

**NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 8 MARCH 2023**



<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND</b>	
<b>Presented by</b>	Barrie Walford Economic Regeneration Team Manager	
<b>Background Papers</b>	<a href="#"><u>CABINET – TUESDAY, 19 JULY 2022</u></a>	<b>Public Report:</b> Yes
<b>Financial Implications</b>	<p>The Council has been successful in being awarded UKSPF grant funding over three years totalling £2,414,817.</p> <p>This fund is to deliver the Councils UKSPF Investment Plan.</p> <p>The Council have also been awarded an additional £20,000 of development funding.</p> <p>Council Finance Officers will directly be involved in the Programme Management Board and have oversight of all of the UKSPF Project Boards.</p> <p>The Capital allocations will be managed through the Capital Strategy governance arrangements.</p>	
	<b>Signed off by the Section 151 Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Legal Implications</b>	<p>The submission of the Council's UKSPF Investment Plan required the Council to agree to a Memorandum of Understanding (attached as appendix 1).</p> <p>Council Legal Officers will directly be involved in the Programme Management Board and have oversight of all the UKSPF Project Boards in order to provide advice on funding agreements and Subsidy Control implications.</p>	
	<b>Signed off by the Deputy Monitoring Officer:</b> Yes	
<b>Staffing and Corporate Implications</b>	<p>The delivery of the Council's UKSPF Investment Plan requires capacity and officer input from across several council services. These service areas have been involved in shaping the Investment Plan.</p> <p>The UKSPF required the creation of a temporary governance structure. This structure (attached as appendix 2) has created a number project boards, a programme management group and oversight board.</p> <p>The project is being progressed with the involvement of Economic Regeneration, Legal, Finance, Communications, Property Services, Community Focus, Health &amp; Wellbeing and input from Leicestershire County Council and the National Forest Charitable Trust.</p>	

	<p>The UKSPF contributes to the delivery of a number of projects identified within service plans and the Council Delivery Plan.</p> <p><b>Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: Yes</b></p>
<b>Reason Agenda Item Submitted to Scrutiny Committee</b>	To scrutinise recommendations to Cabinet that accept, and approve spend, of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant award for North West Leicestershire.
<b>Recommendations</b>	<p><b>TO RECOMMEND TO CABINET:</b></p> <p><b>1. TO ACCEPT THE £2,414,817 GRANT AND £20,000 OF DEVELOPMENT GRANT FROM UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND.</b></p> <p><b>2. TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR (PLACE) IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BUSINESS AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO REVIEW AND AMEND THE NWL INVESTMENT PLAN PROJECT PROPOSALS SET OUT IN THIS REPORT WHERE REQUIRED TO RESPOND AND ADAPT TO THE CHANGING ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT AND/OR LOCAL NEEDS.</b></p> <p><b>3. TO DELEGATE AUTHORITY TO THE SECTION 151 OFFICER IN CONSULTATION WITH THE BUSINESS AND REGENERATION PORTFOLIO HOLDER TO SUBMIT THE REQUIRED FORMAL REPORTING TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES.</b></p>

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Announced in April 2022, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 1.2 Funding has been allocated by formula, not competition to all areas of the UK, on submission of a satisfactory Investment Plan. NWLDC is set to receive £2,414,817.
- 1.3 The fund replaces the ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds) due to wind down by 2025.
- 1.4 The funding is aimed at projects working in Communities and Place (e.g., town centre improvements, pride in place initiatives) Supporting Local Business (e.g., start-up activity or improving productivity) and, for financial year 2024/25 only, People and Skills (supporting the economically inactive to access routes into employment).
- 1.5 Members were previously advised of the broad focus of the Council's Investment Plan at an All Members Briefing in July 2022. Following subsequent Cabinet approval later that July, the Council's investment plan was submitted to DLUHC in August 2022.
- 1.6 DLUHC sought clarification on some aspects of the Investment Plan in December 2022 and also required a Memorandum of Understanding to be agreed and signed by the Council's Section 151 Officer, both of which were provided in December.

- 1.7 On the 11 January we were advised by DLUHC that the Council's Investment Plan and Memorandum of Understanding have been accepted and approved, and the first tranche of funding will be awarded.

## **2.0 UKSPF PROGRAMME**

- 2.1 The projects included within the Investment Plan still reflect the 15 projects identified within the All Member briefing and Cabinet report from July 2022.
- 2.2 The North West Leicestershire UKSPF Investment Plan projects and the forecast estimated project costs are set out below split by high and lower cost projects.
- 2.3 A Business Plan or Financial Agreement will be prepared for each of the high valuer projects and will return to Scrutiny and Cabinet for final approval.
- 2.3.1 **Stenson Square Public realm (£50,000)** – Feasibility and design work for a regeneration led project to transform Stenson Square and the setting of Stenson House at the eastern gateway to Coalville town centre.
- 2.3.2 **Coalville Heritage Trail & Mother and Child statue restoration (£80,000)** – collaborating with the Coalville Heritage Society to create a heritage trail for Coalville Town Centre including the restoration of the Robert Thomas 'Mother and Child' Statue.
- 2.3.3 **Mantle Lane Bridge Gateway Improvements (£64,000)** – Improvement to the public realm at the northern gateway to Coalville town centre.
- 2.3.4 **Business Start-up support activity (£10,000)** – New programmes to support entrepreneurial activity with a focus on young people, women and the creative sectors.
- 2.3.5 **Business Support activity (Year 1 £25,000) (Year 2 £50,000) (Year 3 £25,000)** – New programmes to provide business support including a focus on zero carbon, tourism and high growth small and medium sized businesses.
- 2.3.6 **Sustainable tourism support programme (£6,000)** – A sustainable tourism campaign that supports tourism and hospitality businesses to reduce their carbon footprints and promote a greener visitor economy.
- 2.3.7 **Taste the Place (£8,000)** – Local food and drink product development and marketing campaign to showcase local food and drink producers.
- 2.4 Higher cost UKSPF projects (Business Plan or Financial Agreements to be prepared).
- 2.4.1 **Memorial Workspace (£350,000)** – A workspace led regeneration project to explore options convert the council owned former toilet block building on Memorial Square. The project will look to renovate and convert the building into lettable commercial workspace designed for start-up businesses.
- 2.4.2 **Hermitage Recreation Ground EcoPark (£130,000)** – Building on the existing consultations for the future of the Hermitage Recreation Ground, enhance the open space, accessibility and use of the space.

- 2.4.3 **Heart of the National Forest (£253,000 over 3 years)** – Contributions to facilitate the delivery of the Heart of the National Forest Masterplan including new ‘green web’ to improve accessible walking and cycle routes and the creation of new woodland management volunteer hub in the Forest.
- 2.4.4 **Moir a Furnace visitor experience (£300,000)** – Collaborations with the Furnace Charitable Trust to implement the Moira Furnace masterplan to enhance the existing visitor experience and the creation of new visitor attraction that compliments the setting of the furnace and the canal.
- 2.4.5 **Castle Donington Community Sports Hub (£250,000)** – Develop plans for a community sports hub at Castle Donington College, which will include new facilities and 3G football pitches.
- 2.4.6 **Kegworth cycleways and Active Travel (£150,000)** – The creation of new sustainable transport connections to connect communities and key transport hubs into existing and emerging employment opportunities.
- 2.4.7 **Community Grants Programme (£300,000 over 2 years)** – Providing grants to Parish Councils and constituted community groups to deliver localised community based projects.
- 2.4.8 **Employment support (£100,000)** – New programmes to support access to work for individuals furthest from the workplace and the economically inactive (funding is limited to year 3 expenditure only)

### 3.0 FINANCE

- 3.1 The Council have been awarded funding for 2022/23 with indicative allocations for the further two financial years up to and including 2024/25.
- 3.2 In addition to the 2022/23 award the Council have received an additional £20,000 of capacity funding.
- 3.3 The annual breakdown is shown in the table below.

Allocation 2022/2023 (£)		Indicative allocation 2023/2024 (£)	Indicative allocation 2024/25 (£)
Allocation	Capacity	586,121	1,535,636
293,060	20,000		

- 3.4 Funding is to be used solely in line with the UKSPF Investment Plan and the funds guidance.
- 3.5 All grant funding must be spent within by the 31 March 2025. Any underspends in the final year of the programme will need to be repaid to the Secretary of State.
- 3.6 Council Finance Officers will directly be involved in the Programme Management Board and have oversight of all of the UKSPF Project Boards.
- 3.7 At Council on 6 September 2022, it was agreed that £1,521,750 would be added to the Council’s Capital Programme for the delivery of the NWL UKSPF Investment Plan.

- 3.8 It should be noted that allocations are indicative for 2023/24 and 2024/25. The Council has made an estimate of the split of the indicative allocations between capital and revenue budgets. The capital allocations will be placed in the Capital Programme Development Pool and managed in accordance with the Capital Strategy governance arrangements.

#### 4.0 LEGAL

- 4.1 A requirement of securing UKSPF was signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Council and DLUHC. The MOU was reviewed by NWLDC legal, finance and Economic Regeneration officers and signed by the Council's Section 151 officer.
- 4.2 This MOU is not intended to create legally binding obligations but simply describes the understanding between both parties for the use of UKSPF funding.
- 4.3 The MOU sets out the terms that will apply to the relationship between the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and North West Leicestershire District Council regarding the administration and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 4.4 This MOU is for the period April 2022 to March 2025.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supporting Coalville to be a more vibrant, family-friendly town</li> <li>- Support for businesses and helping people into local jobs</li> <li>- Developing a clean and green district</li> <li>- Local people live in high quality, affordable homes</li> <li>- Our communities are safe, healthy and connected</li> </ul>
Policy Considerations:	Council Delivery Plan
Safeguarding:	No safeguarding considerations.
Equalities/Diversity:	No equalities/diversity considerations.
Customer Impact:	The UKSPF Investment Plan sets out a series of actions that will support residents and businesses.
Economic and Social Impact:	The UKSPF Investment Plan sets out a series of actions to support residents and businesses.
Environment and Climate Change:	The UKSPF Investment Plan sets out a series of actions that contributes to achieving the council's Zero Carbon Roadmap.
Consultation/Community Engagement:	Officers will continue to engage with stakeholders to help further shape the delivery of projects identified within the NWL UKSPF Investment Plan.
Risks:	Risks have been considered within the preparation of the NWL UKSPF Investment Plan and attached Business Cases

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