



Concurrent meeting of the Prosperous Communities and Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Thursday 7th July 2022

Subject: West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Report by:	Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Sally Grindrod-Smith Director Planning, Regeneration & Communities sally.grindrod-smith@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	To set out the draft West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and seek approval for submission to government.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

FOR PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

1. That the Prosperous Communities Committee approve the Investment Proposals set out in Section 4 of the Investment Plan.
2. That Prosperous Communities Committee recommend to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee the submission of the West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to the Department of Levelling Up Homes and Communities.

FOR CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

3. That the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the submission of the West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and delegate any post committee housekeeping, assurance changes and amendments required if further guidance on monitoring and evaluation is released, to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities in consultation with the chair of this committee.
4. That the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the draft Funding Strategy as set out in Section 4 below.
5. That the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee receive a final business case for each of the three Investment Objectives which are;
 - > Communities and place
 - > Supporting local businesses

> People and skills

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

There are no direct legal implications within this report or the investment plan, however where there will be a requirement to commission and / or procure goods and services this will be subject to our agreed procedures and will require sign off by the Monitoring Officer.

Financial : - FIN REF: FIN/52/23/CC/JA

WLDC's total funding allocation for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is £2,700,437 of which a further £1,004,912 match funding is being proposed as part of the investment plan. The total expenditure proposal is as follows:

UK SPF Allocation Expenditure Profile				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Capital SPF	£76,464	£94,596	£540,404	£711,464
Revenue SPF	£238,150	£534,632	£1,108,174	£1,880,956
4% Admin	£13,109	£26,218	£68,691	£108,017
Total SPF	£327,723	£655,446	£1,717,269	£2,700,437
Match Funding				
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Other UK Gov	£30,000	£80,000	£80,000	£190,000
WLDC contribution	£348,507	£206,355	£160,050	£714,912
Third party	£0	£50,000	£50,000	£100,000
Total match	£378,507	£336,355	£290,050	£1,004,912
Total Scheme	£706,230	£991,801	£2,007,319	£3,705,349

£714,912 of the total match funding is to be provided by WLDC, of which £538,612 has already been approved through various reports (funded from a mixture of external grants and reserves). A further £176,300 is being proposed to support the delivery of the UK SPF. The breakdown of WLDC's total proposed match funding is detailed below:

WLDC Match Funding already secured			
	Funded From	Amount	Details
Clr Initiative Fund	Communities Grant Reserve	£72,000	£144k over 4 years - balance as 22/23 - FIN/133/19
Match Funding Grant	Communities Grant Reserve	£186,800	£100k p/a - balance of £500k total scheme - FIN/147/19
CCTV monitoring expansion	General Fund Balances	£79,812	12 month pilot FIN/42/23/SL
Town Centres Manager	General Fund Balances	£100,000	£40k per year approved through WL Markets Action Plan FIN/161/22/TJB P8.8
Supporting our Markets and Retail Centres	Cultural Strategy Reserve	£100,000	Support with events and enlivening FIN/161/22/TJB P8.9
Total secured		£538,612	
WLDC Match Funding proposed to support UK Shared Prosperity Fund			
	Funded From	Amount	Details
Green Spaces Officer	General Fund Balances	£46,300	50% contribution towards Green Spaces Officer 1FTE Grade 9 Fixed Term for 2 years from 1st September 2022
Growing Innovation	Invest For Growth Reserve	£100,000	Develop E19 area of programme and create future growth opportunities
Local Skills Programme	Project Investment Reserve	£30,000	£10k per year to supplement UKSPF Funding for E33 area
Total proposed		£176,300	
Total WLDC Match Funding		£714,912	

Staffing :

The Investment Plan process as set out by Government requires Local Authorities to have completed a Capacity and Capability Assessment. This can be found in Section 5 of the Investment Plan. The Capacity and Capability Assessment sets out how many Full Time Employees are required to deliver the programme.

It is proposed that three roles will be required as a result of this Investment Plan as follows:

Programme Manager – funded through the 4% administration allowance

Events and Programme Support Officer – funded through UKSPF with match funding from WLDC

Green Spaces Officer – funded through UKSPF with match funding from WLDC

Each of the posts will require the development of a job description, person specification and will be subject to Job Evaluation. Recruitment will commence, subject to funding contract, in summer 2023 to ensure that we are ready to commence programme delivery as soon as the funding contract is signed.

