

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

North Yorkshire

Feasibility Study Grants

Guidance for Applicants

Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK.

North Yorkshire have been allocated £16.9m to spend on local programmes and projects through the Shared Prosperity Fund, as well as £5.4m from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) – a capital funding programme targeted at rural areas and seeking to address the same issues and challenges of the UKSPF.

The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

North Yorkshire's Shared Prosperity Plan

Shared Prosperity in North Yorkshire will enable our people, communities and businesses across our rural, coastal and urban areas, to harness the opportunities to thrive and prosper.

The delivery of this programme will be guided by our core principles that will be embedded across all activities:

- Community wealth building
- Net zero and circular economy
- Health and wellbeing
- Inclusive growth
- Good work

Our 5 Local Investment Priorities

1. Tackling Rurality and Inequalities
2. Building Pride in our Places
3. Boosting Productivity
4. Decarbonising our Communities and Economy
5. Enabling an Active labour Market

Grants Available for Feasibility and Research

Applications are invited for activity that relates to the feasibility and research of projects and activities that meet the priorities of [North Yorkshire's UKSPF Investment Plan](#).

Funding to support the cost of **feasibility studies** that explore how projects can be delivered that help to tackle issues of rurality and reduce inequalities; create opportunities for community regeneration and build pride in our places is available as a rolling programme across all three years of the plan.

All applications will be assessed in relation to how the proposed activity meets the aims of North Yorkshire's UKSPF Investment Plan priorities. Applications will be considered on their own merits however depending on the response rate, prioritisation of applications could occur.

The Feasibility Grant programme will open on 1 February 2023.

There is no match funding required but the maximum amount of funding available for activity relating to a single project will normally be £20,000.

Applications for grants over this amount **will only be considered by exception**. If you have an idea that is likely to be higher than this amount, please get in touch with us to discuss your application.

The grant will normally be paid in arrears following appropriate evidence that the expenditure has been incurred by the applicant.

Eligibility Criteria

1. To be eligible, applicants must be formally registered legal entities.
2. This fund is to help inform activity relating to the delivery of North Yorkshire's UK Shared Prosperity priorities for the communities of North Yorkshire. It cannot be used for activities that are for the exclusive benefit of the applicant organisation.
3. Eligible activity includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. externally commissioned work
 - b. primary and desktop research, feasibility, and options analysis
 - c. surveys, ballots, and other public consultation activities
 - d. proof of concept development
 - e. evaluation
4. Ineligible activity includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Planning or other statutory fees
 - b. Post RIBA Stage 2 activities (in relation to construction projects)
 - c. Running costs of the applicant organisation.
 - d.

APPLICATION FORM GUIDANCE

Please complete the application form whilst taking account of the guidance below. Please note the word count for each question.

Part One: Tell us about your organisation

Guidance Note 1: P1 - Q1 - Please complete the contact details of the organisation that is applying for the grant, including an appropriate named contact person who we will liaise with throughout the grant application process.

Applications are open to a range of organisations including voluntary and community groups, (see note 1) social enterprises, schools & colleges, faith groups (see note 2) and businesses (see note 3).

Note 1: Applications are invited from the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector that includes registered charities, Charitable Incorporated Organisations,

Community Interest Companies, Companies Limited by Guarantee and other not for profit legal entities.

Note 2: Faith groups are welcome to apply but activities which evangelise or proselytise religious beliefs will not be eligible.

Note 3: Commercial organisations are welcome to apply however they must be able to demonstrate that the funded activities do not generate any private profit.

Guidance Note 2: P1 - Q2 & Q3 – we are asking these questions as we need assurance that your organisation has experience of managing external funding that is subject to additional checks. Grants paid under the UKSPF programme will be made by North Yorkshire County Council however this is an externally funded programme by national government. As such NYCC must operate the programme in line with national government requirements.

Part 2 – Tell us about your feasibility study

Please tell us in this section about your study and how it meets the UKSPF North Yorkshire priorities. This section will also ask you about the level of grant you are requesting.

Guidance Note 3: P2 Q1 – Please select which of the North Yorkshire priorities you feel your project will deliver against. It is ok to choose more than one priority.

You should also indicate the geographic reach of your study by selecting one or more of the district locality options.

Please also indicate the start and end date of your study. The end date should be when you receive or complete your report with recommendations.

P2 Q2 & Q3 - This is where you can tell us about your project, its purpose and what specific products it will deliver. Please include as much detail as you can, including details about:

Q2 Main purpose and why it is needed.

Q3 If you have already written a detailed brief for your study please use this section to include it. If you haven't developed your brief yet, please let us know the following:

- What questions will the study answer – i.e. what is it that you want the study to tell you
- How the study will be carried out
- Who will undertake the study – if you don't know yet please indicate whether it will be carried out by in-house team or by commissioning a specialist contract
- What products will you receive – e.g. options appraisal including recommendations for preferred option; research; business plan etc.
- What the study will be used for in the future.

Guidance Note 4: P2 Q4 – Please list any milestones including the estimated dates that those milestones will be met.

If the feasibility study will happen over two or more financial years, please estimate the percentage of work that will happen in each year.

Guidance Note 5: P2 Q5 – We are interested to understand what future requests to the UKSPF will be resulting from any funded feasibility studies. This helps us both understand potential demand across the various priority programmes and helps us to plan a pipeline for future applications.

Guidance Note 6: This is where you can tell us the cost of your project.

A you should put the total cost of your study here

B please tell us how much funding you are applying for. If your study is likely to be carried out over more than one year, please apportion the total costs over those two years appropriately.

C If your response to A is greater than the amount being applied for, please let us know how this will be met. Match funding is **NOT** a requirement however if you do have match funding, please let us know including the source of that funding.

GENERAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

All grants will be managed through a funding agreement.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

All projects will be subject to monitoring and verification that is appropriate to the level of the grant, to ensure that the project has been delivered as anticipated. The details of this will be outlined in your offer of grant; North Yorkshire County Council retains the right to reclaim grant funding should the applicant fail to meet the terms and conditions of the offer of grant.

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be made on the UKSPF North Yorkshire Feasibility Study Grant Application Form.

There is no deadline for applications, they may be submitted at any time throughout the life of the programme – subject to funds being available.

Applications will then be evaluated by the Communities & Place Sub-Group which is made up of representatives from public and voluntary sector. Grants will be approved by North Yorkshire County Council.

Applicants will be notified regarding the outcome of their application no later than 8 weeks after receipt of the complete application.

If you would like further information about the Programme or would like to discuss the submission of an application, please email ukspf@northyorks.gov.uk and the appropriate theme specialist will be in touch.

All applications should be submitted to ukspf@northyorks.gov.uk