



**Corporate Policy &
Resources Committee**

Thursday, 12 June 2025

Subject: WLDC UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 Programme

Report by:	Director of Planning, Regeneration & Communities
Contact Officer:	<p>Sally Grindrod-Smith, James Makinson-Sanders, Grant White</p> <p>Director Planning, Regeneration & Communities, Economic Growth Team Manager, Communities Manager</p> <p>sally.grindrod-smith@west-lindsey.gov.uk, James.ms@west-lindsey.gov.uk, grant.white@west-lindsey.gov.uk</p>
Purpose / Summary:	Identification of the Council's programme for the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 Programme for approval.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. Following Prosperous Communities Committee's recommendation (on 03/06/25) of the identified UKSPF/REPF Programme 2025/26, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee approve the expenditure (establishment of capital and revenue budgets) and monitoring arrangements as set out in para 2.5 of this report.
2. Corporate Policy and Resources Committee delegate authority to the Director - Planning, Regeneration & Communities to manage the UKSPF programme via the UKSPF Programme Board.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Although there are no direct legal implications within this report (or UKSPF/REPF Investment Plan 2022/26), following lead local authority (LLA - North East Lincolnshire Council) approval of WLDC's UKSPF/REPF Investment Plan 2022/26, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed-off (Section 151 Officer) and returned to the LLA. It is likely the MOU will:

1. set out the terms that will apply to the relationship between the LLA, government and West Lindsey District Council regarding the administration and delivery of the UKSPF/REPF programme (2025/26 element).
2. cover the period April 2025 to March 2026. Changes will be made only where signatories deem it necessary.
3. set out the universal fund wide conditions and expectations for appropriate spend of the UKSPF/REPF (not intended to create legal or binding obligations).

Moving forwards, there will be a requirement to commission and/or procure goods and services and this will be subject to our agreed procurement and contract procedures, requiring sign-off by the Monitoring Officer. Subsidy Controls will be required and observed where required.

Financial: FIN/19/26/MT/SL

In the Autumn Budget (2024), the Government announced an extension of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for FY 2025/26, at a reduced level. On the 13th December 2024, the Government confirmed the allocations for the final year of UKSPF/REPF 2022/26 programme. The allocations for West Lindsey District Council 2025/2026 are as follows:

UKSPF – Capital £539,974, Revenue £300,000

REPF – Capital £238,694

Total Allocation: Capital £778,673, Revenue £300,000 = Total £1,078,668

Match funding is required for two of the projects and funding has been identified as follows:

Project 1.1 Flagship Community Grant Programme: WLDC match funding £150,000

- £100,000 has previously been approved from General Fund Balances for the Community Grants Programme.
- £50,000 is requested from the Environmental and Climate Change Reserve, leaving a balance on the reserve of £427,206.

Project 2.3 Growing Innovation: WLDC match funding £100,000

£100,000 is requested from the Feasibility Fund Reserve, leaving a balance on the reserve of £40,000.

Staffing :

We will utilise our existing, experienced resources to deliver the 2025/26 elements of WLDC's UKSPF/REPF 2022/26 programme. No new posts are identified within the 2025/26 programme.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

WLDC has a statutory public sector equality duty under the Equality Act 2010 (this is enshrined in the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy). Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows: A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to: (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. WLDC's UKSPF/REPF Investment Plan 2022/26 includes an assessment of equality considerations and how to tackle potential inequalities linked to accessing UKSPF/REPF opportunities.

The UKSPF/REPF/REPF Investment Plan 2022/26 has been 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). The EqIA for the UKSPF/REPF programme is a live document which will continue to be updated as the UKSPF/REPF Investment Plan operational delivery progresses to ensure latest best practice is captured and applied.

In line with the '[Equality impact assessment: government grants minimum standards \(HTML\) - GOV.UK](#)', WLDC will complete, where required, detailed Equality Impact Assessments (EqIA) for the in scope projects included in the UKSPF/REPF programme (for both internally and externally delivered projects).

Data Protection Implications:

The Business Cases for the original UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme identified that WLDC had a duty under the Data Protection Act 2018 to ensure that any personal data obtained in connection with UKSPF/REPF activities was handled in compliance with the Act.

Any personal data obtained through UKSPF/REPF activities 2022/26 will be managed in line with WLDC's privacy notices as follows:

1. Community and Place: Enterprising Communities Privacy Notice (www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/privacy/enterprising-communities-privacy-notice); and;
2. Supporting Local Businesses: Growth and Regeneration Privacy Notice (www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/privacy/growth-regeneration-privacy-notice).

