



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 24 February 2026

Report of Councillor Philip Knowles
Cabinet Member for Corporate
Governance and Licensing

Update on UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26

Report Author

Emma Whittaker, Assistant Director (Planning & Growth)

✉ emma.whittaker@southkesteven.gov.uk

Purpose of Report

To provide the Committee with an update regarding progress on the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26 allocation. The report outlines the investment into South Kesteven's communities as a result of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and the progress made regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation for 2025-26.

Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?	No
What are the relevant corporate priorities?	Connecting communities Sustainable South Kesteven Enabling economic opportunities Housing Effective council
Which wards are impacted?	(All Wards);

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance and Procurement

- 1.1 The 2025-2026 UKSPF was allocated to the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority (GLCCA) which in turn passported the funds to the Unitary/District Councils and County Council. South Kesteven (SKDC) was awarded approximately £1,212,660 with an additional £162,103 being awarded in Rural England Prosperity Funds (REPF). At the present time all funding with the exception of £107 has been allocated to approved schemes.
- 1.2 The allocation of funding is in accordance with the grant criteria and the delegations approved by Council.

Completed by: David Scott – Assistant Director of Finance and Deputy s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

- 1.3 This report highlights the activities undertaken as part of the UKSPF Programme. It should however be noted that the Council had a UKSPF Board that met quarterly to give a steer from elected members on the use of UKSPF monies – an update from this Board is required to be considered at an Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This report satisfies this requirement under the UKSPF Board Terms of Reference.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager

2. Background to the Report

- 2.1 The Council's overarching aspiration, as set out in the Corporate Plan 2024-2027, is to ensure that the District is "A thriving District to live in, work and visit". A key priority is to enable and support a dynamic, resilient and growing local economy, which benefits all our communities. Continuing to distribute government grants, including the UK Shared Prosperity (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) will support the Council in meeting these aspirations.

- 2.2 The UKSPF originally ran from April 2022 to March 2025 and provided £2.6 billion of funding for local investment cross the country. The government subsequently announced in its 2024 Autumn budget that there would be a single year extension to the UKSPF (2025-2026).
- 2.3 The 2025-2026 UKSPF was allocated to the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority (GLCCA) which in turn passported the funds to the Unitary/District Councils and County Council. South Kesteven (SKDC) was awarded approximately £1.2million with an additional £162,103 being awarded in Rural England Prosperity Funds (REPF).
- 2.4 The overarching aim of the UKSPF and REPF is to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.
- 2.5 The Government originally required the UKSP funds to be fully spent by 31st March 2026 however it has subsequently extended this deadline by six months. The GLCCA, as the responsible body, has also confirmed that SKDC has until 30th September 2026 to fully spend its allocation. It has been confirmed that whilst there is an extension of time to spend the allocation, there is no increase in the amount of funding available.
- 2.6 The GLCCA is monitoring the overall position and has indicated that it could reclaim some of the funds if they are not allocated so that they can be redistributed across Lincolnshire. Unspent funds will need to be returned to MHCLG via the GLCCA.
- 2.7 At its February 2025 meeting, Council agreed to the broad principles behind the investment plan that formed the final submission to the GLCCA. The investment plan sets out how the Council intends to allocate the funding across the three themes.
- 2.8 As part of the decision-making process around which projects would receive funding, the Council's UKSPF Board met on various dates between 30th May and 4th September 2025. The Board reviewed all eligible applications to decide which projects should be funded.
- 2.9 The allocations to date against each of the three themes is shown in **Appendix A** and summaries at the present time only £107 remain unallocated.
- 2.10 In light of the extension period, reconciliation will take place against the initial deadline of March 2026 to confirm actual expenditure against the allocated amounts. If there is any underspend once the reconciliation is complete, additional projects will be considered to ensure full spend by end of September 2026.

UKSPF 2025-26 Allocations

Parish and Community projects (£215,585) and Decarbonisation Schemes (£107,346)

- 2.11 A total of 21 projects were awarded funding to Town/Parish and Community projects across the district. Details of these projects are detailed in **Appendix B**.
- 2.12 Thirteen of the projects have been completed and a further Eight are currently on track to be completed by the end of March.

Safer Streets Programme – £65,000

- 2.13 The project was an extension to part of the existing Safer Streets Project which had previously operated in Grantham. The funding that the Council had been previously awarded by the Home Office through the Police and Crime Commissioner ended in March 2025. Through UKSP Funding the Council has been able to continue the project for a further year, allocating £40,000. The funding has provided two officers patrolling plus an additional CCTV operator on Friday and Saturday nights. The officers have been able to be more flexible in the locations where they patrol rather than this being restricted to Grantham.
- 2.14 Additionally, £25,000 was provided to extension the existing Shopwatch/Pubwatch scheme that previously operated in Grantham was funded. This has allowed the scheme to be rolled out to Bourne, The Deepings and Stamford.

