



UK SPF ACQUISITION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY ASSETS GRANT

2024 Guidance

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE FUND:

The purpose of this grant is to offer financial support to social economy sector organisations. This grant will enable organisations to purchase assets from Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council (MTCBC) for which they currently hold a lease/licence.

Funded by the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), this grant programme aims to contribute to delivering on the UK Government's levelling up objectives:

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

Should your application be successful, we will monitor your project against the relevant outputs and outcomes related to the specific UK Government interventions. This detail will be included in the grant offer letter. For further information please see the [UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#)

2.0 WHAT CAN IT FUND:

The UKSPF Acquisition of Local Authority Assets Grant will fund:

- The purchase of an asset currently owned by MTCBC
- VAT costs if the organisation is not VAT registered.

Ineligible Expenditure:

- Any form of revenue costs. Should you wish to fund professional fees, please see the UKSPF Professional Fees Grant.
- Costs to purchase vehicles
- Hire Purchase/Lease Purchases
- Costs such as rent, rates, admin, vehicles; cost of works being carried out as a legal statutory requirement
- Costs that relate to normal running expenses,
- Contingency costs & Utilities
- Statutory procedures such as planning permission or building regulations,
- Equipment / items that have a one-off annual use or are deemed to be seasonal,
- Retrospective costs i.e. costs for works or equipment that has already been undertaken,
- VAT costs for organisations who are VAT registered
- Staff costs/Marketing

3.0 WHO CAN APPLY:

You can apply for the UKSPF Acquisition of Local Authority Assets Grant if your organisation:

- Is any form of social business i.e. social enterprise, constituted (preferably incorporated) community group, charity, CIC, sports club, youth organisation, worship group, resident association etc.,
- Currently leases or has a licence on an asset owned by MTCBC and wishes to purchase said asset.

You are not eligible for the UKSPF Acquisition of Local Authority Assets Grant if:

- You are a private business
- You are not currently managing/leasing an asset from the Local Authority.
- You are an un-constituted social business / group,
- You are a social business / group without an organisational bank account,
- The organisation/applicant has any financial arrears with the Council.

4.0 HOW MUCH CAN I APPLY FOR:

The grant will fund up to 50% of eligible purchase costs based on a valuation undertaken by MTCBC.

5.0 FUNDING TIMESCALES:

Activity	Timeframe/Deadline
Grant Schemes Open	8th March 2024
Application Deadline	5pm 3rd May 2024
Decision to applicants	31st May 2024
Monitoring & Engagement	June – December 2024
Final Monitoring & Grant closure	18th December 2024

6.0 FURTHER INFORMATION:

Prior to the deadline you will need to submit a fully completed application form with all the required supporting information specified in the applications checklist.

Please note: partially completed applications will not be assessed, therefore, please ensure that you complete all sections of the application form and submit all necessary documents.

Prior to submission of the application, you must contact MTCBC Estates Department to discuss your intention so that your organisation is fully aware of the procedures in relation to purchasing a Local Authority asset. Estates.Department@merthyr.gov.uk. Please note that funding will be primarily allocated to support the purchase of those assets which have been identified as priorities for disposal by MTCBC.

Organisations will need to fund their own costs in relation to the purchase of the asset (e.g. Legal costs, appropriate surveys). Please see the “UKSPF Professional Fees Grant” should you require financial assistance.

Please note that as a part of the contractual terms of the disposal, there will be a restrictive/positive covenant imposed stating that the property/asset will be used for community purposes.

No release from the contractual user clause will be considered in the first 10 years after purchase and clawback provisions would apply in the event that there are proposals for an alternative use if/when a release is given.

In terms of the Transfer of Asset, there will be no disposal without a certificate of consent signed by MTCBC or its successors. Consent to disposal can be withheld if the transfer is to an organisation that would not fulfil the purpose of sale for community use.

A buy back option will also be included, in favour of the Council, in the event the organisation that purchases the asset ceases to exist, goes bankrupt, wishes to close etc.

Grants will not be offered or paid if the organisation or applicant is in arrears with any payment to the Local Authority. Checks will be made as required.

Grant money will be paid by BACS into the organisation’s business bank account after receipt of appropriate legal documentation, agreeing the sale of the asset.

All purchases will need to be complete by the 18th December 2024 with all evidence of spend submitted.

We will accept all applications and documentation via email. Please submit your application to economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk.

Please also note that the submission of an application does not guarantee funding.

Should you have any queries please contact economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk in the first instance.

7.0 SHORTLISTING & ASSESSMENT CRITERIA:

Your application will be subject to an initial validation check to ensure you have submitted all the correct information. In addition, each organisation / business will go through a due diligence check as part of our grant condition processes.

The second phase of assessment will see each application being assessed by a chosen specialist panel set against the following criteria:

- Value for Money
- Job Creation/Safeguarding
- Socio-economic Impact
- Positive Outcomes for your organisation and the wider community
- Identified by MTCBC Estates Department as a priority for disposal
- Sustainability
- Project Timeframe

Should you have any queries, please contact the Enterprise Team via
economic.development@merthyr.gov.uk

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