



UKSPF SOCIAL ENTERPRISE PROFESSIONAL FEES 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 fund organisations/businesses to engage specialist professionals to deliver appropriate support to organisations to enable future developments.

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 Social Enterprise Professional Fees Grant will fund:

- Initial Costs associated with Planning, Building Control, Legal, Surveys, Valuations, Architects and RIBA stage support
- VAT costs if the organisation is not VAT registered.

Ineligible Expenditure:

- Costs to purchase buildings, land or 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
- 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 Social Enterprise Professional Fees 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.,
- Is registered in Merthyr Tydfil.

You are not eligible for the UKSPF Social Enterprise Professional Fees Grant if:

- You are a private business (please see UKSPF Private Sector Grant for Business)
- 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 90% of eligible total project costs.

5.0 FUNDING TIMESCALES:

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

For specialist professional support worth over £5,000, a minimum of three quotes will be required which should be submitted along with the application and other supporting documentation. The quotes must be based on the same specification. We will also ask for evidence of match funding. If the application is worth less than £5,000 in total, then one written quote is sufficient.

If your organisation does not own the asset against which you are applying for professional fees, then written permission must be provided from the owner of the asset that they are in support of your application.

Grants will not be offered or paid if the business 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 business bank account after receipt of original paid invoices and corresponding bank statements or, in circumstances based on a business case assessment, on receipt of invoice or valid quotation.

All projects will need to be complete by the 18th December 2024 with all evidence of spend submitted. Please be realistic in relation to delivery timescales for professional support you are applying for. In some cases, the appropriate surveys etc. can only be undertaken at certain times of year, which will impact upon your future project delivery timescales.

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
- Socio-economic Impact
- Project Outcomes for your Organisation and the wider Community
- Need
- Sustainability / Longevity of the Project / Works
- Project Timeframe

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

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