



**Mansfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund  
Communities and Place  
Direct Applications**

**Guidance Notes and Application Form**

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HM Government

**LEVELLING  
— UP —**

## Mansfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Information Pack

### Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides up to three years funding between 2022/23 and 2024/25 for local investment, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation.

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. This aligns with Levelling Up White Paper missions, particularly: 'By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.'

In August 2022, Mansfield District Council submitted a UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan setting out the area's priorities for spending the district's UKSPF allocation of £2.955m. This was approved in early December 2022.

The aim of UKSPF is to support the Government's Levelling Up commitment through three investment priorities:

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

The Mansfield District Investment Plan identified the following themes under these priorities:

#### *Communities and Place*

- Culture and Communities
- Health and Wellbeing

#### *Supporting Local Business*

- Enterprise
- Business Support, including key emerging sectors and supporting innovation in the high street
- Linking Business and Education

#### *People and Skills*

- Barriers to Employment
- Higher Level Skills
- Digital Inclusion and Skills

### Mansfield's Approach to UKSPF

The Investment Plan covers the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. During Year 1 of Mansfield's Plan, the focus will be on the Community and Place Investment Priority, with this activity then running across the duration of the Investment Plan period.

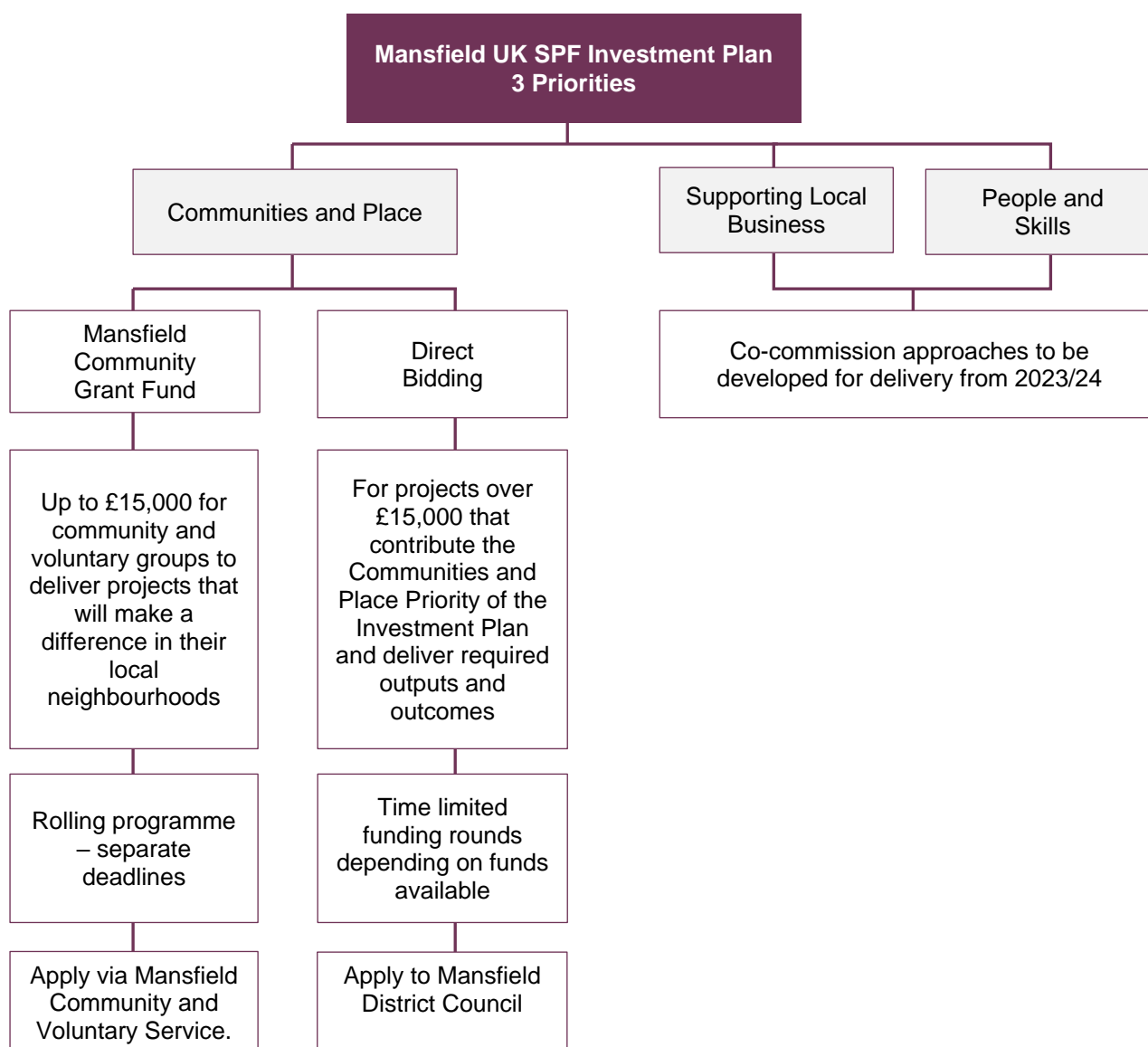
Mansfield District Council is planning a co-commissioning approach for the Supporting Local Business and People and Skills Priorities with a view to activity beginning in 2023/24. It will look to work with partners locally and sub-regionally to maximise the impact of these two themes. This may mean working closely with fellow local authorities with a share of the UKSPF, to ensure cost efficiencies in delivery and economies of scale are achieved.

