1. **The Fund**

1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) was originally Launched by DLUHC in April 2021. The SPF would provide funding to every English and Welsh District and Unitary Authority over three years from April 2022 to April 2024. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will support the UK government’s wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK. The Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government’s Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>.

1.2 North Herts Council submitted an Investment Plan in July 2022 to access the allocation of £1,499,525.00 for the three-year period.

1.3 The final third year funding allocations were agreed by at a Cabinet meeting on the 19th March 2024 as set out at Table 1.

Table 1

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| The Year Three allocations are set out below and this paper sets out the criteria for the Parish and Community aspect of the funding. | **Project Title** | **Suggested Spend** | **Proportion that is capital spend** | **Proportion that is revenue spend** |
| A) | Towns Centre Improvements Programme | £90,000 | £50,000 | £40,000 |
| B) | North Herts Prosperity Fund - Parishes and Community Projects | £210,000 | £130,000 | £80,000 |
| C) | Solar for Business Project | £95,000 | £51,285 | £43,715 |
| D1) | Visit Herts Membership | £5,000 | £0 | £5,000 |
| D2) | Herts Film Office Membership | £10,000 | £0 | £10,000 |
| E) | Healthy Hub and Health Inequalities Schemes | £100,000 | £0 | £100,000 |
|  | Total | £510,000 | £231,285 | £278,715 |

1.4 The total amount available for this fund is £210,000 as per Table 1.

1.5 The Fund supports the [Council’s Priorities](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/Council%20Plan%202022-2027.pdf): All allocations of the Fund should pertain to at least one of these current priorities and must not be contrary to them.

* **People First** – Putting people at the heart of what we do.
* **Sustainability** – Delivering sustainable services (financial sustainability; environmental sustainability).
* **A Brighter Future Together** – Planning for the long-term to ensure the best outcomes for North Hertfordshire and its communities.

1. **Grants**

2.1 The funding allocations from the North Herts Prosperity Fund are defined as ‘grants’, in that payment is not being made in return for goods or services to the Council, but rather to enable the beneficiary to invest in themselves with the aim of enabling wider community benefits.

2.2 Grant values will range from a minimum of £5,000 to a maximum of £20,000.

2.3 In order to comply with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, those seeking grants **must** confirm on their application form that their organisation will not receive grant funding of more than £315k over a three-year period from any Government/Local Government source.

2.4 Please note ***grants must be spent by the recipient by the******31st March 2025.***

1. **Criteria**

3.1 The North Herts Prosperity Fund (The Fund) is designed to benefit the community/communities of North Hertfordshire. The criteria will use aspects from the SPF guidance and supporting documents as well as the Council’s current grants scheme application process. For example, spend for capital works will require two quotes.

3.2 Each of the interventions are set out below in Table 2 and applications must pertain to one or more of these interventions. These interventions are then measured against the listed outcomes and outputs at Appendix 1.

3.3 Each of the outcomes/outputs has a corresponding definition to assist the applicant and the assessors to measure the effectiveness of the aims of the application. These are set out at Appendix 2.

3.4 Funding contributions in cash or in-kind of some sort from the applicant or elsewhere is expected and will improve the prospects for funding.

3.5 There is a prescribed Capital/Revenue split on the funding. Of the £210,000 the proportion of spend will be £130,000 of capital funding and £80,000 revenue funding. Therefore, applications must highlight capital/revenue allocation for their chosen activities or project.

Table 2.

|  |
| --- |
| Bespoke Intervention |
| E01: Improvements to town centres & high streets\* |
| E02: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects |
| E03: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces |
| E04: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer |
| E05: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime' |
| E06: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities |
| E07: Support for active travel enhancements |
| E08: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area |
| E09: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects |
| E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues |
| E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups |
| E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration |
| E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living |
| E14: Relevant feasibility studies |
| E15: Investment support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities |

*\*Parished areas only*

3.6 Capital spending is:

Money spent on buying or improving assets which can be used for more than one year. This often means spending on things such as buildings or equipment, which can be used repeatedly over a long period. Where the funding is used to improve assets then it should significantly extend the life of that asset (i.e., how long it can be used for before it needs replacing).

Examples:

* Extending a building
* Re-roofing a building
* New IT equipment
* New heating system
* New furniture
* New vehicle

3.7 Revenue spending is:

The additional running costs you will incur in improving or developing your service.

Examples:

* Additional staff costs (e.g., new staff or additional hours for existing staff)
* Additional stationery and supplies
* Repairs to equipment and buildings, including painting and decorating. Where these costs are an integral part of improving or developing the services that you provide
* Additional utility costs from operating for more hours or additional premises.
* Additional vehicle running costs, e.g., fuel for existing vehicles or fuel, servicing and repairs for additional vehicles.

