



Report to: Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth & Visitor Economy

Decision Date: 20 March 2023

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Rhona Holloway, Economic Growth & Visitor Economy

Director Lead: Matt Lamb, Director for Growth & Regeneration

Lead Officer: Neil Cuttell, Business Manager (Economic Growth & Visitor Economy)
Sarah Husselbee, Shared Prosperity Fund Programme Manager

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Non-Key Decision
Report Title	Update on the Delivery of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF)
Purpose of Report	To provide an update on the delivery of UKSPF and to seek approval for the proposed uses of programme funding throughout both financial years 2023-2025.
Recommendations	<p>It is recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) the proposed internal projects and grant awards noted in 1.5 are approved and funded through UKSPF throughout 2023-2025. b) any potential underspend of the recommended projects will support and enhance new and existing projects, as outlined in 1.7. c) the remaining and uncommitted 2024-2025 UKSPF allocation is committed to deliver future projects through a combination of grant awards, internal delivery, and potential procurement of services, as noted in 1.8.
Alternative Options Considered	There is the option not to award funding through grants and instead funds could be committed solely to in-house delivery and direct procurement. This option is not recommended as the proposed projects delivered demonstrate best use of local resources, resulting in more impactful outcomes for residents, businesses, and communities. Any projects funded by a grant award must follow a competitive grant application process in accordance with the grant's functional standard.
Reason for Recommendation	The above recommendations align to the Council's strategic objectives, ensuring planned investment is evidence based in accordance with the defined deliverables outlined within our UKSPF investment plan.

Decision Taken	
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1.0 **Background**

1.1 UKSPF is governed internally by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth & Visitor Economy having delegated responsibility to approve funding allocations, following a report to Cabinet dated 4 October 2022. The Section 151 Officer at Newark & Sherwood District Council acts as accountable body for the Fund, and further strategic input is provided by Newark and Sherwood Community Partnership.

1.2 Following the approval of our UKSPF Investment Plan in December 2022, a number of internal, and externally grant funded projects continue to deliver until 31 March 2023, using the 22-23 UKSPF allocation. In agreement with DLUHC, a proportion of this funding may be carried forward into the following financial year, to enable some of these projects to finalise in early 23-24. The Council's UKSPF allocation is demonstrated below.

22-23	23-24	24-25
£399,360	£798,720*	£2,092,646
	*plus £20k capital to be carried forward from year 1	

1.3 The evaluation of year 1 projects is currently in progress, with monitoring and reporting arrangements in place to capture the outputs and outcomes of project delivery, as well as the associated impact for residents, communities, and businesses across Newark and Sherwood. Knowledge and findings from current UKSPF activity will also help to inform and build the foundations for future UKSPF investment.

1.4 It is anticipated that the programme will continue to be delivered through a combination of in-house projects, commissioning, and grant awards to external partners throughout both years, 23-25. A commitment of £25,000 of UKSPF is allocated to funding business advice and support via an SLA arrangement with NCC. This replaces a current service due to end in June 2023 as a result of the loss of ESF, with the existing offer proven and supported locally. A further £151,000 is also committed to a joint-commissioning exercise with neighbouring district/borough councils to fund an enhanced business support service. The decision to collaborate follows the thorough evaluation of alternative approaches to local investment, demonstrating best value for money and outcomes for local businesses.

1.5 In addition to commissioned services, it is expected that a proportion of UKSPF will be delivered throughout 23-25 through direct grant awards to external partners or in-house through project teams. This follows a competitive call for projects process undertaken in recent weeks, with 49 project proposals presented across the three themes of Communities and Place, People and Skills and Supporting Local Businesses. All proposals were assessed using a pre-determined gateway and appraisal criteria (appendix A). Recommended awards are based on proposals that scored the highest, in addition to consideration of potential duplication of services and the availability of funds within each investment priority. The proposed uses of UKSPF throughout 23-25 are demonstrated below, to be awarded through grant funding or delivered in-house.