At this stage, the Council is therefore initially focusing on identifying projects which will deliver the Community and Place Investment Priority. This will be delivered in two ways:

- A Community Grant Fund
- Direct Applications

The approaches for each are summarised below.

### Summary - Mansfield’s Approach to UKSPF



## **Mansfield Community Grant Fund**

Mansfield District Council recognises the vital contribution that the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) has made to the lives of residents across the district and the Community Grant Fund will aim to build on this to deliver the aims and objective of the Investment Plan.

Through establishing the Fund, the Council wants to make it easier for community and voluntary groups to access smaller amounts of funding for projects that will make a difference in their local neighbourhoods. The Mansfield Community Grant Fund will therefore support community-based activity with grants of up to £15,000 for community groups across the district of Mansfield.

Whilst we anticipate that the Community Grant Fund will be available cross all years of the Investment Plan, funding of around £120,000 will initially be available for projects that can be delivered in 2022/23. This will enable us to understand the level of demand for the grants and allocate an appropriate level of funds for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

The Community Grant Fund will be managed in collaboration with Mansfield Community Voluntary Service (MCVS). The aim is to make the application process as straight forward as possible and provide support through MCVS to help groups through the process.

Further details about the Community Grant Fund can be found here:

<https://www.mansfieldcvs.org/applications-for-grants-from-the-uk-shared-prosperity-fund-ukspf-are-now-open/>

## **Mansfield UKSPF Communities and Place – Direct Bidding Opportunities**

Larger grants ie over £15,000 under the Communities and Place theme will be available through a number of funding application rounds to be launched by Mansfield District Council. This guidance and the associated application form represents the first call for projects.

### **How to apply**

These details can be downloaded from the Council's website here: [Mansfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) where applications can be made using the on-line form.

There is no set maximum amount of funding per project but the total funding available is established for each year of the Investment Plan.

Projects must align with one of the themes of 'Culture and Communities' and / or 'Health and Wellbeing' and specifically respond to some of the challenges identified in the Mansfield UKSPF Investment Plan – a summary of these are included in **Appendix A**.

The UKSPF requires activity to be delivered against an agreed set of interventions. For Mansfield, under the Communities and Place priority these are:

- Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.

- Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, focusing on inclusion.
- Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
- Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

Projects must also be able to deliver against key outputs and outcomes. Mansfield's approved Investment Plan references the following specifics to be addressed:

E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer
E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

### Outputs

The no.s in brackets are totals across all years; no single project will have to deliver against all of these outputs / contribute to all of these totals.

- Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (50)
- Number of facilities supported/created (10)
- Number of local events or activities supported (40)
- Number of events/participatory programmes (15)
- Number of volunteering opportunities supported (250)
- Number of people reached (5,200)
- Number of people attending training sessions (30)
- Number of households receiving support (50)
- Number of households supported to take energy efficiency measures (25)

### Outcomes

The no.s / percentages in brackets are totals across all years; no single project will have to deliver against all of these outputs / contribute to all of these totals.

- Increased footfall (10% increase)
- Increased visitor numbers (10% increase)
- Improved perceived/experienced accessibility (25% increase)
- Improved perception of facilities/amenities (25% increase)
- Improved engagement numbers (20% increase)
- Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support (20)
- Improved perception of events (20% increase)
- Increased take up of energy efficiency measures (10% increase)

### **First Call for Communities & Place Projects**

Mansfield District Council is inviting applications for funding from the Communities and Place allocation by **the deadline of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**. Projects must be able to commence expenditure before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 but projects that run beyond this period / across the duration of the UKSPF Investment Plan will be welcome.

