

Bolsover District Council

Meeting of the Executive on 4th April 2022

Shared Prosperity Fund

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

Classification	This report is public
Report By	Natalie Etches – Business Growth Manager Ext: 2389 Email: natalie.etches@bolsover.gov.uk
Contact Officer	As above

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the contents of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund pre-launch guidance and to set out the process to engage with internal departments and local partners to draft and formulate an Investment Plan for consideration and agreement at a future meeting.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a new funding initiative, part of the UK Government's levelling up agenda. It will provide £2.6 billion of new capital and revenue funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.
- 1.2 In England, Scotland and Wales, local government will be given responsibility for developing an Investment Plan for approval by the UK Government, and for delivery of the Fund thereafter. Bolsover District Council will receive an allocation to manage, including assessing and approving project applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring.
- 1.3 In order to access the allocation, each place is asked to set out measurable outcomes it is looking to deliver, and what interventions will be prioritised. Each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging.
- 1.4 There are three Investment Priorities the UKSPF is aimed at addressing:

Communities and Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community led projects. • To build resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, and play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.
Local Businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments and that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality, and leisure sector facilities. • Promote networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth. • Increase private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.
People and Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boost core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low level qualifications and skills in maths, and upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers. • Support disadvantaged people to access the skills they need to progress in life and into work, for example the long-term unemployed and those with protected characteristics through funding life, and basic skills where this is not delivered through national or local employment and skills provision. • Support local areas to fund local skills needs and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. • Reduce levels of economic inactivity and move those furthest from the labour market closer to employment, through investment in bespoke employment support, tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.

1.5 'Communities and Place' and 'Local Businesses' Interventions will both be delivered in 2022-23 and 2023-24. Further investment to support 'People and Skills' will follow from 2024-25, when the funding pot reaches its full extent.

- 1.6 Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund, for example they may wish to use a mix of procurement, local competitions or deliver some activity through in-house teams.
- 1.7 Working with other places will be welcomed in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 In order to prepare the Investment Plan for accessing the UKSPF, there will need to be early consultation and conversations held with both internal and external partners from across the District to understand the priorities and how the Fund can be best used to support people and businesses across the Bolsover District.
- 2.2 The Government's intention is that local authorities need to be working on their draft Investment Plans now, with the Fund being launched in late spring. It is anticipated that more detailed guidance, including the funding formula and monetary allocations for the three-year period, will be published in late spring. This will give local authorities some time to revise and refine draft Investment Plans, ready to submit in the summer.
- 2.3 Investment Plans must set out measurable outcomes, state how projects/activities will be procured and delivered, and set out governance arrangements. To ensure this is captured, Assistant Directors have been sent a proforma template to capture investment priorities as well as identify the partners and resource required to deliver any proposed initiative. The proforma is in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 Officers have until the end of March to complete their proformas and to identify initiatives as well as the priorities they will deliver against. The proforma identifies both the corporate priorities and the UKSPF Investment priorities to ensure we are aligning initiatives to our corporate objectives, as well as: the capital/revenue funding required; the resources and partnerships established to deliver; and, the timescales for delivery.
- 2.5 Lead authorities should involve MPs in every stage of UKSPF planning and delivery.
- 2.6 Local partnerships must be in place (existing partnerships can be used for this purpose) to agree Investment Plans and for UKSPF governance. These are likely to include local business/employer bodies, the voluntary and community sector, as well as local authorities. It is inherent in the guidance that lead authorities must work closely with county councils to agree and commission skills and employment activity. Partnership working with other districts may be appropriate where investment packages are common.
- 2.7 Government has indicated that the costs of developing the Investment Plan, managing funding, assessing and approving projects can be met from a lead authority's UKSPF funding allocation. More details will be provided later in the spring.

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The UKSPF will be allocated to all district and unitary authorities across England, with the allocation being via a funding formula rather than a competition.
- 3.2 Based on the pre-launch guidance in appendix 2, Members are asked to endorse the proposal for engaging partners and developing a draft investment plan which aligns to both the corporate priorities and those of the UKSPF, so that a draft of the Investment Plan can be brought back to a future meeting for agreement before being submitted to Government for approval.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 There is no alternative to this proposal as the UKSPF requires an Investment Plan to be submitted in order to unlock the District's funding allocation.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Endorse the report's proposal for the formulation of a draft Investment Plan engaging with partners to develop initiatives, all of which aligns to the corporate priorities.
2. That a draft of the Investment Plan is brought back to Executive for approval before it is submitted to the UK Government.

Approved by Cllr Liz Smyth – Portfolio Holder for Economic Development

IMPLICATIONS:

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

There are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

There are no specific legal implications.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

There are no staffing implications arising from this report

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:</p> <p>BDC: Revenue - £75,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £150,000 <input type="checkbox"/></p>	No
<p>Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i></p>	No

<p>District Wards Significantly Affected</p>	All
<p>Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SLT <input type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Details: Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Executive Director – Strategy and Development</p>

<p>Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment</p>
<p>The Investment Plan will align closely to the corporate priorities as set out in the Council’s prospectus – Vision Bolsover, as well as the Growth Strategy.</p>

DOCUMENT INFORMATION	
Appendix No	Title
1	Investment Plan Proforma
2	UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Pre-launch guidance

<p>Background Papers <i>(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)</i></p>