Wyre Council: UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Community Infrastructure Grants Programme 2025/26

wyre.gov.uk/shared-prosperity-fund

wyre council

Community Infrastructure Grant Programme

Background

Wyre Council has established this grant programme to support the development of local community assets that will serve to enhance local health and wellbeing, provide inclusive facilities, support the local economy and bring people together. The programme is supported by funding from Wyre Council, UK Government and Defra.

The funding seeks to promote the wider use and sustainability of important local assets. We define community assets as physical buildings for public use, which includes village halls, community hubs and heritage buildings.

Grants available will be for revenue and capital expenditure. The Fund will prioritise investment for buildings that:

- increase the use of community buildings for local people, and businesses, to benefit the local economy
- improve the environmental and financial sustainability of community assets through carbon reduction measures
- serve to improve the health and wellbeing of its users

A combination of funding i.e. UKSPF, REPF and Wyre Council grants will be used to support the programme. The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) is yet to confirm Wyre's REPF allocation.

Projects must fully complete before **31 January 2026**. This will allow the project to be operational, and the agreed measures to be reported against by 31 March 2026.

The programme is a discretionary grant scheme, which will be determined through assessment of fully completed applications, subject to required criteria being met.

Application process

Step 1 – **registration of interest.** Complete the short registration of interest (ROI) form. A cost estimate is acceptable at this stage. We will invite interested parties to an online session in early April, to assist with the understanding of the funder's requirements, and the application. It is imperative that projects can deliver and be operational within the fiscal year 2025/26.

Complete the ROI form

Step 2 – application form. You can start to complete your project application form at any time; it is available online via wyre.gov.uk/shared-prosperity-fund.

Reading it through before the online session is advisable, as there will be chance to ask questions.

The application process is open and will close on **23 April 2025, midnight**. Applications should be returned to community@wyre.gov.uk

It is not essential to attend the online session, however, it may save you time and clarify your understanding of the requirements. We intend to take a recording of the session, which can be provided to those unable to make the online session.

Eligibility

Eligible organisations - Any not-for-profit organisation with a formal/registered legal status, including:

- registered charities
- Companies limited by guarantee and social enterprises/community interest companies with a minimum of three unrelated Directors, that also do not reside at the same address
- parish and town councils
- faith-based organisations and sports clubs (where the building can be clearly evidenced as being for the wider community / a multi-use hub)

Applicants will be asked to provide various forms of evidence. Due diligence checks will be undertaken, including a legal entity check, bank account verification (two unrelated signatories), credit check, and compliance with subsidy control regulations. It is important that all information provided is factual and true. Successful organisations will need to comply with the requirements of the scheme via a sealed grant agreement. Failure to comply or false information may lead to claw back, or the rescinding of funds.

Eligible Areas - Whilst the UKSPF and Wyre funding will cover all of Wyre, the REPF expenditure will be utilised by eligible rural areas in the Borough (see REPF map).

What can this grant be used for?

Funding must be for enhancements to existing assets within the Wyre Borough area. It can be used for building and equipment costs, and professional project manager/ contractor costs directly evidenced to the project. These enhancements should serve to:

- significantly lengthen the life of the asset.
- significantly increase the value of the asset.
- significantly increase usefulness of the asset.
- significantly decrease the carbon footprint of the asset

Examples include:

- sustainable & net zero - grants for insulation, low carbon infrastructure/ green power, LED lights
- adding value - alterations, improvements, new facilities
- thriving & inclusive - diversification of the space, creating/improving meeting, activity and workspace, provision of additional services

