* *The UK 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*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus)

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**WOLVERHAMPTON**

**UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

**COMMUNITY GRANTS PROGRAMME**

**2023-2025**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**WOLVERHAMPTON UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

**COMMUNITY GRANTS**

**APPLICATION FORM**

Community Grants are funded through Wolverhampton’s local allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF).

The UK 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>

UK SPF Investment Priorities are:

1. Communities and Place
2. Local Business Interventions
3. People and Skills (from 2024/25)

This Community Grants round focuses on the UK SPF Communities and Place Investment Priority which can be used to:

* Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
* Build resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, and through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

As the People and Skills Investment Priority does not start until 2024/25, we have flexibility to support capacity within VCS organisations at risk from the end of EU funding within our Communities and Place priority.

Under Communities and Place, Wolverhampton has allocated funding against two UK SPF intervention areas:

* Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects
* Capacity building & infrastructure support for local groups

UK SPF Community Grants aim to support activities aligned with key local priorities including place based financial resilience, digital inclusion and employment and skills activities, including VCS flexibility where capacity at risk from the end of European Funds.

**Rationale for local priorities**

**Place based:** challenges such as unemployment, low skills, financial and digital exclusion often affect residents in our most deprived wards and areas, or they affect particular groups. Therefore in order to reduce inequalities, we are keen for interventions to target these areas and groups.

**Financial resilience**: Prior to COVID, Wolverhampton already had a high proportion of indebtedness with 21.1% of its residents in debt (MAPs: A Picture of Indebtedness), the third highest in the West Midlands and 11th in England. Financial stress is estimated to impact on over 150,000 households in Wolverhampton (Experian Mosaic data). The economic downturn, cost of living crisis and the impact of Covid-19, alongside historically high levels of deprivation, have encouraged a renewed focus on debt, poverty and promoting financial wellbeing in Wolverhampton. The cost of financial exclusion is high, both to households affected and to society. It impacts on general wellbeing and is closely related to poverty and social exclusion.

**Digital Inclusion**: COVID highlighted the extent of the issue with many residents unable to access online learning, employment support and access to services. Point Topic data indicated that 11,659 households in the city are without broadband. However, the Good Things Foundation estimates there are 118,000 limited and non-users of the internet in Wolverhampton. Issues include lack of or unsuitability of devices, data poverty as well as motivation and skills. For the purpose of this Community Grants round, we are seeking proposals that provide individualised support for people to get online and improve their digital skills. We anticipate separate funding for devices and connectivity, which we will make available to community organisations so you do not need to cost this into your intervention.

**Employment and Skills**: Wolverhampton consistently has high levels of unemployment and economic inactivity. The Claimant Count rate for Wolverhampton (working age group) in January 2023 is 7.4%, the 2nd highest working age Claimant Count rate in England. Youth unemployment (18-24 age group) in January 2023 is 10.0%, the 2nd highest Claimant Count rate in England for those aged 18-24. The 50+ Claimant Count stands at 2,895 (a rate of 5.9%), the 10th highest claimant count in England. There are 42,100 economically inactive residents, 33% of whom want a job. 9.5% of 16- to 64-year-olds have no formal qualifications, compared to national average of 6.6%. 35% have qualification at level 4 and above, compared to 43.6% nationally. Activities funded by Community Grants should focus on engagement and early-stage support with progression onto Wolves at Work for ongoing support where appropriate.

We welcome submissions that cut across these local priorities. Activity should not duplicate existing funded provision as we are looking to address gaps in funding for activities targeting our most deprived communities. Projects should build in referral routes to existing support at the end of interventions to support progression.

Interventions will also be expected to contribute to UK SPF funding Outputs/Outcomes:

Outputs

* Number of organisations receiving grants
* Number of facilities supported/created
* Number of local events or activities supported
* Number of volunteering opportunities supported

Outcomes

* Volunteering numbers as a result of support
* Improved engagement numbers as a result of support

Local indicators

* No. of residents supported with cost-of-living crisis/financial resilience
* No. of residents supported to get online and improve digital skills
* No. of residents with improved employability
* No. of residents supported in our most deprived areas/target groups (see Appendix 1)

We will also ask providers to feedback quantitative and qualitative information including case studies to demonstrate impact.