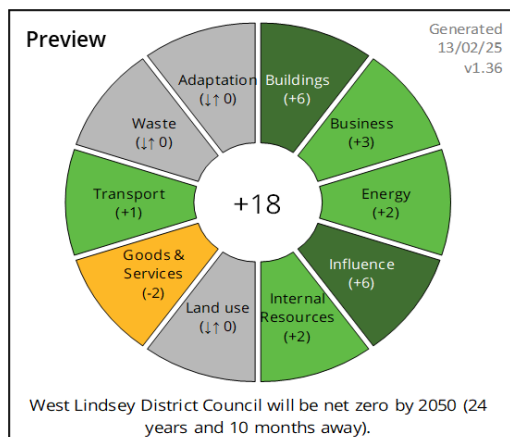
Data is likely to be collected in relation to assisting customers to access grant funding, deliver projects and to process any enquiries.

Data may be shared with external partners and/or consultants (employed or contracted by WLDC to assist in the delivery of UKSPF/REPF projects) and internal departments such as Finance to process grant payments.

WLDC's Data Protection Officer will ensure that any process employed which collects personal data respects the persons rights and follows prescribed law.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

As part of the development of the UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme the Climate Environment and Sustainability Impact Assessment Tool has been used to consider the environmental impact of the proposed programme.



At this stage, the CESIA has been undertaken summarily, at a programme level. UKSPF/REPF will support climate related opportunities which have the potential to see a positive impact on our environment/climate (e.g. the provision of environmental business support). Delivery of the UKSPF/REPF programme will also provide WLDC with further opportunities to champion 'net zero' advocacy, shaping and influencing our communities and businesses around best practice.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

The identified 2025/26 investments have the potential to provide infrastructure that can support the delivery of what can be considered as 'diversionary activities' across arts, culture, heritage, sport, skills, business and community activities.

Engaging in positive career and/or community activity is known reduce anti-social behaviour and increase a sense of community and pride in self/place.

We are not required to measure any specific Section 17 Crime and Disorder outputs or outcomes as part of UKSPF/REPF delivery.

Health Implications:

Although WLDC are not required to measure any specific health benefits linked to UKSPF/REPF funding, although elements of the UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme will deliver linked to positive health/well-being outcomes (supporting WLDC's Corporate Plan strategic aim to reduce health inequalities and promote wellbeing across the district through the promotion of healthy lifestyles). These interventions will support a reduction in feelings of social isolation and improve access to arts, heritage, culture and sporting/exercise activities.

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

Government guidance for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund can be found at: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26: Technical note - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026) and for the Rural England Prosperity Fund at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026>

Risk Assessment :

The Business Cases for the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 confirmed that the UKSPF/REPF programme is supported by a robust governance and assurance framework that complies with the Cabinet Offices assurance framework – this will continue to be utilised during the delivery of the UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme. The UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme will continue to be overseen by the WLDC Portfolio Board, with the WLDC Programme Board dealing with the operational oversight and reporting on the UKSPF/REPF updated Investment Plan. **Quarterly** financial updates will be given to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee and an update to the Prosperous Communities Committee on completion of delivery of the UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme.

A full risk register for the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme has been developed and will be utilised during the delivery of the UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme. The Council's robust, internal governance procedures will be fully applied to ensure that risks and opportunities are properly considered by the Programme Board.

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

X

No

☐

Executive Summary

WLDC have been allocated UK Shared Prosperity Funding and Rural England Prosperity Funding for 2025/2026. This is seen as a transitional continuation of the previous 22-25 programme. The total amount of funding allocated is:

UKSPF – Capital £539,974, Revenue £300,000

REPF – Capital £238,694

Total Allocation: Capital £778,673, Revenue £300,000 = Total £1,078,668

Under the new arrangements for the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority, North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) are the Accountable Body for this funding.



The Government have set a spend deadline of 31st March 2026. Any unspent funding will be lost. NELC will require the council to report on expenditure in September/ October and January. Any funding at risk of being unspent could be reallocated at these stages.

In line with the Council's constitution, Prosperous Communities Committee are required to approve the investment themes and delegate signatory of the funding agreement. Corporate Policy and Resources are required to approve the drawdown and expenditure of funds.

The proposed investments have been shaped based upon priorities set by the Administration of WLDC. Officers have worked these priorities into a deliverable programme. Where match funding is proposed, it is from existing sources as set out in the financial implications.

Appendix 1 sets out the previously delivered 22-25 programme – which is the context for this year's transitional continuation programme.

Appendix 2 sets out the proposed investments for 25-26 which are summarised below alongside their fit with the Government's programme requirements and Greater Lincolnshire priorities.

