

Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of Executive to be held on 4th October 2022

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Subject:

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Summary statement:

This report provides a review of the above funding opportunity and provides an outline of how the devolved funding will be distributed in Bradford. The report will inform on how the funding program has been developed and outline plans for implementation.

Equality & Diversity

The District plan ambitions have been used to design the program for UKSPF in Bradford. The District Plan is underpinned by a cross cutting principle of tackling inequality in our communities. UKSPF will set out a program of activity that supports this as a core outcome. Corporately as a Council we have committed to keeping equalities at the heart of what we do– ‘This means everyone can access services regardless of their background, that we embrace our different communities across the whole district and that we build an inclusive organisation.’ In collaboration with partners UKSPF will support this approach and will address inequality and improve opportunities for communities across the district.

Report Contact: Jason Longhurst
Phone:
E-mail:
Jason.longhurst@bradford.gov.uk

Portfolio: Alex Ross-Shaw

Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration

Report Contact:
Ruth Davison,
Head of Policy, Performance,
Partnerships and Research
Phone: (01274) 432111
E-mail: ruth.davison@bradford.gov.uk

1. SUMMARY

UKSPF replaces the European Structural and Investment Fund following Brexit. The Allocation for West Yorkshire is £80,486,557 (£68,002,877 UKSPF and £12,483,680 Multiply). UKSPF has been allocated on the basis of population (70%) and a needs analysis (30%). It is allocated over a 3-year period, with approx. £12million delivered in 2022-23, £21million in 2023-24, and £48million in 2024-25. The three-pillar Framework allocating UKSPF funding operates across these pillars, Pillar 1 (Communities and Place), Pillar 2 (Supporting Local Business) and Pillar 3 (People and Skills). WYCA is supporting a two tiered approach to distribution of the funding. £7.578 million of the UKSPF funding will be allocated to Bradford. This paper outlines the approach to delivery of Bradford's allocated funding for agreement.

2. BACKGROUND

The UK government released the UKSPF prospectus in April 2022 as part of its central mission to level up the whole of the United Kingdom. Focus for the levelling up aspects of the fund confirmed: 'It is about levelling up opportunity and prosperity and overcoming deep-seated geographical inequalities that have held us back for too long. It is also, fundamentally, about levelling up people's pride in the places they love and seeing that reflected back in empowered local leaders and communities, a stronger social fabric and better life chances.' Key outcomes were identified to:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

The responsible authority is West Yorkshire Combined Authority. At the Combined Authority June 2021 the approach to the Single Investment Fund (SIF) and the West Yorkshire Investment Strategy (WYIS) were endorsed. The WYIS sets out the Investment Priorities for an investment period, currently April 2021 to 31 March 2024, framed across six areas. These investment priorities are multi-dimensional and complementary. Programmes that are developed will in many cases contribute to the outcomes of more than one Investment Priority. They are underpinned by three cross cutting themes: tackling inequalities; inclusive growth; and tackling the Climate Emergency. These are embedded in the detail of the priorities. Schemes are expected to take these into account as they are developed and business cases are prepared as they form part of the assessment criteria.

A West Yorkshire investment plan for UKSPF has been produce and can be found at Appendix One.

CBMDC has designed the approach to UKSPF based on its district plan priority outcome: Children have the best start in life, Residents achieve good health and wellbeing, Sustainable economic growth and decent work for all, Safe, sustainable and inclusive communities and Action at all levels to address climate and environmental change. The plan is underpinned by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Our strategic analysis of the above drivers has led to CBMDC's delivery plan for UKSPF being based on Three strategic themes:

- Circular (Green and Inclusive) Economy
- Building Community Infrastructure through volunteering
- Culture is our Plan

The business case justification form is found at Appendix Two.

Appendix Three Sets out the practical implementation of the funding by project and finance.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

:None

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Appendix 3 details the proposed allocation of UKSPF funding. The external funding received will be used in conjunction with existing budgets and other funding streams where possible to maximise outcomes.

The proposal does not require any additional finding from the Council with administration and management being managed within existing budgets and the permitted aspects of UKSPF funding allocated to such.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The allocated funding will be overseen by the Wellbeing Board in Bradford, Chaired by the Council Leader. It will report to the Wellbeing Executive which is an executive group that sits under the Wellbeing Board and is chaired by the Chief Executive of the Council. Each themed project intervention would also have sponsorship by a strategic board in the district.

Project risks are:

Risk - Year One spend is a tangible risk given potential delays in the Government approval process/ WYCA contract process and subsequent tendering opportunities.

Mitigation - Bradford has agreed to spend at risk once the WYCA has received the grant agreement from government. The council will also work flexibly across project delivery to ensure that in year spending targets are met.

Risk - Recruitment of staff is a risk within this programme. Local Authorities often find it difficult to recruit staff with the right skills especially when funding is time limited to provide fixed term contracts and due to competition from the higher wages available in the private sector. Mitigation – The Council will look to use secondments and other opportunities to meet the need especially in year one.

Risk - Nationally Covid has had a significant effect on our economies and populations. Successful delivery of this programme requires the ability to engage our populations and businesses to be supported and captivated by the programmes focus. The residual impact of covid which has left people more isolated and disenfranchised than before covid and business resilience to take on new initiatives will be risks to overcome. Mitigation – Focus within the programme on providing support to communities and businesses on issues that would help address or reduce the impact

Risk – The Council do not meet the outcomes and outputs required through delivery. Mitigation – The Council will use its tested contract management approach to mitigate this risk. Experienced staff have been identified to ensure these processes operate in a robust way and that any issues are taken through the correct assurance and risk approach.

Risk – The rising cost of inflation impacts delivery of the projects within budget. Mitigation – Costing have included a contingency sum to support delivery and tender/grant specification production will allow an opportunity to assess in line with inflation forecasts.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

Allocation of UKSPF funding must be applied in a consistent manner for which it is provided. This reports to set forth principles of application, and each individual specific proposal must ensure compliance with the criteria.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The district plan is underpinned by sustainability goals. As the priorities have been set using the district plan the outcomes achieved from this funding help us achieve our district goals on sustainability.

7.2 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

The work planned on greening areas of Bradford, working with businesses on decarbonisation and supporting household with the costs of living crisis all support this agenda.

7.3 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Creating civic pride through the implementation of UKSPF will have a secondary benefit of building community cohesiveness and will increase safety and the perceptions of safety.

7.4 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

7.5 TRADE UNION

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

7.6 WARD IMPLICATIONS

There is a plan to commission some of this funding with support from area committees. This will allow the shaping of delivery to help meet ward plan objectives.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS (for reports to Area Committees only)

See above.

7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The district plan contains specific outcomes that relate to children and young people. Interventions planned will bring direct and indirect benefit to them as a result of the district plan being the backdrop to the program.

7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

One – To agree the proposals for funding prioritisation outlined in the report.
Two - To amend the proposals for priorities that will underpin UKSPF delivery.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive agree the proposals for funding prioritisation as outlined in Appendix three to this report.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix One – WYCA Investment Plan

Appendix two – Bradford's Business Case

Appendix Three – Bradford's funding prioritisation for UKSPF

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None