



South Tyneside UK Shared Prosperity Fund Call for Projects

Invitation to Submit Project Bids



Introduction

South Tyneside Council are seeking bids from organisations wishing to deliver projects and activity as part of the Government's new UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Please read the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Prospectus and supporting documents before starting work on a bid. They are available [here](#).

The Prospectus provides detailed information on the objectives of UKSPF, the types of projects it intends to support and how it operates, including the process.

This Open Call is for projects that can deliver from October 2022 – March 2023 or in 2023/24. We also welcome ideas for projects that can be developed for 2024/25.

Given the tight timescales and the need for flexibility within our UKSPF plans in South Tyneside, this may not be the only Open Call which is published. Completing the bidding process does not guarantee funding (see more on the appraisal process below).

Background

UKSPF is the successor to European Structural Funds (including ERDF and ESF) and is a £2.6bn fund over three years across the UK.

The primary goal of UKSPF is “to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK,” aligning to the recent Levelling Up White Paper ([here](#)).

South Tyneside's UKSPF allocation over 3 years is £8.8m, the majority of which is revenue funding.

To unlock the allocation, a Local Investment Plan needs to be produced and submitted to Government by 1st August 2022. The Investment Plan template can be found [here](#). **This is for reference only.**

It is the role of South Tyneside Council to complete the Plan, providing a breakdown of spending across the themes and determining how this is delivered.

It is also the Council's role to manage, assess and approve applications, process payments and monitor progress. We have worked with the other neighbouring Local Authorities to support a “regional framework, local delivery” model where appropriate.

Government have outlined that they will seek to sign off Local Investment Plans in October 2022 with funding to start around that point. Funding will be paid annually to Local Authorities and payment to projects would be quarterly in arrears.

The South Tyneside UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a competitive process and South Tyneside Council and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders (but will provide written feedback to any unsuccessful bids).

Key investment priorities of UKSPF

Projects must deliver activity that is in line with the South Tyneside and Government UKSPF Prospectuses and aligns to one or more of the UKSPF investment priorities:

- Communities & Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People & Skills

The Government's UKSPF Prospectus sets out the objectives for each investment priority (available [here](#)) and there is a detailed breakdown of potential interventions within each priority and the outputs and outcomes associated with each ([here](#)).

Projects must align to one or more of these interventions (ie E1, E2 and so forth).

The People & Skills theme is only available for the final year of the programme (2024/2025), but we would encourage organisations that have skills and employment-related projects to consider if interventions within the Business and Communities & Place investment priorities could be appropriate.

Amount of funding available

The majority of funding for UKSPF is revenue, although there is some capital funding available. Therefore, projects should be predominantly revenue based although we also welcome capital plans.

Our provisional spending breakdown (which may change, but is designed to provide an estimate) by year is as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total over 3 years
Revenue	£1.17m	£2.09m	£4.13m	£7.39m
Capital	£0.13m	£0.31m	£1.03m	£1.47m
Total	£1.3m	£2.4m	£5.16m	£8.86m

What type of project bids are we looking for?

Some activities related to these themes have not been included in this open call as they can only be delivered in-house by the local authority.

This open call is, therefore, designed to invite organisations with projects that can make a real difference in South Tyneside to come forward (particularly for 2022/23).

We are looking for bids that meet the following requirements:

- Projects which can deliver in 2022/23 and/or 2023/24 (and we would welcome ideas for projects that can be developed for 24/25).
- Are innovative and can be rolled out further if successful/appropriate
- Deliver in the South Tyneside Council area (which includes South Shields, Hebburn, Jarrow, Boldon, East and West Boldon, Cleadon, Whitburn and adjacent areas)
- Consider how services or support can be delivered to, and have the maximum impact in, the more disadvantaged areas of the borough
- Consider how you can collaborate with other partners to maximise the project's impact.

There are no requirements for match funding, although any additional funding leveraged will be looked upon favourably.

