

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



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

Monday, 16 September 2024,  
10.00 am

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## Committee Members present

Councillor Ashley Baxter  
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing  
Councillor Helen Crawford  
Councillor Tim Harrison  
Councillor Philip Knowles (Chairman)  
Councillor Bridget Ley  
Councillor Virginia Moran (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Lee Steptoe

## Officers

Emma Whittaker, Assistant Director of Planning  
Karen Whitfield, Assistant Director Leisure, Culture and Place (App – SK-2197)  
Nick Hibberd, Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment  
Michael Dow, Interim UKSPF Programme Manager  
Favour Uweh, UKSPF Officer  
Lucy Bonshor, Democratic Officer

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### 13. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Patsy Ellis and Councillor Sarah Trotter. Late apologies were received from Councillor Nikki Manterfield.

### 14. Disclosure of Interests

Councillor Lee Steptoe declared an interest in application SKMP28 – Grantham College and left the meeting whilst the Board deliberated the application.

Councillor Ashley Baxter, Councillor Bridget Ley and Councillor Virginia Moran declared an interest in application SK2209 - St Guthlac's PCC Market Deeping and left the meeting whilst the Board deliberated the application.

## **15. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2024**

The minutes from the meeting held on 1 August 2024 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED**.

Councillor Tim Harrison then gave a brief update in respect of the funding application SKMP10, the community radio project and confirmed that the station was due to go live next month. Test broadcasting was currently being undertaken and the station, which was on FM 97.2, had been received as far as Coningsby. All advertising slots had already been sold and filled and the blanket coverage of the station was larger than expected with all presenter slots also being filled. One Member asked if it was possible to see how many people listened to the station but that information was only available for those that accessed the station on-line. Members of the Board noted the progress to date.

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

The Chairman asked how much funding remained to be allocated. The Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment stated that roughly there was £1million left and this was split between the Main Programme £750,000 and the Rural Programme £250,000 but this depended upon the applications endorsed by the Board at the meeting.

Another Member of the Board asked how confident the Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment was that the whole pot of money would be allocated before the deadline. Following today's meeting and the applications before the Board there would be three quarters of a million pounds left. There were projects in the pipeline and more proactive work was being undertaken to get the money spent. The Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment was as optimistic as he could be that the money would be allocated within the next six months.

A question was asked about feasibility studies and funding for these studies. The Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment highlighted the funding remaining within each of the interventions and where the money pots could be vired across.

One Member referred to dialogue and correspondence that he had been having with a particular resident about an application to which the Assistant Director of Planning outlined the reasons why that particular application could not be progressed and that communication and guidance was still being offered to the resident.

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

The Head of Economic Development and Inward Investment reminded the Board that between two and three sub groups as well as the Local Economic Forum

reviewed all the applications and scored them before they came before the Board. They had reviewed 18 applications of which 4 had been rejected. The funding applications went through a robust process before they came before the Board and the Board were reassured that the necessary background work had been undertaken.

One Member commented that the personal knowledge of a Member should also be taken into consideration. A question was asked about the rejected applications and it was stated that the applications would have been rejected as they did not meet the required legal or scheme criteria. It was for the Board to look at whether or not the applications for funding were Value for Money. Further discussion on the rejected applications followed and it was stated that everyone got feedback in respect of their funding applications and were offered assistance to improve the bids submitted as far as possible.

## **18. 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**.

## **19. Main Programme Applications:**

Michael Dow the Interim UKSPF Manager was introduced to the Board.

### ***SKMP25 – Harrowby United FC*** ***Funding requested: £65,000***

The application for funding was for the complete refurbishment of the changing rooms situated at Harrowby Lane, Grantham. The changing rooms provided much needs sports facilities for grassroot adults and youth football. The building had been vandalised in 2019 and had been closed since then. Members were very supportive of the work undertaken by the club and on being put to the vote the funding application was unanimously **ENDORSED**.

*The next three applications were taken from the Supplementary papers that had been distributed.*

### ***Lincolnshire County Council*** ***Funding requested: £55,000***

The funding request was for a project that aimed to highlight South Kesteven as a 'film friendly' destination, to draw film makers and production companies to explore and utilise the areas cinematic potential as well as serving as an extension to the ongoing set jetting and Greater Lincolnshire Film Office project. Board Members

welcomed the project with references being made to previous films such as Middlemarch, Bridgerton and The Crown that had used locations within South Kesteven within the films. Some concern was expressed about the County's involvement but it was stated that the spot light would be on South Kesteven. On being put to the vote the funding request was **ENDORSED**.

