

Cheshire West UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Guidance Note for Communities and Place Grant Applicants

Note: If you need further detail on elements mentioned below, including the Investment Plan, output definitions, deprived wards or Council strategies, these are available on the [Cheshire West UKSPF website](#).

Eligibility

Projects need to address the identified challenges set out in the Investment Plan and be for a minimum of £25,000 in order that we can assess the impact of funding. All applications must be from a constituted body with a dedicated bank account.

All projects must align with one of the five themes within Community and Place programme and deliver clearly identified outputs, as defined by government criteria.

All projects must be deliverable within the timescale available, have realistic cost assumptions and take account of potential risks.

Prioritisation

We will specifically look to prioritise projects that meet one or more of the following:

- Builds the capacity and capabilities of our Voluntary and Community Sector, especially where this will make them more financially sustainable
- Supports delivery led by residents or that has been co-designed with their input – to help build vibrant and capable communities
- Supports most vulnerable communities (20% most deprived wards) or vulnerable individuals through the cost of living and poverty crisis or supports their social mobility
- Invests in high quality historic, cultural or community assets (sites, buildings or equipment) to improve access to activities and services for the future
- Increases engagement in arts and cultural activities and events to promote well-being; develop basic/life skills and employability amongst our disadvantaged residents
- Uses arts, cultural events and outreach activities/assets to attract tourists to the borough or helps safeguard the tourism industry
- Increases footfall to town centres and adds value to other major capital investments
- Supporting feasibility studies relating to regeneration and building stronger places thereby unlocking development of sites
- Boosts civic pride and place-making

Appraisal

Once bids have been assessed for eligibility and prioritised, an Appraisal group will review and shortlist submissions received and 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 wider Council strategies including Inclusive Growth, the Fairer Futures poverty strategy, the Place Plan, the Council Plan, Cultural Strategy and Climate Emergency Response Plan
- Adds value to local regeneration and does not duplicate existing activity
- Considers 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
- Indicates 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