The remainder of the programme will be delivered by existing staffing. At the Business Case stage any impact on existing resources and programmes will be reviewed and will be subject to further decision.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

The Investment Plan includes an assessment of Equality Considerations and how to tackle inequality in access.

The Investment Plan is designed to support all residents to live the best lives they can and to help our businesses and economies to thrive. The Investment Plan recognises that inequalities in West Lindsey are largely correlated with limited access to opportunities, infrastructure or jobs. This is particularly acute for residents living in areas of severe deprivation or remote rural areas (often both).

As we move into the implementation stage of our Investment Plan, a detailed Equality Impact Assessment will be completed for each project within the plan.

Data Protection Implications :

There are no direct data protection implications arising from this report. All current data protection implications will be built into each project plan and we will ensure that any procured contract utilise the most recent data protection regulations.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Within the Investment Plan we have identified three cross cutting themes which form a golden thread running across all the investment priorities. The first cross-cutting theme is Sustainable Environment and we will seek through the UK SPF investment and aligned funds to support the ambition of 'Creating a sustainable environment to protect future generations'.

Section 4 of the Investment Plan sets out how each project has been assessed against and has considered the golden thread themes that helps to support these cross cutting ambitions.

There are five key elements to the project proposals that will contribute to the Council's climate change and sustainability priorities. These are:

1. Sustainable infrastructure / energy efficiency
2. Active Travel
3. Green Spaces
4. Sustainable Research and Design / Green Skills
5. Championing Behaviour Change

Each project will monitor the outputs, outcomes and delivery against this cross cutting theme.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

Section 3 of the Investment Plan sets out an analysis of needs and opportunities within West Lindsey. Incidents of criminal activity and in particular fear of crime in pockets of the district impact on the sense of community and pride in place.

To address this the Safer Streets West Lindsey project aims to support existing initiatives by investing in increased CCTV coverage and monitoring, support for the expansion of Shop Watch and consider the possibility of 're-lighting' areas of Gainsborough where street lighting is no provided during some night time hours

Health Implications:

Section 4 of the Investment Plan sets out the second cross cutting – Health Inequalities. We will seek through UKSPF investment and aligned funds to address inequalities including health outcomes and wider determinants of health.

This section sets out how our projects will help us to address social determinants of health and in result improve the long term health outcomes of our residents. There are four social determinants of health that will be supported through the projects identified within this Investment Plan, these are:

1. Economic stability / employment
2. Social and community context (social isolation)
3. Neighbourhood and environment
4. Education

These are aligned to the Lincolnshire Health and Well-being Strategy and we will measure outcomes, outputs and impacts as part of the monitoring and evaluation of the Investment Plan.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

The source of all data contained within the Investment is referenced on page tbc of the Investment Plan.

Government guidance for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund can be found at the following link:

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus)

Risk Assessment :

A Risk Analysis has been completed and is contained within Section 5 of the Investment Plan. Initial risks and mitigating actions have been identified. A full detailed risk register will be developed at the business case stage, this will also highlight operational project-based risks which will be managed through the Programme risk register.

Section 5 also sets out the proposed governance structure for the programme, which aligned to our existing council wide programme governance will see the Programme Board monitoring risks regularly with a focus on high post mitigation scores. Risks will be escalated by exception to Management Team, Portfolio Board and finally if necessary Prosperous Communities Committee.

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

x

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

Executive Summary

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides three years funding for local investment, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation. West Lindsey District Council has received an allocation of £2.7 million.

In order to unlock the allocation local places must develop an investment plan setting out priorities for investment and what a place could achieve through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for its places, residents, communities and businesses.

Whilst we recognise the opportunity of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, on its own it cannot address all of the identified local challenges. The Investment Plan sets out broader strategic challenges that we must tackle collaboratively as wider places, as well as aligning the redevelopment of the West Lindsey Corporate Plan. This process captures those challenges that can not be tackled through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan sets out a shared endeavour and is based upon a robust evidence base, established and adopted strategic priorities and wide-ranging stakeholder engagement. The plan proposes how the fund can be invested across the three government priorities of;

- Communities and Place
- Supporting local businesses; and
- People and Skills.

Within each priority a set of high-level interventions are proposed, which, once worked up would deliver the desired outputs and outcomes as set out in the guidance.

The submission to government requires local authorities to set out strategic priorities. We have developed a two-stage approach that will satisfy government requirements for the point of submission and then continues our work to develop a business case for each of the investment priorities. Each business case will be the subject of a future decision by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.

Once submitted, we understand that there will be a process of engagement and discussion with government, ultimately ending in a funding contract. We have taken an ambitious approach to our investment plan, underpinned by a quality evidence base and robust strategy. This process presents an opportunity for West Lindsey to continue to lead the way on the Levelling Up agenda and to demonstrate our commitment and capability to deliver against local and national priorities for the benefit of our places, residents, communities and businesses.

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides three years funding for local investment, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation. West Lindsey District Council have received a provision allocation of £2.7 million.
- 1.2 In order to 'unlock' the UKSPF allocation, council's must develop an Investment Plan that sets out a vision and priorities for investment. The draft West Lindsey UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan is included as Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.3 Our Investment Plan is a strategic document that sets out our vision and priorities as to what we want to achieve for residents, communities and businesses in our District through the Shared Prosperity Fund investment. The plan showcases confident, considered proposals for investment across the three UKSPF investment priorities;
 - > Communities and place
 - > Supporting local businesses, and
 - > People and skills
- 1.4 The Investment Plan also provides an opportunity or WLDC to highlight key strategic and structural challenges that require combined focus in order to ensure that the efforts to progress the levelling up agenda are maximised and not put at risk.
- 1.5 We want to deliver tangible change for our residents and businesses, focusing on investment in community infrastructure, green spaces, visitor economy, business development and skills.
- 1.6 Securing a prosperous future is a shared responsibility. As a district council, we will be focused on the areas where we can have the biggest effect, and we will continue to work closely with communities, business and our partner organisation to do this together.
- 1.7 As such, the Investment Plan has been developed through direct engagement with key partners and local stakeholders, including Lincolnshire County Council, neighbouring district councils, Greater Lincolnshire LEP, businesses and community groups. The many voices, wide ranging views and local expertise are captured here and this is just the start as engagement with stakeholders will be a key element throughout our work on the UKSPF.
- 1.8 Whilst UKSPF offers significant opportunity, we recognised that alone it can not address all of the identified local challenges. The vision and ambition expressed in this plan will help West Lindsey to thrive. However, this investment needs to be considered in a wider context of existing and future funding streams. The Corporate Plan – the Council's overarching strategic document is being refreshed and redeveloped in parallel to this Investment Plan, ensuring we have a comprehensive vision and plans for interventions that fall the scope of the UKSPF.

2. West Lindsey UKSPF Investment Plan

2.1 We have developed a two phased approach to the Investment Plan. The first stage is the subject of this report and has included:

- Cross party member engagement
- Internal stakeholder engagement
- Review of existing strategy and priorities
- Data collection and analysis
- Development of an overarching Theory of Change
- Drafting of outline intervention
- External stakeholder engagement
- Scoping of interventions
- Quality assurance
- Financial modelling
- Drafting of WLDC UKSPF proposal document

2.2 Through our stakeholder engagement we agreed four key pillars to our approach for the development of the Investment Plan. These are:

Strong Evidence Base

We revisited and reconfirmed our understanding the challenges facing our people, businesses and places – what are the problems we are trying to solve?

Collaboration at heart

We engaged with our staff teams, our elected members and our partners who have excellent knowledge and understanding of local issues

System leadership

We focus our efforts to understand opportunities for working with our partners on a shared and common goal

District -wide focus

To consider options for interventions district-wide and ensure that the benefits of our regeneration are felt across our communities.

2.3 The second phase of our work on UKSPF will be undertaken post submission of the Investment Plan to government and will see the council develop a business case for each of the investment priorities for consideration by Corporate Policy and Resources Committee at an appropriate point in the future.

