

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

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UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Domestic replacement for European Structural Investment Funding (ESIF)

Launched 13 April 2022 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus](#)

Long term funding stream for local leaders to ‘unleash their unique potential’

Funding formula allocation rather than competitive bidding

Primary goal **to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK**

West Norfolk Investment Plan submitted August 2022 to detail local investment intentions

Funding decision received 6 December 2022: confirmation of the full Shared Prosperity Fund allocation for West Norfolk (£1.856m), subject to annual review for years 23/24 & 24/25

Fund comprises capital and revenue

Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)

- [Rural England Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#) launched 3 September 2022
- ‘Top up’ to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to help address the extra needs and challenges facing rural areas
- Domestic funding replacement for ERDF LEADER programme (administered by Norfolk County Council)
- West Norfolk ***indicative allocation* £1,496,455** (largest in Norfolk) across 2 years 2023-25
- Allocation subject to approval of West Norfolk Investment Plan addendum: submitted 30 November 2022
- Capital investment only into lasting assets such as building or equipment to support rural communities & businesses



Investment Priorities

UKSPF three priority areas:

- **Communities and place** – investing in physical, cultural and social infrastructure and communities to strengthen social fabric and local pride
- **Supporting local business** – growing new businesses, creating jobs, supporting local sector strengths, and boosting innovation
- **People and skills** – supporting basic skills provision and business skills needs

REPF two priority areas:

- **Supporting rural communities** – support new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy.
- **Supporting rural business** – support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.



Additional investment considerations



Support **green growth**, think about how projects can work with the **natural environment** to achieve objectives.



Consider contribution towards **net zero** and **nature recovery** objectives.



Prioritise projects that deliver the **greatest economic, environmental and social** benefits locally



Projects must demonstrate **value for money** and **additionality**



UKSPF process overview

Bid to secure funding dependent on development of a West Norfolk Investment Plan

Metro Dynamics appointed to support process (funded through UKSPF):

- Opportunities and challenges
- Stakeholder engagement
- Call out to existing providers
- How to address existing / emerging areas of local need
- UKSPF [priority interventions](#) identified and outcomes selected on basis of local context
- Expenditure profile and deliverables indicated
- Delivery and governance processes structures identified

West Norfolk Investment Plan submitted August 2022

Funding decision received 6 December 2022

- 2022/23 full allocation confirmed £222,865
- 2023/24 & 2024/25 indicative allocation confirmed subject to review of spend progress

Allocation includes 9% for programme management costs as requested through WNIP

UKSPF Communities & Place

Intervention areas prioritised for investment:

E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets, including better accessibility

E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living

E14: Relevant feasibility studies

UKSPF Local Business

Intervention areas prioritised for investment:

E17: Development
& promotion of
visitor economy

E19: Investment in
research &
development at the
local level

E23: Strengthening
local entrepreneurial
ecosystems

E30: Business
support measures
to drive employment
growth

People & Skills

Intervention areas prioritised for investment:

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people

E34: Courses including basic, life & career skills

E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses

E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs

Potential UKSPF Project Areas: Communities & Place

Rail to River art trail

Town centre improvement:
Projects call – Kings
Lynn / Downham
Market / Hunstanton

Seed funding for
cultural, heritage &
creative
programmes

Possible PSICA /
Historic England
project options (to be
explored)

Riverfront cultural
events & exhibition
programme

Guildhall activity
programme

Volunteer
recruitment
campaign / training
programme

Energy saving
measures - Lily
programme

Community Cycle
Club + Hubs

Discounted bike
loans

NCC loan & grants
schemes for E –
Bikes

Baxters Plain Public
Realm Feasibility
Study

Ferry Access
Improvements
Feasibility Study



Potential UKSPF Project Areas: Local Business



Visitor Economy
Development
Grants



Go Digital



The Place



Business Start Up
Support



NCC - Employer
Training Incentive
Programme



New Anglia
Growth Hub

Potential UKSPF Project Areas: People & Skills

This investment priority is supported within the third year of the programme.