<u>Delivery</u>	<u>Project/Lead</u>	<u>UKSPF Funding Award 23-24</u>	<u>UKSPF Funding Award 24-25</u>
Commission (committed)	Enhanced Business Support Service (Revenue) Joint commission of an enhanced business development service across Nottinghamshire to cover both research and innovation and decarbonisation support through 121 and workshops.	£51,000	£100,000
Commission (committed)	Business Advisor Support NCC (Revenue) Funding to continue existing ES funded Business advisor 1 day per week to provide day to day support and advice, as well as targeted interventions to support the Economic Growth Team in their engagement and knowledge of local business needs and grant funding opportunities.	£10,500	£14,500
Internal	Community Assets Audit (Revenue) Funding for a community assets feasibility to highlight opportunities and challenges that will shape and inform future investment in community assets, facilities and infrastructure provision, large scale funding bids to assist with the levelling up agenda, and the development of community engagement and regeneration plan. This will also form the basis of future UKSPF capital investment in community assets. Led by the Regeneration and Housing team.	£55,700	
Internal	Active Travel Audit (Revenue) Funding for a 'active travel' feasibility study to highlight opportunities and challenges to help inform a plan for physical improvements and shape activities, which will influence behaviour changes encouraging and assisting people to make more sustainable travel decisions and inform future UKSPF REPF active travel investment. Led by the Regeneration and Housing team.	£40,000	
Internal	Stodman Street (Capital) Funding to support the existing Stodman Street project- development costs for creation of 2 new retail units and 29 residential units, and public realm. Led by Economic Growth. Led by Economic Growth.	£100,000	£300,000
Internal	Business Grants (Revenue) Match- funded grants of up to 2k to start-up, small and micro enterprises to support growth and innovation.	£50,000	£50,000

Internal	<p>Newark Cultural Consortium Arts Programme (Revenue) Match funding to enhance the final year of the HSHAZ funded project alongside a legacy year for 2024-25 to build upon success and continued growth. Using creativity to animate spaces & tell Newark's story.</p> <p>1) ADHD Neurodiversity Umbrellas 2) Digital Arts – A light, sound & technology installation that will be led by Inspire Youth Arts, working with a chosen secondary school to co-create. 3) Urban Canvas - 3D Floor Art & workshops taking place across the year and testing out wayfinding, linking to existing events. 4) Touring Arts – working in association with the Lincolnshire Festival Consortium and SO Festival to bring international street theatre to Newark in June</p>	£40,000	£60,000
Internal	<p>St Marks Feasibility (Revenue) Funding to commission a relevant specialist to produce a Delivery Strategy(ies) detailing feasible, affordable, and deliverable options for the redevelopment of St Marks Shopping Centre should the council wish to consider investing in the asset alone or in partnership with a third party. Led by Economic Growth.</p>	£15,000	
Grant Award	<p>Nottingham Forest Community Trust (Revenue) Funding to deliver the Premier League Primary Stars programme across 4 schools within Newark and Sherwood, focussing on priority areas of Rainworth, Edwinstowe/Clipstone, Ollerton & Newark Town.</p>	£68,179	£73,160
Grant Award	<p>Sherwood Forest Trust (Revenue) Funding for a Community Tree Nursery development Officer to recruit and train volunteers and deliver events for seed planting, tree planting. Working with local schools, businesses, and community groups to recruit volunteers. Delivery of events with local parishes and planting at Sherwood Heath. Re-planting and re-forest of Sherwood Forest.</p>	£45,625	£48,125
Grant Award	<p>Friends of Trent Vale Trail (Capital) Funding to contribute towards the completion of the final section of the trail to link up with South and North Clifton and the Dukeries Trail to provide a safe active travel route to link the villages and nature reserves east of the Trent with Newark.</p>	£70,000	
Grant Award	<p>Inspire (Revenue) Employment support for economically inactive people, replacement for existing ESF funded programme (back to work/way 2 work and i programme)</p>	£66,870	£83,855

Grant Award	Framework (Revenue) Employment support to economically inactive people including NEET/hard to reach to replace existing ESF opportunity and change programme.	£44,542	£47,839
Grant Award	Volunteer it Yourself (Revenue) Volunteering and practical skills programme to improve 2 community assets in Sherwood/Newark and recruit and train local volunteers.		£60,000
Grant Award	Lincoln College (Revenue) A business support package for established businesses including workshops, meeting space, networking events, team-development opportunities, professional training and development and leadership courses.	£70,000	
Grant Award	NBV Enterprise Solutions (Revenue) Enhanced small, micro, pre-start, and start-up business support programme.	£40,000	£40,000
Management Fee (Fixed 6%)		£47,923	£125,558
Total proposed commitments		£815,339	£1,003,037

