



REPORT TO:	Cabinet
DATE:	27 th July 2022
SUBJECT:	UK Shared Prosperity Update (UKSPF) Investment Plan
PURPOSE:	To provide an update on UKSPF and Investment Plan
KEY DECISION:	Yes
PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	Cllr Nigel Welton
REPORT OF:	Deputy Chief Executive (Growth)
REPORT AUTHOR:	Deputy Chief Executive (Growth)
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All
EXEMPT REPORT?	No

SUMMARY

To present the UK Shared Prosperity Fund draft submission and provide background on the consultation process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To approve the draft UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.
2. To delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive (Growth), in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, the authority to make any amendments that might arise prior to the submission to Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To enable the submission of the Investment Plan within the timescales, 1st August at the latest, to enable the Council to receive the allocation of £2.2 million for the benefit of the communities of the Borough of Boston.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

To do nothing would mean that the Investment Plan would not be submitted and the Council would lose the opportunity to receive £2.2 million of funding for the Borough.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is now open and it provides funding for economic development across the whole of the UK. The focus of the fund is in part the replacement for the old European Social Fund, with an emphasis on skills based training and development. However, the UKSPF is wider and more flexible than its EU forerunners.
- 1.2 The South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) is to receive £9.3 million over the next three years. The Fund is a key part of the Government's 'Levelling Up' agenda, providing money for local councils to invest in:
- Local communities and places
 - Support for local businesses
 - People and skills

The breakdown of the funding between the Councils is as follows:-

Boston Borough Council - £2.2 million

East Lindsey District Council - £4.4 million

South Holland District Council - £2.7 million.

- 1.3 The Investment Plan is a strategy document that details how the allocation of the funding will deliver outcomes for our people and place under the three themes, set out above.

It should be noted the funding element for the people and skills theme does not commence until next year. The funding may be spent on activities or buildings and equipment but is predominantly for revenue projects and there is a suggested split between revenue and capital for each year;

2022/23 Revenue 90% Capital 10%

2023/24 Revenue 87% Capital 13%

2024/25 Revenue 80% Capital 20%

- 1.4 The timescale to deliver has been challenging. From 13th June 2022 until approximately 4th July the SELCP has consulted with local stakeholders, partners and the local community to identify what our community and stakeholders would like to see delivered - projects and initiatives that matter to local people and will really make a difference. Across the partnership there have been 756 questionnaires submitted, and taking into account social media, the response rate rises to over 1,000. The submissions have been analysed and the summary may be found at Appendix 2.

