

# Meeting of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Board



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

**Monday, 13 May 2024, 2.00 pm**

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## **Committee Members present**

Councillor Philip Knowles (Chairman)  
Councillor Lee Steptoe (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Ashley Baxter  
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing  
Councillor Tim Harrison  
Councillor Philip Knowles (Chairman)  
Councillor Bridget Ley  
Councillor Nikki Manterfield  
Councillor Virginia Moran  
Councillor Lee Steptoe (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Sarah Trotter

## **Other Members present**

Councillor Ian Selby

## **Officers**

Emma Whittaker, Assistant Director of Planning  
Nick Hibberd, Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment  
Neil Darwin, UKSPF Programme Manager  
Lucy Bonshor, Democratic Officer

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## **54. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Helen Crawford.

## **55. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Tim Harrison declared an interest in application SKMP10 and left the meeting whilst this application was deliberated by the Board.

Councillor Philip Knowles declared an interest in application SK2163 and left the meeting whilst this application was deliberated by the Board.

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing declared an interest in application SK2178 and left the meeting whilst this application was deliberated by the Board.

Councillor Bridget Ley declared an interest in those applications in respect of the Deepings however, she would be leaving the meeting early at 3:20 and the applications would be dealt with after towards the end of the agenda.

It was noted that the Assistant Director of Planning had been involved in some of the applications at agenda item 7 but she remained within the meeting during consideration of these items.

#### **56. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED.**

#### **57. Expenditure Profile and Heat Map**

The expenditure profile outlined where the money had been spent and under what categories and interventions. It was noted that the spend per person as shown by the Heat Map was larger in villages due to the smaller populations compared with the towns and also one big funding item could distort the figures shown and an example of Stamford was given where a large funding amount had been approved.

#### **58. Summary of Main Programme Applications**

A summary of the Main Programme applications had been appended to the agenda which had been split in to three areas; the main applications, rural applications and applications for the South Kesteven Prosperity Fund to enable the public to see what applications the Board would be considering and the amount of funding requested.

The new UKSPF Manager, Neil Darwin was introduced to the Board.

#### **59. Exclusion of Press and Public**

It was proposed and seconded that the Press and Public were excluded from the meeting at this point as it was likely that the information contained within the remaining items on the agenda were exempt under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). On being put to the vote this was **AGREED.**

Councillor Ashley Baxter asked for his vote against exclusion be recorded.

#### **60. Main Programme Applications**

The Chairman informed the Board that the applications had been before the Lincolnshire Economic Forum and the Sub-Committees who had scored the applications accordingly. It was for the Board to look at the applications to see if they offered value for money. Each application was discussed individually and then a decision taken by the Board on each application having regard to the amount of

money still available under each intervention. It was noted that there was a little flexibility between the funding interventions.

***SKMP10 – South Lincolnshire Blind Society CIO***  
***Funding requested: £52,443.00***

A funding application had been submitted for a Community Radio Station project which would be available 24/7 365 days of the year similar in a format to the previous defunct Gravity FM radio station. Councillor Tim Harrison spoke in support of the application and how it would be run using many volunteers from the previous Gravity FM station and answered the Board Members questions.

*(Cllr Tim Harrison then left the meeting between 2:40 and 2:45 and 3:00 and 3:02 whilst the Board deliberated the application and made a decision)*

Questions were asked in respect of the funding available and the amount requested and it was stated that difference between that requested and what remained could be vires from elsewhere within the funding streams. The funding request was proposed, seconded and **ENDORSED** by the Board.

***SKMP14 – Deepings Neighbourhood Plan Group/Deeping St James Parish Council***  
***Funding requested: £29,220***

A funding request had been received for a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Deepings. The Plan would form an important leading component of a revised Deepings Neighbourhood Plan. Members discussed the application with references being made to Lincolnshire County Council's responsibility and the Local Plan. It was stated that a Walking Infrastructure Plan (WIP) was not a statutory responsibility of the Highways Authority. Following a discussion the funding request was proposed, seconded and **ENDORSED**.

***SKMP15 – South Kesteven District Council***  
***Funding requested: £100,000***

The funding request was for a one-off project to create a grant fund for businesses based in the town centre areas of Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and Market Deeping to support business owners in maintaining their shopfronts and bringing them in to line with applicable shopfront design guidance. The application was discussed in detail with comments being made in respect of work that had been done within Grantham. It was stated that this grant would be available to all the four towns in the district and that it was for the business owner of the shop NOT the landlords. Reference was made to match funding and it was stated that this could be added as part of the grants offered. On being put to the vote it was proposed, seconded and **ENDORSED**.