- 1.6 A number of proposals received are not presented for initial awards due to the availability of funds but may be appropriate for future UKSPF investment, or support through other sources of funding, such as REPF. Feedback and support may be provided to unsuccessful applicants, with some potentially invited to re-apply at a later date.
- 1.7 It is suggested any additional funds that may become available as a result of a potential underspend within the above projects is directed into suitable, existing, and emerging projects and presented for approval where projects are not already listed in 1.5. On the basis that funding is allocated as detailed in 1.5, a sum of approximately £1.08m of year 3 (24-25) UKSPF remains uncommitted. This is separated indicatively within the following priorities, in accordance with our planned investment:

Communities and Place	Revenue	£322k
Communities and Place	Capital	£327k
People and Skills	Revenue	£300k
Supporting Local Businesses	Revenue	£140k

- 1.8 It is proposed that a proportion of the remaining funding is awarded through a second, streamlined call for projects in autumn 2023, in addition to potential procured activity. Direct procurement is particularly favourable for the People and Skills investment priority, however further engagement with our People and Skills board and key stakeholders will assist in determining the most appropriate approach to provision based upon local needs and challenges. This could include the opportunity for further collaboration across the county, where better outcomes for local residents are demonstrated. Future recommended projects following a second competitive application process, as well as potential commitments to tender exercises will be presented to the Portfolio Holder, Economic Growth and Visitor Economy for approval.

2.0 Proposal/Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 It is recommended the Portfolio Holder, Economic Growth & Visitor Economy supports:

- a) The proposed internal projects and grant awards noted in 1.5, to be funded through UKSPF throughout 2023-2025.
- b) The proposal for any potential underspend to be used to support and enhance new and existing projects, as outlined in 1.7.
- c) The proposal to use the remaining and uncommitted 2024-2025 UKSPF to deliver future projects through a combination of grant awards, internal teams, and potential commissioning of services, as noted in 1.8.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality & Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have referred to these implications and added suitable expert comment below where appropriate.

3.1 Financial Implications (FIN22-23/9470)

As per the table at 1.2 shows the total amount of grant awarded for year 1 to 3. The budgets in the Capital Programme are currently as follows:

Scheme	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Shared Prosperity Fund	40,000	59,750	327,800
Stodman Street – Shared Prosperity		100,000	300,000
Total Budgeted	40,000	159,750	627,800

Of the year 1 grant and budget allocated of £40,000, £20,000 to be rolled forward in to 2023/24, making the total grant available in 2023/24 of £179,750.

The commitments listed at paragraph 1.5 are both capital and revenue commitments, summarised as follows:

	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Committed		
Revenue	645,339	703,037
Capital	170,000	300,000
Sub - Total	815,339	1,003,037
Uncommitted		
Revenue		761,809
Capital		327,800

Sub – Total		1,089,609
Grand Total	815,339	2,092,646

There is currently sufficient budget within the Capital Programme for all spend (committed and uncommitted). The revenue budgets will be set up in year and all costs are 100% funded by the SPF grant.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- REPF Prospectus [Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-2022.pdf)
- UKSPF Prospectus [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/114444/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus-2022.pdf)
- 4 October 2022 Cabinet Report; Shared Prosperity Fund

Assessment Criteria UKSPF Round 1

Stage 1. GATEWAY CRITERIA

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Fail</u>	<u>Partial</u>
Criteria 1: Application signed, fully completed, and returned on time	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Criteria 2: Applicant eligible for funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Criteria 3: Evidence of financial standing submitted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Criteria 4: Budget and performance profile submitted	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Criteria 5: Provision of subsidies completed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria 6: Confirmation of Polices	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria 7: Confirmation of Liability Insurance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Criteria 8: Funding request eligible (Budget and Performance Profile)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Criteria 9: Funding request does not duplicate other sources of funding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
<u>People and Skills Only</u>			
Criteria 10: Confirmed as Voluntary and Community Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Criteria 11: Previous people and skills performance since April 2019	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	-
Criteria 12: Loss of ESF funding in 2023 places organisation at risk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Applications that fail any element of Stage 1 cannot progress to Stage 2. Applications that have been assessed as partial may progress to Stage 2 however scoring will be allowed with justification from the Assessor.