3.8 Inclusions: The Fund is open to volunteer-led groups or those who operate on a not-for-profit basis. Please see our [Community Grants Policy](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/community-grants) for examples of what this includes.

3.9 Exclusions: The Fund is not available to for-profit organisations. The Fund is also not to be used for duplicating or replacing existing funding for services. For a full list of ineligible activities, please see section 3.1 of the [Community Grants Policy](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/community-grants).

3.10 The Fund will be assessed and scored in line with the Assessment Criteria at Section 5 and Terms of the Award at Section 6 of the Council’s Community Grants Policy. Applications will be assessed according to the interventions, outputs, and outcomes of the SPF as per Appendix 2.

3.11 All applicants will need to agree to adhere to the DLUHC procurement, record keeping and branding and publicity requirements. See [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: additional information - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-additional-information)

1. **Applications**

4.1 The application form can be accessed [here](https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/node/127520/edit). The sift of applications will take place in September with the intention to convene the District Panel in October. If unallocated funds remain after this period, then a further application round will be considered.

4.2 As part of the application form, applicants are asked to define the intended outcomes of the activities for which they are applying for funding, and to outline how they will measure these outcomes. Applicants are also asked to indicate a timeframe for their activities from inception to completion. This will enable the Council to review the success and legacy of the funded activities.

4.3 All applications will be robustly reviewed to ensure there is evidence that grants will result in a benefit to the community and that projects will be sustainable long-term where applicable.

4.4 Applications will be considered by the Districtwide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel, with the decision made by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships in consultation with the Service Director Legal and Community following the Panel’s recommendation.

4.5 Community grants can still be applied for and considered in the normal manner [<https://www.north-herts.gov.uk/home/community/grants/community-grants>], and the fund will not impact on the overall budget of Community Forums. Community Forum grants are considered, and recommendations made by the Community Forum, with the final decision made by the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships and Service Director Legal and Community in the normal way.

**5.0 Background Papers**

5.1 UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) & [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: additional information - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-additional-information)

5.2 [Cabinet decision 19 March 2024](https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/documents/s24629/Cabinet%20Report%20-%20UK%20Shared%20Prosperity%20Fund%202024-5%20Allocation%20and%20Delegated%20Approvals%20-%20Final.pdf) includes links to relevant papers & reference to earlier delegated decision.