South Tyneside's Local Priorities

In selecting the bids that will be part of the South Tyneside Local Investment Plan, South Tyneside Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against key local growth priorities.

Our key local priorities are the three main drivers of sustainable, inclusive, economic growth identified in the [South Tyneside Economic Recovery Plan](#):

- Turbocharge productivity by refashioning our skills system, boosting our support for businesses and investing in transport and digital infrastructure;
- Catalyse green and sustainable growth by maximising the potential of our low-carbon and digital assets and expertise;
- Foster an inclusive recovery by boosting our vibrant communities, cultural assets and amazing places and tackling barriers to health and wellbeing

Any project must fit with one of these drivers and our ambition of South Tyneside as an outstanding place to live, invest and bring up families.

Our **Economic Assessment and Business Survey 2021** (available [here](#)) and work we commissioned talking to local communities as part of our Health and Wellbeing Strategy (*available upon request*) also highlighted a number of challenges and opportunities in South Tyneside that we would encourage applicants to look at and seek to address or grasp when putting together bids.

The challenges include weak economic growth and declining productivity, stagnant jobs growth, dependence on the public sector, demographic challenges and high levels of economic inactivity and structural unemployment.

There are clear opportunities given our strength in key sectors, particularly the green economy, our natural and tourism assets and transport infrastructure, as well as our strong business base and optimism amongst our firms about the future.

Our aim in our [vision to 2031](#) is to raise prosperity for all our residents by creating an environment for residents, students, businesses, investors and visitors to succeed, while strengthening our communities by harnessing the community spirit that came out of the pandemic.

The Council has also declared a Climate Change Emergency so projects should fit the aims of our [Sustainable South Tyneside Strategy](#), along with a focus upon local activity (as per the [South Tyneside Pledge](#)).

The North East LEP have also published a wealth of evidence across the three schemes which is available here: [UK SPF Evidence Base](#).

We would encourage applicants to propose innovative schemes that will be able to make a real difference to people's lives, helping to foster a sustainable economic recovery and upskill and reskill our residents and businesses to meet the challenges of the new economy.

We would, therefore, urge applicants to pay particularly attention to the key interventions outlined in the Economic Recovery Plan (above) and how any projects could align to the following potential interventions.

We have focussed on the following interventions from the Government menu as they are those which we will feel will make the biggest difference to South Tyneside. Therefore below we have set out, under each Investment Priority, the Government's objectives, our outline evidence base and the interventions that we are prioritising.

Communities & Place Investment Priority

The *Government aims* of the Communities & Place theme are to:

- Strengthen our local fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging;
- To build resilient and safe neighbourhoods;
- Visual improvements to town centres and high streets, cultural/visitor economy interventions;
- Capital funding to improve neighbourhoods or community projects and initiatives.

Our evidence base suggests that in South Tyneside:

- Some residents report concerns around safety, particularly after dark, and about anti-social behaviour, with life satisfaction lower than the national and regional averages;
- We have lower rates of cultural participation than the national average, but a vibrant cultural and creative sector with latent potential (and have been identified as an Arts Council priority place);
- We have excellent access to green spaces, but lower rates of physical activity than the national and regional averages;
- People of all ages need affordable opportunities to stay physically and mentally active; and having access to appropriate sources of support is vital;
- There has been a clear impact (in terms of footfall and vacancy levels) from the pandemic and online shopping upon our town centres and high streets, which are underperforming;
- There are real concerns about the impact of the cost of living rises upon our area given our high rates of fuel poverty concentrated in particular wards;
- We have areas of real disadvantage, particularly employment and health related deprivation;
- Our rates of community resilience are below the national average, but the pandemic has strengthened ties with and between the voluntary sector;
- Low rates of full fibre broadband coverage and digital inclusion.

