

East Riding UK Shared Prosperity Funds Programme

Call for Projects – Full Application

Investment Priority: Communities and Place

Funding Body	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Lead Authority	East Riding of Yorkshire Council
Fund	UK Shared Prosperity (inc. Rural England Prosperity)
Investment Priority	Communities and Place
Intervention	<p>Community Digital Grants - Small Grants</p> <p>UKSPF: E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities</p> <p>REPF: 2.1: Capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities</p>
Call reference	UKSPFDGy2\
Call opens	18 December 2023
Call closes	12 noon on 20 December 2024
Maximum application level	£24,999
Minimum application level	£2,000
Duration of project	Projects must be financially completed no later than 28 February 2025

Call Context

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 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 primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. This aligns with the Levelling Up White Paper, especially Mission 9: “By 2030, pride in place such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre an engagement in local culture and community will have risen in every area of the UK, but the gap between

top performing and other areas closing”. The UK government aims to do this by investing in three priorities; communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills.

In order to access these funds, the East Riding of Yorkshire Council was required to develop investment plans. Following assessment of these by the UK Government, the Council received confirmation that the East Riding of Yorkshire had been allocated £10.4 million through the UKSPF to cover the period from April 2022 to March 2025.

The Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) provides a complementary, rural top-up to the UKSPF. This fund aims to support activities that specifically address the challenges rural areas, such as the East Riding, face by investing in communities and place and by supporting local business.

The UK government guidance places responsibility for delivery of the funds with Local Authorities and, as such, the Council is pleased to now open a call for applications under the following UKSPF Communities and Place investment priorities:

- E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities

Also, the REFP priorities:

- 2.1: Funding (capital grants) for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities

The Communities and Place investment priority enables places to invest and restore their community spaces and relationships whilst creating the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The aim of this work is to:

- strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride and belonging and;
- build resilience and strong neighbourhoods

For further information on the Council’s delivery of the UKSPF at a local level please visit: <https://www.eastriding.gov.uk/council/grants-and-funding/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/>.

1. Call Eligibility and Compliance

Applicants must be legally constituted and be able to enter into a legally binding funding agreement. The applicant will be the organisation that, if the application is successful, enters into a contract for UKSPF and therefore carries the liability for ensuring that the terms of the funding agreement are met by them and to all delivery partners. If there is more than one organisation applying for the funds, a lead organisation must be selected to become the Applicant. It is this organisation that carries the responsibility and liability for carrying out a compliant project.

Private sector companies are not eligible to apply for UKSPF Communities and Place funding. For further information on support available to local businesses in the East Riding please email **business.support@eastriding.gov.uk**.

Projects under this call must start no earlier than 2 January 2024 and be financially completed by 28 February 2025. This means that all project costs must be paid out (defrayed) by this date. Projects will not be able to claim back any costs incurred beyond this date. Project delivery will be monitored for 6 months following the financial completion for outputs and outcomes delivered by the project.

All project costs must comply with funding body rules and must maintain a full audit trail to substantiate compliance.

At full application stage, applicants must provide three comparable quotes for all individual items up to the total value of £24,999 with their application. Quotes must be dated within the last month and need to be on official letter-headed paper from the suppliers and must be in line with government's net zero mission to ask for quotes from at least one local supplier (East Riding and Hull area) and provide justification if this is not possible.

For more details of activities which are ineligible for funding under UKSPF please visit [UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(including Multiply and the Rural England Prosperity Funds\) \(eastriding.gov.uk\)](https://www.eastriding.gov.uk) – 'What Support is Available'.

2. Call Requirements

This call for projects is for the following UKSPF Communities and Place interventions:

- E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities

Also, for the complementary REFP priorities:

- 2.1: Funding (capital grants) for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities

The Digital Grant Programme is designed to invest in new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure and support projects to enhance Digital Connectivity in and around community assets.

This grant call for capital funding to support:

- Improvements to community facilities to increase digital connectivity.
- Provision of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment and software to community assets to enhance and develop their provision of services and support to their local communities.

Full applications for projects under this call need to demonstrate how their projects fit in with one or more of these interventions so that they are aligned with the Communities and Place investment priority.

Interventions, outputs and outcomes are for activity and beneficiaries in the East Riding area only.

The maximum call value for projects under this call is £24,999. The Council does not intend to allocate less than £2,000 for any single project. Applications requesting an amount below £2,000 will be rejected.

