

## Castle Point Borough Council UKSPF Grant Programme: FAQs

Last updated: 17.7.2023

### General fund information

#### **Are there any organisations excluded from applying?**

No, all organisation types, with legal status, can apply for funding from UKSPF. Applications from individuals are not eligible. The UK Government provides some examples:

*.....this may include local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations and registered charities.*

Organisations must have their own bank account and formal articles, such as a constitution, terms of reference or purpose statement.

#### **Can sole traders apply for funding?**

Yes, sole traders can apply, so long as their project is not solely for their own business benefit. They should include their UTR number on the application form in the box requesting Charity or Company registration number.

#### **Can my organisation make multiple applications?**

No, it is only one application per organisation.

#### **Can an application include capital and revenue funding?**

Yes, a bid can include both revenue and capital spend.

#### **How do Castle Point define capital spending?**

The Capital budget line can be used for acquisition, creation or enhancement of property, plant and large equipment. The total cost would need to be over £10 000 for the expenditure to be capitalised. The maximum UKSPF grant for projects including capital expenditures is £7500, which means as a minimum the applicant must be able to provide funding to cover the remaining £2500 of cost. It is, of course, perfectly fine to have a larger capital project but the remainder of the funding will need to come from other sources. These can be other government funded grants.

#### **Is match funding required?**

Yes, Castle Point expects applicants to provide 25% of match funding for both capital and revenue funds. UKSPF funding can also act as match funding for other external funding. The application form allows space to explain if any external match funding has been secured for

the UKSPF funding. You will be required to report on match funding used to deliver the project.

**Can UKSPF be used to cover running costs of the organisation?**

The funding cannot cover organisation running costs unless these are directly related to the project delivery. It also cannot fund ongoing costs incurred post project completion e.g. maintenance of equipment or licences/subscriptions.

**Are we looking for particular projects under the interventions?**

No, there are no particular projects that we have in mind for each intervention. Any project that delivers activity under the intervention and fulfils the required outcome will be eligible for funding and will be considered by the assessment panel (subject to passing the technical evaluation).

## The application process

**Will the response to applications be a simple yes/no?**

We will provide feedback both at the first draft and final submission stages. If a bid is unsuccessful, we will indicate some of the key concerns raised by the panel.

**What will the draft feedback include?**

Providing a draft version of your application is a mandatory step in the application process. Written comments will be provided on your draft application form, as well as feedback on budgets and the outcome numbers/evidence. This will be done in time for you to amend your application prior to your final version being submitted.

## Delivering your UKSPF project

**Can funds be carried over at the end of the financial year?**

Government have stated that projects must spend the funding within the year it has committed to. The government has given no indication that it is prepared to allow funds to roll over from year two (2023/24) to year three (2024/25). However, you can have a project that runs over 2023/24 and 2024/25 as long as expenditure takes places in the financial year you assigned the budget to.

**Can I apply for funding in 2024/25?**

It is unlikely that there will be a call in 2024. The current call for project bids will cover both 2023/24 and 2024/25. We would only undertake a further call if funds are not allocated in this round.

**Do I have to consider subsidy control?**

It is possible that grants awarded under UKSPF will be deemed as being a subsidy. Castle Point Borough Council intends to use the exemption of Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA), which allows public authorities to award low value subsidies without needing to comply with the majority of the subsidy control requirements. MFA is capped at a financial threshold, meaning no recipient can receive more than £315,000 over three years.

If approved, the applicant will be requested, as part of the grant funding agreement, to declare that the cap hasn't been met.

More information is available: [Statutory Guidance for the United Kingdom Subsidy Control Regime: Subsidy Control Act 2022](#)