

Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of the South Area Committee to be held on 19th 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

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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 in Bradford South as well as budget and proposed activities for Years 2 and 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

Year 1 saw the procurement of a cost-of-living grant programme with delivering continuing until August 2023. Grant recipients are currently submitting their final monitoring forms and defrayal evidence etc., as such breakdown of outputs and success stories will be shared ahead of the next Committee.

Year 2 budget for area committees is (total) £150,000 REV and £60,000 CAP. There was a meeting with all Chairs on 17th 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 (E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration)

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 South's allocation is £31,628.

Outputs are focussed on organisations receiving grants, and the outcome (OC13) is on improved engagement numbers.

Capital (E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups)

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 South committee must ensure their capital allocation (£12,651) is procured, defrayed and drawn down by the council by 31st March 2024.

It was suggested that the allocation is spent on misc. litter picking equipment for local volunteer groups. See the definition of capital spend 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 South's allocation is £84,347 for each pot.

Revenue (intervention E35 - Enrichment & volunteering activities)

Activities need to link to volunteering and community infrastructure and deliver the following output: *Number of volunteering opportunities supported.*

Capital (intervention E11 - Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups)

Activities need to link to similar themes, and deliver on the following:

- Outputs: number of organisations receiving grants / receiving non-financial support
- Outcome: improved engagement numbers

Money needs to be defrayed by 31st 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 budgets, e.g. one fund administrator to offer support / manage grants etc. and should also consider going out to their community for engagement.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

None

4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

The capital spend for 2023/24 must be managed by the area office, liaising with the UKSPF Programme Delivery Manager in Bradford Council.

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 committee agrees spend activity for the capital allocation for 23/24.
- 3) That the committee plans to make a decision in the next committee meeting how to spend the 24/25 allocation, so necessary actions can be put in place.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Capital project definition

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None