STAGE 2. SCORING

The maximum score for each question is 5 with a total score out of 100, based on the scoring framework below or with a fixed score as outlined in table 2. Some questions are double weighted meaning the score out of 5 will equal 10% of the overall score.

Table 1.

<u>Score</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Description</u>
0	<i>Unacceptable</i>	<i>Response to the question is unacceptable or no response received. Does not give the Fund confidence in the ability of the bidder to deliver the contract.</i>
1	<i>Poor/Weak Response</i>	<i>Inadequate detail provided or some of the answer not directly relevant to the question. Is supported by none or a weak standard of evidence in several areas giving rise to concern about the ability of the bidder to deliver the contract.</i>
2	<i>Below Expectations</i>	<i>Limited information provided, and/or a response that is inadequate or only partially addresses the question giving rise to concern about the ability of the bidder to deliver the contract.</i>

3	<i>Satisfactory Response</i>	<i>Acceptable response in terms of the level of detail, accuracy, and relevance. Is supported by a satisfactory standard of evidence in most areas but a few areas lacking detail/evidence giving rise to some concerns about the ability of the bidder to deliver the contract.</i>
4	<i>Good Response</i>	<i>Comprehensive response in terms of detail and relevance to the question and supported by good standard of evidence. Gives the Fund confidence in the ability of the bidder to deliver the contract. Meets the Fund's requirements.</i>
5	<i>Very Good Response</i>	<i>As Good, but to a better degree in terms of precision and relevance. Is comprehensive and supported by a high standard of evidence. Gives the Fund a high level of confidence in the ability of the bidder to deliver the contract.</i> <i>May exceed the Fund's requirements in some respects, for example, added value such as integration/synergy with other projects.</i>

Table 2.

<u>Question</u>	<u>Score (0-5)</u>	<u>Weighting</u>
Applicant Details		
(1.1) Description of the main activities of the organisation		5%
(1.2) Description of the groups/cohort the organisation supports		5%
Project Details		
(4.2) Project aligns to NSDC priority UKSPF 'E' intervention(s) 0- no 5- yes		10%
(4.3) Explanation of the use of the funding and the objectives of the proposed activity		10%
(4.4) Explanation of how the project aligns to NSDC strategies		10%
(4.5) Delivered in priority wards for UKSPF investment (based on focus areas for LUF). 5- Ollerton & Boughton, Clisptone & Edwinstowe, Bilsthorpe, Rainworth, Blidworth, Newark Town 1- Other		5%
Financial		
(2.2) Explanation as to why the project cannot be funded privately		5%
(2.3) Identification of any expected negative changes to organisational funding that may impact the success or increase risk of project delivery 0- yes 5- no		5%
(2.4) Identification of any expected underperformance/clawback in the last 12 months 0- yes 5- no		5%
(2.7) Match funding to support delivery. 0- no match funding 3- funding <50%/in kind contributions. 5- funding 50% or above		10%

(2.8) Explanation of financial sustainability of programme/project and ability to deliver benefits beyond the funding period		5%
Performance		
(5.1) Justification of the chosen outputs and outcomes		5%
(5.2) Explanation of how outputs and outcomes will be captured, measured, and evaluated		5%
(5.3) Explanation of how the project will be promoted and the service-users engaged.		5%
Delivery		
(6.1/6.2) Demonstration of project milestones and planning including resource to deliver		5%
(6.1) Demonstration of risk awareness and mitigation		5%
Total:	/100	100%

STAGE 3. MODERATION

Funding from each Investment Priority will be awarded generally to those with the highest scores but with consideration of potential duplication of awarded programmes and the availability of funds in relation to the request. Where applications tie on scores, further moderation criteria will be applied as detailed in Stage 4, or applicants may be invited to discuss/negotiate their total project values.

In selecting projects, overall caps will be applied in line with the maximum total funding available for each Investment Priority in each financial year. This may result in applicants being invited to discuss/negotiate their total project values, their planned profiles of expenditure and outputs and outcomes, or the proportions of revenue and capital funding.

STAGE 4. FURTHER MODERATION (IF REQUIRED)

Based on the degree of moderation required to end up with a range of Grants which does not exceed the maximum funding available in each Investment Priority in each Financial Year, Newark and Sherwood District Council, at its discretion, will agree an additional ranking or scoring framework.

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION OUTCOME

Once the outcome of the assessment process has been notified to all applicants, organisations can request feedback on their applications and scoring.