Whilst this is a competitive bidding process, the government encourages a mix of competition and commissioning and therefore depending on what applications come forward, Mansfield District Council may undertake some commissioning, potentially bringing forward projects of its own and asking projects to collaborate where there is a clear rationale for doing so. Every encouragement is given under this call for projects for organisations to collaborate to maximise the impact.

### **How will applications be assessed?**

Initially, eligibility will be assessed, noting:

- Financial Due Diligence checks will be undertaken as appropriate at the Council's discretion. These checks will include the applicant's financial standing, assessing ability to deal with issues such as cost increases and with cash flow issues with grant provided in arrears. If these are not satisfactorily assessed, the project will be deemed ineligible.
- Applicants must be legally constituted and if approved, the organisation will enter into a legally binding funding agreement and therefore will carry the liability for ensuring that the terms and conditions of the funding agreement are met.
- The Council reserves the right to deem a project ineligible if the application is incomplete, has insufficient justification or is not signed.
- Particular attention will be given to the position on insurances, liabilities and subsidy control.

If the application is to proceed, **Appendix B** references the Assessment Framework against which each application will be scored.

### **Who will make the decision on which projects are funded?**

Projects will be independently scored by Mansfield District Council. Scoring and recommendations for funding then presented to the Mansfield Place Board for review. As accountable body for the funding, the ultimate responsibility sits with Mansfield District Council.

Whilst this is a competitive bidding process, the government encourages a mix of competition and commissioning and therefore depending on what applications come forward, Mansfield District Council

and the Place Board may decide to undertake some commissioning in response to the applications received, potentially asking projects to collaborate where there is a clear rationale for doing so.

Specifically, given the Council is required to meet the financial parameters and the collective outputs and outcomes of each priority and for the overall programme, the Council reserves the right to take a strategic overview of all applications and ensure the Investment Plan as a whole is deliverable.

### **Who can apply?**

The recipients of UKSPF monies may include local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations and charities.

### **What are the reporting requirements?**

Successful applicants will need to sign a grant funding agreement with Mansfield District Council and provide evidence of expenditure and monitoring data. Successful applicants will also be required to participate, at a later date, in an evaluation of their project to understand whether the proposed outcomes have been met. Full reporting, monitoring and evaluation information will be provided to successful applicants.

### **Publicity and Promotion**

If approved, successful applicants will acknowledge the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in any publicity material and press releases about the project. The precise wording and images to be used will be provided to successful applicants being dependent upon the scale and nature of the award but will include the Government's own and Levelling-Up logo as well as those of the Council. Full guidance is referenced here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-branding-and-publicity-6>

### **Queries**

Any queries should be made in writing to: to [Regeneration@Mansfield.gov.uk](mailto:Regeneration@Mansfield.gov.uk) and be sent **no later** than a week before the application deadline.

## **Appendix A**

### **Communities and Place – Key Challenges and Opportunities**

In summary, under the Communities and Place priority, the following challenges and opportunities were identified:

#### **Challenges:**

- Low cultural engagement and poor perception of Mansfield
- One of the top 10% most deprived areas in England in terms of Health and Wellbeing
- High levels of inactivity
- High levels of overall deprivation but especially in terms of employment; education, skills and training
- Poor social mobility
- Residents disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis

#### **Opportunities:**

- Seeing cultural engagement as a positive route to raising aspiration and wellbeing
- Supporting further social action and the civil society to tackle issues important to our residents
- Adding value to activity taking place through our Town's Fund programme such as building capacity and resources to improve local resident's health and wellbeing
- Extending existing successful community health and well-being and social prescribing models

Two themes stand out as having the best potential for change within our communities and place:

- Culture and Communities
- Health and Wellbeing

Alongside Deprivation – being an overarching issue within Mansfield

#### **Culture and Communities**

The district of Mansfield has a rich industrial and cultural heritage but faces significant challenges. For decades Mansfield has suffered with a poor image both from residents and those outside of the area. This has led to low visitor numbers, low investment, and a lack of pride amongst residents. Overall, Mansfield District Council reported that less than half of all respondents to a 2019 citizen survey would recommend Mansfield as a place to live, work, study, or visit.

Poor social fabric, a lack of pride and little sense of community has left communities isolated and disengaged with local culture with Mansfield falling in the lowest 5<sup>th</sup> of local authorities in the country for cultural engagement.

People living in Mansfield have less engagement with the arts than the national average - the third lowest level of engagement in the East Midlands region. Average Annual Arts Council Investment Per Capita of £2.47 compared to an average for the East Midlands of £4.31.

The vacancy rate in Mansfield town centre post-June 2021 is 19%, compared to 15.7% in the UK. At present, the town only retains 24.1% of residents' £1.042m available to spend on comparison goods, and only 1.5% of the available convenience spend.