There is no requirement to provide match funding under this call, however applicants are encouraged to consider sourcing additional funding.

For this call applications will be required to commence **delivery/activity within a month** of the award of contract. Delivery cannot commence before applicants are notified of the outcome of their application.

Eligible costs

Broadband connectivity and networking	Installation of new, or upgrade to improved, connection. Wi-fi access points, boosters, routers, cabling, network trunking, network hardware, hubs/routers/switches Assistive/adaptive hardware to aid accessibility for people with disabilities e.g., hearing loops
Devices	PCs, Laptops, Tablets, etc
Software/licences	MS Office, anti-virus software, assistive/ adaptive technology to aid accessibility for people with disabilities. If software licenses have optional time periods for which they can be purchased up-front (after which there is a renewal cost), the maximum period that can be purchased up-front through the grant is 3 years.
Ancillary accessories and equipment	Monitors, keyboards, mice, online audio/video conference hardware or software, etc including assistive/ adaptive equipment to aid accessibility for people with disabilities.
Supplier configuration and installation costs	Reasonable supplier costs to configure devices (installing operating systems &/or software) and/or on-site installation (e.g. cabling). Installation costs are only eligible where no in-house expertise/capacity exists in the applicant organisation.
IT Suite Furniture	This should be proportionate to the number of devices, size and existing provision of the facility and value of grant being awarded.
	Digital information boards
	Charging equipment such as charging trolleys that can be wheeled into secure storage

Ineligible costs

Previous expenditure	Any purchase made before the applicant receives a letter of intent to award funding from ERYC is not eligible. Renewals of existing contracts with no evidenced expansion of service provision, increased outcomes, additionality etc is not eligible
Ongoing IT support / maintenance contracts	Existing contracts made before the grant award date cannot be funded using the grant
Capital building works	e.g. extending a building to create a new IT suite
Training	Although this funding cannot directly support grants for training/learning purposes, applicants requiring support, advice or funding for these purposes can be given detailed support by the ERYC Learning and Skills Team
Smart Phones	Smart Phones

3. Outputs and outcomes

Outputs

Intervention no.	Output indicator
E15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants • Number of organisations receiving grants • Number of organisations receiving non-financial support • Number of amenities/facilities created or improved

Outcomes

Intervention no.	Outcome
E15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project • Premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support

4. Application process

The application process for projects under this call is a two-stage process – submission of self-assessment diagnostic and full application. Self-assessment diagnostics will be appraised against qualifying criteria and those passing the criteria will be invited to full application stage.

The call opens for full applications on 18 December 2023. The deadline for applications is **12 noon on 20 December 2024 or until all funds have been allocated**. Applications will not be considered after this date, however we reserve the right to close this call early.

Applications must be submitted via our online grants management system, Flexi-Grant®. If you have not previously applied to the Council for grant funding via Flexi-Grant® you will need to register your details. To do this please visit:

<https://eastridingofyorkshirecouncil.flexigrant.com/>.

Applications submitted via any other method will not be accepted.

If you encounter any technical difficulties completing or submitting your application via Flexi-Grant® please send an email to external.funding@eastriding.gov.uk.

Technical support is available Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm.

It is your responsibility to submit your application in good time to allow time to resolve any technical issues. Except in the unlikely event that there is a general failure of the system in the final hours, we will not normally extend the deadline for technical issues.

Full applications will be subject to a gateway assessment undertaken by the East Riding UKSPF Programme Team following which a full assessment and appraisal will be undertaken.

NOTE: All applications will be subject to a competitive process and there may not be sufficient funds to support all eligible projects.

5. Grant Award and Claims

The grant funding agreement is a standard, legally binding document. Any successful applicant will be subject to the terms and conditions contained within this agreement. Failure to meet any of the conditions of the agreement or the commitments within the application will result in claw back of funding.

Grant claims shall be made in arrears and submitted monthly to allow for applicants to cash flow the project (applicants may be asked to demonstrate how they are able to do this). Claims will be uploaded to Flexi-Grant®. The grant recipient must submit a copy of all invoice(s) on Flexi-Grant®, to evidence project costs, and full bank statement(s) to evidence defrayal of expenditure for each item.

6. Support

If you have any questions regarding the UKSPF or require any support with your full application please email the East Riding UK Shared Prosperity team at **ukspfund@eastriding.gov.uk**.



Funded by
UK Government

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>