Projects to deliver outcomes which meet the identified intervention areas are under development.

These will interweave with the other two investment priorities and encompass areas such as:

Support to help people overcome health and caring barriers to accessing employment and training

Supporting access to skills training and qualifications

Supporting volunteering opportunities

Supporting apprenticeship programmes



UKSPF Questions?

REPF process overview

Bid to secure funding dependent on development of an **addendum** to the WNIP.

- Online survey 14-30 October 2022 to determine priority issues for rural areas.
- Survey responses and investment priorities reviewed against REPF prospectus
- Priority interventions, outcomes and outputs identified
- Online stakeholder group meeting 11 November 2022
- Evidence of local rural opportunities and challenges collated to support identified local context

Addendum submitted 30 November 2022

Funding decision expected January 2023

Indicative allocation £1,496,455. Guidance states 25% 2023/24 and 75% 2024/25

Fund has no provision for programme management costs

REPF Supporting Rural Communities

Intervention areas prioritised for investment:

Active travel
enhancements in
the local rural area

**Capacity building
and infrastructure
support** for local
civil society and
community groups

**Supporting
impactful
volunteering and
social action
projects.**

REPF Supporting Rural Business

Intervention areas prioritised for investment:

**Small scale
investment** in
micro and small
enterprises in rural
areas

**Development and
promotion** of the
visitor economy

Potential REPF Project Areas: Supporting Rural Communities

£300k **Community Capital Grant Scheme**

Discussions with potential third-party delivery partner commenced

Parameters of scheme to be determined

Projects must deliver outcomes which meet the identified intervention areas

Community infrastructure

Local green spaces

Community led projects

Active Travel Enhancements

Norfolk County Council

Top up projects from Norfolk wide Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

£300k REPF Capital investment will be matched with £200k of County Council capital

Footpath improvements to increase accessibility and visitor offer in West Norfolk, including:

Brancaster boardwalk improvements

Castle Acre footpath improvements

West Acre footpath improvements

Potential REPF Project Areas: Supporting Rural Business

£896k Business and Visitor Economy Capital Grant Scheme

Discussions with potential third-party delivery partner commenced

Parameters of scheme to be determined

Projects must deliver outcomes which meet the identified intervention areas

Undertake innovation

Productivity enhancing,
energy efficient, low carbon
investment

Enhancing rural visitor
economy and rural leisure
opportunities



Delivery: Financial Implications

UKSPF

Direct delivery, project calls, grant provision, commissioning



REPF

Third party grant delivery, active travel partnership with Norfolk County Council



Monitoring: UKSPF and REPF

- Qualitative and quantitative outcomes and outputs will be monitored at a project level and consolidated at a programme level.
- Programme Board for West Norfolk UKSPF will provide oversight on the impact and evaluation of projects. This will be extended to evaluate REPF investment.

Governance: UKSPF and REPF

Government Approval & Reporting

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Strategic Decisions & Approval

BCKLWN Cabinet

Programme Management & Oversight

Council Scrutiny Panels

West Norfolk SPF Partnership Programme Board. REPF Grants Panel

Delivery

Programme Officer / Internal Officer Group

Third party organisations / businesses



Next steps

Cabinet report February 2023 to request approval for:

- priorities for allocation of UKSPF funding for 2022/23
- in principle priorities for allocation of UKSPF funding for 2023/24
- in principle priorities for allocation of REPF funding for 2023/24
- providing delegated authority to Chief Executive and S151 Officer, in consultation with the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business Development, to finalise the process and mechanisms for the funding distribution of UKSPF and REPF
- the governance arrangements to support the delivery of UKSPF in alignment with the WNIP
- the arrangements for the governance, delivery and administration of REPF including approval of associated fund delivery costs



REPF Questions?