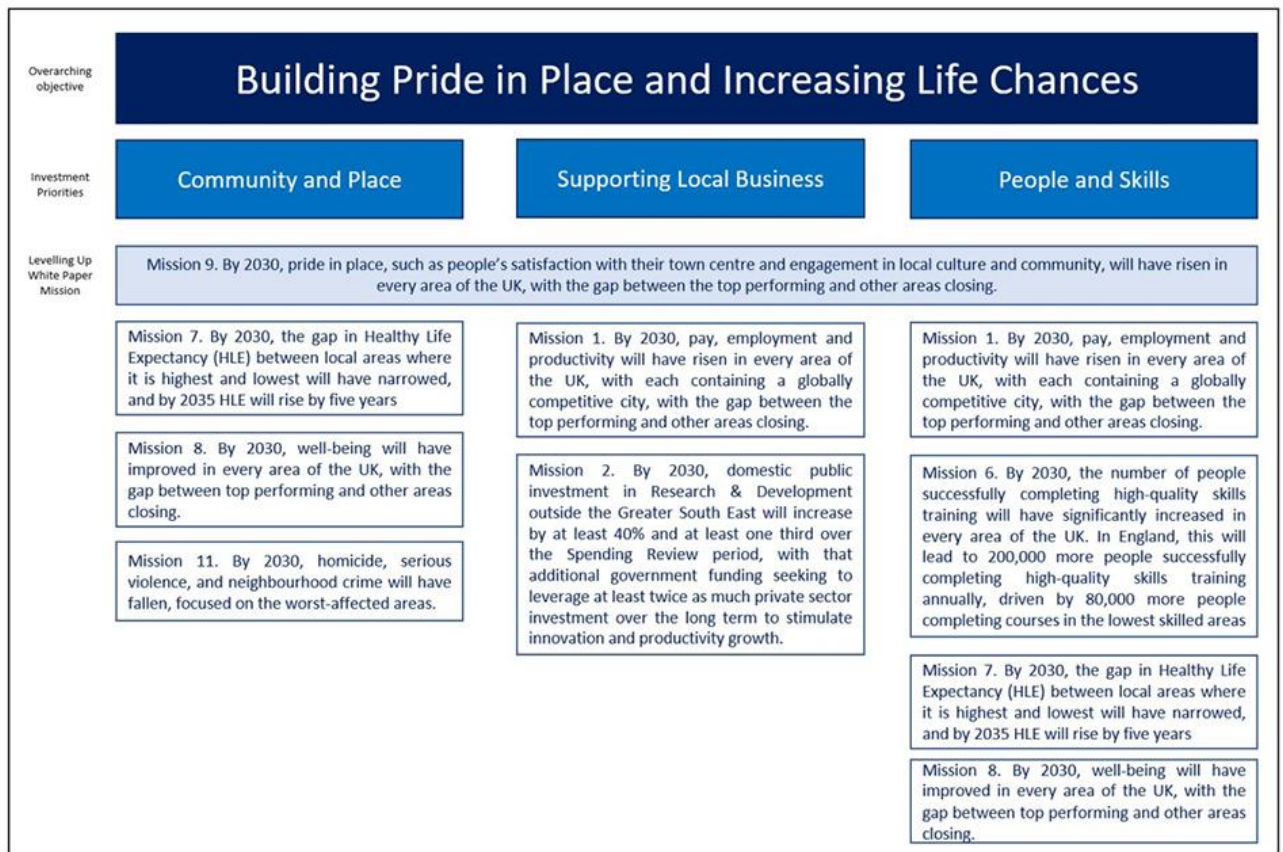
The SELCP must submit the Investment Plan to Government by 1st August.

In October/November 2022 the funding will be confirmed and following a competitive process we will be appointing the partners who will deliver the agreed projects over the three-year period.

2. REPORT

2.1 The UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK government’s ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It seeks to maximise opportunities by investing in domestic priorities and targeting funding where it is needed most: building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances. Places are empowered to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances. Local places will be able to use the Fund to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision to maximise impact and simplify delivery.

2.2 The Prospectus sets out the link to the Levelling Up Missions Statements as follows:



2.3 The objectives of the three themes are set out in the Prospectus as follows;

Communities and Place

- 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 access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

- Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built and natural environment innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Supporting Local Business

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments 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.
- Promoting 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.
- Increasing 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

- Boosting 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 (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland only. In England, this is delivered through the Department for Education's Multiply programme).
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and 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.
- Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.
- Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, 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. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

2.4 In considering which projects will be selected to be funded through UKSPF, the Prospectus has been clear that there must be significant public consultation to ensure the Investment Plan meets the needs of the community and stakeholders to fully maximise the benefits of the fund.

2.5 As detailed above, consultation took part in June and early July and the following stakeholders were identified and encouraged to submit ideas and share further.

Greater Lincolnshire LEP	Lincolnshire County Council	The 3 MPs Victoria Atkins, Matt Warman and John Hayes
Parish and Town Councils	The Coastal Business Improvement District (BID)	The Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce
Boston and Mablethorpe BIG Local	Mablethorpe Coastal Community Team	CLA
NFU	Environment Agency	National Trust
Internal Drainage Boards	Institute of Directors	University of Lincoln
Boston College	TEC Partnership	Stamford and Grantham Colleges
Historic England	Heritage Lincolnshire	English Heritage
Destination Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire Voluntary Engagement Team	Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board (ICS)
First Coastal Primary Care Network	Healthwatch	Lincolnshire CVS
Age UK Lindsey	Active Lincolnshire	Lincolnshire YMCA
Children's Links	Lincolnshire LIVES	Lincolnshire Police