What this grant CANNOT be spent on

- ✖ maintenance or renewal
- ✖ projects that are religious/faith based in focus, or that support a party-political campaign or cause, or that may bring the Fund into disrepute
- ✖ projects located at religious/faith-based buildings (unless the project is clearly for the benefit of the wider community, for example a church hall improvement project where the building is available to the general public)
- ✖ private membership-based sports clubs, and/or clubs where there are restrictions to the general public due to membership and/or sports associated use
- ✖ anything that an organisation/local authority has a legal obligation to fund
- ✖ improvements to car parking
- ✖ a property which is for domestic use
- ✖ VAT if your organisation can reclaim it
- ✖ anything that will bring Wyre Council into disrepute
- ✖ anything contrary to the Council's financial regulations, policies or strategies
- ✖ projects based/operating outside of the Wyre Council boundary
- ✖ money already spent/committed before receiving a grant (retrospective funding)
- ✖ projects that only benefit individuals or private concerns
- ✖ anything illegal

Grant criteria

- the project must be delivered within the Wyre Council boundary
- the project must support the development/creation of a multi-use community asset
- the project must demonstrate strong community support and benefit
- the project should demonstrate local partnership/stakeholder engagement
- the project must not contravene the Council's core policies, procedures, or strategies
- the project must fulfil the UKSPF, and where applicable, REPF requirements
- grants are one-off grants with no on-going funding commitment
- project completion (expenditure and activity) must meet 31 January 2026 deadline
- the project must show health and wellbeing benefits to the community
- it is favourable, but not essential, for the applicant organisation to have raised match funding. Projects that lever in other funding may be prioritised over those that have no match funding, to optimise the value for money delivered. Please note, in-kind contributions can be used as match funding.

How we make decisions

Decisions will be made using the detail provided in the application alongside the eligibility criteria using the following process:

1. Eligibility Check – information and evidence check
2. Application Scoring – review and assessment against funding criteria
3. Decision making – recommendations will be made by panel for UKSPF Board review. The final decision will rest with Wyre Council's Management Board. Grants over £100k will require further elected member approval.

It is not the Council's responsibility to contact applicants for missing information. As a discretionary scheme, any decision made will be final.

Measuring impact and change

Applicants will be asked to set out what positive benefits (outputs/outcomes) are expected from the grant support, and how these will be measured over the timeframe. Please see the table of Government measures in Appendix 1 below. Applicants will be expected to include the appropriate measures from this list, along with its own.

Procurement

To ensure that value for money has been obtained in the procurement of goods or services funded by the grant, Government rules require the following minimum procedures for recipients. To optimise local benefit, we would encourage the use of local suppliers.

Value of works	Minimum procedure required
£0 to £24,999	3 written quotes or prices sought from relevant suppliers of goods, works and / or services.
£25,000 plus	Tender process – please discuss via contact at ukspf@wyre.gov.uk

Branding and publicity

Grant recipients will need to comply with Government requirements for branding and publicity, which can be found here This covers both press activity, plaques and printed and online materials and activity. and printed and online materials and activity.

Permissions

Where an applicant requires planning, building regulations or any other approval/consent to deliver their proposal, but has not yet secured it, any award

from this scheme will be 'subject to securing the necessary permissions/consent'. In short, failure to demonstrate that the necessary permissions have been secured within an agreed timescale (set out in the grant agreement) will mean any grant

offer may be withheld or withdrawn, and any grant paid be potentially repayable to Wyre Council.

Funding thresholds – amount and timeframes

The minimum grant application is £20,000. As we are awaiting REPF allocations we are not setting a maximum amount.

Whilst match funding is not essential, projects that lever in other funding may be prioritised over those that have no match funding to optimise the value for money delivered. Projects must declare other funding being sought for the project and demonstrate that the elements of the project being funded through this scheme will not be 'double funded'.

Please note, Wyre Council has a fixed amount of funds available for the programme. If the number of eligible applications exceeds the funds available, we reserve the right to close the scheme and/or alter the funding levels accordingly. The application form allows applicants to demonstrate if and how the project could maximise successes with a lower grant amount.

Payment

Payment schedules will be agreed with successful applicants i.e. whether that be in advance or in stages. No grants will be awarded without an application being made and considered.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation is an important part of any grant funding scheme. It enables us as an organisation spending public funds to ensure a project is achieving best value and delivering results for the local community. It also highlights what has worked well and where there have been challenges.

