



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

19th June 2024

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and
s.151 Officer



Acceptance and allocation of the South Kesteven Prosperity Rural Fund – June 2024

This report provides details of the applications allocated funding from the South Kesteven Prosperity Fund

Decision made by:	Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer
Decision:	To accept the UKSPF Rural Fund allocation grant award of £135,000 for 2023/24 and to approve the budget to enable deployment to appropriate project across the district. Funding will need to be deployed and delivered by 31 March 2025.
Date:	19/06/24
Public or Exempt:	This report is not exempt from publication
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	The Council's Financial Regulations allow Directors to approve accept grants and spend incurred by the Council within the limits set out in the Financial Regulations (Constitution).

Contact

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1 The Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To approve the grant allocation of £135,000 from the UKSPF Rural Fund and approve the delivery of the grant to support local projects across the district. The funding will need to be distributed and delivered by recipients by 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 The Rural Fund will be operated via the same mechanism as the main UKSPF programme. Applications will be sought; these will then be reviewed by a professional sub-group with stakeholder representation. Projects will then be considered by the Local Economic Forum, who make recommendations for the UKSPF Board to consider and make final decision.
- 1.3 The Rural Fund objectives sit within the UKSPF investment priorities for:
 - Supporting Local Business
 - Community and Place

They also relate to 2 of the Levelling Up White Paper Missions:

- Mission 1 – Living standards
- Mission 9 – Pride in place

The Rural Fund provides capital funding to:

- support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams
- support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy

2 Available Options Considered

- 2.1 There are no other options as the grants as provided by DLUHC is aligned to the SK Investment Plan, which enables South Kesteven District Council to draw down funds which support local projects that deliver outputs/outcomes against the Investment Plan.

3 Preferred Option

- 3.1 To accept the funding and begin delivery of the next phase of the UKSPF Rural Fund.

4 Reasons for the Decision

- 4.1 The new allocation builds on those previously provided by Government to support the District's UKSPF Investment Plan. The new allocation is focused on the Rural Fund and will naturally follow the previous year's rural activity across the district.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 The grant allocation of £135,000 has been provided by Government to discharge against the UKSPF Investment Plan. The programme includes a 4% allocation for the Council to deliver the programme support.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Paul Sutton, Interim Head of Finance and Deputy S151 Officer

6 Legal and Governance Implications

6.1 The governance arrangements put in place for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund utilise existing delegated powers within the Council's Constitution.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Monitoring Officer

7 Equality and Safeguarding implications

7.1 There are no equality or safeguarding implications associated with this report.

8 How will the recommendations support South Kesteven District Council's declaration of a climate emergency?

8.1 The UKSPF Rural programme has a focus on carbon reduction and climate change. Applications will be considered that make contributions to the move towards Net Zero.

9 Appendices

9.1 N/A

Signed by: Richard Wyles

Date: 26.6.24