

Title: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Lead Officer: Andrew Jones (andrew.jones@warwickdc.gov.uk)

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Andrew Day

Wards of the District directly affected: All

Previous Relevant Reports: Addendum - Levelling Up Fund Round 2 –  
Decision to Submit – Item 5, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

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## Summary

This report appraises Members of the Investment Plan submitted by Warwick District Council to the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities (DLUHC) so that it can draw-down its UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation of £3,484,412.

## Recommendation(s)

- (1) That Cabinet notes at Appendix A the projects that officers have submitted to DLUHC which constitute the substance of the Council's UKSPF Investment Plan.
  - (2) That Cabinet notes that c£139,400 of the allocation can be used to support the delivery of the projects and that authority to utilise this funding is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive, and notes that should further delivery resources be required, the Deputy Chief Executive will seek the necessary funding from the Service Transformation Reserve.
  - (3) That Cabinet agrees to delegate the design and implementation of the governance arrangements for oversight of project delivery to the Deputy Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader of the Council.
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## 1 Background/Information

- 1.1 In April of this year, UK Government published its UKSPF [prospectus](#) inviting Lead Authorities (of which Warwick District Council is one) to develop an Investment Plan (the Plan) for submission to DLUHC by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022. This in effect left just three months for officers to assemble the plan. Headline details of what the Government, through Lead Authorities, is hoping to achieve can be seen [here](#).
- 1.2 Given the challenging timeline for submission, delegation was put in place to enable the Leader to sign-off the Plan, recognising that even after the Plan was submitted there would be opportunities for it to evolve. Officers worked with many stakeholders to produce the projects which make-up the Plan and whilst it would have been preferable to embark on comprehensive consultation and engagement with many more, this was just not feasible due to the time constraint. That said, officers consider that the interests of the key sectors in the District – Business, Voluntary and Community, Public Authority – have been reflected in the Plan.
- 1.3 At Appendix A to this report, Members will note the full list of projects and the indicative funding allocated. The UKSPF has been devised to succeed the old

European Union structural funds and is targeted to support the Government's Levelling Up agenda. Consequently, Members will note that a significant portion of the funding has been allocated to those areas which suffer disadvantage in one or more Levelling Up thematic areas. This has been an evidence-based approach and for Members who wish to review the full content of the Council's submission it can be found [here](#). A printed version is available on request.

#### **1.4 Next Steps**

- 1.4.1 With the Plan in place officers now move to the delivery phase. Four per-cent of the allocation can be used for administration purposes, and this equates to approximately £139,400. It is officers' view that this funding should be used to recruit a Programme Co-Ordinator or similar as there are nearly 50 projects in the Plan to oversee. It may be that extra staff resource is required but at this point, before any of the projects have started, it is not possible to determine what those resources would be. Therefore, should extra funding be needed the Deputy Chief Executive will liaise with the Head of Finance and the Chief Executive who have delegated authority to draw-down funding from the Service Transformation Reserve.
- 1.4.2 There is a requirement that appropriate governance arrangements are put in place to manage the programme of work. There will be a myriad of stakeholders to work with in the delivery of the projects and ensuring that the governance arrangements are effective yet proportionate requires further consideration. It is therefore proposed that officers determine those arrangements as the full implications of the projects become clearer and that authority is delegated to the Deputy Chief Executive following consultation with the Leader to finalise the governance structure.
- 1.4.3 It is worth noting that the Plan will now be assessed by DHLUC to ensure that the interventions, outputs and outcomes are in line with the Levelling Up agenda as set out in the Prospectus and that these are deliverable in the timeframes of the current funding period (31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.) Whilst it is not anticipated that Government will require the Council to alter the plan significantly, it does require final sign-off.
- 1.4.4 In anticipation that the Plan will achieve final sign off and given that there are funds available for projects in the current financial year, it is vital that the above-mentioned resource and governance arrangements are progressed immediately to enable the current year funds to be allocated. Any unallocated funds could be clawed back which is a situation the Council clearly wishes to avoid.

## **2 Alternative Options available to (name of Committee/Cabinet etc.)**

- 2.1 There are probably an infinite number of alternatives that could have been included in the plan but given the demanding timescales and competing priorities, officers have arrived at a plan which they consider reflects the aspirations of the Council and the needs and wants of the various interested parties.

## **3 Consultation and Member's comments**

- 3.1 Subject to further debate and discussion, the Portfolio Holder and Leadership Co-ordinating Group is supportive of the plan.

## **4 Implications of the proposal**

### **4.1 Legal/Human Rights Implications**

- 4.1.1 Not applicable.

## 4.2 Financial

4.2.1 The funding of the plan is fully covered by central government.

## 4.3 Council Plan

4.3.1 Warwick District Council has a Business Strategy which covers the period 2020-2023. There will be a new administration in 2023 and so the Business Strategy will need revisiting. In the meantime, the Service Area Plans address the Council's key elements of: People - Health, Homes, Communities, Services - Green, Clean, Safe, Money- Infrastructure, Enterprise, Employment, People - Effective Staff, Services - Maintain or Improve Services - and Money - Firm Financial Footing over the Longer Term. The plan covers each of the key elements in one way or another.

## 4.4 Environmental/Climate Change Implications

4.4.1 Not applicable.

## 4.5 Analysis of the effects on Equality

4.5.1 Not applicable.

## 4.6 Data Protection

4.7 Not applicable.

## 5 Risk Assessment

5.1 The main risk is around the successful delivery of the plan. The recruitment of a programme co-ordinator is key to this, and the recruitment process has already commenced.

### Report Information Sheet

Please complete and submit to Democratic Services with draft report

Committee/Date	Cabinet 2022	
Title of report	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	
Consultations undertaken		
Consultee *required	Date	Details of consultation /comments received
Portfolio Holder WDC	05/09/22	Andrew Day
Chief Executive(s)	05/09/22	Chris Elliott
Section 151 Officer	05/09/22	Andrew Rollins
Monitoring Officer	05/09/22	Andrew Jones (author)
Leadership Co-ordination Group (WDC)	05/09/22	Leaders of respective Groups
Final decision by this Committee or rec to another Ctte/Council?		Recommendation to: Cabinet

<b>Contrary to Policy/Budget framework</b>		No
<b>Does this report contain exempt info/Confidential? If so, which paragraph(s)?</b>		No
<b>Does this report relate to a key decision (referred to in the Cabinet Forward Plan)?</b>		Yes
<b>Accessibility Checked?</b>		File/Info/Inspect Document/Check Accessibility