Consequently, *our proposed priority interventions* (see full Government list [here](#)) are as follows:

- Town centre and high street improvements and community outreach activities, particularly related to health;
- Improvements to local green spaces and managing the environment to design out crime (and related diversionary or prevention activity);
- Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities;
- Support for active travel enhancements in the local area;
- Funding for the promotion of campaigns to encourage people to visit;
- Funding for sports facilities, such as football provision (and physical activity more generally);
- Investment in capacity building for local civil society and community groups;

- Community measures to reduce the cost of living through measures to improve energy efficiency, combat fuel poverty and climate change;
- Funding to support relevant feasibility studies;
- Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.
- Community based employability and social inclusion activities

Supporting Local Businesses Investment Priority

The *Government aims* of the Supporting Local Businesses theme are to:

- Create jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses;
- Promote networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth;
- Targeted support to help businesses grow, for example on. innovation, productivity, energy efficiency, low carbon and exporting.

Our evidence base suggests that in South Tyneside we have:

- Low levels of business start-ups and low business birth and death rates (and low numbers of social enterprises), limiting private sector productivity with a lower number of businesses per head of population;
- We have real strengths in key growing sectors, such as offshore wind and advanced manufacturing and a real opportunity in tourism;
- The regional visitor economy has the lowest share of all GB markets and productivity in the sector across the North East is low;
- Businesses have major difficulties in recruiting, particularly in hospitality, manufacturing, retail and social care (while at the same time our claimant count is high, suggesting a skills mismatch);
- Skills shortages in skilled trades acting act as a barrier to growth in key sectors, with technical or job specific skills particularly hard to find;
- Difficulties in collaborating and networking with other businesses and willingness to engage through the South Tyneside Pledge;
- Low rates of innovation and research development across the region;
- Low visibility of energy efficiency support and strong demand amongst businesses for help to transition towards Net Zero;
- Low rates of exporting and an overreliance on local (UK) markets.

Consequently, *our proposed priority interventions* (see full Government list [here](#)):

- Business support measures to drive employment growth (particularly support around recruitment);
- Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment (particularly helping to support businesses to become more energy efficient and maximise opportunities from Net Zero);
- Innovation / R & D (inc. grants given low levels of innovation in the borough)
- Peer to peer networks (to help boost collaboration, particularly in sectors such as retail and hospitality);
- Enterprise development (helping start-ups in all sectors, providing mentoring and looking to support social enterprises in areas such as social care);
- Supporting the visitor economy.

People & Skills Investment Priority

The *Government's aims* of the People & Skills theme are to:

- Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress into work;
- Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need;
- Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision;
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market.

Our evidence base suggests that in South Tyneside we have:

- One of the highest claimant count unemployment rates in the UK, with unemployment concentrated in particular wards and amongst particular groups;
- Rising levels of economic inactivity, particularly those out of the labour market due to long-term health issues;
- Low levels of higher level skills and of basic skills (with the numbers of people without qualifications growing in contrast to regionally and nationally);
- Difficulties of businesses in recruiting, particularly in hospitality, manufacturing, retail and social care;
- Higher levels than neighbouring authorities for low pay and a lack of progression routes for workers (and a high number of zero-hour contracts);
- Lower proportion of people with professional occupations than nationally.

Consequently, *our proposed priority interventions* (see full Government list [here](#)):

- Targeted community engagement in particular communities across the borough and targeted at specific groups to help people progress towards the labour market and into work;
- Enhanced employability support, including careers assessments, plans and soft skills development;
- Skills development and the creation of support mechanisms to increase local employment and reduction of employee shortages in primary employment sectors;
- Workforce development to help fill vacancies through working with businesses and undertaking marketing campaigns to promote services to business and to residents;
- Intermediate labour market / supported employment programme to create supported employment placements for those furthest from the labour market (including those with SEND and Care Leavers);
- Projects to support residents with health issues into employment and training.

Other interventions

- The list enough is not exhaustive and we would welcome innovative projects that may meet other interventions within the Government's menu (see [here](#))

Submitting a Bid

Bids must be submitted using the South Tyneside UKSPF application form available on our website here: <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/75642> or direct at https://www.GrantRequest.co.uk/SID_144?SA=SNA&FID=35417

Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted. This is a two-step process (see more below):

Project overview bids (short summary of the project) must be submitted by 9am on 13th June 2022.