Successful applicants will be required to provide quarterly reports on project progress and project finances, as well as updates on performance against outcomes/outputs. Post completion monitoring will continue to enable the capture of outcomes expected to continue beyond the 31 March 2026. This means that data will need to be collected, before, during and after the project has been delivered. Failure to comply with his may result in the Council seeking to recover some or all of the grant that has been paid.

Please note: this programme may be subject to changes/updates due to requirements issued by one of all the funders.

Appendix 1: CURRENT LIST OF GOVERNMENT OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Outputs	Description
Number of local events or activities supported	Number of local events or activities supported. An event refers to planned activities. These should fall into the below categories: - Those related to: (1) Film, TV, Music, Radio (2) Heritage (3) Arts, Museums and Libraries. - Other activities & events include, e.g. sports, volunteering, tourism and social action.
Number of volunteering opportunities created or supported	Number of organised volunteering roles supported as a direct result of the intervention. This includes opportunities for people to volunteer on a regular basis, and opportunities for one-off volunteering. Formal volunteering refers to those who have given unpaid help via a group, club, or organisation: for example, leading a group, administrative support or befriending or mentoring people.
Number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	Number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure units installed/ completed. - Low or zero carbon energy infrastructure means any improvements to the units that reduce energy demand, promote the diversification of energy sources, or drive more appropriate use of energy. - Completed means physical completion of the low or zero carbon energy infrastructure and the space is ready for occupancy immediately.
Number of people reached	Number of people directly impacted by the UKSPF intervention. The definition of direct impact will vary across interventions e.g.: - Energy efficiency improvements - those living or working in the premise. - Engagement -those directly engaging e.g attending, interacting. - Direct impact should only be recorded where it can be done so robustly.

Outcomes	Description
Improved perception of facility or infrastructure project	The number of people who report their perception of the facility/infrastructure project(s) as good or very good. This means projects aiming at improving or creating facilities and infrastructure. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the individual could experience it previously (i.e. it existed previously and isn't new).

Outcomes	Description
Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of **support**	The number of organised volunteering roles created as a direct result of the intervention. This includes opportunities for people to volunteer on a regular basis, and opportunities for one-off volunteering. - Formal volunteering refers to those who have given unpaid help via a group, club, or organisation: for example, leading a group, administrative support or befriending or mentoring people.
Increased users of facilities	The increase in number of users of facilities/amenities. Users are the people using facilities/amenities. Amenity/facility means any service contained within a physical structure, including, but not limited to, magistrates courts, police stations, town halls, cultural institutions, hospitals and public toilets.
Increased visitor numbers	The increase in number of visitor admissions to the local area, including markets, town centre, tourist attractions, green and blue spaces and cultural and heritage venues. The count of attendance should be based on tickets / entry figures, where applicable. The sample of venues tracked should remain the same over time, unless newly established venues are created during the reporting period which can be included.
Premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support	The number of supported premises where the broadband speed accessible is increased.
Improved perceived or experienced accessibility	The number of individuals who report perceived/experienced accessibility as good or very good. As this is aiming to measure change, it will only be relevant where the individual could experience it previously (i.e. the perceived/experienced accessibility previously existed and isn't new). Measurement should directly relate to the change perceived/experienced through the UKSPF project (e.g., the building impacted). Accessibility refers to public space having facilities required for disabled pedestrians. These include, but are not limited to: the provision of dropped kerbs, tactile paving, audible and tactile signals, ramps and lifts
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	Number of programmes started because of support provided by UKSPF interventions. This indicator focuses on programmes that are led by the community groups (self-governing and not for profit group or organisation which works for the public benefit) and focuses on the topics of arts, culture, heritage.

Outcomes	Description
Estimated carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support	Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) covers a wide range of greenhouse gases (GHG). Decrease in tonnes of CO2e should be measured using BEIS Conversion Factors for calculating resulting primary energy savings. The estimate is based on the amount of CO2e saved in a given year, i.e., a projection of estimated savings of either one year following project completion or the calendar year after project completion through a methodology agreed by project appraisers.