Residential segregation (the extent to which people living in a place are distributed compared to the wider geography where they are located) in Mansfield is higher than the average for all English Authorities. A third of all residents in Mansfield do not feel that they belong to their local area leading to low levels of involvement in community-based activities.

## **Health and Wellbeing**

According to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation, Mansfield is in the top 10% most deprived areas in terms of Health and Wellbeing.

Mansfield is in the top 10 areas nationally for the highest percentage of residents living with multiple long-term health conditions, and the general health of local residents is lower than the regional and national comparators. Mansfield has the lowest male and female life expectancy at birth of any district in Nottinghamshire, substantially below the national average for both

According to the Active Lives Adult Survey 2018/19, Mansfield has a higher-than-average percentage of adults who get less than 30 minutes of exercise per week.

High levels of inactivity have been linked to significant health disparities among residents. With 71.9% of adults in Mansfield classified as overweight or obese, the district ranks 290<sup>th</sup> out of 309 local authorities, and the highest level in Nottinghamshire.

Mansfield ranks in the top 30% most deprived areas for crime in England and is rated the most dangerous 'major town' in Nottinghamshire and has an overall crime rate 25% higher than the average for the county.

## **Deprivation and Disadvantage**

Mansfield is identified by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation as one of the most deprived area in Nottinghamshire. 1 in 7 neighbourhoods in Mansfield appear in the 10% most deprived nationally.

Mansfield is ranked 317<sup>th</sup> out of 324 local authority districts in the Social Mobility Index (with 324 being the lowest). The Social Mobility Index compares the chances of a disadvantaged child doing well in school and getting a good job.

Local deprivation is particularly prevalent in terms of employment, education, skills and training, and health and disability.

Mansfield's residents are also disproportionately affected by the cost of living crisis. The Centre for Cities' latest report, 'Out of pocket: the places at the sharp end of the UK's cost of living crisis' published in July 2022 examines the crisis using a place-based approach, to determine how the current squeeze on incomes is likely to be felt across the UK's cities and largest towns. One of the areas examined was Mansfield and the data for Mansfield is below showing the rising inflation rate compared to nominal wage growth and the impact of rising prices on people's pockets.

**Appendix B**  
**Mansfield UKSPF – Communities and Place Bidding Round**  
**Assessment Framework**

Criteria	Score			
	1	2	3	4
<b>Alignment</b>				
Alignment with Mansfield’s UKSPF Interventions for Communities and Place	Limited alignment with UKSPF Interventions	Some alignment with UKSPF Interventions at a general level	Strong, clear alignment with at least one UKSPF Interventions	Strong, clear alignment with at least two or more UKSPF Interventions
<b>Impact</b>				
Responds to identified local challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pride of place</li> <li>• Cultural engagement</li> <li>• Engagement in community activities</li> <li>• Crime</li> <li>• Health and wellbeing</li> <li>• Town Centres</li> <li>• Deprivation</li> <li>• Cost of living</li> </ul>	No link to identified local challenges	Limited link to identified local challenges	Good link to identified local challenges	Strong / transformative link to identified local challenges
Outputs / Outcomes	Unlikely to deliver UKSPF specific outputs and outcomes	Limited potential to deliver UKSPF specific outputs and outcomes	Good potential to deliver UKSPF specific outputs and outcomes	Strong potential to deliver UKSPF specific outputs and outcomes
Additionality	No clear additionality to existing provision	Limited additionality to existing provision	Some / good additionality to existing provision	Strong additionality to existing provision

Criteria	Score			
	1	2	3	4
Transformative ‘Levelling Up’ potential for beneficiaries	Business as usual approach – no or limited transformational impact likely	Limited potential for transformational impact	Good potential for transformational impact	Strong potential for transformational impact
Value for Money	Project offers very poor value for money when considering UKSPF request v Total Cost v impact as assessed above	Project offers limited value for money when considering UKSPF request t v Total Cost v impact as assessed above	Project offers reasonable value for money when considering UKSPF request v Total Cost v impact as assessed above	Project offers strong value for money when considering UKSPF request v Total Cost v impact as assessed above
<b>Deliverability</b>				
Costs	Budget appears significantly insufficient / lack of detail for proposed activities.	Budget potentially insufficient/ limited detail for proposed activities.	Budget broadly looks appropriate for proposed activities / appropriate level of detail	Budget considered robust for proposed activities and appropriate level of detail.
Risk Assessment / experience of delivery	High level of risk that project will fail to deliver as outlined.	Moderate level of risk to project delivery	Limited delivery risk	Minimal delivery risk