***SKMP16 – National Trust (Belton Estate)***

***Funding requested: £105,000***

The funding application was in respect of the setting up of a community Hub at Grantham house. Working in Partnership with St Wulfram's and the local community, Grantham house would be an amazing community space for the people of Grantham and beyond. The hub would provide a facility for community groups and for community engagement building work that had already taken place. Members were in agreement with the project and it was proposed, seconded and **ENDORSED**.

***SKMP17 – Inspire+***

***Funding requested: £15,500***

The funding application was to promote active travel to school and in the community for local young people and their families. Members felt that the output did not match the input and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***SKMP18 – Inspire+***

***Funding requested: £4,000***

The funding application was to help develop a Business Skills Academy in South Kesteven, working with local businesses to provide opportunities for young people in the local area to develop their skills for the workplace. The project would be delivered in conjunction with local secondary schools across South Kesteven including Bourne, Grantham, Stamford and The Deepings.

A short discussion followed by Members who queried the amount but it was stated that the requested funding was more an admin fee. It was proposed, seconded and **ENDORSED**.

***SKMP19 – Destination Lincolnshire***

***Funding requested: £160,900***

The funding request was in respect of an integrated programme for the visitor economy. The project had three interventions of business support and training, destination marketing and product development/itinerary building. The project was one-off for South Kesteven but formed part of a wider visitor economy programme that Destination Lincolnshire was delivering and the LVEP for Lincolnshire. The Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment spoke in detail to the Board about what the proposal entailed which concerned the package marketing of coach tours to the district. On being put to the vote the funding application was **ENDORSED**.

***SKMP20 – Beam Up Ltd***  
***Funding requested: £75,000***

The funding application was proposed to deliver a tailored, flexible programme which supported economically inactive residents in South Kesteven to follow a personalised pathway into employment. The programme would be open to all economically inactive residents in South Kesteven. Members discussed the application but on being put to the vote the funding request was **REJECTED**.

**61. Rural Fund Applications**

As with the previous applications, each funding application was discussed individually and then each application was voted on separately, having regard to the amount of funding being requested and the amount of funding that remained within the relevant interventions.

***RF-1002 – Hanbeck Natural Stone Limited***  
***Funding requested: £90,000***

The funding application was for a project to mechanise what was currently a manual process to allow the business to create a bespoke production line. Members discussed the application in detail and the bespoke products that were produced.

*(3:20 Councillor Bridget Ley left the meeting and did not return)*

On being put to the vote the Board were minded to endorse a portion of the funding £70,000 but asked for more clarity in respect of how the rest of the project would be financed.

***RF-1006 – Storm Style Ltd***  
***Funding requested: £60,023.16***

The funding application was in respect of obtaining better equipment with improved printing abilities for the shop. The project would improve the quality of the products produced, lower production costs and increase production speed. On being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***RF-1008 – Claypole Village Store***  
***Funding requested: £55,000***

The funding requested which was match funded was for a total internal refit of the village shop together with the installation of a new roof, solar panels with battery storage, energy efficient glass door fridge-freezer, new flooring and shop front with sliding glass doors. Members were supportive of the application and on being put to the vote the funding application was **ENDORSED**.

***RF-1013 – JJ Holdings***  
***Funding requested: £50,000***

The funding application was to set up a secure, safe dog exercise park in fields on the outskirts of Great Gonerby. Members discussed the application but were not in favour of the proposal and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***RF-1014 - St Andrew's Church Irnham***  
***Funding requested: £4,000***

The funding application was for the replacement of seven quoin stones on the southeast corner of the 13<sup>th</sup> Century bell tower and five square metres of stone to be cut out and replaced on the south elevation. Members discussed the application and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***RF-1015 – Fairman Knight and sons UK Limited***  
***Funding requested: £45,000***

The funding request was in relation to a project to transform Lincolnshire agriculture by introducing sustainable insect production at the industrial farm-scale, tackling the environmental and economic issues stemming from reliance on imported animal feed. The focus would be on cultivating Black Soldier Flies, the initiative proposed a local, sustainable protein source and eco-friendly fertiliser, substantially reducing the carbon footprint and repurposing food waste into valuable resources at the farm level. Members were very enthusiastic about the proposed project and on being put to the vote the funding application was **ENDORSED**.

***RF-1016 – Rural Inc Ltd***  
***Funding requested: £10,000***

The request was for funding for a proposal to provide a secure and safe open-space area where dogs could be exercised 'off-lead'. The exercise area would be privately hired to dog owners on a half hourly basis. Members discussed the application however on being put to the vote the funding application was **REJECTED**.

***RF-1017 – Carousel Nursery Limited***  
***Funding requested: £25,000***

The application for funding was for support for installing a new air source heat pump and solar panel in a new build nursery to reduce carbon emissions. Members discussed the expanded business but on being put to the vote the application for funding was **REJECTED**.