Sports and Communities Facilities - £220,345

- 2.15 A number of projects were awarded funds to improve sports and communities' facilities:
- Harrowby United Football Club (£9,225); installation of new LED lights
 - Harrowby Lane recreation ground (£35,000); improvements to create a durable car parking area to serve the facility
 - Dysart Park Tennis Courts (£32,120); resurfacing works to the tennis courts
 - Dysart Park (£19,000): to create a multi-use games area
 - Wyndham Park Skate Park (£125,000); to create a skate park in Wyndham Park

Open Spaces - £60,000

- 2.16 Proposed works at Campbell Close to address drainage issues have been aborted due to the complexity in finding a solution. However, in order to improve connectivity between the residential area and the town a footpath has been installed as part of the funding. The remaining balance will be reviewed as part of the reconciliation process at year end and combined with any other underspends to ensure full spend as we enter into the extension period.

Shopfront Grant Scheme - £100k

- 2.17 A total of £100k was allocated towards a shopfront grant scheme. This was building on the Heritage Action Zone shopfront improvement scheme that was delivered in Grantham however this scheme is open to applicants from across the district. To date, 15 applicants have been awarded funding and grants are up to £5k each. The Council is currently accepting applications to ensure that the remaining funds are fully committed.
- 2.18 There are some minor delays whilst listed building consent is secured for some of the shopfronts however where funding has been awarded, the projects are currently expected to be completed by the deadline.
- 2.19 Progress against this project will continue to be monitored and the extended spend deadline will be beneficial to ensure the funds are fully allocated.

Business Growth Grants - £142,800

- 2.20 Funding of £122,800 was allocated to Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce to deliver a programme of SK Business Growth Grants. All funds are allocated, and the programme is on track to fully deliver. The next update meeting is scheduled for early January.
- 2.21 A further allocation £20,000 was given to Business Lincolnshire to deliver grant top-ups in addition to a support programme that was already being delivered. There are still a few grants available although there has been interest from applicants; this is being monitored.

Skills Summit - £10,000

- 2.22 The Council is delivering a second Skills Summit which is booked for 4th March 2026 at the Mere's Leisure Centre.

People and Skills - £261,500

- 2.23 Inspire+ was awarded £40,000 to deliver the "move and food programme" during the school half-term holidays. This is on track to be fully delivered.
- 2.24 Harlaxton College (Impact Booster) was awarded £61,500 and is on track to fully deliver the programme before 31st March 2026.
- 2.25 Steadfast was awarded £90,000 to deliver it's Connect to Grown programme. A total of 42 people have been enrolled with a further 10 referrals being processed. There is some capacity remaining and this is being monitored however it is expected to fully deliver.

- 2.26 Inspire+ has been awarded £70,000 to deliver a Community Hub. The planning application for the unit has been approved, and officers are working with Inspire+ to deliver this scheme which will continue into the extension period.

Rural Fund - £152,370

- 2.27 Three projects have been awarded funds from the REPF; Stamford Bowls Club, Deepings Community Centre and Langtoft Pavillion. These are currently on track for delivery.
- 2.28 The overall Rural Fund allocation is £162,103; the remaining balance will be used to fund the overallocation of Parish and Communities which meet the Rural Fund Criteria (capital works outside of Grantham). This will be done as part of the project closure and financial accounting process.

3. Key Considerations

- 3.1 The UKSPF and REPF funding must be spend by September 2026. All projects that have not yet been fully completed are being monitored and all are expected to have been delivered within the relevant deadlines.
- 3.2 Progress is being reported regularly to the GLCCA as the lead authority.
- 3.3 The report is for noting and it is expected that the funds allocated to the Council will be fully expended.
- 3.4 Once the programme has closed and the monitoring has been completed, a further update of the projects that have been delivered with UKSPF funding will be provided.

4. Reasons for the Recommendations

- 4.1 The Council is required to continue to monitor the progress of the UKSPF programme to ensure that projects have been delivered and the relevant monitoring, reporting and evaluation takes place. This is set out in the Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. As this report updates the committee on progress so far, no other options have been considered.

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26: Technical Note ([UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26: Technical note - GOV.UK](#))

6. Appendices

6.1 Appendix A: UKSPF and REPF allocations update

6.2 Appendix B: Parish & Town Council and Decarbonisation programme update