

Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of the South Area Committee to be held on 22nd June 2023

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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 focus on the role of the Area Committees in terms of decision maker of local funding and influencer of the district delivery.

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.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area: Regeneration & Environment

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1. SUMMARY

UKSPF replaces the European Structural and Investment Fund following Brexit. The Allocation for West Yorkshire is £80,486,557. It is allocated over a 3-year period, with approx. £12 million delivered in 2022-23, £21 million in 2023-24, and £48 million 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 provides an update on Year 1 activity as well as budget and proposed activities for Year 2 for the allocated funding through Area Committees.

2. BACKGROUND

UKSPF Programme

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. 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.

CBMDC has designed the approach to UKSPF based on its district plan priority outcomes: 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.

Area Committees as Decision Maker in UKSPF

Please find in Appendix A the interventions and financial allocation that will be designed and delivered through the Bradford South Area Committee.

Appendix A.1 sets out the South area committee allocation with budgets and outputs/outcomes to be delivered across the district.

Year 1 saw the procurement of a cost-of-living grant programme with delivering continuing until August 2023, see Appendix B for application form, the call document and list of final beneficiaries.

Area Committee Influence on the district UKSPF Programme

The district UKSPF programme has been designed and will involve several funding opportunities that can be shaped using the priorities identified within the Locality Plan for Bradford South.

Examples include which businesses will be the focus for business support and distribution of grant funding to run cultural events.

The regeneration team have met with the Chair and the Area Co-ordinator to ensure that approach is progressed as we move into years two and three of the funding.

In addition to planning for Year 2, relevant officers are starting work now to plan ahead for Year 3, ensuring stakeholders have the greatest opportunity possible to prepare for and bid for upcoming funding.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

Appendix A details the agreed allocation of UKSPF funding for each area. 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. A project board is in development.

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.

7.5.1 TRADE UNION

There are no specific issues arising from this report.

7.5.2 WARD IMPLICATIONS

This is detailed within the main body of the report and is key to the successful delivery of the programme.

7.7 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

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

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That the contents of this report are noted.
- 2) That the Area Committee accept an annual report on the progress on UKSPF delivery.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A – South Area Committee Funding Allocation

Appendix B – “Cost of Living” funding programme information for the South Area Committee

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None