5.3 Appendix 1. Interventions and corresponding Outputs and Outcomes -

5.4 Appendix 2. Indicative Outcomes against corresponding Definitions

**Appendix 1.** UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Interventions and corresponding Outputs and Outcomes (https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/62568938d3bf7f600782fd79/UKSPF\_England\_Outputs\_and\_Outcomes.pdf)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Interventions | Outputs | Outcomes |
| E01: Improvements to town centres & high streets | |  | | --- | |  |  * Number and m2 of commercial buildings developed or improved. * Amount of rehabilitated * land or premises. * Amount of public realm * created or improved. * Amount of low or zero * carbon energy infrastructure installed. * Number of decarbonisations * plans developed. * Sqm of land made.   wheelchair accessible/step | * Jobs created. * Jobs safeguarded. * Increase footfall. * Increased visitor   numbers.   * Reduced vacancy * Rates. * Greenhouse gas * Reductions. * Improved * perceived/experienced accessibility. * Improved perception  of facilities/amenities. |
| E02: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects | * Number of organisations receiving financial support * other than grants. * Number of organisations * receiving grants. * Number of organisations * receiving non-financial support. * Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken. * Number of facilities   supported/created.   * Number of local events or   activities supported.   * Amount of low or zero   carbon energy infrastructure installed.   * Number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion. | * Jobs created. * Jobs safeguarded. * Greenhouse gas * Reductions. * Increased users of   facilities/amenities.   * Improved perception * of facility/infrastructure project. * Improved perception  of facilities/amenities. * Increased number of * properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion. |
| E03: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces | * Amount of rehabilitated * land or premises. * Sqm of land made.   wheelchair accessible/step free.   * Amount of public realm   created or improved.   * Number of facilities   supported/created.   * Amount of green or blue   space created or improved.   * Amount of new or improved   cycleways or paths.   * Number of neighbourhood   improvements undertaken.   * Number of trees planted. | * Increased footfall. * Increased visitor * Numbers. * Increased use of   cycleways or paths.   * Jobs created. * Improved perception * of facilities/amenities. * Increased users of * facilities/amenities. * Improved   perceived/experienced accessibility |
| E04: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer | * Number of organisations receiving financial support * other than grants. * Number of organisations * receiving grants. * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support.   * Amount of rehabilitated   land or premises   * Amount of public realm   created or improved.   * Number of facilities   support/created.   * Number of Tourism, Culture * or heritage assets created or improved. * Number of events/participatory   programmes   * Amount of green or blue  space created or improved | * Increased visitor * numbers * Increased footfall * Improved perception  of facilities/amenities. * Improved * perceived/experienced accessibility. * Increased affordability   of events/entry. |
| E05: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime' | * Amount of public realm   created or improved.   * Amount of new or improved   cycleways or paths.   * Number of neighbourhood   improvements undertaken. | * Increased footfall. * Increased use of   cycleways or paths.   * Improved perception   of safety   * Reduction in   neighbourhood crime. |
| E06: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities | * Number of potential entrepreneurs provided. * assistance to be business ready . * Number of organisations receiving financial support   other than grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support.   * Number of local events or   activities supported.   * Number of volunteering   opportunities supported. | * Jobs created. * Jobs safeguarded. * Increased footfall. * Increased visitor   numbers.   * Improved engagement   Numbers.   * Improved perception   of facilities/amenities   * Number of   community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support.   * Improved perception * of events. |
| E07: Support for active travel enhancements | * Amount of new or improved.   cycleways or paths.   * Number of neighbourhoods   improvements undertaken.   * Amount of public realm   created or improved.   * Number of facilities   supported/created.   * Amount of green or blue   space created or improved. | * Increased use of cycleways or paths. |
| E08: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area | * Number of organisations receiving financial support   other than grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving grants.   * Number of people reached. * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support. | * Increased footfall. * Increased visitor   Numbers.   * Increased number of * web searches for a place. * Reduced vacancy   rates. |
| E09: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects | * Number of organisations receiving financial support   other than grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving grants.   * Number of local events or   activities supported.   * Number of volunteering   opportunities supported.   * Number of projects. * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support. | * Improved engagement   Numbers.   * Volunteering numbers   as a result of support. |
| E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues | * Number of facilities   supported/created.   * Number of   tournaments/leagues/teams supported.   * Levels of participation in   sports and recreational activities at facilities that have benefitted from funding (based on registered players/teams). | * Improved perception * of events. * Improved perception   facilities/amenities.   * Increased users of facilities/amenities. |
| E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups | * Number of organisations receiving financial support   other than grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support.   * Number of Tourism, Culture   or heritage assets created or improved.   * Number of people attending   training sessions.   * Number of facilities   supported/created.   * Amount of green or blue   space created or improved. | * Number of new or improved community   facilities as a result of support.   * Improved engagement   Numbers. |
| E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration | * Number of organisations receiving financial support   other than grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support.   * Number of volunteering opportunities supported. * Number of people reached. * Number of local events or   activities supported. | * Improved engagement   Numbers. |
| E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living | * Number of people reached. * Number of organisations   receiving financial support other than grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support.   * Number of households   receiving support.   * Number of households   supported to take up.   * energy efficiency measures | * Greenhouse gas   Reductions.   * Increased take up of   energy efficiency measures. |
| E14: Relevant feasibility studies | * Number of feasibility   studies supported. | * Increased number of   projects arising from funded feasibility studies. |
| E15: Investment support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities | * Number of organisations receiving financial support   other than grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving grants.   * Number of organisations   receiving non-financial support.   * Number of facilities   supported/created. | * Number of new or improved community   facilities as a result of support.   * Improved perception   of facility/infrastructure  project.   * Number of premises   with improved digital connectivity. |

