

# UKSPF Investment Plan Year 1 Project Call

## Community and Place E10 – Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.

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### Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was launched in April 2022 and succeeds the old EU structural funds. The fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and seeks to target funding where it is needed most to build pride in place, support high quality skills training, support pay, employment and productivity growth, and increase life chances. The fund will invest in three local priorities: communities and place, support for local businesses, and people and skills.

Barrow Borough Council submitted the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to Government on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2022. Government has allocated £2.48m UKSPF funding to Barrow Borough. The area is currently undergoing Local Government Reorganisation and from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 will be part of the new Westmorland and Furness Council. The current local authorities have collaborated closely to develop aligned Investment Plans in readiness for a merged Investment Plan in Year 2 and 3 of the Fund. As such, the project call for Year 1 is being led by the current local authorities working closely together to select projects through a shared approach.

### Local Challenges and Opportunities which the Project needs to Respond to

Barrow Borough faces a number of key challenges and opportunities which fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and are relevant to this project call. Our latest research and evidence, insights from existing policy and strategies, as well as our stakeholder engagement, identifies the following:

#### Accessibility Challenge

Within Barrow Borough there is a need to improve accessibility to sport and recreational activity to improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of our community. In addition to improving infrastructure at sports facilities this can also include lifting the barriers to engagement and increasing participation in local tournaments, teams and leagues to deliver activity that brings people together and increases participation in physical exercise.

#### Wellbeing Challenge

Barrow Borough is the fifth most deprived district for health deprivation and disability in the country, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

Concentrations of living environment deprivation in the borough undermines health, wellbeing and quality of life. 18 LSOAs in Barrow Borough are in the top 10% most deprived nationally on the living environment domain.



Barrow Borough has a lower life expectancy than the national average, at 77 years for males relative to 80 nationally, and 81 years for females versus 83 nationally. Public Health England identifies a 12-year difference in life expectancy between the poorest and most affluent wards in the borough. The borough has a higher prevalence of heart disease, stroke and diabetes than the national average. 24% of the borough's population are classified as inactive, and 67% of adults are overweight or obese, more than 5% higher than the national average.

Poverty and physical inactivity have been identified to have strong implications for mental health, which disproportionately affects those already living in poverty and the most vulnerable communities in society. The ONS Personal Well-being Estimates 2020 show greater decreases in reported happiness, life satisfaction and feelings of worthwhile in Barrow Borough compared to Cumbria and England.

## **Aim of the Project Call**

The aim of this project call is to invite proposals in response to the Community and Place intervention E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.

Through the development of our investment plan and the identification of the local challenges and opportunities detailed above which we aim to address through the UKSPF we have recognised that there is a gap in funding available to promote and support local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues. Through this intervention we intend to provide funding to an organisation able to deliver a small capital grants programme over the winter of 2022/23 that will provide grant funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues to deliver activity that brings people together and increases participation.

The grants scheme must effectively support local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues within Barrow Borough to bring people together. It must also respond to the local challenges and opportunities detailed above, the objectives of the Community and Place investment priority and the relevant Levelling Up missions listed in the UKSPF prospectus. The scheme must commence as soon as is practically possible following commission and be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The successful applicant will have a proven track record of delivering a scheme of this nature across the local area and have significant experience of working in collaboration with local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues. Applicants must set out how they intend to consult with these organisations. They must also be able to demonstrate a methodology for measuring, monitoring and reporting the intervention's outcome of improved perception of facilities and amenities and increased users (% increase).

The total amount of funding available under this intervention is £39,328. This is split £35,394 capital and £3,934 revenue. The scheme must meet the intended outcome of improved perceptions of facilities/groups by delivering capital grants for sports facilities and amenities.

We anticipate that there will be one successful applicant for this project call who will receive the full funding allocation. Match funding is not required; however, applicants must demonstrate that the grants scheme can be fully funded through the UKSPF or with other sources of funding.

## **Process and Timescales**

The deadline to submit this application is 7th October 2022. Assessment and appraisal of all submissions will then take place during October 2022. Subject to approval of our Investment



Plan from Government, which is expected in autumn 2022, project awards will be confirmed in November or December 2022 with grant agreements then made between the Council and successful applicants. Delivery of the project will then be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 with monitoring, evaluation and reporting ongoing.

## Contact Details

Questions about the details of the project call description can be directed to [developmentplans@barrowbc.gov.uk](mailto:developmentplans@barrowbc.gov.uk)

Questions about the application process and completing the application can be directed to [chris.fox@hatch.com](mailto:chris.fox@hatch.com)

## Reference Documents

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund framework of Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs \(England\)](#)

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund Interventions List \(England\)](#)