2.6 There have been many opportunities to engage in this process, as set out below;

14th June Boston Borough Council Corporate Meeting with officer core

15th June Boston Strategic Partners Meeting – VCS, Business and Public Sector Partners

21st and 23rd June detailed briefing Boston Borough Councillors

25th and 29th June Boston Market Public Consultation

27th June Parish Councils Briefing

28th June inaugural meeting of Boston Governance Group

30th June Business Organisation Briefing

4th July Opportunity to meet East Lindsey and South Holland Councillors for a 3 way strategic discussion about joint priorities

6th July Boston Town Fund Board

14th July C&C Committee

25th July Full Council

2.7 It is noted above there has been a very positive response to the consultation and these have been used to form the basis of the investment strategy. There has also been an opportunity for suggestions and ideas to be submitted by council teams to meet the outcomes of the guidance.

- 2.8 The UKSPF draft Investment Plan has been considered by the Corporate and Community Committee on 14th July 2022 and the decision was taken to recommend to Cabinet for the draft Investment Plan to be submitted. A more detailed verbal update can be shared at the meeting of Cabinet.
- 2.9 The UKSPF draft Investment Plan is to be considered by the Full Council on 25th July 2022 and a verbal update can be shared at the meeting of Cabinet.
- 2.10 These ideas are in the process of being assessed, in a similar way as to how we managed #MyTown suggestions, to narrow down these ideas and support those will deliver maximum benefit to the community. They are not available at the time of this report being published but will be available for the Committee to note at the meeting.

The Draft Investment Plan (Strategic Framework)

- 2.11 The draft Investment Plan at Appendix 1 sets out the following details;
- Local Challenges for each theme
 - Local Opportunities for each theme
 - What are the outcomes that are to be delivered for each theme
 - Approach to delivery and governance
 - Examples of some ideas from consultation (for indicative purposes only)
 - Examples of collaboration
 - Capacity and capability
- 2.12 This remains a draft document and will continue to be amended until submission, hence the requirement for recommendation 2.

Delivery of the UKSP

- 2.13 It would be very challenging to manage hundreds of projects across the SELCP as this would be time consuming to manage, measure and monitor spend and outcomes of £9.3million in total, and this is likely to be a larger sum when taking into account likely match funding. Therefore it is proposed that 6-8 lead bodies will be identified through a competitive process. This will commence once the Investment Plan has been submitted to enable the allocation of funding, and thereby allowing the lead delivery partners to be in place once the Investment Plan is confirmed. This will assist with spending in year as although the funding will not be available until October/November, the funding is for the year 2022/23.
- 2.14 The lead bodies will each be responsible for a theme within the delivery arrangements for the UKSPF. They will report to the local authority and the Governance Board identified below.
- 2.15 It is proposed they will be allocated funds and work with individual local providers to deliver services to whom they will provide a proportion of the funds they hold. They will identify the local projects they will fund through a competitive process. These lead bodies in some cases will be individual organisations and in other cases they will be networks of organisations with one of their number taking on the role of managing the finance. The consultation will help validate the themes ultimately chosen and set the basis on which an invitation to lead themes will go out to stakeholders when we run the competition.

- 2.16 The strategy for managing the UKSPF is to link the approach across the three areas within the South East Lincolnshire Council Partnership. Each Shared Prosperity Fund area has to have an independent governance group. In East Lindsey, the Connected Coast Board (which already has a number of countywide organisations) could be extended to cover the inland areas. In Boston the Town Fund Board has been asked to fulfil this role. In South Holland bespoke arrangements will be put in place to create a board from established governance groups. The role of the governance group is to overview and advise on the evolution and subsequent implementation of the UKSPF strategy in its area.
- 2.17 These arrangements will demonstrate collaboration across the geography of three districts councils of key stakeholder delivery partners but also ensure that projects are locally based to meet the needs of individual places and communities.