**Appendix 2.** Indicative Outcomes against corresponding Definitions. **(As per** [**UKSPF-Indicators 22.02.22**](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64071d5bd3bf7f25f2d088e1/UKSPF_Indicators_22.02.2023.xlsx)**).**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Outcome | Definition |
| Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support (Tonnes of Co2e) | Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions because of support. The estimate is based on the amount of CO2e saved in a given year, i.e., a projection of estimated savings of either one year following project completion or the calendar year after project completion through a methodology agreed by project appraisers. |
| Improved engagement numbers (number of people) | The increase in number of individuals engaged in the local area / activity during the last 12 months. Engagement can include physical and digital engagements. |
| Improved perceived/experienced accessibility (number of people reporting) | The number of individuals who report perceived/experienced accessibility as good or very good. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the individual could experience it previously (i.e., the perceived/experienced accessibility previously existed and isn't new). Measurement should directly relate to the change perceived/experienced through the UKSPF project (e.g., the building impacted). Accessibility refers to public space having facilities required for disabled pedestrians. These include but are not limited to: the provision of dropped kerbs, tactile paving, audible and tactile signals, ramps and lifts. |
| Improved perception of events (number of people reporting) | The number of individuals who report their perception of the event(s) as good or very good. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the individual could experience it previously (i.e., the event existed previously and isn't new). Measurement should directly relate to the perception change through the UKSPF project (e.g., the event impacted). Events mean activities enabling people to gather, undertake an activity and share knowledge. They include, but are not limited to: conferences, sports tournaments, and educational courses. |
| Improved perception of facilities/amenities (number of people reporting) | The number of individuals who report their perception of facilities/amenities as good or very good. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the user could experience it previously (i.e., the perception of facilities/amenities existed previously and isn't new). Measurement should directly relate to the perception change through the UKSPF project (e.g., the facilities/amenities impacted). Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals and public toilets. |
| Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project (number of people reporting) | The number of people who report their perception of the facility/infrastructure project(s) as good or very good. This means projects aiming at improving or creating facilities and infrastructure. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the individual could experience it previously. |
| Improved perception of safety (number of people reporting) | The number of individuals who report their perception of feeling safe as being either safe or very safe. Perception of safety means the condition of feeling protected from danger, risk, or injury. |
| Increased affordability of events entry (decrease in price) | Increased affordability means the decrease in price of events as a direct result of an intervention. This may be the result of a change in the following:  - Standard price of entry which may reflect actual change in prices or the value of a subsidy. Standard price of entry is defined as the mode entry price for an adult.  - Lowest price of entry. Lowest price of entry is defined as the lowest entry price for an adult (excluding offers).  - Average price of entry. Average price of entry is defined as the mode entry price.  - Price of entry for a specified visitor category (student, child, senior citizen, low wage/in receipt of benefits etc.). |
| Increased footfall (number of people) | Increased footfall is the increase in count of people (e.g., using an electronic people counter) within a given area over a given time (e.g., total people in a month). |
| Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (number of projects) | The number of projects that have arisen as a result of feasibility studies funded by UKSPF. |
| Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion (number of properties) | The increase in number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion due to the intervention.  - Better protected means a reduced likelihood of flooding as a result of the project. |
| Increased number of web searches for a place (numerical value) | The increase in number of web searches for the target location, compared with a baseline measurement. This may be measured by analytics evidence based on keywords relevant to the place. |
| Increased take up of energy efficiency measures (number of households) | The increase in number of households taking up energy efficient measures following support.  - A ‘household’, as defined in the 2011 Census is: ‘one person living alone; or a group of people (not necessarily related) living at the same address who share cooking facilities and share a living room or sitting room or dining area’, includes houses, bungalows, flats, and maisonettes.  - Energy efficiency means any measures which could improve a households Energy Performance Certificate rating. It is not required to shift the letter rating, only to make progress towards this. |
| Increased use of cycleways or paths (number of users) | The increase in number of cyclists or pedestrians over a set period of time (e.g., weekly flow) along the specified length of cycleway or foot path that has been created or improved. |
| Increased users of facilities/amenities (number of users) | The increase in number of users of facilities/amenities. Users are the people using facilities/amenities. Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals, and public toilets. |
| Increased visitor numbers (number of people) | The increase in number of visitor admissions to the local area, including markets, town centre, tourist attractions, green and blue spaces and cultural and heritage venues. The count of attendance should be based on tickets / entry figures, where applicable. The sample of venues tracked should remain the same over time, unless newly established venues are created during the reporting period which can be included. |
| Neighbourhood crimes (number of crimes reported) | Decrease in number of neighbourhood crimes reported within a specified area.  - Neighbourhood crime include domestic burglary, theft from the person, robbery, and vehicle crime.  The geography over which a neighbourhood is measured, and hence data is collected, should remain consistent throughout. |
| Number of community led arts cultural heritage and creative programmes | Number of programmes started because of support provided by UKSPF interventions. This indicator focuses on programmes that are led by the community groups (self-governing and not for profit group or organisation which works for the public benefit) and focuses on the topics of arts, culture, heritage. |
| Number of premises with improved digital connectivity (number of premises) | The number of supported premises where the broadband speed accessible is increased.  - Premises means a house or building, together with its land and outbuildings. |
| Number of vacant units filled | The number of residential or commercial units within a specified area that are filled as a result of support at the time of measurement.  - Residential unit means a dwelling unit for residential use and occupancy and includes the structure or part of a structure that is used as a home, residence, or sleeping place by one person who maintains a household or two or more persons who maintain a common household.  - Vacant means that the unit is not occupied and is empty. |
| Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of support (number of volunteering roles) | The number of organised volunteering roles created as a direct result of the intervention. This includes opportunities for people to volunteer on a regular basis, and opportunities for one-off volunteering.  - Formal volunteering refers to those who have given unpaid help via a group, club, or organisation: for example, leading a group, administrative support or befriending or mentoring people. |