

UKSPF and REPF funded projects

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund will support a range of projects across Westmorland and Furness during 2023-24 and 2024-25, delivered both internally by the Council and by external partners. This includes funding for;

- Arts, cultural and creative activities
- Active Travel
- Impactful voluntary and social action projects
- Improvements to sports facilities
- Business start-up, growth and innovation support
- Business decarbonisation
- Support to access employment
- Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas
- Growing the local social economy and supporting innovation
- Improvements to cultural, historic and heritage institutions and assets
- Improvements to town centres and high streets

A summary of each of the funded projects is given below.

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Project name	Organisation	Description
Inclusive sports facilities		
Sport - Improving Assets and Increasing Participation	Active Cumbria	Active Cumbria will administer a small grants programme, providing both capital and revenue grants to sports clubs and organisations to improve infrastructure of sports facilities as well as increasing the number of events, tournaments and growing engagement in sport.
Arts, heritage and culture		
Support for Local Cultural and Heritage Organisations	Community Infrastructure - Westmorland and Furness Council	The project will provide small capital and revenue grants to cultural, heritage and creative organisations and support to make grant applications, with the aim to encourage community involvement and inclusivity in cultural and heritage activities.
Events and Festivals grant programme	Community Infrastructure - Westmorland and Furness Council	A programme of small grants for event and festival organisers with a streamlined application process.
Culture in Westmorland and Furness	Cumbria Tourism	A high profile coordinated multi-media promotional campaign that will help to promote the arts, heritage, culture, and creative activities sector recognising they are a key driver to encourage national and international visitors' discovery (or revisiting) of the area, boosting economic activity.
Active Travel		
Fix the Fells	The National Trust	Fix the Fells is an ongoing partnership between the National Trust, Lake District National Park, Natural England, Friends of the Lake District and the Lake District Foundation which aims to restore eroded paths, maintaining the world class landscape and environment that attracts so many people and facilitating access to the fells. This specific project will restore eroded paths that provide access to Wainwright Fells at Glenridding Dodd, Loughrigg and Gowbarrow.

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Social Action and Volunteering Projects		
This is Us	Cumbria CVS	A collaborative, cross sector project, between Cumbria CVS, the voluntary sector, statutory sectors and businesses to deliver a package of increased social action and impactful volunteering, delivered by recruiting Development and Volunteering Officers.
Green Doctor	Groundwork NE & Cumbria	This project will tackle fuel poverty and offer support with the cost-of-living crisis, including trained energy advisors specialising in helping the most vulnerable save energy, money and maximise their incomes and staff energy advice engagement in community settings, as well as providing Money Mentor Advice.
Elevate	Brathay Trust	This project will support young people who are becoming, or at risk of becoming disaffected or disengaged from education. The programme is targeted and flexible, reaching 10 young people, aged 12-15 each school term. The programme has been running successfully in Barrow for two years, with proven positive outcomes. UKSPF funding enables a further 40 young people to be supported to reduce vulnerabilities and re-engage them with learning.
Business Support, Start-Up and Growth		
Comprehensive Business Start-up and Support	Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership	A fully integrated business support service across Westmorland and Furness managed under a co-ordinated 'umbrella' service, proving a business-friendly service that is easy to navigate. Working with a wide range of delivery partners the project will include a number of different support streams and a significant grants programme for businesses to support and encourage further investment.



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Business Decarbonisation		
Westmorland & Furness Net Zero Business Hub	Cumbria Action for Sustainability	An innovative, collaborative and joined-up approach to delivering a holistic programme of support to up to 300 small and medium sized businesses in Westmorland & Furness to decarbonise. The project will include establishing a one stop shop net zero business support hub and distributing grants to businesses to undertake carbon reduction measures.
Support to Access Employment		
Employment Support for Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Barrow-in-Furness	Adult Learning - Westmorland and Furness Council	<p>Using a developed pathway, the project will improve community cohesion and integration of asylum seekers and refugees in Barrow-in-Furness by providing English language skills provision to support employability.</p> <p>This will consist of non-regulated courses/interventions aimed at providing the target group with key English skills to help them progress to employment/volunteering, further learning, integrate into communities, and understand cultural differences.</p>
The Key	Inspira	This project is the continuation of an established employability programme for economically inactive adults. The Key addresses several interlinked issues affecting the local labour market and the economic prospects of residents It includes collaboration with local employers and provides participants with practical support to boost their employability and help them move quickly into jobs.
Welcome to Work in the Visitor Economy	Cumbria Tourism	<p>To address labour shortages in the visitor economy by linking people looking for work with tourism businesses. This includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Training for businesses on the Disability Confident scheme• Matchmaking people with vacancies using the Tourism Talent Hub initiative• Preventing young people becoming NEET by offering them temporary employment opportunities in the sector

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Rural England Prosperity Fund		
Rural Business Grants & Support	Cumbria Chamber of Commerce	The project will provide support to rural micro and small businesses through advice and grants. Capital grants will support purchase of new equipment and small scale capital improvements to help them to grow, diversify, innovate and improve productivity. The project will focus on agricultural, land-based, tourist and hospitality businesses.
A Social Enterprise Zone for Westmorland & Furness	Cumbria Social Enterprise Partnership	The project will create a Social Enterprise Zone for Westmorland & Furness. The SEZ will create the best conditions for new social enterprises to form and for the existing sector to innovate and grow by providing bespoke business advice and guidance and grants for start-up costs, investment in new products and services, and to improve existing business premises.
Lancaster Canal Towpath Trail	Canal & River Trust	Capital works to improve an 8km section of canal towpath between Kendal and Holme, including widening the current towpath and installation of a new self-binding surface dressing. This will be combined with a programme of promotional activities to increase usage for leisure cycling/walking and awareness of the path's heritage.
Wordsworth Grasmere	Wordsworth Trust	The project will install new interpretation, wayfinding and signage at Wordsworth Grasmere. Centred on Dove Cottage, the internationally famous home of William and Dorothy Wordsworth and one of Cumbria's most iconic buildings.
Lady of the Lake	Lake District Estates	This innovative project will reduce carbon emissions from flagship vessel Lady of the Lake and be an important demonstrator of the possibilities of lake transport decarbonisation in the Lake District and nationally, acting as a catalyst for further innovation. The project will convert the current diesel engines on heritage passenger vessel M.Y. Lady of the Lake, with the aim to deliver a carbon net zero cruise visitor experience on Ullswater. The project has the potential to be a real exemplar with regards to carbon reduction within the Lake District.

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Improvements to town centres and high streets		
Kendal Market Hall regeneration	Westmorland and Furness Council	Regeneration of the historic Grade II listed Market Hall to provide a rejuvenated community and commercial space for Kendal fit for the 21st century.
Barrow Public Realm Enhancement	Westmorland and Furness Council	Enhancement of the public realm on Dalton Road, between Buccleuch Street and Paxton Street, providing street furniture and attractive planters will enhance the experience for shoppers and other visitors
Stramongate Improvement Scheme	Westmorland and Furness Council	Public realm improvement scheme designed to increase visitor footfall to Stramongate and towards the Town Centre, increasing the accessibility of the area for pedestrians and cyclists.
Kirkby Stephen Town Centre Improvement Scheme	Westmorland and Furness Council	Development of a scheme that will look to enhance the visitor offer of Kirkby Stephen town centre.