Next Steps

- 2.18 The Investment Plan will be submitted by the 1st August 2022. The competitive exercise will commence very soon thereafter, with a final proposition to be presented to Full Council once notification of the Investment Plan being approved is received.
- 2.19 There will be further member engagement prior to a final delivery plan being presented to Full Council.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The UKSPF present an opportunity to secure additional funding for the Borough to continue to deliver the Levelling Up ambitions of the Council, following on the success of securing £21.9 million through the Towns Fund and the submission of the Levelling Up bid.
- 3.2 There has been extensive public consultation and there are many positive ideas and solutions that have been suggested, ranging from large organisations through to small community groups and individuals.
- 3.3 The draft Investment Strategy at Appendix 1 sets out the approach to the Investment Strategy and to enable the Council to secure this funding, it should be submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing.

EXPECTED BENEFITS TO THE PARTNERSHIP

Through working with lead partners across the geography of the partnership we expect to see greater opportunities in some of the following ways: delivering the fund through economies of scale, delivering larger programmes across wider geographies with local impact, greater opportunities to see what works and what doesn't and tweak the Investment Plan accordingly, create a solid pipeline of future projects.

IMPLICATIONS

SOUTH AND EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCILS PARTNERSHIP

Further demonstration of the collaborative working between the three councils to maximise the Levelling Up opportunities for our people and places.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

The submission of the Investment Plan and securing the external funding will meet the Corporate Priorities in respect of People and Prosperity.

STAFFING

One of the reasons to seek lead delivery partners is to reduce the impact on managing and monitoring the UKSPF delivery and outcomes. There is a percentage of the fund that may be utilised by the council to undertake this task and as a result of the competitive process, the staffing requirements will be assessed to determine what any new arrangements may be required.

CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising directly out of this report as this is a submission to DLUCH for the funding.

DATA PROTECTION

None

FINANCIAL

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report. There is provision for £20K per district to be drawn down to support with the preparation of the Investment Plan.

There is provision for 4% of the funding to be used to support delivery of the projects within the Council's team.

RISK MANAGEMENT

None directly arising as this is a draft Investment Plan that sets out the framework.

STAKEHOLDER / CONSULTATION / TIMESCALES

Please note paragraph 2.3 above which sets out the dates, locations and those consulted.

REPUTATION

The positive consultation exercise with key stakeholders has been noted and has created a positive impression of the partnership for undertaking such meaningful consultation.

CONTRACTS

None.

CRIME AND DISORDER

Under the "Communities and Places" strand of the consultation (as set out in the section relating to Stakeholder Engagement and Support within Appendix 1), there was reference to anti-social behaviour and the impact that this may have on a place. It is envisaged that some of the suggestions that are taken forward following the competitive process will include projects that have an impact on seeking to reduce actual or perceived anti-social behaviour.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY/ HUMAN RIGHTS/ SAFEGUARDING

These will be considered as part of the wider competitive exercise.

HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Health is an underlying outcome within the prospectus and consideration will be given as part of the competitive exercise to assess how projects will also have a positive impact on the health and well-being of our communities.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

This will depend upon final projects and none arising directly out of this report.

LINKS TO 12 MISSIONS IN THE LEVELLING UP WHITE PAPER

MISSIONS	
This paper contributes to the follow Missions outlined in the Government’s Levelling Up White paper.	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Research and Development	By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by 5 years.
Wellbeing	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas.
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

ACRONYMS

UKSPF - United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund

APPENDICES	
Appendices are listed below and attached to the back of the report: -	
APPENDIX 1	UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Draft Investment Plan
APPENDIX 2	Boston Consultation Analysis - to follow

BACKGROUND PAPERS
Background papers used in the production of this report are listed below: -
UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

REPORT APPROVAL	
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Signed off by:	Rob Barlow – Chief Executive
Approved for publication:	Nigel Welton – Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth