

South Tyneside UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Call for Projects

Invitation to Submit Project Bids

**Introduction**

South Tyneside Council is seeking bids from organisations wishing to deliver projects and activity as part of the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government’s Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

Please read the Government’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Prospectus and supporting documents before starting work on a bid. The Prospectus provides detailed information on the objectives of UKSPF, the types of projects it intends to support and how it operates, including the process.

Following the refreshed 20 year South Tyneside Vision, published in 2022, which has a clear emphasis on financial security and connecting people to jobs, and the clear themes that emerged from the UKSPF Open Call held last Summer, South Tyneside Council is issuing an open call for projects through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund under the **People & Skills** theme in 2024/25.

This open call is looking specifically for projects that have a clear focus on engaging with local communities, particularly those who are economically inactive, and provide a clear pathway into employment. Projects should have clear outputs relating to direct employment or onto access routes (i.e. bootcamps etc.) in order to support people into growing local industries.

***Completing the bidding process does not guarantee funding (see more on the appraisal process below).***

**Background**

UKSPF is the successor to European Structural Funds (including ERDF and ESF) and is a £2.6bn fund over three years across the UK.

The primary goal of UKSPF is “to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK,” aligning to the recent Levelling Up White Paper ([here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom)).

South Tyneside’s UKSPF allocation over 3 years is £8.8m, the majority of which is revenue funding.

It is the Council’s role to manage, assess and approve applications, process payments and monitor progress. We have worked with the other neighbouring Local Authorities to support a “regional framework, local delivery” model where appropriate.

**The South Tyneside UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a competitive process and South Tyneside Council and the UK Government will not enter into discussions with bidders (but will provide written feedback to any unsuccessful bids).**

**Key investment priorities of UKSPF**

Projects must deliver activity that is line with the South Tyneside Council and Government UKSPF Prospectuses and aligns to the UKSPF investment priority of People & Skills

The Government’s UKSPF Prospectus sets out the objectives for each investment priority (available [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus)) and there is a detailed breakdown of potential interventions within each priority and the outputs and outcomes associated with each ([here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)). **Projects must align to one or more of these interventions (ie E1, E2 and so forth).**

All funding must be spent by 31st March 2025.

**What type of project bids are we looking for?**

This open call is designed to invite organisations with projects that can make a real difference in South Tyneside to come forward.

**Primary Interventions: Skills to progress in work and to fund local skills needs**

We are inviting applications to support employment and skills in the South Tyneside area which is geared to assist residents to access employment opportunities in growth sectors.

South Tyneside has some major local strengths in growing employment sectors, including those linked to the green economy, advanced manufacturing, social care and tourism and hospitality. Local businesses are engaged and ambitious, with many signed up to the South Tyneside Pledge and committed to creating opportunities for local people and for the local economy. Local schools, colleges and training providers are rated highly and the area is well connected to regional universities through the transport network.

However, South Tyneside also has a number of notable challenges, with lower-than-average skills levels, persistently high unemployment and economic inactivity, and those in work receiving lower than regional and national average pay. There are barriers to our young people reaching their potential, reflected in a tapering off in attainment as young people move from primary to secondary school and lower than average numbers of young people entering higher education. There is currently also a notable skills mismatch, meaning relatively high unemployment and economic inactivity, at the same time as vacancies are going unfilled (particularly in vital industries like social care, hospitality, and manufacturing).

We have already:

* Engaged with hundreds of local businesses through the South Tyneside Pledge, which has secured commitments which will increase employment opportunities for residents and maximised the ‘South Tyneside Pound’, keeping money circulating in the local economy
* Established ‘South Tyneside Works’ to provide multi-agency support to help residents into sustained employment
* Drawn some exciting investment to the area, including AESC who are investing £450m to build a Gigafactory on the International Advanced Manufacturing Park
* Collaborated with partners, schools and further education providers to expand STEM provision, including with the Dogger Bank Skills and Community Fund

We would like to ensure that our residents are able to gain the skills they need and to be able to access some of these growth employment sectors.

**Projects should demonstrate that they will deliver against one or more of these primary interventions and associated outputs and outcomes:**

| **Intervention** | **Objectives** | **Outputs** | **Outcomes** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses. | Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes. | * Number of people supported to participate in education
* Number of people retraining
* Number of people in employment engaging with the skills system
 | * Number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills
 |
| E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that cannot be met through mainstream funding | Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes. | * Number of people receiving support to gain a vocational licence
 | * Number of people in education/training
* Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support
* Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education and training
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| E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government’s net zero and wider environmental ambitions. | Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes. | * Number of people receiving support to gain employment
 | * Number of people gaining a qualification following support
* Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support
 |

Projects may also deliver against a range of other UKSPF interventions where appropriate.

We are looking for bids that meet the following requirements:

* Projects which can deliver in 2024/25. Projects must be complete by March 2025.
* Are innovative in their approach.
* Should demonstrate clear and straightforward routes into employment from a starting point of economically inactive or unemployed.
* Projects should work with businesses in sectoral growth areas, such as the automotive sector, to identify and generate employment opportunities.
* Deliver in the South Tyneside Council area (which includes South Shields, Hebburn, Jarrow, Boldon, Cleadon and Whitburn)
* Consider how the project could be sustainable when the funding expires in March 2025.
* Projects should have a minimum grant value of £250,000, we welcome partnership approaches
* Bidders must define which intervention(s) and related outputs and outcomes they are aligning to. Please refer to the following:
	+ [Outputs and Outcomes by Intervention](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)
	+ [UKSPF Output and Outcome Definitions](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1140763/UKSPF_Indicators_22.02.2023.xlsx)
* There are no requirements for match funding, although any additional funding leveraged will be looked upon favourably.

* Successful applicants will be required to complete an evaluation upon project completion.

This meets the priorities set out in the South Tyneside UKSPF Investment Plan of:

* **Community based outreach activities to help intervene in particular disadvantaged communities** (given our high levels of deprivation concentrated in particular places)**;**
* **Community measures to reduce the cost of living** (through measures to improve energy efficiency and combat fuel and other forms of poverty);
* **Targeted community engagement** in particular communities across the borough and targeted at specific groups to help people progress towards the labour market and into work;
* **Enhanced employability support**, including careers assessments, plans and soft skills development;
* **Skills development and the creation of support mechanisms to increase local employment** and reduction of employee shortages in primary employment sectors;
* **Workforce development** to help fill vacancies through working with businesses and undertaking marketing campaigns to promote services to business and to residents;
* **Intermediate labour market / supported employment programmes** to create supported employment placements for those furthest from the labour market (including those with SEND and Care Leavers);
* **Projects to support residents with health issues into employment and training.**

And it meets the Council’s new ambitions through the refreshed South Tyneside Vision to ensure our residents are; financially secure and connected to jobs (and our commitment to target support to make things fairer).

**South Tyneside’s Local Priorities**

In selecting the bids that will be part of the South Tyneside Local Investment Plan, South Tyneside Council will prioritise the bids that have the greatest potential to deliver against our Council Vision and our Ambitions.

Our 20-year Vision is:

Our South Tyneside - A place where people live healthy, happy, and fulfilled lives.

Our Ambitions

We have five 'Ambitions' that we want to achieve over the next 20 years to help deliver our Vision.

These five Ambitions will guide everything we do.

We want all people in South Tyneside to be:

* Financially secure - Residents will be financially secure. They will have what they need for a good standard of living.
* Healthy and well - Residents will enjoy good mental wellbeing and physical health throughout their lives. They will have the best start in life and be able to live and age well.
* Connected to jobs - Residents will have access to good quality jobs, skills, and learning. They will have the skills and confidence to apply for a wide range of quality local jobs. These jobs will be in key and growing areas of employment and will benefit all of our borough.
* Part of strong communities - Residents will live in clean, green, and connected communities where they feel safe.

And we are committed to:
* Targeting support to make things fairer - We will target support at the residents and parts of our borough that need it the most, reducing inequalities and making things fairer.

You can read more about our Vision and our Ambitions here [**The South Tyneside Vision and Council Strategy**](https://southtyneside.gov.uk/media/4850/The-South-Tyneside-Vision-and-Council-Strategy/pdf/DP_2271_STC_Vision_Strategy_Final_-_Cabinet_Papers_Version.pdf?m=638048031437270000)

**People & Skills Investment Priority**

The *Government’s* aims of the People & Skills theme are to:

* Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress into work;
* Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need;
* Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision;
* Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market.

