



UKSPF Board

Overview of 2025/26 UKSPF Scheme

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Purpose

1. To update members of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) board on the scheme and approach for the grant award process and proposed allocations for 2025/26.

Background

2. In December 2024 the Government announced an additional or “transition” year of UK Shared Prosperity (UKSPF) funding for 2025-26. The funding has been awarded to all lead authorities which, unlike in previous years, will now be the Greater Lincolnshire Combined County Authority (GLCCA) rather than South Kesteven District Council (SKDC). It has been confirmed by the GLCCA that funding will be distributed to each of the Councils within the Greater Lincolnshire area.
3. It has been confirmed by the GLCCA that the funding would be distributed to each of the Council’s within the Greater Lincolnshire area. This means that the allocation to South Kesteven District Council will be **£1,212,660** in UK Shared Prosperity Funds with a further **£162,103** allocated through the Rural top-up funds (REPF) as summarised in the table below.

	Revenue	Capital	Total
UKSPF	£997,660	£215,000	£1,212,660
Rural Fund	£0	£162,103	£162,103
Total	£997,660	£377,103	£1,374,763

4. As with the original UKSPF programme, an investment plan setting out how the funds would be allocated has been submitted to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). Whilst the GLCCA is responsible for the preparation of this investment plan, each Council within Greater Lincolnshire has been asked to provide its own plan to feed into the overall investment plan. On 27 February 2025, Council agreed the broad principles of the SKDC investment plan, and this has been submitted to the GLCCA. The combined investment plan for Greater Lincolnshire was submitted to MHCLG on 30th April 2025 by the GLCCA.



5. As with the original fund, the fund priorities and themes remain the same. A copy of the investment plan submitted by South Kesteven to the GLCCA is appended to this report (Appendix A).
6. Unlike in previous years, the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County Authority (GLCCA) not South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) will be the lead authority and have allocated funding to the Council.
7. Responsibility for the fund remains with the GLCCA. The GLCCA has been clear that where a local authority is not able to fully distribute funds within its district the funds will be lost to Greater Lincolnshire. The GLCCA has clarified that there will be a review of the fund in September 2025 after which any underspend will be pooled across Greater Lincolnshire. It is therefore imperative that all funding allocated to SKDC is committed by end September 2025.
8. It is anticipated that the funds will not be released to the Council until late May/early June although this is entirely dependent on MHCLG making the funds available to the GLCCA. Preparations are ongoing to ensure that appropriate bids for funding can be received and decisions made to ensure compliance with the deadlines imposed.
9. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Programme Board will have a key role in supporting the Lead Officer in making decisions and providing both challenge and approval on issues affecting the progress of the programme. The Board has a specific remit to set the direction for the programme, support the Lead Officer in overseeing the overall progress and making recommendations in accordance with the Council's scheme of delegation for executive functions. At the Full Council meeting on the 22nd May the following delegation was agreed:

Delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, HR and Economic Development, to approve the grant allocations and to undertake any necessary actions including: allocation of any uncommitted funds to specific interventions; and reallocation of funds and movement of revenue funds to capital expenditure
10. At the same Council meeting the Terms of Reference for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Programme Board were also agreed as set out in Appendix B.
11. In line with the previous UKSPF/REPF scheme, the Board will be able to consider applications and other matters relevant to the programme and make recommendations to decision-takers prior to final decisions being made.



Next steps

12. Officers have been developing a bidding and award process for allocating the 2025/26 funding to ensure the funding is fully allocated within the agreed MCCA timelines. Referring to the investment plan outlined in Appendix A it is suggested the only two intervention themes which are opened up to a formal bidding process are:
 - Parish and Community Fund - £179k
 - Decarbonisation Projects - £135k
13. This is the basis that given the tight timescales to ensure committed spend by September 2025, alongside a number other community-based projects the council is aware of being support for funding we believe this provides the best balance in support community bids but also ensuring full spend of our allocated monies.
14. An overview of some of the proposed projects under each intervention is outlined in the following agenda item.
15. In terms of the bidding process for the two funds outlined above we are proposing to do this in two stages:
 - **Expression of interest** form to be initially completed to provide a high-level assessment of eligibility and deliverability supported by discussions with officers and applicant.
 - Subject to the above, bidders will then be asked to complete a **Formal application** form providing similar detail to previously outlining project details, outcomes, funding etc
16. The application window will run to the 1 August 2025 after which evaluation will take place based on an evaluation matrix to provide an overall assessment score to help inform the board on which bids will deliver the best outcomes. In the eventuality of the either scheme being oversubscribed then the evaluation scores will be beneficial in helping to agree which schemes will receive funding.

Appendices

- Appendix A – UKSPF 2025/26 Investment plan for SKDC.
- Appendix B – UKSPF and Rural Prosperity Board Terms of Reference