UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Capital Grant Application Information

The Digital Hubs programme has secured funding as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will allow community-based organisations to apply for a capital grant to improve their Digital Equipment or infrastructure. There will be 3 rounds of funding :-

Funding Year	Funding Available for Grant Applications	Indicative Timeline for Applications to open
Year 3 2024-25 round 3	£45,206	Apr 2024

The final round of funding is now open, the maximum amount of funding a community organisation can apply for is £5000.

Please note that in the final round approximately £18,000 will be ringfenced for TRAs and the maximum funding a TRA can apply for is £2000.

In order to receive funding, you must be registered with the *Kirklees Grant Access Point*. Please register if you have not already done so. [Register with the Grants Access Point | Kirklees Council](#)

To apply for the digital infrastructure grant, organisations will have to outline how they will use the capital grant to improve digital equipment or infrastructure, why this upgrade is required and estimate how many residents the upgrades will assist monthly. All costs will be assessed by Kirklees council and must be deemed as fair and reasonable. A typical example of improvements is located at the end of this document in Appendix A.

Please note this grant is for improvements to facilities that end users/local residents (within Kirklees) will benefit from, unfortunately this grant does not support work related IT equipment for staff use.

Organisations will have to evidence how their digital infrastructure/community gardens or green spaces has been improved to meet UKSPF outcomes.

To measure this outcome, it is expected that organisations will conduct before and after surveys, before and after photos and a case study. The sample surveyed should be large enough to enable accurate results based on the centre usage size. It must be ensured that respondents are representative of the local population as a whole, in terms of age, sex, etc.

For Example:

Improvement needed: The centre has Wi-Fi available to users through a standard broadband connection, survey captures users indicating that it is not reliable and the centre reports that footfall and offer to support residents has decreased or is at risk.

Result: Funding is approved for the installation of Fibre Broadband. Survey captures users reporting that the Wi-Fi is more reliable and faster with footfall either increasing with services no longer at risk or additional services now available.

Improvement needed: The Tenants and Residents associated decides they want to install 2 raised beds/planters but they need a new digital camera to capture this.

Result: Funding is approved for the installation of 2 new raised beds and a camera to capture this on. The before and after surveys capture this and the case study details how this has had a positive impact on the residents lives.

Indicative timeline:-

April 2024 – March 2025 Round 3	• Application window opens • Applications reviewed and decisions made • Approve grants, raise Purchase Orders for payment before end of financial year 2024-25

Applications:- Applications will be reviewed and evaluated for:-

- Confirmation of GAP registration
- Evidence base for improvements submitted are proportionate and can be implemented within a reasonable timescale (within 6 weeks for equipment purchased and within 12 weeks for any external contractors)
- In the event we receive more applications than we have funding for, all eligible applications will be approved on a first come basis.
- In the event you are not successful you will be able to apply for further funding rounds.

If you have any further queries, please contact digitalhubs@kirklees.gov.uk

This project is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

West Yorkshire Combined Authority | Tracy Brabin Mayor of West Yorkshire

Appendix A

The below is an example of the type of improvement that we would expect the capital digital fund to support. This list is not explicit nor exhaustive and should be used as a guide only.

Equipment:-

- Network server
- Desktop PC's/Laptops/Chromebooks
- New software
- New monitors
- IT Peripherals (mouse, keyboards etc)
- Smart TV
- Interactive White Screen
- Computer chairs/desks
- Printers

Infrastructure:-

- Installation of broadband/upgrade to Fibre
- New or additional Wi-Fi connector/access points
- New or Improved networking/trunking
- Networking hardware
- Hubs/Routers/Switches
- Fibre optic cabling

Community Gardens/Green Spaces: -

- Installation of raised beds

- Installation of planters