

Kirkby Lonsdale Business and Economic Recovery Grant

Scheme: January 2024

Grant funding is available through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support the economic and business recovery of Kirkby Lonsdale. This may include grants for individual business support and activity, as well as grant funding to organisations who are supporting the economic recovery of the town.

Business recovery activities will include support for business and economic restart, continuity, resilience and sustainability.

Grant funding applications will open on Wednesday 15 January 2025 and must be submitted by close of play Friday 31 January 2025.

Grant applications will be assessed when received, with all decisions aimed to be made no later than mid-February 2025.

All grants must be spent through February 2025, with all grant funding committed for expenditure by mid-March 2025.

What this will fund?

- Large capital and revenue grants to support economic and business recovery of those directly impacted, this may include restart costs of setting up new premises, fitting out damaged premises or replacing damaged equipment, all of which are not covered insurance;
- Smaller scale revenue grants to support economic and business recovery of those directly and indirectly impacted, to include new activities not already underway, tailored business support, overheads/utilities/rates for up to 3 months, digital marketing support, promotional costs, membership fees, e-commerce implementation, and other activity deemed appropriate and acceptable by the grants panel;
- We will also fund improvement works to the look and feel of Kirkby Lonsdale, and activity to support the recovery of the town (for example public realm dressing; interventions to support the movement of people around the town; planters; and wider promotional activity for the town);

- The list provided above is not exhaustive and is included to guide and steer applications in line with activity that is permitted.

What this will not fund?

- Loss of earnings for forced closure periods, even in instances where insurance providers will not cover this;
- Where insurance providers will cover contents or buildings insurance;
- Compensation payments as a result of fire loss;
- Existing activity already in place and committed to by a business or organisation;
- Recoverable VAT;
- Business not trading at the time of the fire on 8 December.

Who can apply?

- Businesses (small and medium/SMEs) based in Kirkby Lonsdale;
- Organisations representing the business community or Kirkby Lonsdale as a place in support of the town – this may include public, private and third sector organisations;
- Businesses trading at the time of the fire on 8 December;
- Geographic restrictions will apply for this grant scheme, which is directed towards businesses and organisations that are based in and around Kirkby Lonsdale;
- The purpose of this grant scheme is to support the economic and business recovery of Kirkby Lonsdale, and all grant-funded activity should be in line with this.

Grant Application

- An application must be made for this grant fund. 1-2-1 business recovery support is available for businesses with applications should they be needed, please contact Enterprising Cumbria at leslie.rickerby@enterprisingcumbria.org.uk
- Applications must be completed on the KL Business Recovery Grants Application Form;
- For items/activity up to £2,000, applications must be accompanied by one quote/evidence of the costs applied for;
- For items/activity between £2,000-£50,000, applications must be accompanied by two quotes/evidence of the costs applied for;
- Applications should be submitted electronically to Enterprising Cumbria at the following address: paul.foster@enterprisingcumbria.org.uk
- Applications open: Wednesday 15 January 2025;

- Applications close: Friday 31 January 2025;
- Application decisions: week commencing Friday 7 February 2025.

All grants must be spent through February 2025, with all grant funding defrayed by Friday 7 March 2025.

Eligibility Criteria

Grant levels will be based on meeting the following eligibility criteria:

1. SMEs directly impacted and unable to return to commercial premises (capital and/or revenue);
2. Commercial property occupants temporarily unable to trade due to fire and/or smoke damage (capital and/or revenue);
3. Commercial property occupants temporarily unable to trade due to the fire safety cordon (capital and/or revenue);
4. SMEs indirectly impacted and able to trade, but seeking to launch new activity as part of their business recovery (capital and/or revenue);
5. Organisations (private, public or third sector) based with Kirkby Lonsdale and/or supporting the town recovery (capital and/or revenue).

Grant Amounts

- Final Grant Amount decisions are discretionary, based on business need, overall impact and applications received;
- Capital grants will not exceed £50,000 per directly impacted business or organisation;
- Revenue grants will not exceed £25,000 per directly impacted business or organisation;
- Revenue grants will not exceed £2,500 per indirectly impacted business;
- Grant amounts above are given as guidance only and discretionary amounts may be decided on by the grants panel, dependent on applications;
- Some directly impacted businesses may be eligible for both capital and revenue grants based on business circumstances and application forms;
- Not all applications will be funded, and some may only be partially funded based on demand for the grant scheme. We do encourage businesses applying to liaise directly with Enterprising Cumbria to seek advice on funding applications;
- Match funding is not required but can be used to support an application.

Grant Payments

- It is the aim of this grant scheme to make payments as soon as possible, so as not to hold up any activity and recovery;
- Grant payments will be made through Cumberland Council, who deal with all external payments as the accountable body for Enterprising Cumbria. This means that all successful grant applicants will need to register as a supplier and invoice the full grant award amount to Cumberland Council in order to receive grant payment. This is a straightforward and necessary process. Supplier links will be shared upon award of the grant.

Grants Panel

- The Kirkby Lonsdale Economic and Business Recovery Grants Panel is comprised of representatives from Enterprising Cumbria, Westmorland and Furness Council (Economic Development and Community Development) and Kirkby Lonsdale Chamber of Trade.
- Should any panel members have any conflicts of interest, these must be raised and declared through the grants panel.
- The decision of the grants panel is final, there is no right to appeal this decision.

Monitoring and Reporting

- If an application is successful, a business will be issued with an offer letter confirming the amount offered and any conditions of the grant offer;
- Monitoring activity will be undertaken throughout the course of the grant scheme to support Government returns;
- Businesses will be required to produce evidence to prove expenditure in line with the above principles of this grant scheme;
- Businesses will be required to produce evidence where insurance providers will not cover certain costs;
- All grant funding must be committed to spend by mid-March 2025;
- Grants will be awarded under the Minimal Financial Assistance Provision (MFA). The MFA provision allows small amounts of funding, up to a financial threshold of £315,000, to be awarded to an enterprise within an applicable period of up to 3 financial years. This means that no enterprise can receive more than this amount of public funding in the applicable period. Businesses will be asked to confirm this as part of the application process.