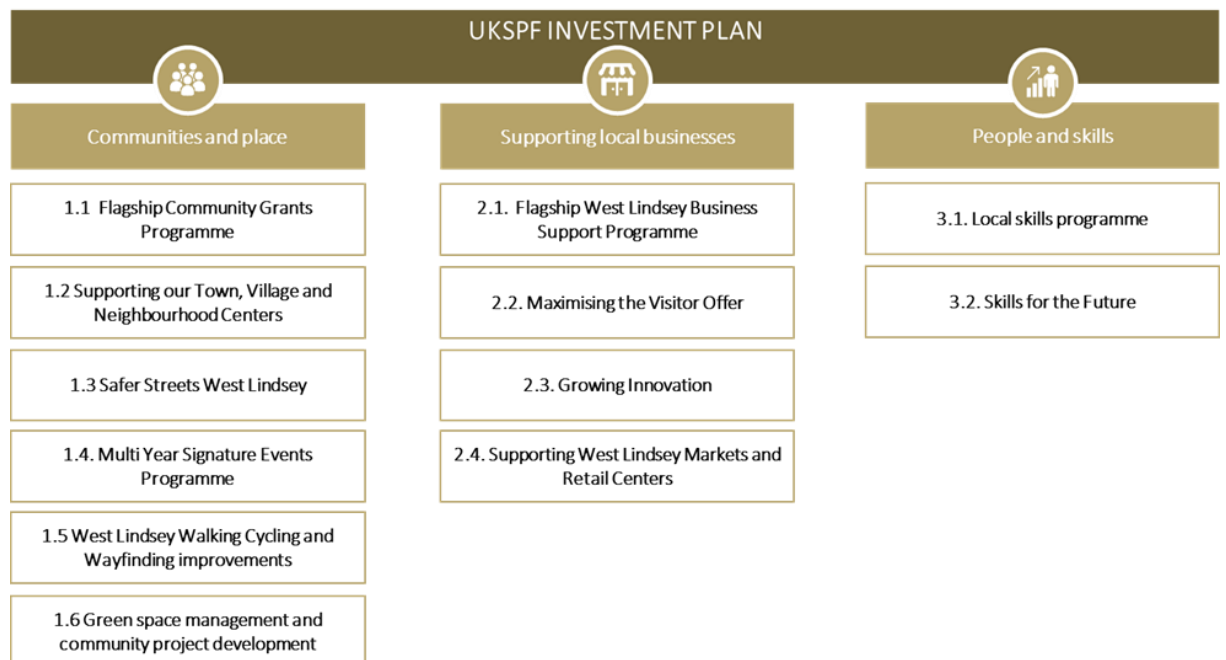
2.4 We will use the best practice ‘five case’ model for each of the three investment themes to further develop the Investment Plan above and beyond what is expected for the government approval.

3 Overview of Investment Proposals

3.1 Utilising the detailed analysis of needs and opportunities across West Lindsey (Section 3 of the Investment Plan), together with feeding in committed priorities, we developed a long list of potential interventions

that could deliver against the ambitions of the governments Levelling Up agenda.

- 3.2 The long list of interventions were worked through a ‘gateway process’ which considered:
 1. Alignment with the three UKSPF Investment Priorities
 2. Alignment with the UKSPF framework (interventions, outputs and outcomes)
 3. Alignment with the UKSPF timescales and funding allocation
- 3.3 As a result of this process we developed a short list of interventions for the UKSPF Investment Plan and a set of ideas / projects / possible interventions that could be considered and worked up through the refresh of the Corporate Plan.
- 3.4 The UKSPF requires a mix of capital and revenue interventions that represent the best and most deliverable solutions to tackle the local issues identified through the needs assessment work.
- 3.5 Set out below are the 12 interventions that are proposed to form the basis of the West Lindsey UKSPF Investment Plan. The key activities aligned with each intervention, the proposed delivery model and link to government intervention is set out in section 5 of the Investment Plan. Appendix 1 to this report sets out more detail about each of the proposed interventions.



- 3.6 Through our internal and external stakeholder collaboration we have identified an initial set of activities that could be delivered through each of the interventions. These are set out within Section 4 of the Investment Plan. At this stage these are concepts and ideas that will require work in the next phase of the plan to develop. As set out above, once the

interventions for each of the priority investment themes are fully developed, committee will be asked to consider the full business case for each theme. The next phase will include significant work with our stakeholders and partners to fully shape and scope the project activities.

3.7 In our Investment Plan, we have identified three cross-cutting themes that are woven throughout all of the investment priorities and proposed interventions. These cross-cutting themes are:

- Sustainable Environment
- Health Inequalities; and
- Empowering Communities

3.8 The cross-cutting themes will be central to our project planning, implementation and monitoring which will ensure that the delivery of UKSPF Investment Plan is aligned to our principles of sustainable regeneration and working towards net zero, improving health outcomes by addressing social determinants of health and increasing community resilient by empowering communities.

4. Funding Strategy

4.1 The government have set out the overall UKSPF allocation for West Lindsey together with the annual funding profile and minimum level of capital funding across each funding year. The funding profile is set out in table 1 below.

