

Cheshire West and Chester UK Shared Prosperity Fund



Three Year Programme (Investment Plan approved in December 2022) covering period April 2022-March 2025,

The funding is divided into three broad areas:

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

- which also includes Multiply, the Government's adult numeracy programme.

An additional rural allocation was approved in April 2023 – and this gives a top-up amount to the Community and Place and Supporting Local Business themes- but we will run these as part of main programmes (with money ring-fenced for eligible area) rather than having a separate administrative process.

This current 'open call' is for the Community and Place theme only.

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Current Call is for project activity taking place between April 24 and March 25 – under one of the five **Communities & Place themes**:

- E4: Enhancing existing culture, historic and heritage institutions (capital and revenue)
- E6 : Support for local arts, culture, heritage and creative activities (revenue)
- E9: Funding For impactful volunteering and social action to develop social and human capital (revenue)
- E11: Investment in community capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups (capital and revenue)
- E14: Feasibility studies (revenue)

What is Eligible?

- Projects must be for a minimum of £25,000 – but no upper limit other than available budget in each theme. Please be realistic around the level of funding we have available – we are not looking to allocate the entire pot to a single project application
- All applications must be from a constituted body with a dedicated bank account and activity must take place in the borough.
- All projects must deliver activity and outputs that support the five themes within Community and Place programme and align to the challenges set out in the Investment Plan. They should support the outcomes we aim to achieve
- All projects must be deliverable within the timescale available, have realistic cost assumptions and take account of potential risks. Its only a 1-year programme

What's different in this second call?

Not funding activity that might duplicate/replicate projects already funded:

This means – we are not accepting applications to administer :

- A devolved grant scheme under E6, E9 or E11 themes;
- A training or support programme to build voluntary sector capacity and financial capabilities under E9 or E11
- Locally-led music, dance and theatre outreach/participatory programmes which primarily benefit residents of Chester City Centre, Ellesmere Port, Northwich or Winsford
 - *We've given some of our largest funds to support Chester Contemporary, Theatre Porto, Cheshire Dance (Northwich), Cinewindow and Future Sounds at the Hive (Winsford) – so keen that funding for Arts this type of activity is focused on other areas across the borough.*

We will only fund projects which aim to boost civic pride, social cohesion, capacity build or deliver against wider Council strategies if they **ALSO deliver clear measurable outputs** (volunteering, events, training, physical improvements to the built environment or community infrastructure)

What's different in this second call?

Extra weighting to slightly favour applications which are either in geographic locations we didn't specifically fund before (other than through borough-wide projects) or specific activities/outputs within the 5 themes.

Geographic areas

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

What type of activities could be supported: E4?



Projects to develop, restore or refurbish existing local natural, cultural and heritage assets or sites which attract tourists to the area

Deliver outreach, engagement and participatory programmes to support existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions which attract visitors into Cheshire West

Extra weight in this call, to built cultural or heritage projects – as projects already supported were in Y2 were natural heritage projects

Key Outputs

- Number of events/activities
- Number of tourism, cultural or heritage assets created or improved

What type of activities could be supported: E6?



Support artist displays to showcase their work and help them to become creative entrepreneurs (extra weighting)

Outreach/engagement/participatory programmes by an existing art, cultural or heritage group (extra weighting to heritage groups)

Deliver arts, cultural, heritage and creative events, including locally-led music and theatre performances, tours, author events and film screenings OUTSIDE of the four main urban locations which will foster sense of local pride, social cohesion

Key Outputs

- Number of events/activities
- Number of volunteering opportunities
- Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready

What type of activities could be supported: E9?



Active volunteering or a social action project in a specific location to respond to an identified gap?

- Complement existing delivery
- Trying out new ways of working especially where these test out innovative approach to delivery, being more sustainable and help with cost pressures

Key Outputs

- Number of organisations receiving grants
- Number of volunteering opportunities supported

What type of activities could be supported: E11



Capital grants to improve physical, cultural community space and public realm, including disability access in excess of £25,000 in a specific location

– especially where this makes a venue more financially viable for the longer term

Revenue grant to undertake a project which will enhance physical, cultural and social cohesion which helps to address health inequalities, provide cost of living support

- Complementing existing delivery

- Trying out new ways of working especially where these test out innovative approaches to delivery or future sustainability of activities

No specific weighting on any of above

Key Outputs

- Number of organisations receiving grants
- Number of volunteering opportunities supported
- Number of people attending training sessions

What type of activities could be supported: E14



Feasibility study which seeks to look at one of these four areas:

- Inform the development of cultural or future creative activities including making these more inclusive or financially sustainable (extra weighting)
- Place-making at a town or community level including site specific regeneration projects (extra weighting)
- Restore or refurbish local natural, cultural and heritage assets or sites including making these more accessible or sustainable.
- Address local inequalities and improve delivery of local services especially through increased social action and volunteering

Key Outputs

- Number feasibility studies developed (which could lead onto a potential future spf bid if new programme beyond 25)

Budget



	Revenue	Capital	Total
E4	£110,000	£224,169	£334,169
E6	£155,335	0	£155,335
E9	£61,896	0	£61,896
E11	£288,747	564,567	£853,313
E14	£104,000	0	£104,000
Total	£719,977	£788,735	£1,508,712

- Applications must be for at least 25k (but this could combine both revenue and capital)
- The council reserves the right not to commit the full SPF Community and Place allocation to submitted applications should proposals received not represent value for money or if alternative use of resource which delivers required outputs aligned to adopted SPF Investment Plan be identified, including helping to sustain internal or external services that might otherwise be at risk due to budget pressures.

What will we prioritise? Stage 1

- 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 – please refer to Investment Plan
- Projects that have clear and realistic timescales and milestones for activity and outputs – only a 1-year programme
- Clear who will maintain the asset beyond the project (if applicable for capital projects or feasibility studies)
- 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 – really important in era of budget pressures.
- Projects which have realistic cost assumptions, take account of potential risks, and represent good value for money
- 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.

What will we prioritise – Stage 2?

Once bids have been assessed for eligibility and prioritised, an appraisal group will review the shortlisted submissions and can 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 Economy, Fairer Futures (poverty strategy), the Place Plan, the Council Plan, the Cultural Strategy and the 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 or ease cost pressures, or how it might leverage future external funding to the area

Deadline for applications **6.00pm 20th December 2023** (no further round planned unless Govt gives areas either an extension/ further funding or asks for new programme development post 2025)

Aiming to notify applicants of outcome by late February 2023.

Further information and application form:

<https://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/business/shared-prosperity-fund/communities-and-place>

Any other queries: UKSPF@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk