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**Expression of Interest 2025/26**

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Background to UKSPF

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) is a Government funding source, channelled through local councils, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation. It has been running since the 2022/23 financial year, initially for three years but has now been extended into the 2025-26 financial year. The UKSPF in 2025-26 is focused on the Government’s five national Missions, particularly the Government’s foremost Mission to kickstart economic growth.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government oversees the administration of the fund.

UKSPF funding has three investment priorities:

* Communities and Place
* Support for Local Business
* People and Skills

Each priority area has sitting underneath it themes and sub-themes. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-2025-26-technical-note#how-we-will-measure-performance>

Cotswold District Council received an allocation of £1 million over the first three years and have been awarded **£327,146 in 2025-26**. After funding for projects which the Council has already decided to continue supporting in 2025-26 has been taken into account and an allowance for management and administration has been deducted, **there is a remaining amount of approximately £120,000 to be allocated in 2025-26.**

The available funding is broadly equally split between capital and revenue. **Please note that ordinarily we would not award grants of less than £5,000 or more than £25,000 in this round of applications. A minimum of 20% match funding is required, but your application will be strengthened if you are able to provide more.** Please also note that your application must relate to activities taking place within the Cotswold District Council area. For more information about what costs are allowable within your bid, please see section 7.5 of the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus#the-funds-parameters)

Project promoters are being invited to submit proposals. Please complete this (EOI) form to focus on current opportunities and challenges in Cotswold District Council and describe how your project or intervention fits within the prescribed UKSPF objectives, outputs and outcomes – see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators/interventions-list-for-england>.

Please send this form to Paul James, Economic Development Lead, Cotswold District Council by email to paul.james@cotswold.gov.uk by **5pm** on **Friday 28th March 2025**. This information will be used to assess the project, in consultation with the Council’s UKSPF Assessment Panel, and determine whether it will form part of the Council’s spend in 2025-26.

Please note that by completing this EOI you are confirming that you certify to the best of your knowledge the information submitted on this form is true and correct and you have the appropriate level of authority to submit this EOI on behalf of your organisation.

**Project Contact Information**

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| Project Name (be specific not general, to avoid confusion with other similar projects or locations) |
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| Applicant Organisation |
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| Applicant Address |
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| Primary Contact (name and role in the organisation) |
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| Contact Telephone Number and Email Address |
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**Project summary**: In this section you will be required to give more details on your project outcomes and benefits.

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| Describe your project idea clearly and succinctly, including what the investment would buy and why it would meet the aims of the Shared Prosperity Fund. Include the potential timeframe and any significant drivers or constraints related to the scheduling of the investment. Include details of the organisation(s) that would be involved in its delivery and why public funds are needed. (Max 1250 characters) |
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**Project Status**

In this section you will be required to give details of the current status of your project and milestones.

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| How confident are you that the project will be completed before the end of February 2026? Please provide details. |
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**Project Objectives**:

This section looks at the key objectives set out by the Government and how your project relates to both those and the key priorities of Cotswold District Council.

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| Investment theme: tick the primary theme that best fits your project |
| Communities and Place |  |
| Support for Local Business |  |
| People and Skills  |  |

Please highlight which of the Cotswold District Council priorities your project is best related to:

Link to Cotswold District Council Corporate Plan here: <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/documents/s4905/Annex%20B%20Corporate%20Strategy%202021%20Update%20160222.pdf>

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| Cotswold District Council priority: tick the primary theme that best fits your project |
| Enabling a vibrant economy |  |
| Responding to the climate crisis |  |
| Supporting health and wellbeing |  |
| Delivering high standards of service |  |

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| Strategic Fit (max 1000 characters) (Please expand on the local context for your project). Having identified Cotswold District Council’s priority/priorities in the above question, please expand on this and explain how your project aligns with the objectives of the Council and its partners. |
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| Partnership working and collaboration. Does your project intend to work with other places or organisations to deliver this project? If so, please provide details. |
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| Summary of benefits/outcomes that will be delivered. Expanding on your summary, provide information on the tangible benefits, measurable outputs and outcomes that would be delivered. These could address challenges or capitalise on opportunities, including those associated with solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity. List the expected outputs and outcomes and indicate the timescales. Please refer to the UKSPF list of outputs and outcomes – please see the attached file. Please also include any outputs and outcomes your project will deliver which are not included in the Government’s list. (Max 1250 characters).  |
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| Evidence of need or demand (Max 1000 characters)Give details of the evidence you can reference that supports your case that there is a need or demand for this project. |
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| How will the project support Cotswold District Council Net Zero goals? Does the project contribute to wider environmental considerations such as resilience to natural hazards and the 25-year Environment Plan?See Cotswold District Council’s Climate Emergency Strategy<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/8d8eab9716634de/cdc-climate-emergency-strategy-adopted-2020_09_23.pdf>  |
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| Summary of the SPF Investment(s) requested and other sources of funding: (Estimated total cost of the project, and (if available) list the main elements of the budget. Provide details of any potential or secured source(s) of funding and the likely shortfall.) |
| Total Project Cost (please break down into main elements if possible) | £ |
| Other sources of funding either agreed or in process (please specify amounts and sources) | £ |
| Current estimated funding shortfall | £ |
| Ask of UKSPF (Revenue) | £ |
| Ask of UKSPF (Capital) | £ |
| If we cannot offer you the full amount, what is the minimum amount that you would be able to accept in order to deliver this project in the necessary timescale? |  |
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| Please provide a brief explanation of the project’s status, including whether any necessary approvals and consents, e.g. planning permission, landowner consent, have been obtained. Where planning consent is required, please state whether an application has been submitted and, where appropriate, please provide an application reference. (Max 700 characters) |
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| Please provide a brief explanation of the project milestones (Max 700 characters) |
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| What are the key challenges and risks associated with the successful delivery of this project?  |
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| Equalities and diversity: Does your project have any positive or negative impact on any of the protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation? <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics> |
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UKSPF EOI form February 2025