

## **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
- Support to address barriers to accessing skills, education and training
- 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

## UKSPF and REPF funded projects

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

Project name	Organisation	Description
<b>Inclusive sports facilities</b>		
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.
<b>Arts, heritage and culture</b>		
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.

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<b>Active Travel</b>		
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.
<b>Social Action and Volunteering Projects</b>		
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.

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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.
<b>Business Support, Start-Up and Growth</b>		
Comprehensive Business Start-up and Support	Cumbria Economic Growth Unit (hosted by Cumberland Council)	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.
<b>Business Decarbonisation</b>		
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.

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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	<p>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.</p>
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"> <li>• Training for businesses on the Disability Confident scheme</li> <li>• Matchmaking people with vacancies using the Tourism Talent Hub initiative</li> <li>• Preventing young people becoming NEET by offering them temporary employment opportunities in the sector</li> </ul>

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Skills, Education and Training for People in Employment		
First Line Manager	Centre for Leadership Performance	The project is aimed at people new to management; those who are currently managing a team, or soon will be, but who have had little or no management training. It combines development around some fundamental people management principles with the opportunity to work and learn alongside peers from a range of businesses. With an interactive and practical approach, it comprises a series of four half-day workshops, pre- and post-programme coaching and peer networking.
Addressing Barriers to Accessing Education and Training	PHX Training	<p>The project will include engagement with employers and employees to deliver bespoke support and identify and address barriers whilst supporting progress within employment. Training will include the development of essential soft and personal skills and deliver accredited and non-accredited programmes from entry level to level 2 and above.</p> <p>With a focus on hospitality, health and social care, and the visitor economy the following training will be provided. Business Administration, Customer Service in Retail, Customer Service in Hospitality, Warehousing, Customer Service in Health and Social Care, Mental Health First Aid, Climate Change, Safeguarding and Prevent, Personal License Holder, SIA, Functional Skills up to level 2 in maths and English and Managing Your Money.</p> <p>For non-accredited qualifications, the offer includes but is not limited to food hygiene, health and safety awareness, manual handling, stress awareness, first aid, infection control, handling and resolving conflict, COSHH, fire marshal, dealing with anxiety, service that sells, and basic Microsoft packages.</p>

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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.

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Improvements to town centres and high streets		
Stramongate Public Realm Improvement	Westmorland and Furness Council	Public realm improvement designed to increase visitor footfall to Stramongate and towards Kendal town centre, increasing the accessibility of the area for pedestrians and cyclists.
Heart of Kendal	Westmorland and Furness Council	Additional funding to support the Levelling Up Fund Heart of Kendal programme to regenerate the town centre through refurbishment of the Market Hall and improvements to the public realm on Market Place and Kent Street
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 to enhance the experience for shoppers and other visitors
Kirkby Stephen Town Centre Improvement Scheme	Westmorland and Furness Council	<p>Westmorland and Furness Council is working with Kirkby Stephen Town Council, the Upper Eden History Society, local business owners and the cricket club on the scheme which is made up of four projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new play park</li> <li>• Improved wayfinding and interpretation</li> <li>• Redesign of Silver Street Garden</li> <li>• Visitor centre – external refurbishment.</li> </ul>