*(Councillor Ashley Baxter left the meeting between 3:45 and 3:47)*

***RF-1018 – Fun Gymnastics Ltd***  
***Funding requested: £30,000***

The funding application was for a start-up venture which aimed to revolutionize children's fitness and development by offering engaging and educational gymnastics programs tailored for ages 5 to 12 in Bourne and the surrounding area. The project focuses on investing in new, state of the art equipment to create a safe and stimulating environment for young participants to explore the world of gymnastics. Members were supportive of the application but felt that more detail was required including the premises location. On being put to the vote the application was **DEFERRED** for more information.

***RF-1019 – Tiny Steps Petting Farm***  
***Funding requested: £20,000***

The funding application was to enable the replacement of a static caravan and container for a building which could be used to visitors with multi purposes to enable the farm to open all year round. Members were not supportive of the application and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***RF-1020 – The Lincolnshire Drizzle Company***  
***Funding requested: £20,000***

The funding application was to enable the company to increase productivity and increase markets. Members were supportive of the proposal but felt that more supporting information was required and therefore on being put to the vote the application was **DEFERRED** for more information.

***RF-1021 – Mannakin Ltd***  
***Funding requested: £100,000***

The funding application was for funds to remove two asbestos roofs and replace them with new roofs. Members discussed the application but on being put to the vote the funding application was **REJECTED**.

***RF-1022 – Posh Paws Luxury Animal Hotel Limited***  
***Funding requested: £40,000***

The funding was for the replacement of business energy using fossil fuel to renewable energy, two air source heat pumps supported by solar panels. Members were supportive of the change to renewable energy but felt that detail was lacking and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***RF-1023 – Vale Honey Ltd***  
***Funding requested: £20,301.66***

The funding application was to allow for the expansion of Vale Honey to new premises and to get the new premises up to the standard required for food preparation and hygiene requirements. Members were very supportive of the funding application and on being put to the vote the application was **ENDORSED**.

***RF-1024 – Mannakin Ltd***  
***Funding requested: £25,000***

The second funding application from Mannakin Ltd was in respect of funds to upgrade the kitchen and bar area to enable customers and clients visiting the premises to have refreshments and enable the put the business on the map as a visitor location. Members were not supportive of the application and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

*(A short adjournment took place between 4.25 – 4.33)*

**62. South Kesteven Prosperity Fund Applications**

***SK-2148 – Swayfield Village Hall***  
***Funding requested: £25,000***

This funding application had been deferred to see if any match funding could be raised by the Village Hall in respect of their proposal to install solar panels on the roof of the hall to provide a renewable energy solution. The Board acknowledged the match funding that had been raised and it was proposed, seconded and agreed to **ENDORSE** the funding application.

***SK-2153 – Great Gonerby Memorial Hall***  
***Funding requested: £19,914***

This funding request had also been referred back to see if any match funding could be raised in respect of the installation of solar panels on the Great Gonerby Memorial Hall. Match funding had been raised and it was proposed, seconded and agreed to **ENDORSE** the funding application.

***SK-2158 – Market Deeping Town Council: Neighbourhood Plan Group***  
***Funding requested: £30,000***

The funding application was for a Deepings Green Walk to promote healthy living and outdoor activity for people of all ages. The project funding application was for the introduction of signage, way marker posts, directional arrows, benches and



boards. Members were very supportive of the proposal and on being put to the vote the application was **ENDORSED**.

***SK-2159 – Uffington Village Hall***  
***Funding requested: £8,000***

The funding requested was for a new flat roof for an extension that hosts the toilets and village archive. Members agreed with the funding request and on being put to the vote the application was **ENDORSED**.

***SK-2160 – Uffington Parish Council***  
***Funding requested: £13,500***

The request for funding was in respect of a mapped out trail offering accessibility to all, encouraging the community to gain a better understanding of Uffington, to get outdoors and improve their well-being as a heritage trail. On being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***SK-2161 – Uffington Parish Council***  
***Funding requested: £10,745***

The second funding request from Uffington Parish Council was in respect of enhancing five green spaces within Uffington to bring in more nature and enable more villagers to engage and access the spaces. A short discussion on the application followed, on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***SK-2162 – Deeping St James Parish Council***  
***Funding requested: £23,425***

The funding application was in respect of Jubilee Park which would soon be transferred from South Kesteven District Council to the Parish. The funding was for the first phase in respect of consultation and design to engage with the community to create a fresh master plan for Jubilee Park. Members discussed the application but on being put to the vote the funding application was **REJECTED**. Councillor Ashley Baxter abstained from voting.