Table 1:

Funding Profile:	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
UKSPF Allocation	£327,723	£655,446	£1,717,268	£2,700,437
Min Capital Threshold	10%	13%	20%	n/a

4.2 Guidance states that our Investment Plan must align to this annual funding profile and minimum capital threshold. This has therefore formed the basis of a key input into the Investment Plan.

4.3 Through our detailed intervention scoping exercise we have developed a proposed funding allocation for each of the three investment priorities. The proposed allocation response to specific local challenges and priorities and builds upon cross council and partner experience in developing and delivering investment programme.

4.4 As we engaged with stakeholders and partners to develop our understanding of need and opportunities, it was clear that our first priority was to target investment into our communities and our places to ensure that West Lindsey is a safe, happy place to live for our residents.

4.5 Therefore, 48% of the total funding available (over £1.2m) is proposed to be allocated to the Communities and Place investment priority. The table below sets out how the Investment Plan proposes to allocate expenditure per year across each investment theme.

Table 2:

	22-23	23-24	24-25	Total	%
Community and place	£ 214,614	£ 262,157	£ 795,649	£ 1,272,420	49%
Supporting local businesses	£ 50,000	£ 267,071	£ 602,929	£ 920,000	35%
People and skills	£ 50,000	£ 100,000	£ 250,000	£ 400,000	15%
Grand total	£ 314,614	£ 629,228	£ 1,648,578	£ 2,592,420	100%

- 4.6 As set out above, there is a minimum capital threshold. Table 3 below shows the proposed capital expenditure included in our draft investment plan. This is in line with the requirements for the programme.

Table 3:

	22-23	23-24	24-25
Min threshold	10%	13%	20%
Proposed WL expenditure	24%	15%	33%

- 4.7 A range of match funding opportunities have been identified. Table 4 below sets out the match funding sources.

There are two elements to the West Lindsey Match Funding, funding that has already been agreed and is in place and then funding that we seek approval for in support of the UKSPF.

The specific items of new Match Funding sought in support the UKSPF are as follows:

- Green Spaces Officer fixed term post to 31st March 2025 £46,300 to be funded through MTFP.
- Growing Innovation £100,000 proposed from Invest to Grow Reserve.
- Local Skills Programme £30,000 (£10,000 p/a) proposed from the Project Reserve.

Table 4:

Match/Leverage Sources	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Other UK Gov Funding	£30,000	£80,000	£80,000	£190,000
Local Authority Contribution	£348,507	£206,355	£160,050	£714,912
Third Party Funder	£0	£50,000	£50,000	£100,000
	£378,507	£336,355	£290,050	£1,004,912

- 4.8 A cost estimate for each of the 12 interventions has been developed. Details are set out in Appendix 1 together with the outputs that are proposed will be delivered. This will continue to be refined as we create the business case for each of the three investment priorities.

5. Governance, Monitoring and Evaluation

- 5.1 We will work in partnership with our communities to deliver the SPF in West Lindsey, developing a governance structure that puts people at its core. The SPF allows us to grow a culture of inclusive and pragmatic governance that values outcomes not outputs and seeks to build long-term prosperity and resilience.
- 5.2 The monitoring and evaluation guidance has not yet been released by Government. We have developed an approach to assessing potential outputs and outcomes that the investment will deliver. If required this will be updated once the guidance is released. To this end the recommendation reflects that committee delegate this responsibility to the Director of Planning, Regeneration and Communities in consultation with the Chair of this (Corporate Policy and Resources) Committee.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Subject to committee approval the West Lindsey UK SPF Investment Plan will be submitted to the Department for Levelling Up Homes and Communities (DLUHC) through the government portal by 19th July 2022.
- 6.2 We understand that places will be engaged by DLUHC to discuss any queries and points of clarification throughout summer / early autumn 2022.
- 6.3 The prospectus sets out that subject to successful Investment Plans funding to local areas will be confirmed by late autumn followed by contracting.
- 6.4 During the period of contracting we will seek to commence the recruitment of the resources required to deliver the programme. Recruit will be subject to confirmation of funding and contracts only signed once funding is confirmed.
- 6.5 Post submission and during the period of clarification / awaiting decision the council will develop the implantation plan for the programme. This will include progressing the recruitment of required staff, implementing the procurement strategy and developing the interventions ready for delivery.
- 6.6 Once the Investment Plan is signed off and contracted with government. Corporate Policy and Resources Committee will be asked to consider the full business case for each investment objective.