Grants of between £20,000 and £60,000 are available for individual Voluntary Community Sector organisations based in and providing services in Wolverhampton, however consortium or partnerships of Voluntary Community Sector organisations can apply for more within the funding envelop available.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Applications Opens | Application Closes | Decision |
| Round 1 | 6 March 2023 | 28 March 2023 | April 2023 |

No submissions will be accepted after this time, however we anticipate a further UK SPF Community Grant round later this year and in 2024/25 subject to funding availability.

Our UK SPF allocation is annually therefore Grants through this round are for the 2023/24 financial year only. All grant must be spent by 31 March 2024 and evidence of spend and defrayal must be provided to the Council to enable us to evidence spend and pull down for our UK SPF lead organisation WMCA.

Submitted proposals will be judged by a grant assessment panel using the evaluation criteria in Appendix 2. Should value of submissions exceed funding available, only the highest scoring projects will be awarded funding and may be asked to reduce the grant ask. The decision of the panel will be final. Submission of a proposal does not guarantee funding. The authority may request additional information as appropriate to support the proposals.

Successful Grant recipients will be expected to comply with UK SPF rules and regulations as outlined in Appendix 3, including marketing and branding, procurement, subsidy control and provide evidence of compliance. If successful, these will be outlined in the offer letter and Grant Funding Agreement.

To apply for funding please fill in word document attached and email [Heather.Clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:Heather.Clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk) by **28 March 2023**

**WOLVERHAMPTON UK SPF COMMUNITY GRANTS**

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Important Note: Questions that are scored and form part of the selection criteria are indicated below and have word limits.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **SECTION 1: ORGANISATION**  **Required information to ensure your application meets the eligibility Gateway Criteria.** | | | | |
| This should be consistent with governing documents, bank statements and accounts. | | **1) Name of Organisation or Group:** | | |
| This is the main person, who is responsible for the project and the Council’s main contact. They are also required to sign the declaration. | | **2) Main Contact Person:**  Title: | | |
| Full Name: | | |
| Position: | | |
| Telephone Number: | | |
| Email: | | |
| Only organisations based in, and providing services on the Wolverhampton local authority area are eligible for funding. | | **3) Organisation’s Main Address (incl. Postcode):** | | |
| Phone: | | |
| Email: | | |
| The grants are only for third sector organisations, including charities, social enterprises, not-for-profit companies and community groups.  We will only accept bids from established groups. Groups operating for less than one year must demonstrate they have full management and accounting systems and reserves in place to ensure the sound delivery of this project. | | **4) Organisation Type:** | Tick | Registration Number |
| Unincorporated Association |  | N/A |
| Registered Charity |  |  |
| Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) |  |  |
| Company Limited by Guarantee |  |  |
| Community Interest Company (CIC) |  |  |
| Other (provide description) |  |  |
| **If established within the last 12 months, confirm your organisation considers there are systems and reserves in place to maintain compliant delivery?**  Yes  No  If no, contact the External Funding Team for advice. | | |
| Provide information about your organisation, when it was established, your main activities and the people or communities that you target. | **5) Briefly describe the main aim and activities of your organisation and constitution.** | | | |
| Show part-time staff as proportional to full-time staff, e.g. someone working 2 days a week is 2/5.  A volunteer is not paid anything but expenses, and should provide at least 1 hour a month to your group.  Members will typically have filled in a form and possibly paid to join.  Public will be everyone else who, in a typical week, will access your services. | **6) How many people are currently involved in your organisation?** | | | |
| Paid Staff: | | | |
| Volunteers: | | | |
| Members: | | | |
| Public: | | | |
| Add Organisation name, contact details, address, organisation type and main aim and activities. | **If applying as a consortium or partnership, please provide information on the partner organisations below** (add more boxes if required)**:** | | | |
|  | **Partner 1** | | | |
|  | **Partner 2** | | | |
|  | **Partner 3** | | | |
|  | **Partner 4** | | | |
|  | **Partner 5** | | | |
|  | **Partner 6** | | | |

