



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

# Finance and Economic Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 23 September 2025

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

## Update on UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26

### Report Author

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### Purpose of Report

To update the Committee as to the progress made in delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation 2025-26.

### Recommendations

**The Committee is recommended to:**

- 1. Note the contents of the report and to agree to receive a further update in 6 months.**

### Decision Information

Does the report contain any exempt or confidential information not for publication?

**N (If yes please specify the relevant exemption paragraph)**

What are the relevant corporate priorities?  
**(delete as appropriate)**

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 Within the overall UKSPF funding amount of £1,374,763 there is an administration allowance toward resource requirements to support delivery of the UKSPF scheme totalling £39,709 which leaves £1,335,054 available to support project funding. Following a number of UKSPF board meetings a total of £1,315,946 has been approved to date leaving £19,107 unallocated at the present time. Officers are identifying potential options to utilise the remaining funds.

*Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer*

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.2 Any governance implications are highlighted within the body of the report. It is important that members of the Scrutiny Committee are kept up to date with the latest recommendations of the UKSPF Board.

*Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager*

## 2. Background to the Report

- 2.1. 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.
- 2.2. It was confirmed by the GLCCA that the funding would be distributed to each of the Council's within the Greater Lincolnshire area. This meant that the allocation to South Kesteven District Council was **£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
<b>UKSPF</b>	£997,660	£215,000	£1,212,660
<b>Rural Fund</b>	£0	£162,103	£162,103
<b>Total</b>	£997,660	£377,103	£1,374,763

- 2.3. 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 has responsibility for the preparation of this investment plan, each Council within Greater Lincolnshire was 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.
- 2.4. 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 1**). 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.
- 2.5. 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.
- 2.6. As with the previous funding, the Council's UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Programme Board plays 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 Council meeting of 22 May 2025, the terms of reference for the Board were agreed.
- 2.7. The Board has met on four occasions between 30<sup>th</sup> May and 4<sup>th</sup> September to review applications for UKSPF grants.
- 2.8. Details of the projects that have been awarded funding by the Council are listed below and in **Appendix 2**:

### Safer Streets

A total of **£65,000** has been allocated to funding the safer streets patrols and shopwatch/pubwatch scheme. The programme was originally funded through the Police and Crime Commissioner and funding ended in March 2025. This funding allows a continuation and expansion of the existing safer streets programme that mainly operated in Grantham.

### Shop Front Maintenance Grant Scheme

A total of **£100,000** has been allocated to a shop front maintenance grant scheme. The scheme has created a grant fund for business based in the Town Centre areas of Grantham, Bourne, Stamford and Market Deeping (as defined by the Local Plan), which will support business owners in maintaining their shopfronts and bringing them into line with applicable shopfront design guidance. Grants of up to £5000 will be offered to businesses to support redecoration, appropriate signage, and maintenance works to shopfronts. The scheme has been launched with the closing date for the first round of applications being 15<sup>th</sup> September.

### Campbell Close Grantham Play Park

Funding (**£60,000**) has been granted towards providing drainage of the existing play park and the creation of a new footpath. These will improve the accessibility of the play park and make the park more useable during periods of adverse weather. Work is ongoing in order to identify a suitable drainage solution as the intended drainage solution has since been deemed unacceptable.

### Harrowby Lane Grantham Playing Field/Football Club

Approximately **£35,000** has been allocated to create a parking area at the Harrowby Lane Playing Field to serve users of the facilities and ease parking issues for the surrounding area. A further **£10,000** has been allocated to the football club to facilitate the upgrading the pitch lights.

### Wyndham Park Grantham Provision of a Skate Park

Through the fund, a total of **£125,000** has been allocated towards the creation of a skate park at Wyndham Park.

### Dysart Park Grantham Tennis Courts

Funding has been allocated to resurface the existing tennis court at the Park.

### Stamford Indoor Bowls Club

Funding (**approximately £46,000**) has been awarded to the Club to facilitate the installation of solar panels to the roof of the bowls club building. The project is expected to generate a reduction in the amount of carbon dioxide emissions whilst reducing the cost of energy for the club.

### Parish and Community Fund

At the Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September, a number of applications from community groups and/or Parish/Town Councils were considered towards community projects

of which a total of **£215,585** were approved. The projects awarded funding are listed in **Appendix 2**.

#### Decarbonisation Projects

At the Board meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September, a number of applications from community groups and/or Parish/Town Councils projects were considered towards of which **£107,346** were approved. The projects awarded funding are listed in **Appendix 2**.

