

# Report of the Director of Place to the meeting of the Bradford East Area Committee to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 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**

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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 activity as well as budget and proposed activities for Years 1 3 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 East Area Committee.

Appendix A.1 sets out the full 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. Final monitoring and defrayal evidence is currently being submitted and reviewed, detail will be shared with committees in due course.

**Year 2** budget for area committees is (total) £150,000 REV and £60,000 CAP. There was a meeting with all Chairs on 17<sup>th</sup> August with Noreen Akhtar (AD Neighbourhoods and Customer Services) and Mahmood Mohammed (Head of Stronger Communities) to discuss proposals and options for spending this budget. The following was agreed:

### Revenue

To merge the UKSPF allocation for the areas with two other funds (The West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living Fund and The West Yorkshire Mayor's Cost of Living Fund) for a district wide Cost of Living fund. The fund will issue grants to successful applicants to deliver various support to predominantly households in Bradford. These funds administered through Stronger Communities will go live in September 2023.

Bradford East's allocation is £33,116.

### Capital

A proposal was presented for the total capital budget to be spent on a district wide Citizen Coin (volunteer reward) scheme. No consensus was reached on this, as such at time of writing the position is:

*Shipley – leave centrally*

*Keighley – considering what to do*

*East, West, South – draw down funds to spend locally.*

The Bradford East committee must ensure their capital allocation (£13,246) is procured and spent correctly by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

The intervention is E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration. A definition of capital spend is enclosed as Appendix A (provided by Bradford Council finance team).

**Year 3** will bring a much larger funding allocation to the area committees: a total of £400,000 REV and £400,000 CAP. Bradford East's allocation is £88,321 for each pot.

The revenue budget comes from intervention E35 - Enrichment & volunteering activities, as such activities need to link into this. The capital budget comes from intervention E11 - Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups, so need to focus on this.

Money needs to be defrayed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025, as such each area should as soon as possible start planning for how the funds can be spent. Areas can consider whether they want to join up their budget, e.g. one fund administrator to offer

support / manage grants etc. and should also consider going out to their community for engagement.

### 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 East.

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 TACKLING THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY IMPLICATIONS**

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 (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**

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 – Area Committee Funding Allocation

Appendix A1 –Area Committee Funding Allocation

Appendix B – “Cost of Living” funding programme information for Bradford East Area Committee

**12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None