*Our evidence base* suggests that in South Tyneside we have:

* One of the highest claimant count unemployment rates in the UK, with unemployment concentrated in particular wards and amongst particular groups;
* Rising levels of economic inactivity, particularly those out of the labour market due to long-term health issues;
* Low levels of higher level skills and of basic skills (with the numbers of people without qualifications growing in contrast to regionally and nationally);
* Difficulties of businesses in recruiting, particularly in hospitality, manufacturing, retail and social care;
* Higher levels than neighbouring authorities for low pay and a lack of progression routes for workers (and a high number of zero-hour contracts);
* Lower proportion of people with professional occupations than nationally.

Consequently, *our proposed priority interventions* (see full Government list [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)):

* Targeted community engagement in particular communities across the borough and targeted at specific groups to help people progress towards the labour market and into work;
* Enhanced employability support, including careers assessments, plans and soft skills development;
* Skills development and the creation of support mechanisms to increase local employment and reduction of employee shortages in primary employment sectors;
* Workforce development to help fill vacancies through working with businesses and undertaking marketing campaigns to promote services to business and to residents;
* Intermediate labour market / supported employment programme to create supported employment placements for those furthest from the labour market (including those with SEND and Care Leavers);
* Projects to support residents with health issues into employment and training.

Other interventions

* The list enough is not exhaustive and we would welcome innovative projects that may meet other interventions within the Government’s menu (see [here](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf))

 **Submitting a Bid**

Bids must be submitted using the South Tyneside UKSPF application form available on our website here: <https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/ukspfform>

Bids submitted in any other format will not be accepted.

The deadline for submitting a bid is **Wednesday 17th April 2024**.

**How Bids Will be Assessed**

 As the lead authority, South Tyneside Council will assess all bids submitted.

Bids will be assessed against:

* The UKSPF criteria, particularly the menu of interventions, and the related outputs and outcomes– bids that fail to meet these criteria are ineligible and will be rejected. See here for further detail:
	+ - [Outputs and Outcomes by Intervention](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)
		- [UKSPF Output and Outcome Definitions](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1140763/UKSPF_Indicators_22.02.2023.xlsx)
* Strategic fit with local priorities as outlined above
* Strategic fit with UKSPF as outlined above
* Deliverability and ability to start delivering in 2024/2025
* Evidence of need
* The extent to which they will make a real and tangible difference to communities/businesses/people across South Tyneside, particularly in our most disadvantaged areas
* How they demonstrate innovation and social value

We will undertake a transparent process of project appraisal which involves project appraisal, scoring and internal due diligence.

Following assessment, South Tyneside Council will determine the projects that best meet our key criteria to include in our UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme.

South Tyneside Council will enter into a funding agreement with successful bidders. This will include details of delivery and reporting arrangements.

**Data Privacy**

South Tyneside Council, grant managers for this programme, and the UK Government, are subject to the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), and UK Data Protection Act 2018 regarding the handling and processing of personal data.

South Tyneside Council (STC) has a data protection policy, which is available at [Data protection - South Tyneside Council](https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/6928/Overview)

By agreeing to the terms and conditions of this application process, you agree that STC and its representatives involved in this grant programme delivery can use the application form and the other information you provide for the following purposes:

* To decide whether to give you a grant.
* To hold the information in STC’s database and use for statistical purposes relating to this grants programme.
* To provide information on the grant programme and programme wide developments that could support you in your application, subsequent project delivery and/or for the development of your organisation.

If we offer you a grant, information about your organisation will be published relating to the project funded, including the amount of the grant and the activity it is/was for. If your application is not successful, details will not be published.

This information may appear in press releases, in South Tyneside Council's print and online publications and in the publications or websites of any partner organisations who have match funded the activity.

**How your application and personal data will be handled**

Under data protection legislation, STC, and UK Government are only allowed to use personal information if we have a proper reason to do so. We will process your application and personal data in the following ways for the purposes of the delivery of this grant programme:

During assessment of your application your contact information will be processed for the purpose of assessing your application and notifying you whether or not it was successful.

If your application is successful:

- We will only retain your personal information for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it for, including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, accounting, or reporting requirements.

- Information from your application will be used to publicise the grants awarded through this programme and by the appointed programme evaluators. Information about your organisation will be published relating to the project funded including the amount of the grant, the activity it was for and who will be supported. This information may appear in press releases, in its print and online publications and in the publications or websites of any partner organisations who have match funded the activity.

If your application is unsuccessful:

- We will only retain your personal information for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes we collected it for, including for the purposes of satisfying any legal, accounting, or reporting requirements.

**For further information and any questions, please contact** **business@southtyneside.gov.uk**