

Title: *Levelling Up Fund Round 2 – Decision to Submit* - Addendum
Lead Officer: Chris Elliott – Chief Executive, Philip Clarke – Policy & Projects Manager, Martin O’Neill – Projects & Economic Development Business Manager, Mark Brightburn – Programme Co-ordinator
Portfolio Holder: Councillor Cooke
Wards of the District directly affected: Leamington Brunswick, Leamington Willes, Leamington Clarendon and Warwick Myton and Heathcote

1. Addendum

There is an additional recommendation to item 5 on the Cabinet Agenda of 25th May 2022.

Recommendation

That Cabinet delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, following consultation with the Leader, to submit the UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan to The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and agrees that the Head of Finance is authorised to make the necessary financial arrangements to ensure that the plan is submitted on time.

Reasons for Recommendation

The Government has published the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) prospectus and provisional allocations. The conditional allocation for Warwick District Council is just below £3.5million over the period 2022 – 2025. Lead authorities (of which Warwick District Council is one) will access their allocation by submitting a local investment plan by 1 August 2022. Each investment plan must contain the local outputs and outcomes that are set out for the fund as part of the prospectus.

The timescale for submission is very tight, with details of the Fund only recently released, and does not allow for a report to be submitted to the July Cabinet as the investment plan will still be evolving. A delegation is therefore sought; however, full consultation will take place with the Leader and it is anticipated that the Leader will in turn consult with the other Group Leaders.

At appendix A to this report is further details of the UKSPF and comprehensive information can be found at the DLUHC website [here](#).

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Note for SLT 19th May 2022

Introduction

The Government has now published the UKSPF prospectus and provisional allocations. The conditional allocation for Warwick District is just below £3.5million over the period 2022 – 2025. Lead authorities (of which Warwick District is one) will access their allocation by submitting a **local investment plan** by 1 August 2022. Each investment plan must contain the local outputs and outcomes that are set out for the fund as part of the prospectus.

Priorities of the UKSPF

The prospectus sets out the Government's ambitions for the fund – to build pride in place and increase life chances across the country. This supports the ambitions of the Levelling Up White Paper. The UKSPF intends to achieve this through the three priorities of:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

The funding for the first two priorities will commence in 2022/23, while the 'People and Skills' priority will commence in 2024/25. The prospectus encourages lead authorities to work across boundaries and with different levels of local government to agree and commission provision across a wider geography, especially for employment and skills provision.

People and Skills priority

While the priority does not commence until 2024/25, lead authorities will be able to fund provision earlier in certain circumstances. They will be able to allocate resources if community and voluntary sector organisations are at risk as the European Social Fund (ESF) programme tails off between now and the end of 2023.

Delivery of funding

Lead Authorities have been given the responsibility of developing local investment plans, which must be submitted by 1 August 2022 to receive their allocation of the fund.

After fund allocation, local authorities will assume responsibility for managing the fund, assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring. In partnership with local stakeholders, they will determine the scale of each intervention. Lead authorities can use competition, commissioning, procurement or in house delivery.

The role of local government – collaboration with other local authorities

While each place will have its own investment plan, collaboration with different local authorities is heavily encouraged by national government. This could be used to deliver, larger strategic projects or to reduce the burden or complexities of

commissioning. This especially applies to activity related to business as well as employment and skills.

Lead authorities will receive £20,000 to prepare investment plans. Lead authorities will take responsibility for the fund over their strategic and council area and four percent of the fund can be allocated for administration – circa £134k for Warwick District. The plans will need to be signed off by both lead authority and DLUHC.

Who should be involved in the development of Investment Plans?

Lead authorities will be expected to bring together a range of stakeholders and partners to develop investment plans. The prospectus sets out the types of organisations expected to be included in partnership working.

Lead authorities can use their own discretion on who to include but should aim to include as wide a range of stakeholders and partners as possible.

Members of Parliament are expected to be included in the discussions around the design of the investment plans and are expected to be kept up to date on delivery.

The plans will consist of three aspects:

1. Local context

This will set out the local challenges and opportunities using local evidence.

2. Selection of outcomes and interventions

Lead authorities will identify the outcomes they want to achieve and the interventions they wish to prioritise using the evidence from the local context section. These are set out in the Prospectus to choose from.

3. Delivery

Lead authorities will set out details to:

- approach to delivery and governance
- expenditure and deliverables
- capability and resource.

Lead authorities will need to demonstrate how their investment plans will contribute to the Government's net zero strategy and 25 year environmental plan.

The Fund parameters

Organisations that can receive funding can include local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, community and voluntary sector organisations and registered charities.

Interventions should be delivered by March 2025. Interventions can be funded through:

- grants to public organisations
- commissioned third party organisations
- procurement of service providers

- in-house provision.

Performance management and evaluation overview

Lead authorities will be reporting key milestones and providing DLUHC with information demonstrating projects are delivering outputs and outcomes every six months.

Next Steps

The Council needs to form a view in terms of its investment priorities for the fund in line with the above 3 aspects which will then be used to formulate the Investment Plan between now and the 1st august deadline.

Resource will be required to develop the Investment Plan.

Stakeholders and local MPs will need to be consulted.

WDC now needs to register on the UKSPF Platform, some high-level questions to be submitted ad relevant officer contact details.