

BOLSOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting of the Executive on 14th April 2025

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Devolution

Classification	This report is Public
Contact Officer	Karen Hanson, Chief Executive

PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

This report seeks the endorsement from Executive for a delegated decision made with special urgency by the Chief Executive in relation to accepting UK Shared Prosperity Funds (UK SPF) totalling £803,023 from the East Midlands Combined County Authority, to agree the associated investment plan and to make direct awards of contracts where it is expected that an external partner will be delivering supplies or services.

The delegated decision (DD0228/KH/XX0325) is attached as Appendix A to this report. This decision was endorsed at the meeting of the Council's Strategic Commission Board (SCB) held on 7 March 2025.

REPORT DETAILS

1. Background

- 1.1 The Government's prospectus for UK SPF 2025/26 issued in January 2025 stated that EMCCA would be lead authority for UKSPF and would receive the region's allocation of funding for 2025/26.
- 1.2 At previous EMCCA board meetings, no decision has been taken on how any UK SPF funding for 2025/26 would be used but the options under consideration were a mixed model of delivery with some funding shared with local authority delivery partners or all the funding would be used for regional programmes.
- 1.3 The EMCCA Board meeting in February 2025 confirmed that delivery of some of the funding received by EMCCA would be delegated to the non-constituent Councils i.e. Districts and Boroughs (i.e. a mixed model was agreed).
- 1.4 The District will benefit from the additional investment into the local area and therefore, the funding is being accepted.

- 1.5 However, it has been necessary to agree an investment plan at pace because of the date of this decision by EMCCA to allocate funding to the Council in relation to the time allowed to submit an investment plan to draw down the funding and commence activities as early as practicable in 2025/26 and complete those activities by no later than 31 March 2026.
- 1.6 These challenging timelines have also determined the need to consider exemptions to the Council's Contracting Procedure Rules and the need for the urgent decision made by the Chief Executive following SCB on 7 March 2025.

2. Details of Proposal

- 2.1 The following tables set out the details of the investment plan that has been submitted to EMCCA and the proposed suppliers. The following tables also set out a brief description of the activities that will be funded by the Council's allocation of UK SPF for the financial year 2025/26 and delivered from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

2.2 Revenue Funding (£451,199)

Communities and Place		
Supplier	Programme	Cost
Growth House	A programme of events and community engagement aimed at addressing rising levels of depression and suicide rates across the district (Big Strong Man)	£20,000
Supporting Local Business		
Supplier	Programme	Cost
Filter Free	Extension of business support programme including Business Detox and Business Women in Bolsover	£34,000
Clowne Enterprise	Extension of business support programme for pre-start and start-up businesses	£50,000
Dragonfly (Place Programme)	Housebuilders' Forum to align with Place Programme, NZIP and EMCCA funded activities.	£20,000
Nottingham Trent University	Extension of business support programme for decarbonisation (Net Zero Innovation Programme (NZIP))	£200,000
Platform 31	Extension of business support programme for creatives (Creative Women's Network).	£12,000

People and Skills		
Supplier	Programme	Cost
BCVS	Skill based volunteering project at Pleasley Vale aligned with the Green Generation project and delivered in partnership with Chesterfield College, the Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Dragonfly Management (Bolsover) Limited.	£30,000
Direct Employment Business Partnership	Extension of training programme for young people at risk of exclusion (Fusion)	£70,000
Administration		
Supplier	Programme	Cost
Bolsover District Council	Administration of the 2025/26 UKSPF programme delivery	£15,199
Total	Revenue Funding	£451,199

2.3 Capital Expenditure (£351,824)

Communities and Place		
Supplier	Programme	Cost
LOCAL	Preliminary works on design and business planning for a creative hub within the district.	£50,000
Supporting Local Business		
Supplier	Programme	Cost
Business Growth Team Dragonfly Management (Bolsover) Ltd	Extension of Business Growth Grant	£301,824
Total	Capital Expenditure	£351,824
Total Funding Allocation		£451,199 + £351,824 = £803,023

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 Accepting the funding is in the best interests of the District and by doing so, the Council will receive the funding to support and enhance the place, its residents and the local economy.

3.2 The investment plan was agreed taking these factors into account and with particular regard to:

- (i) the National Framework and the advice issued by EMCCA;
- (ii) 4% of the funding can be used to cover the cost of administration including commissioning, monitoring, reporting and evaluation of projects;
- (iii) the outputs achieved by the previous years' programmes and the status of those projects;
- (iv) the availability of match funding and the Council's priorities and ambitions; and
- (v) the deliverability, achievable outputs and realistic outcomes of potential projects and/or extension of existing programmes.

