – 12 months).
2. We would not expect costs for existing staff or overheads to be included, only new costs incurred which will help to deliver the project outputs.
3. Existing costs, for example project sponsors time in developing the project, unpaid or donated specialist support time, use of office facilities, etc can be used towards the 25% ‘match’ funding needed.

Capital Funding

Capital funding is not ringfenced to any priority area, and the total allocation to include both Communities & Place and Supporting Business projects is shown below.

Year 2 - April 2023 / March 2024	Year 3 - April 2024 / March 2025
Capital - £256,000	Capital - £672,000

In the first instance, this will be split as shown in the table below

	Year 2 - April 2023 / March 2024	Year 3 - April 2024 / March 2025
Building improvements to bring commercial buildings back into use or create new floorspace, or for improvements to neighbourhood/community facilities.	£148,000	£422,000
Grants for digital infrastructure (not hardware/software).	£18,000	£50,000
Grants for decarbonisation (installation of energy saving solutions).	£90,000	£200,000

- All capital grants will be a **maximum intervention rate of 40%** against the full cost of the project. **For community/neighbourhood projects which do not fall within the boundary of the Grimsby Town Centre Activation Fund, we can be flexible on the intervention rate in exceptional circumstances if the project is likely to have a significant impact on a community or neighbourhood and any benefits/profits reinvested into the community.**

- Year 2 – **Maximum of £25,000** towards improvements/construction of buildings which meet the eligible criteria in a priority area (the council will however aim for a minimum of 10 projects at an average of £15,000 per project).
- Year 3 – **Maximum of £75,000** towards improvements/construction of buildings which meet the eligible criteria in a priority area (the council will however aim for a minimum of 10 projects, at an average of £42,000 per project).
- For phased capital projects, an applicant can apply for a capital grant across both years 2 and 3, however, phase 1 (Year 2) must be completed and the grant claimed no later than 31 March 2024. This must also include the 60% match funding.
- Capital grants for digital infrastructure will be capped at £6,000. Government guidance suggests that this can only be used for upgrades to broadband speed, this will be reviewed by the project team and any updates on other allowable activities communicated.
- Capital grants for decarbonisation projects will be capped at £10,000. (The council will however aim for a minimum of 15 grants in year 2, and 32 grants in year 3 at an average of £6,000 per project).

Apart from the decarbonisation strand, where we expect single applications across the course of the year, any unallocated capital funds will be pooled on 1st September in each delivery year and made available for other projects to come forward.

Capital grant definitions	
Creation of, or improvements to buildings to create new or bring into use commercial floorspace	<p>The total square meterage of new commercial floorspace completed or improved. Commercial space includes, but is not limited to, retail, hospitality, office, and industrial space.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p> <p>Expectation that applications where the only outputs which can be evidenced is the creation of jobs, that a minimum of 1 FTE job per £12,500 of grant awarded is created.</p>
Grants for digital infrastructure	Number of supported premises where the broadband speed is increased. Currently no opportunity for purchasing hardware/software.
Grants for decarbonisation (installation of energy saving solutions)	<p>The total square meterage of space containing low, or zero carbon infrastructure completed in a non-residential building.</p> <p>Low or Zero Carbon Infrastructure means any improvements to the units that reduce energy demand, promote the diversification of energy sources, or drive more appropriate use of energy.</p>

Priority area 2 - Supporting Local Business

Supporting Local Business – objectives

Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and sectors, which include activities such as support for starting businesses, innovative activities, energy efficiency, low carbon technology and visible town centre diversification.

Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners across sectors to share knowledge, expertise, and resources to stimulate innovation and growth, and to promote the region as a place where people want to live, work, play and learn.