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| **SECTION 2: YOUR PROPOSED PROJECT**  **Required information to assess the quality of your proposal against the selection criteria.** | | | **Score** |
| State the name of your project. | **7) Project Title:** | |  |
| All expenditure must be defrayed by 31 March 2024 | **8) What are the project’s start and end dates?**  Start Date:  End Date: | |  |
|  | 9) Outline what your project will deliver, who and where it will target, needs for the intervention, outputs and outcomes and ongoing referrals (max. 1-page A4, minimum Ariel 11) | | **50** |
|  | 10) Outline how your project will contribute to UK SPF outputs/outcomes and local indicators (max. 1-page A4, minimum Ariel 11) | | **20** |
|  | 11) Outline your experience providing support to this target groups/area including outputs/outcomes from previous interventions (max. 1-page A4, minimum Ariel 11) | | **20** |
|  | 12) Social value: outline how you will maximise the contribution to social value, for example use of volunteers (max. 1-page A4, minimum Ariel 11) | | **5** |
|  | 13) Has your capacity been impacted on by the end of EU funding?  Yes  No  If yes, please provide details of the numbers affected and impact on delivery of services to residents of Wolverhampton | | **5** |
| Failure to agree to comply with UK SPF rules will not be eligible for a grant. | 14) Confirm that if successful, you agree to comply with UK SPF rules and regulations, including branding/marketing, procurement, providing evidence for outputs/outcomes, subsidy control outlined in appendix 2. Note: evidence of above will be required to be submitted to the Council.  Yes  No | |  |
| Provide an itemised breakdown of your costs as accurately as possible. Values should be based on real costs, where possible. If VAT is irrecoverable, ensure costs are inclusive of VAT. | **15) In the table below, enter your Requested Budget, including a clear breakdown.** Add more lines if required. | | |
| **Budget Category** | **Requested Amount** | **Description and Breakdown of Costs** | |
|  |  |  | |
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| **TOTAL GRANT REQUESTED: £** | | | |
| 16) Should funding requests exceed UK SPF available, please advise whether this project could be scaled down  Yes  No | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Describe the financial systems in place for the management and claiming of expenditure requested in Q15. | **17) Provide a description of the financial systems, which you will implement, to manage, control and record project expenditure.** It is our intention to pay 50% grant upfront and reimburse remainder through quarterly claims. (max. 500 words)note: the grant recipient will be required to evidence of spend and defrayal within 2023/24 financial year against the grant to the Council as this information is required to draw down our grant. Expenditure that is not defrayed within 2023/24 financial year cannot be claimed. |
| You are required to have an independent bank account into which the grant can be paid. You must attach a copy of your latest accounts/financial statements and a copy of a recent bank statement with your application form. | **18) Bank Account Details:** |
| Account Name: |
| Bank/Building Society Name: |
| Bank/Building Society Address: |
| Account Number: |
| Sort Code: |
| Building Society Roll Number (if applicable): |

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| **SECTION 6: DECLARATION** | |
| It is important that the application form is signed on behalf of your group/organisation.  The date of signature is not proof of the receipt of the application form by the due deadline. | **19) Declaration:**   1. As far as I know, the information in this application is correct as it will be used in a Grant Funding Agreement. 2. If the information should change, Wolverhampton City Council will be notified immediately. 3. I understand I am entitled to know what personal data the Council use, why it is used, how it is stored and for how long, and who the Council might share it with and why.   The declaration below, must be signed by the main Contact Person listed in this application form (refer to Q2). |
| **Signed on behalf of the Applicant** (Signature of the main Contact Person) |
| Signature: |
| Full Name: |
| Position of Authority: |
| Date: |
| **Signature required** from the Chairperson, or another member of the Management Committee, or Board of Directors, to confirm that senior management and the board are fully aware of the submission of this application form. |
| Signature: |
| Full Name: |
| Position of Authority: |
| Date: |

|  |
| --- |
| **SUBMITTING YOUR APPLICATION** |
| Return your completed Application Form and Supporting Documents **by e-mail** to Heather.Clark2@wolverhampton.gov.uk |

**Appendix 1 Employment and Skills Priorities for UK SPF Community Grants**

Employment support programmes for economically inactive to tackle multiple barriers to work, such as language; numeracy; digital skills; mental health

Target cohorts: over 50’s; 16 to 24; young asylum seekers

Target wards: Bushbury & Low Hill, Heath Town, Park Village, Bilston, Blakenhall, Graiseley, East Park, Ettingshall, Whitmore Reans, St Peter’s.

Provision could include delivery of pre-entry level English, Maths and Digital skills; community integration activities; volunteering; work experience; mentoring.

Provision could include engagement and referral to higher level provision, either within the organisation or another provider in the city. Engagement and referral to Multiply would be welcomed. Same for digital, referring to AEW and their sub-contractors for entry level digital courses.

Provision could include awareness raising, engagement and referral to mental health support and courses.

Would expect to see progression, either to another course at the same level, e.g. English course followed by Maths, or to a higher level course, e.g. pre-entry English to Level 1 English, or into paid employment or volunteering.

