

Allerdale Borough Council

Executive – 20 July 2022

UK Shared Prosperity Fund -

Portfolio holder	Councillor Mike Johnson Economic Growth, Community Development and Place Making
Report from	Nik Hardy, Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Economic Strategy)
Wards affected	All wards
Is this a key decision	Yes / No

1.0 The reason for the decision

- 1.1 The Government has allocated £3.8million to the Allerdale Borough Council area from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Allocations have been awarded to district authorities to manage and in order to draw the allocation down councils must submit an investment plan to Government.
- 1.2 This paper seeks approval from the Executive to delegate the submission of the investment plan, in line with the guidance, to the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Economic Strategy) in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That members delegate the submission of the Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance and Economic Strategy) in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer.

3.0 Background and Introduction

- 3.1 The £2.6billion UKSPF was launched on the 13th April 2022. The fund is a central pillar of the Government's Levelling Up agenda and will provide new funding for investment between 2022 and 2025.

3.2 The fund will replace many of the existing European Funding programmes and has been allocated at a district council level via a funding formula rather than a competition. Allerdale Borough Council has been allocated £3,842,852.

3.3 The overarching objective of the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances. This objective is underpinned by three investment priorities:

- Community and place
- Supporting local business
- People and skills

4.0 Content

4.1 The responsibility for developing the Investment Plan for approval by the UK Government to unlock the funding in Cumbria has fallen to district authorities. This requires the district councils, including Allerdale Borough Council, to determine how the funding will be allocated locally, assess and approve applications, process payments and monitor the programme on a day-to-day basis. Allerdale Borough Council may utilise 4% of the total allocation for this purpose.

4.2 Local Authorities have flexibility over the management of the fund, for example the Council may use a mix of competitions for grant funding, commissioning or deliver some activity through in house teams.

4.3 In developing an Investment Plan the Council are encouraged to work with other authorities to agree and commission activity over a larger scale where appropriate. The Government expect the Council to collaborate closely with the other authorities that will make up Cumberland Council from 1st April 2023. Consent is required from the Cumberland Shadow Authority before submission of the Investment Plan.

4.4 The Council is able to draw on £20,000 from Government to support the drawing up of the Investment Plan. The three districts councils that make up the new Cumberland Council area have jointly commissioned Mott McDonald to support the process.

4.5 As part of the UKSPF process, local authorities are expected to work with a diverse range of stakeholders, civil society organisations, employer bodies responsible for identifying local skills plans, and businesses or business representative groups to achieve the fund outcomes in their areas. These partners will come together to form a local partnership to provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability. Allerdale Borough Council is proposing to form this local partnership jointly with Copeland Borough Council and Carlisle City Council to ensure a smooth transition to Cumberland Council in April 2023.

4.6 The Investment Plan sets out how the funding will be allocated and details the local context, the interventions that will be utilised and the approach to governance and delivery.

4.7 The Investment Plan is to be submitted via an online portal by the 1st August 2022 and must have approval from the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer. Government officials have indicated that Investment

Plans may be submitted after this date with prior agreement. Given the level of collaboration with the other authorities that will form part of Cumberland Council the Council may submit the Investment Plan after the 1st August 2022.

5.0 Delivery arrangements

- 5.1 The Investment Plan will be developed utilising a mixture of in house resources from across the four Councils that will make up Cumberland Council and external consultancy support.
- 5.2 The Council will be able to utilise the 4% allocation to manage the funds once approval has been given by Government, and is working collaboratively with the other councils in the Cumberland area.
- 5.3 A future paper to the Executive will put seek to establish an accountable body process and a decision making process before the start of the programme.

6.0 Implications and Impact

6.1 Contribution to Council Strategy Priorities, Outputs and Outcomes

The UKSPF provides the council with an opportunity to augment existing activity and support new activity to support the following themes within the Council Strategy:

- Invest to grow
- Thriving towns and villages
- Resilient communities

6.2 Finance/Resource implications

There are no immediate financial or resource implications arising from this report but if successful in unlocking the funding the Council will receive £3.8million grant funding from the Government. The financial implications of managing this funding can be met by utilising 4% of the grant funding on administration costs.

6.3 Legal and governance implications

There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report but if successful, the Council will act as accountable body for the funding and will have to enter into various funding agreements with partner organisations.

6.4 Risk analysis

A scored and mitigated risk log

Risk	Consequence	Controls required	Mitigated score
The Council does not submit the investment plan in accordance with the guidance	Delays in unlocking the funding	Additional capacity required	2

Unable to gain consent of the shadow authority to submit the investment plan	Delays in unlocking the funding	Early discussions with the shadow authority	4

6.5 Increasing satisfaction and service

This funding will not directly impact on Allerdale service delivery but it will enable organisations to secure funding that can bring about improvements to their services for the benefit of Allerdale residents and businesses.

6.6 Equality impacts

An impact assessment will be undertaken as part of the Investment Plan process.

6.7 Health and Safety impacts

There are no health and safety impacts arising from this report.

6.8 Health, wellbeing and community safety impacts

There are no immediate health, wellbeing and community safety impacts arising directly from this report but there may be significant impact once the funding has been drawn down from Government.

6.9 Environmental/sustainability impacts

There are no immediate, environmental/sustainability impacts arising directly from this report but there may be significant impact once the funding has been drawn down from Government.

6.10 Other significant implications

There are no other significant implications arising from this report.

Appendices attached to this report

Appendix number	Title of appendix
N/A	

Background documents available

Name of background document	Where it is available
N/A	

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