Supporting Local Business – eligible activities

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

E22: Enterprise infrastructure & employment / innovation sites

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators

E29: Supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth

There will be an open call for community projects which can fulfil the outputs and outcomes as defined in the Output Definitions and Evidence Requirements document (see our website). We would encourage activities such as, but not limited to, the following to come forward

- Revenue grants which support innovative product and service development.
- Capital grants to complete or improve commercial buildings. In the Supporting Business strand, there is an expectation that applications where the only outputs which can be evidenced is the creation of jobs, a minimum of 1 FTE job per £12,500 of grant awarded is created within 6 months of completion.
- Revenue grants for training hubs, business support offers which for example support entrepreneurs to be enterprise ready, increases the amount of investment, creates jobs.
- Revenue and capital grants to support the adoption of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure which results in decarbonisation plans being developed and a reduction on CO2 emissions.
- Revenue grants to provide enterprises with access to specialist support programmes, workshops, training, including staff training which leads to a higher level of business engagement, an increase in jobs or investment.
- Capital grants to improve digital connectivity in premises.

There is potential to combine capital funding with the Activation and Community Engagement Fund, a capital grant scheme focusing on projects located in Grimsby Town Centre, for more information please visit [Town Deal - NELC | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://nelincs.gov.uk). Please note we are unable to fund 100% of the project costs.

Supporting Local Business – grant values and intervention rates

The following amounts will be ringfenced for the above interventions ([see note](#))

Year 2 - April 2023 / March 2024	Year 3 - April 2024 / March 2025
Revenue - £175,000	Revenue - £575,000

Revenue Funding

Revenue funding of **up to 75%** of the project cost is available ([see note](#)) but preference will be given to organisations who can demonstrate how this funding will enable the project or activity to become sustainable in the future.

Unlike the Communities and Place strand, we do not expect to support revenue expenditure such as staffing, utilities, etc in the Supporting Business strand, except in circumstances where the organisation applying is seeking funding to provide a free business support activity.

Capital Funding

Capital funding is not ringfenced to any priority area, and the total allocation to include both Communities & Place and Supporting Business projects is shown below.

Year 2 - April 2023 / March 2024	Year 3 - April 2024 / March 2025
Capital - £256,000	Capital - £672,000

In the first instance, this will be split as shown in the table below

	Year 2 - April 2023 / March 2024	Year 3 - April 2024 / March 2025
Building improvements to bring commercial buildings back into use or create new floorspace, or for improvements to neighbourhood/community facilities.	£148,000	£422,000
Grants for digital infrastructure (not hardware/software)	£18,000	£50,000
Grants for decarbonisation (installation of energy saving solutions)	£90,000	£200,000

Capital funding is not ringfenced to any priority area and will be allocated on the following basis

- Capital grants will be a **maximum intervention rate of 40%** against the full cost of the project.
- Year 2 - **Maximum of £25,000** towards improvements/construction of buildings which meet the eligible criteria in a priority area (the council will however aim for a minimum of 10 projects at an average grant intervention of £15,000).
- Year 3 – **Maximum of £75,000** towards improvements/construction of buildings which meet the eligible criteria in a priority area (the council will however aim for a minimum of 10 projects at an average grant intervention of £42,000).
- A project can apply for a capital grant in both years for a phased project, but phase 1 (Year 2) must be completed and the grant claimed within that financial year, including the 60% match funding.

- Capital grants for digital infrastructure will be capped at £6,000. Government guidance suggests that this can only be used for upgrades to broadband speed, this will be reviewed by the project team and any updates on other allowable activities communicated.
- Capital grants for decarbonisation projects will be capped at £10,000. (The council will however aim for a minimum of 15 grants in year 2, and 32 grants in year 3 at an average of £6,000 per project).

Apart from the decarbonisation strand, where we expect single applications across the full course of the year, any unallocated capital funds will be pooled on 1st September in each delivery year and made available for other projects to come forward.

Capital grant definitions	
Creation of, or improvements to buildings to create new or bring into use commercial floorspace	<p>The total square meterage of new commercial floorspace completed or improved. Commercial space includes, but is not limited to, retail, hospitality, office, and industrial space.</p> <p>Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</p> <p>Expectation that applications where the only outputs which can be evidenced is the creation of jobs, that a minimum of 1 FTE job per £12,500 of grant awarded is created.</p>
Grants for digital infrastructure	Number of supported premises where the broadband speed is increased. Currently no opportunity for purchasing hardware/software.
Grants for decarbonisation (installation of energy saving solutions)	<p>The total square meterage of space containing low or zero carbon infrastructure completed in a non-residential building.</p> <p>Low or Zero Carbon Infrastructure means any improvements to the units that reduce energy demand, promote the diversification of energy sources, or drive more appropriate use of energy.</p>

Priority area 3 – People and Skills

People and Skills – eligibility criteria

There will be an open call for People and Skills projects which can fulfil the outputs and outcomes as defined in the Output Definitions and Evidence Requirements document (see our website).

