

## **Guidance Note for Community and Place Round 2**

### **Eligibility**

Projects need to address the identified challenges set out in the approved **Cheshire West and Chester UK SPF Investment Plan** and/or **Cheshire West and/or Chester the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Investment Plan** and be for a minimum of £25,000. Only applications from a constituted body with a dedicated bank account can be accepted.

No statutory activities of the Council will be funded by UKSPF.

Applications for revenue funding will be accepted across all themes, but capital funding is only available under themes E4 and E11.

All projects must

- Be aligned to one of the five themes within the Community and Place SPF programme
- Deliver clearly identified and evidenced outputs, as defined by government criteria in March 2023
- Be deliverable within 24/25 financial year (1 April 2024-31 March 2025)
- Not duplicate activity funded either through previous SPF Community and Place successful applications which are delivering in 24/25 or through other funding programmes.
- Not fund retrospective activity or displace other secured funding.

**This means that we will NOT be accepting applications in Round 2 for projects wanting to:**

- Administer a devolved grant scheme under E6, E9 or E11 themes.
- Administer a training or support programme to build voluntary sector capacity and financial capabilities under E9 or E11
- Boost civic pride, improve social cohesion, capacity build or deliver against wider Council strategies **unless they also** deliver clear measurable outputs as defined by UK government in March 2023 (volunteering, events, training, physical improvements to the built environment or community infrastructure) See guidance notes for definitions.
- Locally-led music, dance and theatre outreach/participatory programmes which primarily benefit residents of Chester City Centre, Ellesmere Port, Northwich or Winsford

### **Prioritisation:**

**1. Applications which will deliver outputs in relevant themes which have not been previously funded will be prioritised, meaning that they will be given additional weighting in the appraisal process. This includes:**

- E4: Built cultural or heritage projects which attract tourists to the area.
- E6: Activities that will support creative practitioners to become entrepreneurs.
- E6: Outreach/engagement/participatory programmes from existing heritage groups to support residents' wellbeing and pride of place, which also deliver measurable outputs (volunteering, events, training).
- E14: Feasibility studies to inform the development of cultural or creative activities including making these more inclusive or financially sustainable.
- E14: Feasibility studies that addresses challenges/opportunities especially place-making and local regeneration projects

**2. Applications delivering activity in parts of the borough which have not yet benefited specifically from SPF Community and Place funding (apart from through Borough wide support) meaning that projects in these areas will be given additional weighting in the appraisal process. This includes:**

- Neston
- Malpas
- Leftwich, Northwich
- Lache, Chester

## **Other Factors considered favourably in the Appraisal Process**

1. Delivery led by residents. Projects which have been co-designed with resident input or has evolved from stakeholder consultation are particularly welcomed – and we are keen to also see on-going involvement throughout the delivery period.
2. Delivery that supports the most vulnerable communities in the borough (20% most deprived wards)
3. Delivery that supports vulnerable individuals who are at of risk social exclusion, those negatively impacted by the cost of living and poverty crisis, or aims to improve social mobility of residents (see SPF Investment Plan)
4. Projects that provide clear and realistic milestones with timescale for activity and outputs.
5. Projects that clearly states who will maintain the asset (if applicable for capital projects)
6. Projects which have wider benefits to the local economy/jobs by supporting tourism growth or economic sustainability of town centres or are trying out innovative ways of working which could be more economically sustainable.
7. Projects which have realistic cost assumptions, take account of potential risks, and represent good value for money
8. Projects that can clearly define who/how many people benefit from the project or its economic impact, and can evidence the outcome the project will have.

## **Appraisal Review**

Once bids have been assessed for eligibility and prioritised, an Appraisal group will review and shortlist submissions received. The panel will have the opportunity to exercise discretion to meet the following additional considerations:

- ensuring a fair spread of approved projects across the Borough,
- prioritising projects that most closely align with SPF Investment Plan and wider Council strategies in particular the Inclusive Economy Strategy, the Fairer Futures poverty strategy, the Place Plan, the Council Plan (and/or emerging priorities in for new Council plan), Cultural Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan
- Adds value to local regeneration activity.
- innovative and collaborative bids to test out new ways of working to reduce entrenched inequalities and enable early intervention to build more resilient and healthy communities.
- how the asset or activity will be sustained beyond UKSPF funding if applicable and how it will help to leverage future external funding to the area