**Dumfries & Galloway Council – UKSPF** **Project Development Grant Fund (Revenue)**

1. **Introduction**

The Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is part of the UK Government’s Levelling Up agenda. It seeks to recast the funding regimes available previously through the European Union with a modified and more dispersed model of funding. The aim of the UK Government SPF is to support the levelling up of all parts of the UK. Its purpose is to boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards as well as improve public services, restore sense of community and empower communities. More information on the national Shared Prosperity Fund can be found on the UK Government website. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

**The grant requested can be for 100% in year one, however, the intervention rate should be reduced in year two and again in year three. Maximum Grant of £60,000 for year one. Multi-year funding will be accepted, however this will be dependant of future allocations of the UKSPF to Dumfries and Galloway Council.**

1. **Background**

Local authorities across the UK were given the task of planning and delivering investment within the following four investment priorities:

* Community and Place
* Supporting local business
* People and Skills
* Multiply

**Communities and Place Theme**

Communities & Place – Investment in activities to improve physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, for example, community infrastructure and community-led projects. Investment in targeted improvements to the built and natural environment to support the building of resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods.

The purpose of the fund is primarily to support projects that are contributing towards the economic resilience and regeneration of the area or wider region. They aim to ensure that community-led, place-based projects have appropriate support which will contribute towards a broader and coherent approach to sustained longer term renewal that will promote the resilience, health and wellbeing of communities across Dumfries & Galloway.

Examples of suitable projects would be those which support:

* Development of local towns, villages and communities;
* Town centre regeneration, including the development of local jobs and businesses;

1. **Criteria and Outcomes**

The Project must have received Government Funding such as:

* UK Levelling Up Fund
* Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Funding
* Vacant and Derelict Land Investment Fund
* Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal and associated Borderlands Partnership Investment.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

* Deliverability and ability to start delivering in 2042/25 and project spend by 31 March 2025
* Strategic fit with UKSPF as outlined the criteria set out in the UKSPF guidance, particularly the menu of interventions, outputs and outcomes (see Appendix A) – bids that fail to meet at least one of these criteria are ineligible and will be rejected above
* Strategic fit with South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy, which can be found here <https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk/article/21953/Regional-Economic-Strategy>
* Evidence of need
* The extent to which they will make a real and tangible difference to communities/businesses/people across Dumfries and Galloway, particularly in our most disadvantaged areas and how will this project be sustainable in the future.

It is expected that applications to the fund reflect projects that will achieve outcomes and objectives of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

* Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
* Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
* Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
* Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

The objectives for the Communities and Place theme of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund are the following:

* + Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
  + Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built and natural environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.
  + S1: Place based investments for regeneration and town centre improvements, which could include better accessibility for disabled people.

Applicants should be formally constituted and have a governing body, such as a committee or board which includes at least three unrelated people and a written governing document.

Meet following priorities of South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy (SOSRES) Priorities

* + The RES has six themes which are our priorities. These are:
    - Skilled and Ambitious People
    - Innovative and Enterprising
    - Rewarding and Fair Work
    - Cultural and Creative Excellence
    - Green and Sustainable Economy
    - Thriving and Distinct Communities

Theme 6: Thriving & Distinct Communities

* + Action 6(A)
    - Develop a renewed and up to date approach to community capacity and capability building for community groups and organisations – enabling change to be driven more locally and from the bottom up
  + Action 6(F)
    - Develop a strategy to prioritise and bring back into beneficial use strategically significant empty/ derelict buildings and sites in key locations across the region.

The RES Delivery Plan can be found here - [RES-Delivery-Plan.pdf (dumgal.gov.uk)](https://sosrep.dumgal.gov.uk/media/25230/South-of-Scotland-Regional-Economic-Delivery-Plan/pdf/RES-Delivery-Plan.pdf)

1. **Eligible Grant Expenditure**

Consultancy or staffing costs to manage the development of operational delivery of a project.

## **Application Assessment**

We will assess how well your proposed project can potentially achieve the fund outcomes, how well planned and deliverable it is and how you plan to sustain the project in the longer term. The urgency and any associated risks of the project will also be taken into account. The Grant Scheme will close when all funds have been allocated.

1. **Monitoring and Evaluation**

Project sponsors will be required to have quarterly monitoring reports to check the progress of the project and spend. It is also a requirement that proof of expenditure, including a copy of payroll, timesheet, payslip, relevant bank or credit card statements/card receipt detailing grant expenditure in line with application project costs should be provided along with each monitoring report.

1. **Use of Funds**

Organisations must use the full grant for the purposes specified. Organisations may be requested to repay all or part of the grant to the Council within 30 days in the following circumstances:

a) if it is not used for the purpose(s) for which it was awarded;

b) the organisation ceases, or abandons proposals to carry out the activities for the purposes specified;

c) if any information provided by the organisation is subsequently found to be false or misleading;

d) if the organisation transfers the undertaking to any other person(s) or organisation(s) without the prior written consent of the Council; and

e) The eligible costs exclude any Value Added Tax (VAT) reclaimable by the Grantee

In the event of a refusal or delay by the organisation in making the requested repayment in any of these circumstances, the Council will consider legal action to recover such money as it considers in all the circumstances should be repaid.

If the organisation does not spend its entire budget allocation, they must advise the Council of this and return the unspent amount to the Council within 30 days after the end of the funding period or contract, or of ceasing to operate.

The overall value for money your project offers against all of these factors will be considered as well as the level of grant intervention requested and the organisations financial need for grant support.

1. **Grant request & Funding profile**

It is anticipated that grant requests will focus on projects that have the ability to progress with project development work shortly after successful grants have been awarded. A grant may be requested over more than one financial year where appropriate, but all expenditure for 2024/25 must be completed and claimed by **31 March 2025**. It is anticipated that requests for multi-year funding would be on a reducing grant intervention rate.

*Please note for future financial years grant award is dependent on further funding allocation being received from UKSPF.*

**Grant cannot be claimed for costs incurred prior to grant award.**

Applicants may request the full amount of costs where financial need is evident and other sources of funding have been considered. Evidence of financial need must be provided alongside the application and should be in the form of the most up to date financial statements or equivalent.

Please note that in the event of an application being successful, the panel may recommend a level of grant other than that requested to ensure all eligibility criteria are met or to fully utilise the overall fund. This would be subject to discussion with individual applicants.

Closing date for applications is 17:00 on Wednesday 20th March 2024.

**Appendix A**

**Communities and Place UK Shared Prosperity Fund Interventions**

Below is the list of interventions, your project should meet at least one of these criteria to be eligible for funding.

**Intervention: S1 Place based investments regeneration and town centre improvements**

|  |
| --- |
| **Output** |
| Commercial buildings developed or improved |
| Rehabilitated premises |
| Low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed |
| Jobs created/safeguarded |
| **Outcome** |
| Jobs Created |
| Jobs Safeguarded |
| Increased use of facilities/amenities (% increase) |
| Improved engagement numbers (% increase) |
| Number of community arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as result of support (numerical value) |

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>