

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
HEAD OF PROJECTS AND REGENERATION	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	30 JANUARY 2023	10

### FULLY FUNDED IN YEAR BUDGET INCREASE – UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

#### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

#### SUMMARY

In April 2022 the Government announced a new £2.6billion investment programme titled UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), to replace old EU structural funding. As part of the funding allocation process, the Council prepared and submitted an Investment Plan in August 2022 which was then approved by Government in December 2022.

Fylde's allocation of UKSPF monies amounts to £2.6m, to be defrayed over 3 financial years until the end of 2024/2025. The Investment Plan details where the funding will be concentrated across the 3 investment themes as set out the Government's UKSPF guidance documents. The Investment Plan has been approved by the UKSPF Partnership Group, which brings together a cross section of key stakeholders including representatives from businesses, elected members, education and skills, and the community sectors.

This report provides an overview of the scheme and recommends an in-year increase to the capital programme for 2022/2023 of £82,500 and in-year increase to the revenue base budget for 2022/2023 of £258,288, both of which are fully funded via the UKSPF allocation.

#### RECOMMENDATION

##### The Finance and Democracy Committee is requested to:

1. The Committee is asked to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £82,500 to the 'UK Shared Prosperity Funding' scheme, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
2. The Committee is asked to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £258,288 for 2022/2023, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
3. Subject to approval by Council as above, the Finance and Democracy Committee is requested to note that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report will be brought to future Committees to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the Investment Plan.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	✓
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	✓
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	✓
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	✓

## REPORT

1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund was launched by the Government on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The fund replaces old EU structural funding which was administered by unitary authorities to provide economic development and regeneration initiatives.
2. The government describes the fund as “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 provides £2.6 billion of new 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. It will help places right across the country deliver enhanced outcomes and recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support”.
3. The objectives of the fund are to.
  - Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
  - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
  - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
  - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.
4. To access the funding allocation, lead local authorities were required to complete an Investment Plan setting out how the funding would be used. As part of the preparation of the Investment Plan, a local partnership group was formed to define Fylde’s priorities and to establish the principles of the application.
5. There are 3 main investment themes contained within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, under each of these themes several projects have been developed to ensure the Council achieves the outcomes and outputs expected over the lifetime of the Fund, these include:
  - **Communities and Place**
  - **Supporting Local Business**
  - **People and Skills**
6. Projects being developed will see physical improvements in town centres, as well as events and campaigns to support the visitor economy and increase the number of volunteering engagements through community-related projects. There are a range of projects that have been identified to assist the growth of ambitious businesses and to support their sustainability and resilience, reduce their carbon footprint, apprenticeship opportunities and training, and specialist expertise to support Fylde’s aerospace, automotive and advanced engineering, and manufacturing sectors.
7. In addition, the commissioning of feasibility and baseline studies will enable the Council to better understand Fylde’s rural economy to target and prioritise future funding opportunities, and to enable a better understanding of the value and capacity of the community, voluntary, faith and social enterprise sectors who operate across the borough supporting individuals and groups.
8. The programme has also identified projects dedicated to supporting those who are currently unemployed, including young people who are disengaged, through a range of mentoring and training opportunities with the aim of getting ready for work and/or educational opportunities.
9. The partnership group met on the 25th July to discuss the proposed Investment Plan and the membership includes:
  - Mark Menzies MP
  - Cllr Karen Buckley – Council Leader and Chairman of Finance and Democracy Committee
  - Councillor Roger Small – Deputy Leader and Chairman of Operational Management Committee
  - Councillor Richard Redcliffe – Chairman of the Town Centre Working Group and Vice Chairman of Planning Committee

- Neil Farley – Economic Prosperity Board representative for Fylde
- Veli Kirk – St Anne’s Enterprise Partnership
- Suzanne Taylor – Lytham Business Partnership
- Heidi Hopkinson – Kirkham Business Group
- Julie Casson – Job Centre/DWP
- Janet Doolan – Growth Lancashire
- Graham Oatridge - YMCA
- Hannah Swindell – BAE Systems
- Alastair Mulvey – Blackpool and Fylde College
- Allan Oldfield – Chief Executive - Fylde Council
- Charlie Richards – Head of Projects and Regeneration - Fylde Council
- Paula Huber – Economic Development and Regeneration Manager – Fylde Council
- Tamar Reay – Reay Associates
- Steph Shone – Planning Policy Officer – Fylde Council
- Mike Harris – Press Officer – Fylde Council

10. Following consultation with the local partnership group, the Investment Plan was submitted to Government on 29th July 2022. On the 5th December 2022 it was announced that the Investment Plan had been approved and that the first year allocation of £340,788 would be transferred to the Council upon receipt of a signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The signed MOU was issued to Government on 15th December 2022 and a payment of £340,788 was credited to the council’s bank account on 30th December 2022.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	<p>The Committee is asked to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the Councils Capital Programme in 2022/23 in the sum of £82,500 to the ‘UK Shared Prosperity Funding’ scheme, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to consider and recommend to Council, approval of a fully funded addition to the base revenue budget in the sum of £258,288 for 2022/2023, to be met from external funding provided by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p> <p>Subject to approval by Council as above, the Finance and Democracy Committee is requested to note that a retrospective drawdown expenditure report will be brought to future Committees to detail the actual project spend as detailed within the Investment Plan.</p>
Legal	None
Community Safety	None
Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Charlie Richards	<a href="mailto:Charlie.richards@fylde.gov.uk">Charlie.richards@fylde.gov.uk</a> 01253 658520	30/01/2023

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
UKSPF Investment Plan	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Appendix A