#### Business and Skills

The Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce and Business Lincolnshire have been allocated funding to create grant schemes to support local business growth. The grants are available to businesses based in the district and will help firms invest in innovation, modernise operations, upskill staff and create or safeguard jobs. Between the two organisations, approximately **£145,000** has been allocated.

#### Impact Booster – Harlaxton College

Nearly **£62,000** has been awarded to the College so that they can continue to deliver their successful Impact Booster Programme supporting leadership, strategy and sustainability across social economy organisations. The programme was previously funded through UKSPF and will continue in 2025/26.

#### Connect2Grow - Steadfast

The fund has contributed **£90,000** towards the continuation of the previously Connect2Grow programme delivered by Steadfast Training across South Kesteven. The programme helps tackle deep-seated barriers to work for residents in Stamford, Bourne,

#### Move and Food - Inspire+

Inspire+ deliver a successful school holiday programme providing healthy food and activities for children. This programme aims to support educational development, integrating active lessons and developing personal skills such as teamwork, communication, leadership, resilience and problem solving. The programme is already funded in the main school holidays however this left a gap in provision during the half-term holidays in May, October and February. A total of **£40,000** has been awarded to allow the programme to be delivered in these half-term holidays.

#### Skills Summit 2026

Following the success skills summits delivered by the Council in 2025, funding (**£10,000**) has been allocated to host a larger event in early 2026. Building on the previous events, the skills summit will:

- highlight and promote local careers, including those in the voluntary sector
- highlight and promote local education providers and programmes available

- support businesses to connect with the future workforce and education providers
- foster an understanding of skills/training needs for future workforce
- offer a targeted opportunity to support hard to recruit roles, including in local authority
- deliver an active and engaging event for SK business and education

#### Deepings Community Centre

Approximately **£44,000** has been awarded to the Deepings Community Trust to facilitate upgrades to the community centre toilets. The centre is well used by community groups and organisations and the current toilet facilities do not conform to current space and standards requirements. The improvements will also include the provision of accessible facilities.

#### Langtoft Pre-School

Funding (**approximately £63,000**) has been awarded to support the renovation of the building used by the pre-school. Works will include roof insulation works to improve the energy efficiency of the building and fire safety enhancements.

#### Community Hub - Inspire+

inspire+ are seeking the opportunity to establish a hub to serve the community and meet the need in the local area. It has been identified that a section of land in Dysart Park in Grantham could potentially provide a base for this community provision and assist with current issues around anti-social behaviour in the park. There would be two key themes to the programmes taking place at the hub – firstly a wide range of community focused activities and secondly support for local schools and the education sector, by delivering alternative provision. There will also be opportunity to serve across the district communities, with outreach in other towns and villages utilising the equipment, programmes and resources from the hub. The **£70,000** funding will enable a fenced area within the park to be secured and complete initial ground works to then create a timber canopy classroom area and wooden storage sheds. It will also be used to purchase all of the equipment required to deliver a varied community programme and alternative provision curriculum. This equipment will be used in our outreach work across the communities of South Kesteven.

- 2.9 There is a small residual balance remaining and officers are reviewing options to ensure that this is fully committed within the timescales.
- 2.10 Monitoring these projects will continue to ensure that all projects awarded funding in 2025/26 are fully delivered and all reporting requirements are met.

### **3. Key Considerations**

- 3.1. Funding needs to be fully spent by the end of March 2026. However, it should be noted that the GLCCA is the responsible authority for the fund, and it has confirmed that a review will take place in September and underspent funding across Lincolnshire may be pooled and spent on other projects. Good progress has been made by the Council in allocating funding towards projects across the District. Those projects where funding has been allocated will be monitored and supported to ensure that they are delivered within the stated timescales.
- 3.2. The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and to agree to receive an update on progress in six months.

## **4. Other Options Considered**

- 4.1 As the progress is positive and the report is for noting, no other alternatives have been considered.

## **5. Reasons for the Recommendations**

- 5.1. 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. The Council will continue to report progress to the GLCCA as required.

## **6. Background Papers**

- 6.1. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation 2025/26 report to Council 27 February 2025: [Agenda for Council on Thursday, 27th February, 2025, 2.00 pm | South Kesteven District Council](#)

## **7. Appendices**

- 7.1. List any Appendices.

Appendix A – SKDC Investment Plan submitted to GLCCA

Appendix B – Projects awarded funding