**Appendix 2 UK SPF**

Please note that 2023/24 funding must be spent by 31 March 2024 and evidence of spend and defrayal must be retained.

1. **Outputs and Outcomes**: We also need to collect evidence of outputs and outcomes relating to UK SPF spend:

UK SPF Outputs

* No. of organisations receiving grants
* No. of facilities supported/created
* No. of local events or activities supported
* No. of volunteering opportunities supported
* No. of projects

UK SPF Outcomes

* Improved engagement numbers (% increase)
* Volunteering numbers as result of support

Community grant recipients are asked to collect baseline before the intervention funded by the grant and 12 months after to evidence outcomes.

As public funding, grant recipients need to comply with requirements of the funder as set out below:

1. **Branding and publicity**:

UK Government and Levelling Up publicity and branding requirements must be followed for all UKSPF projects. Detailed guidance can be located in the Branding & Publicity section here [UKSPF Additional Information.](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-additional-information) This covers such areas as logo use, production of plaques, print and digital materials, and co-branding. Co-branding is only permitted with lead local authorities (or any strategic geography branding) or funders. WMCA branding is also required on projects and the link to this is here [WMCA Brand Guidelines](https://www.wmca.org.uk/media-assets/)



1. **Procurement**

Where non-contracting authorities are involved in UKSPF project delivery, they should adopt such policies and procedures that are required in order to ensure that value for money has been obtained in the procurement of goods or services funded by the Grant.

This should include adopting the following minimum procedures:

| **Value of contract** | **Minimum procedure** |
| --- | --- |
| £0 - £2,499 | Direct award |
| £2,500 - £24,999 | 3 written quotes or prices sought from relevant suppliers of goods, works and / or services |
| Over £25,000 | Formal tender process |

Branding wording and logos should be added to all requests for quotes/tenders.

**4. Subsidy Control**

The  [Subsidy Control Act 2022](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2022/23/enacted) (the “**Act**”) and the Subsidy Control (Subsidies and Schemes of Interest or Particular Interest) Regulations (together the “**Subsidy Control Laws**”)  apply to the award of subsidies in the United Kingdom with effect from 4 January 2023.

“Subsidy/ies” is defined at Section 2 of the Act and where a subsidy is present, the award must comply with the Subsidy Control Laws.  
  
A subsidy only exists when **all** of the following characteristics are present (please tick those that apply):

• financial assistance which is given, directly or indirectly, from public resources by a public authority; and



• financial assistance which confers an economic advantage on one or more enterprises; and



• financial assistance which is specific, that is, is such that it benefits one or more enterprises over one or more other enterprises with respect to the production of goods or the provision of services; and



• financial assistance which has, or is capable of having, an effect on —

1. competition or investment within the United Kingdom,
2. trade between the United Kingdom and a country or territory outside the United Kingdom, or
3. investment as between the United Kingdom and a country or territory outside the United Kingdom.



\* If awarded, do you believe that your request for public funding meets

all of the necessary characteristics to be classed as a subsidy as defined by Section 2 of the Act?



*Where a subsidy is declared you will be required to provide further information to establish whether the subsidy may be lawfully awarded in compliance with the Subsidy Control Laws.*

**Appendix 3 Scoring Criteria**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Mark | How well will the initiative contribute to our local priorities for UK SPF Community Initiatives? |
| **5** | **Exceptional standard** of response supported by **robust evidence** and sound measures, within the targeted areas identified.  **Demonstrates clearly and convincingly** how the UK SPF judging criteria identified will be met. |
| **4** | **Very good standard** of response supported by a **good level** of detail on how the idea will be measured, within the targeted areas identified  **Demonstrates** that most of the UK SPF judging criteria identified will be met. |
| **3** | **Good standard of response** supported by a good level of comprehensive evidence **showing full understanding of the requirements** with some detailed measures, within targeted areas identified  **Gives the Council confidence** that some of the UK SPF judging criteria identified will be met. |
| **2** | **Basic response** that achieves **reasonable standards** in most respects, but **unsatisfactory in others** and/or has a number of omissions.  **Gives the Council concerns** that little of the UK SPF judging criteria identified will be met. |
| **1** | **Inadequate response** that is **unsatisfactory** and/or has significant omissions.  Gives the Council many concerns about the Bidder’s ability to fulfil very little if any of the judging criteria and key responses required. |
| **0** | **Very poor response**. Insufficient information provided. Gives the Council **very low confidence**/**serious concerns** in the Bidder’s ability to meet the judging criteria identified. |