***SKMP28 – Grantham College***  
***Funding requested: £43,000***

The funding request was to continue a project to support those individuals living in South Kesteven who were furthest from the labour market, often with significant barriers to achieve their full potential and move them closer toward sustainable employment and/or into training, learning or volunteering opportunities. Reference was made to the application from Steadfast Training Ltd which carried out similar work in the south of the district. The application had been previously before the Board and work had been done with the applicants to address the concerns which the Board had expressed previously. Councillor Lee Steptoe spoke in support of the project and the proposed use of the Earlesfield Community Centre. He then left the meeting and took no part in the decision.

*(10:48 Councillor Steptoe left the meeting)*

Further debate on the funding application followed with references being made to outputs and outcomes. It was stated that the offer letter would outline clearly the expectations attached to the funding allocated. On being put to the vote the application for funding was **ENDORSED**.

*(10:53 Councillor Steptoe returned to the meeting)*

***SK-2197 – SKDC: Bourne, Stamford, Deepings and Grantham***  
***Funding requested: £36,000***

The application had been deferred from the previous Board meeting until Town Council's had been approached for their feedback. The funding was for four community art projects and installations, one based in each town within the district. The project was titled "Our Place, Our Art" and aimed to celebrate the identity, history and culture of each of the four towns. Artists would be sought and allocated each town to collaborate with residents to create these permanent pieces of art. It was proposed that an open call would be put out to allow artists to apply for the project in each town. Applications would be scored making it a fair and transparent process. It was stressed that these were community art projects with the artist working with the local community. The brief had not been prescriptive on purpose to allow for a collective view to be formed with the community.

Debate followed on the proposal with comments being made about including school children, art works in other locations in the Country and using local talent. Members felt that the artists must show a local connection to the area in question

and this must be referenced within the call out. On being put to the vote the funding request was **ENDORSED**.

## **20. Rural Fund applications**

### ***RF-1027 – The Side House Coffee Shop***

***Funding requested: £10,000***

The project was for funding to have a purpose built kitchen unit to be able to bake cakes and traybake products. Members were informed that concern had been raised by both the Environmental Health and Planning Sections in respect of this application due to lack of toilet facilities and the commercial use of the container. Although some Members liked the proposal the location was not viable and on being put to the vote the application for funding was **REJECTED**.

### ***RF-1029 – Wigman Holidays Millside***

***Funding requested: £8,358***

The funding requested was for assistance with the purchase of two further hot tubs. Hot tubs were in demand and the additional tubs would boost booking numbers and value. Concern was expressed by Members in respect of the possible amount of additional revenue that would be received due to the extra hot tubs and also to the local economy. Members felt that the application for funding did not offer sufficient benefits to the community. It was felt that the application form needed to be amended so that it was clear what benefits there were to the community. On being put to the vote the application for funding was **REJECTED**.

## **21. South Kesteven Prosperity Fund applications**

### ***SK-2173 – Deepings Neighbourhood Plan Group/Deeping St***

***James Parish Council***

***Funding requested: £21,600***

The request for funding was for a new east-west path through John Eve Field (broadly following the public right of way, MaDe/4/2). The new route would be created from a hardened all weather surface and would connect pedestrians via the Church and cemetery on the west and to the schools and supermarket on the east side of the park. One Member mentioned that the field belonged to Market Deeping Town Council and there was no mention of the Town Council she also expressed concern about the proposed path being used as a cut through by motorcycles and pedal cyclists. It was felt that no consultation had been carried out with the community and although Members were not fundamentally against the proposal, it was felt that more information and consultation needed to take place and on being put to the vote the application for funding was **DEFERRED**.

*(11:38 – 11:50 meeting adjourned)*

***SK-2204 - SKDC Arts Centres******Funding requested: £10,500***

Funding had been requested for a project to bring “The Whale” an 18 metre spectacle created by the renowned Circo Rum Ba Ba to two locations: Deepings and Grantham. The installation would be at each location for three days and offered a captivating, immersive experience for the public. Members were supportive of the proposal although it was queried why Bourne and Stamford had not been included. The request for funding was proposed, seconded and unanimously **ENDORSED**. The Board did ask that both Bourne and Stamford be looked at to see if there were any suitable locations that could hold the installation. It was also asked that, if possible, the dates when the Whale was in situ at the two different locations were not consecutive.