*(Councillor Philp Knowles left during consideration and voting on the Bourne Civic Society item as he was a member of the Society and the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Lee Steptoe was in the Chair for this item only)*

***SK-2163 – Bourne Civic Society – Baldocks Mill***  
***Funding requested: £15,000***

The funding request was for a project that would focus on Baldocks Mill and increase engagement of community with the Museum's collection ensuring wider regional awareness of the heritage site is achieved. Match funding was available

over the next three years. Members were very supportive of the project and on being put to the vote the application for funding was **ENDORSED**.

***SK-2164 – Ron Dawson Memorial Hall***

***Funding requested: £32,081.90***

The funding application was for the installation of a 20kW solar photovoltaic system to be installed at the Memorial Hall. The installation would reduce the electricity bills dramatically as the Hall has no central heating system and relies on storage heaters. Members were supportive of the project and on being put to the vote the application was **ENDORSED**.

***SK-2166 – West Deeping Village Hall***

***Funding requested: £21,000***

The request for funding was for a new flat roof and refitted kitchen with appliances at the Village Hall. Members discussed the application but on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

***SK2167 – Grantham Canal Society***

***Funding requested: £30,000***

The funding application was for a project that focused on the stretch of the Grantham canal between Woolsthorpe by Belvoir and the A1 at Grantham. The project involved the clearing and maintaining of this length of canal to remove silt and debris within the water course to encourage water flow and improve the depth and improve the habitat for fish and other canal inhabitants. Members were very supportive of the proposal and on being put to the vote the funding application was unanimously **ENDORSED**.

***SK-2168 – Parochial Church Council of St Stephen's Church***

***Funding requested: £50,000***

The funding was for the connection of a water supply and accompanying drainage to the church building, installation of disabled toilet facilities, storage and servery. The lack of facilities hindered the use of the building. Although the Board were sympathetic in relation to the lack of water it was felt that this was for the Church body to resolve and the application was **REJECTED**.

***SK-2169 – Baston Village Hall***

***Funding requested: £12,000***

The funding request was for a project to repair the oldest part of the roof at Baston Village Hall and replace the worn and deteriorated small flat roof section with new material. The Hall was used regularly by the community as well as the local football and cricket teams. Members were supportive of the project and on being put to the vote the funding application was **ENDORSED**.

**SK-2172 – Stamford Drama and Music**  
**Funding requested: £45,000**

The funding request was for the design and development of a youth arts festival to take place in Stamford and Grantham aimed at 13-19 year olds. The Board were supportive of the project but felt that more information was required and therefore **DEFERRED** the application for more supporting information to be submitted.

**SK-2173 – Deeping Neighbourhood Plan Group/Deeping St James Parish Council**  
**Funding requested: £21,600 - application withdrawn**

**SK-2175 – Langtoft Parish Council**  
**Funding requested: £19,168.48**

The request for funding was in respect of a Community Cohesion Project that aimed to visually unite the village and balance the amenities offered in each side of the village. Project one would be to install two signs on entry to the village one from both directions. Project two would be to install more pieces of adult gym equipment. Members were supportive of the projects but felt that more information was required and therefore **DEFERRED** the application for more detail.

As the meeting had reached the three hour mark, it was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to continue for a further 15 minutes.

*(Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing left during consideration and voting on the following item as he was a member of the Church)*

**SK-2178 – St Martins Stamford Baron Parochial Church Council**  
**Funding requested: £15,000**

The application for funding was for the installation of an accessible ramp into the Church which would allow the Church to be more inclusive. Members felt that the costs indicated were high and that more detail was required and therefore **DEFERRED** the application for more information.

**SK-2179 – National Trust – Woolsthorpe Manor**  
**Funding requested: £6,000**

The funding request was for money to help improve the pathways on site to help improve physical access for visitors. The property welcomed in excess of 30,000 visitors a year due to its historic and scientific significance. Members discussed the application and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

**SK-2180 – Art Pop-Up**  
**Funding requested: £16,190**

The funding application was to help deliver a fun series of art events across four villages within South Kesteven. All activities would be free to participate in, benefitting residents of all ages. Events would take place between August and October 2024. Members considered the application and there was some concern expressed by some Members in respect of compliance with previous funding/grants. On being put to the vote the application for funding was **REJECTED**.

**SK-2181 – Blackstones Sports and Social Club**  
**Funding requested: £300,000**

The request for funding was to enable the club to be made more inclusive for everyone within the community regardless of age, gender, physical ability or sporting prowess. To provide proper access for the disabled and infirm to the clubhouse and all the facilities. To increase facilities accordingly and the capability of the Club to provide a venue for local groups to meet and to maintain it as a community hub. Members discussed the application and on being put to the vote the application was **REJECTED**.

**63. Any other business that the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances decides is urgent**

None.

**64. Close of meeting**

The Chairman asked for a clear list of the money spent to date to be circulated to all Members of the Board before the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 5:20pm.