

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Frequently Asked Questions

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Funded by
UK Government

About the Shared Prosperity Fund

What is UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) proactively supports the Government's mission to empower communities everywhere, with a specific focus to help kickstart economic growth and promoting opportunities in all parts of the UK.

The UK government's Autumn Budget announced a further £900 million of funding for local investment by March 2026. All areas of the UK are receiving a further allocation of UKSPF.

How much money will Milton Keynes City Council receive?

For 2025/26, Milton Keynes City Council received an allocation of £984,004

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 the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is to make a positive difference to the Milton Keynes area.

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

- 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



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- 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

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.



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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.

Is the word limit related to a specific box or the whole section of the application form?

The word limit is just for the question it is connected to.

To help ensure that applicants are fully able to promote their projects, we are accepting a +10% leeway for questions with a word limit.

Are we able to include, tables, small diagrams, and links to videos into the application?

Applicants can attach tables and small diagrams to either the email or the bottom of the application.

We would advise against linking to a video in isolation as it will not contribute towards your scoring.

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.