You may then be invited to complete the second stage by 9am on 27th June 2022.

The South Tyneside UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a competitive process and South Tyneside Council and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders (but will provide written feedback to any unsuccessful bids).

How Bids Will be Assessed

As the lead authority, South Tyneside Council will assess all bids submitted.

There will be a two-step application form; the first to ensure that your organisation and project meet the requirements of the Fund. The second will go into more detail on the project and how and what can be delivered.

Bids will be assessed against:

- The criteria set out in the UK SPF, particularly the menu of interventions, outputs and outcomes (see [here](#)) – bids that fail to meet these criteria are ineligible and will be rejected
- Strategic fit with local priorities as outlined above
- Strategic fit with UKSPF as outlined above
- Deliverability and ability to start delivering in 2022/23
- Evidence of need
- The extent to which they will make a real and tangible difference to communities/businesses/people across South Tyneside, particularly in our most disadvantaged areas
- How they demonstrate innovation and social value

We will undertake a transparent three-step process of project appraisal:

- Internal due diligence (which will take place at the end of June);
- External independent support to appraisal each project (beginning of July);
- Sub-group of South Tyneside Partnership to ratify which projects will be included in our plan (mid-July).

Following assessment, South Tyneside Council will put the bids that meet our key criteria into our Local Investment Plan to submit to Government by 1st August 2022. **We will only include in our Plan projects that meet our criteria and may not allocate the full allocation for projects in this round.**

South Tyneside Council will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders. This will include details of outputs, outcomes and financial arrangements.

Data Privacy

South Tyneside Council, grant managers for this programme, and the UK Government, are subject to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and UK Data Protection Act 2018 regarding the handling and processing of personal data.

South Tyneside Council (STC) has a data protection policy, which is available at [Data protection - South Tyneside Council](#)

By agreeing to the terms and conditions of this application process, you agree that STC and its representatives involved in this grant programme delivery can use the application form and the other information you provide within this grants portal for the following purposes:

- To decide whether to give you a grant.
- To enable Rocket Science (UK) Ltd to review the information submitted. This may include any contact details you provide; however, such information will not be used by these third parties to contact you for any purposes other than the award, monitoring and evaluation of this grants programme, or be shared by them with any other party.
- To hold the information in Rocket Science, and STC's databases and use for statistical purposes relating to this grants programme.
- To provide information on the grant programme and programme wide developments that could support you in your application, subsequent project delivery and/or for the development of your organisation.

If we offer you a grant, information about your organisation will be published relating to the project funded, including the amount of the grant and the activity it is/was for. If your application is not successful, details will not be published.

This information may appear in press releases, in the STC's print and online publications and in the publications or websites of any partner organisations who have match funded the activity.

How your application and personal data will be handled

Under data protection legislation, STC, Rocket Science, and UK Government are only allowed to use personal information if we have a proper reason to do so. We will process your application and personal data in the following ways for the purposes of the delivery of this grant programme:

During assessment of your application:

- Your contact information will be processed for the purpose of assessing your application and notifying you whether or not it was successful.
- Your application and contact information will be shared with Rocket Science (UK) Ltd, organisations we have contracted to support scoring and grant management and expert assessors employed by Rocket Science (UK) Ltd.

If your application is successful:

- We will only retain your personal information for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it for, including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, accounting, or reporting requirements.
- Information from your application will be used to publicise the grants awarded through this programme and by the appointed programme evaluators. Information about your organisation will be published relating to the project funded including the amount of the grant, the activity it was for and who will be supported. This information may appear in press releases, in its print and online publications and in the publications or websites of any partner organisations who have match funded the activity.

If your application is unsuccessful:

- We will only retain your personal information for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it for, including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, accounting, or reporting requirements.

For further information and any questions, please contact
funding@southtyneside.gov.uk