E34: Courses including basic, life and career skills

We would like to see projects that support one or more of these groups:

- Unemployed 19+.
- 19+ with below level 2 qualifications.
- Employed looking to upskill or retrain into priority sectors*.
- 16–18-year-olds without grade 4 at GCSE English & Maths.

Interventions should take a holistic approach and can include one, or more, element of the following support:

- Wellbeing support.
- Digital Access support.
- Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance.
- Debt / Finance / Budget support.
- Confidence / Aspiration building.
- Engagement with employers / Work experience placements / Further & Higher Education providers.
- Tailored support to overcome barriers such as costs, childcare, resources.

E40: Retraining – High Carbon Sectors

We would like to see projects that support one or more of these groups:

- Employed adults 19+.
- Employed adults with below level 2 qualifications.
- Employed adults without a level 4 qualification.

Interventions should take a holistic approach and can include one, or more, elements of the following support:

- Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance – including CV and interview support relevant for their chosen sector and / or support for applying to Further or Higher Education
- Access to high quality qualifications in a priority sector*.
- Engagement with employers / work experience placements.
- Tailored support to overcome barriers such as costs, childcare, resources.
- Wellbeing support.

***Priority sectors:** Health and Care, Renewables, Construction, Visitor Economy, Leisure & Tourism, Manufacturing, Chemical Processing, Ports and Logistics.

People and Skills – grant values and timescales

People and Skills activities are for Year 3 (March 2024 – Apr 2025) only. However, we expect all bids to be received no later than 1st September 2023, with contracts issued to successful projects in January 2024. We expect to utilise up to £800,000 for these activities.

Revenue Funding

Revenue funding of **up to 75%** of the project cost is available ([see note](#)) but preference will be given to organisations who can demonstrate how this funding will enable the project or activity to become sustainable in the future.

Important information

1. Ringfenced funds

To ensure all revenue funds are utilised in each year, where funding has been allocated to a priority area, this fund will remain open for project submissions until

- all funds are committed.
- or 1st September (whichever is soonest).

Any funds not allocated by 1st September within the delivery year, will be pooled and opened up to a wider audience to allow projects on a waiting list in another priority area to come forward.

Activities being procured through the council's tender system also have funding ringfenced. Any underspend will be added back into the fund and utilised for open call projects.

2. Delivery timescales

Projects must be able to claim allocated funding within the financial year the fund is allocated.

3. Match funding

Applicants will need to evidence that match funding for capital grants is in place before a contract is issued. This can be in the form of a bank statement showing funds in the applicants account or a loan agreement.

Match funding for revenue grants can be shown as a cash match, or in the form of staff members seconded into the project, or office/venue overheads.

4. Eligibility

- Project activity must take place within North East Lincolnshire
- Project must provide good value for money and deliver activities as defined in the outputs/outcomes of at least one indicator.

5. How to apply

Eligible businesses across North East Lincolnshire are invited to submit an Expression of Interest in the first instance by completing the downloadable form and submitting by email to ppd-communityinvestment@nelincs.gov.uk

Expression of interest forms can be found on the website at [UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) - NELC | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

The project delivery team at NELC will review Expressions of Interests and those which fit within the eligibility criteria will be asked to complete a full application and given a deadline to return applications and supporting information. We will endeavour to contact you within 7-10 days from receipt of your Expression of Interest, however this may be longer if we receive a large number of submissions.

Once we have all the information, we will appraise your application before submitting to the UKSPF panel for a decision.

Applicants who are successful at EOI stage will have the opportunity to refine the information included in their expression of interest, as part of their full application.

6. Support organisations

We recommend contacting one of the following free advisor services for assistance with your application:

E-Factor - info@e-factor.co.uk

Investment Hub - info@investmenthubnel.org.uk

Sector Support NEL - Jennifer@nbforum.org.uk

To review our Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website below.

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) - NELC | NELC \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

