



Information Release

Future of UK Shared Prosperity Funds must be clear as we approach the Autumn Statement

The TSI Scotland Network is calling on the UK Government to ensure that there is not a gap in funding when the Shared Prosperity Fund arrangements end in March 2025.

[Recent research](#) was undertaken by the Network with the Chief Officers of [Third Sector Interfaces](#) (TSIs) in Scotland regarding their experiences of the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#), which was distributed by local authorities and replaced a number of former European funds.

The research identified that third sector organisations and local communities benefited from the funding, however, there were challenges linked to the involvement of local charities and community groups in decision making linked to the Fund.

The recommendations from the research report include:

- ensuring that the existing funding arrangements are continued until a new programme comes on stream,
- giving local authorities more guidance about the involvement of the third sector.
- a call for more flexibility with the funding in future, and for a longer timescale for the fund to ensure local projects have security.

Dr Lesley Kelly from [Midlothian TSI](#) said

‘Our research identified that third sector organisations in Scotland had benefited from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and we have been able to gather some excellent examples of joint working between TSIs and local authorities. However, issues emerged linked to the transparency of fund decision making and the involvement of local charities and communities in shaping local plans linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Building on good practice, we look forward to working with the UK Government, local government and other partners to ensure there is a future for these important funds.’

More information

Read the research on the third sector and UK Shared Prosperity Funds [here](#). This includes a summary report and case studies for Midlothian and Clackmannanshire.

Third sector interfaces (TSI) are local, independent charities in every local authority area in Scotland. They support community groups, charities, social enterprises and volunteering organisations by

providing advice and practical support on funding, fundraising, governance, staff development, HR, how to start or wind up an organisation, and they champion the third sector with public partners, local and national government.

There is a TSI in every local authority area across Scotland. Find details of local TSIs [here](#).

TSIs were involved to different degrees in local plans and delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Funds in local authorities across Scotland. This research examined local activity and the degree to which charities and local community groups had any involvement in shaping how the funds were spent.

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