***SK-2205 – South Kesteven District Council******Funding requested: £100,000***

The project aimed to benefit all residents of South Kesteven that utilised the play areas. Over recent years there had been occasions where equipment had been removed due to health and safety or they were beyond economic repair and not replaced. It was proposed that the project would contribute towards replacing these pieces at the following locations Troughton Walk, South Witham, Empingham Road, Stamford, Arnoldfield, Grantham and College Close, Stamford. Members were supportive of the project and on being put to the vote the application for funding was unanimously **ENDORSED**.

***SK-2206 – Lindissi CIC******Funding requested: £6,500***

The funding request was for an going project that brought the prehistory of South Kesteven to life. The organisation had held a stone age festival in Wyndham Park, Grantham and a week of free family activities in the Earlesfield Estate which had been well received. Future events would bring family activities to the Harrowby Estate, an autumn fun day and a spring festival. Members were supportive of the project and it was asked if the applicants could be contacted to consider doing projects in other areas within South Kesteven. On being put to the vote the funding application was **ENDORSED**.

***SK-2208 – South Witham Parish Council******Funding requested: £7,800***

The funding request was for a new flat roof for South Witham Village Hall. The flat roof section of the Village Hall was severely water damaged/rotten which was affecting the fabric of the building. The building was regularly use by the community. Members voted unanimously to **ENDORSE** the funding request.

**SK-2209 – St Guthlac's PCC Market Deeping**  
**Funding requested: £38,510**

The funding request was to enable a project to improve the Green School which acted as the church hall for St Guthlac's in the parish of Market Deeping by replacing and enlarging the existing kitchen and replacing the toilets so that they met the current standards for disabled access. Councillor Ashley Baxter spoke in support of the application stating that it was well used by the community.

*(12:10 Councillor Ashley Baxter, Councillor Bridget Ley and Councillor Virginia Moran left the meeting)*

Members of the Board discussed the application and on being put to the vote the application for funding was **ENDORSED**.

*(12:12 Councillor Ashley Baxter, Councillor Bridget Ley and Councillor Virginia Moran left the meeting)*

**SK-2213 – Heydour with Aisby & Osby Parish Council**  
**Funding requested: £21,000**

The funding request was to replace play equipment which had become fatigued and unsafe. Due to the nature of the wooden structures the Parish Council wished to start the project sooner before more damage happened to the structures. A question was asked about the location and it was confirmed that it was with South Kesteven even the location address was Sleaford. On being put to the vote the funding application was **ENDORSED**.

A comment was made about whether this could be wrapped with the other play equipment application to help with costs, it was stated that this play area was owned by the Parish Council not South Kesteven but it would be looked into.

**SK-2214 – Fulbeck Sports and Social Club**  
**Funding requested: £22,900**

The request for funding was to enable building improvements to make the Sports & Social Club more accessible to disabled users by installing wider doors and new toilet facilities, together with a new half glazed entrance door and roof light. The club was used a lot by the wider community due to the lack of facilities in the village. Members voted unanimously to **ENDORSE** the funding request.

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

A request was made for an update on the West Deeping Village Hall application for a new flat roof.

The Interim UKSPF Manager gave the Board a brief background to his work and that he had been involved with the UKSPF since 2022. As the timeframe for allocating funds was reducing, he asked if the Board would be willing to have meetings monthly until the end of the year.

It was agreed to hold meetings on the following dates:

**Wednesday 30 October at 10:00am** – *Councillor Ashley Baxter gave his apologies as he would be unable to attend on this date.*

**Monday 16 December at 10:00am**

It was agreed that a date in November would be confirmed outside the meeting but that Wednesdays be avoided if possible.

One Member asked if the UKSPF scheme would be replaced. The UKSPF Manager replied that nothing had been confirmed to date.

The UKSPF Manager referred to an application that had been presented to the Board from the National Trust which had been endorsed but now they wished to change it from a revenue project to a capital project could a paper be submitted or did the Board require a new application. It was felt by the Board that a new application should be submitted.

The meeting closed at 12:35.