

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Frequently Asked Questions

v. 1.1 March 2024



**LEVELLING
— UP —**



What is Shared Prosperity Fund?

Shared Prosperity Funding is part of the UK Government’s Levelling Up Programme; it is designed to:

- 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
- In the spirit of Levelling Up, Milton Keynes City Council will be prioritising regeneration estates

How much money will Milton Keynes City Council receive?

The total programme value for Milton Keynes is £3,007,842 and will run for 3 years, concluding on 31 March 2025.

The table below highlights how much funding will be available for each financial year.

Year	Total
Year 1 (2022 to 2023)	£365,029
Year 2 (2023 to 2024)	£730,059
Year 3 (2023 to 2025)	£1,912,754

The March 2024 grant competition will be the last opportunity to apply before the programme concludes in March 2025

Who can apply?

Any legally constituted organisation in the public (including town and parish councils), private (including sole traders, partnerships and limited companies) and community and voluntary sectors can receive funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund to deliver an approved project. An approved project is a project governed by a funding agreement between the relevant Lead Authority and the project deliverer.

Organisations located / registered outside of Milton Keynes are eligible to apply for funding however all supported activity must take place within the Milton Keynes local authority area.

What can't be funded?

The aim of Shared Prosperity is to make a positive difference to the Milton Keynes area.



The following costs are **not** eligible for support through SPF:

- Paid for lobbying; which means using grant funds to fund lobbying (via an external firm or inhouse staff) to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, Government, or political activity; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action
- Using grant funds to directly enable one part of government to challenge another on topics unrelated to the agreed purpose of the grant
- Using grant funding to petition for additional funding
- Expenses such as for entertaining; specifically aimed at exerting undue influence to change government policy
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC; VAT that cannot be recovered from HMRC is an eligible cost;
- Payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature
- Interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases
- Gifts, or payments for gifts or donations
- Statutory fines, criminal fines, or penalties
- Payments for works or activities which the Lead Authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- Bad debts to related parties
- Payments for unfair dismissal or other compensation
- Depreciation or amortisation costs
- Contingencies and contingent liabilities
- Dividends
- Costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors
- Costs involved in winding up a company
- Legal expenses in respect of litigation
- Costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes
- Payments that breach or are contrary to the funding agreement or UK legislation
- Stock to be sold on

Which interventions is funding available for?

For 2024/25, the following interventions are available for funding:

- E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses, including through local networks
- E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy
- E33 Employment support for economically inactive people
- E34 Courses including basic, life & career skills

More information on UKSPF interventions can be found [here](#)

What will the Council judge my project on the delivery of?

Milton Keynes City Council is required to submit detailed six monthly reports to the UK government on how it is spending its UKSPF funding and what the [projects are delivering for the local area and towards the levelling up agenda.

Government has produced a comprehensive list of outputs and outcomes it expects relevant project to deliver, this can be found on the Government UKSPF website; [link here](#).

Please contact Milton Keynes City Council officers at ukspf.enquiries@milton-keynes.gov.uk for further support.

Can the project be an existing project?

The UKSPF does **not** fund business as usual activity but should be used to provide additionality and new opportunities. We are looking for a step change or significant increase in range or type of activity delivered.

Does the project need to comply with UKSPF branding?

All projects will need to comply with all UKSPF branding and publicity guidance. Government's guidance is available on gov.uk [here](#)

Who makes the decision whether applications are successful?

Officers from Milton Keynes City Council will appraise and score each application against set criteria and make a recommendation to elected Milton Keynes City Council members.

All funding decisions will be based four key criteria:

- Strategic Fit
 - Does the project align with the Milton Keynes City Council Plan and the spirit of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda?
- Project Deliverables and deliverability
- Project Management
- Value for Money

All applicants will also need to pass the five gateway criteria which can be found in the Scoring Framework document.

The Scoring Framework document provides guidance on how proposals will be judged.



What is your appeals process?

There is no formal appeals process. If a project is unsuccessful then, providing there is another open invitation and the project can address any feedback and is eligible for the programme, the project is able to re-apply for a later deadline.

Feedback on all applications will be available on request.