3.3 Taking into account the extreme urgency required to commence delivery from 1 April 2025 and to ensure completion of projects by 31 March 2026, and taking into account a direct award for the suppliers named in the investment plan is either justified by:

- i. the acquisition of a unique artistic work or performance;
- ii. dependency on the unique intellectual property or exclusive rights of the supplier; or
- iii. for additional deliveries by the original supplier under an existing contract;

3.4 Exemptions from the Council's Procurement Rules are considered to be reasonably necessary on this occasion. The relevant exemptions are:

4.8.4(d) The contract is the execution of work or the supply of goods or services to be required so urgently as preclude the invitation of tenders; and

4.8.4 (e) The contract relates to the commissioning of projects funded by external grant where, for example, there is no (or insufficient) marketplace to tender for the supply of goods, services or works required.

3.5 The use of an urgent decision was considered reasonable and necessary to meet EMCCA's requirements, secure the funding and provide clarity on the investment plan to allow the Council to draw down its allocation of UK SPF funding for 2025/26.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The option not to accept the funding was rejected because the Council can demonstrate it can deliver a range of activities that meet the eligibility criteria within the timelines and those activities will deliver significant social, economic and environmental benefits for the District.

4.2 The option to consult more widely on the Investment Plan was rejected because of the limited time for submission, also taking into account the status of existing UK SPF activities that have already closed down, or are in the process of closing down, and the relatively limited amount of funding available.

4.3 The option to commission activities through Bolsover Partnership, issue invitations to tender and/or request quotations more widely was rejected with

regards to the extreme urgency required for decision making and for contracting the identified activities.

- 4.4 Alternative activities or actionable alternative processes for the administration of UK SPF were not otherwise identified at the meeting of the Council's Strategic Commissioning Board on 7 March 2025.
- 4.5 The option not to issue a delegated decision was rejected because of the special urgency required to ensure the Council would receive the funding and be able to submit an appropriate investment plan within the timelines specified by EMCCA.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To endorse the delegated decision made with special urgency by the Chief Executive in relation to accepting UK Shared Prosperity Funds (UK SPF) totalling £803,023 from the East Midlands Combined County Authority.
2. To endorse the associated investment plan agreed by the Council's Strategic Commissioning Board on 7 March 2025 and to make direct awards of contracts where required in accordance with the Council's procurement rules requirements.

Approved by Councillor John Ritchie, Portfolio Holder for Devolution

IMPLICATIONS:

<u>Finance and Risk</u> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details:		
All expenditure is covered by external grant, so there are no additional financial implications for the Council.		
On behalf of the Section 151 Officer		
<u>Legal (including Data Protection)</u> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Details:		
An extensive grant funding agreement has been issued from EMCCA to the local authority, which will be signed to confirm the funding.		
Contracts and/or Service Level Agreements will be required between the Council and delivery partners, setting out the funding, forecast outputs and outcomes and additional conditions, where required.		
On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council		

<u>Staffing</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:	
There are no staffing implications arising directly from this report	
On behalf of the Head of Paid Service	
<u>Equality and Diversity, and Consultation</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:	
There are no equality, diversity or consultation implications arising directly from this report	
<u>Environment</u>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Details:	
There are no environment implications arising directly from this report	

DECISION INFORMATION:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Please indicate which threshold applies:	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an Executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more wards in the District or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Revenue (a) Results in the Council making Revenue Savings of £75,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Revenue Expenditure of £75,000 or more.	(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>
Capital (a) Results in the Council making Capital Income of £150,000 or more or (b) Results in the Council incurring Capital Expenditure of £150,000 or more.	(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (b) <input type="checkbox"/>
District Wards Significantly Affected: <i>(to be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the District)</i> Please state below which wards are affected or tick All if all wards are affected:	All <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is the decision subject to Call-In? <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i> If No, is the call-in period to be waived in respect of the decision(s) proposed within this report? <i>(decisions may only be classified as exempt from call-in with the agreement of the Monitoring Officer)</i> Consultation carried out: <i>(this is any consultation carried out prior to the report being presented for approval)</i> Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deputy Leader <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Executive <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SLT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Members <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy, Environment, Housing
The projects commissioned align to the Council's ambitions, particularly those relating to the economy and environment.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION:

Appendix No	Title
Appendix A	Delegated decision (DD0228/KH/XX0325)

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, you must provide copies of the background papers).</i>
UKSPF Report to the Council's Strategic Commissioning Board on 7 March 2025