Project name	Description	
 Project 1.1: Flagship Community Grant Programme £474k minimum (£22.5k UKSPF rev, £65k UKSPF Cap, £238k REPF Cap and min £150k WLDC match)	Grant programme to support range of community-based activities, projects and programmes. Districtwide coverage.	2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire Mission: Community, Moving and Living Well
	Government Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities Sub Theme: Inclusive	
	New Project 1.2: Supporting Arts, Sport and Active Leisure £20k (UKSPF Rev)	
	Government Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities Sub Theme: Inclusive	
	Government Mission: Building an NHS fit for the Future Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities Sub Theme: Healthy	
Project 1.3 (extension of former 2.4): Town Centre Regeneration £615k (£115k UKSPF Rev and £500k UKSPF Cap)	A package of measures to bring town centre units into active use. Includes Premises Grant / Retail Agent Support / Car Parking Support / Promotional Video and Marketing	
	Government Mission: Kick Start Economic Growth Theme: Support for Business/Thriving Places Sub Theme: High Streets and Town Centres	
 Project 2.1: Flagship West Lindsey Business Support Programme £40k (UKSPF Rev)	Extension of the successful UKSPF 23/25 SME retail business advice programme. Part of the package of projects to bring town centre properties into active commercial use and improve the vitality of our markets. Districtwide coverage.	GLCCA A Flourishing Lincolnshire Strategic Growth Priorities: Defence, Clean Energy, Employment and Skills 2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire Mission: Innovation-Led Economy and Shared Prosperity
	Government Mission: Kick Start Economic Growth Theme: Support for Business Sub Theme: Advice, Enterprise	
	Project 2.3: Growing Innovation £150k (£50k UKSPF Rev and £100k WLDC match)	
	Development of the STEP Investment Plan for Gainsborough and West Lindsey to secure maximum benefit from STEP programme for Lincolnshire.	
	Government Mission: Kick Start Economic Growth Theme: Support for Business Sub Theme: Advice, Enterprise	
	Government Mission: Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower Theme: Support for Business Sub Theme: Sites	

Introduction

- 1.1 In the Autumn Budget (2024), the Government announced an extension of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for FY 2025/26, at a reduced level. On the 13th December 2024, the Government confirmed the allocations for the final year of UKSPF/REPF 2022/26 programme.
- 1.2 In areas where new devolution deals have been agreed, the new allocation has been pooled into a single allocation, with a requirement to nominate one lead authority for each devolved area.
- 1.3 When the UKSPF/REPF was originally launched in April 2022, funding amounts were allocated directly to Local Authorities based on population size and a needs-based index with a mix of both revenue and capital funding. Across the Greater Lincolnshire region, a total of £38,671,725.52 was awarded to be delivered via local programmes 2022/25.
- 1.4 In the single year allocation for 2025/26, Greater Lincolnshire MCCA (GLCCA) has received a single pot allocation of £12,119,794 which is split as 25% capital and 75% revenue, plus a 22% capital top-up which is exclusively for the MCCA to support the early development of Local Growth Plans and priority investments of £2,666,354.
- 1.5 This top-up was derived from other government sources, not taken from the UKSPF/REPF programme allocation.
- 1.6 As before, 4% of the fund can be deducted for management and administration costs. In view of the additional reporting and administration responsibility on the lead authority, the GLCCA will be recommended to approve a 0.75% = £110,896 allocation of the 4% administration budget to the lead authority, leaving a 3.25% monitoring and administration maximum allowance for each of the 11 Greater Lincolnshire delivery authorities (including the GLCCA) to deduct for delivery costs. The method for reclaiming these costs is yet to be identified.
- 1.7 The decision regarding the allocation of UKSPF funding in Greater Lincolnshire was agreed by the GLCCA as part of their inaugural meeting in March 2025. Each area's allocation was confirmed.
- 1.8 As part of the devolution process locally, there is a commitment to distribute UKSPF/REPF 25/26 equitably to 'delivery authorities'. Accordingly, Greater Lincolnshire will utilise a funding model where the one-year single pot allocation of UKSPF/REPF is passported to existing delivery authorities based on the same funding share as the 2022 allocation, giving each area the opportunity to prioritise local need, extend successful projects or identify new ones.
- 1.9 The distribution method will ensure the slight reduction in funding will be distributed proportionally to the size of the original entitlement. The original individual allocations resulting from the above proposed methodology can be seen in the table below (please note: delivery authorities have been allowed to reprofile original local cap/rev allocations to meet local programme objectives):

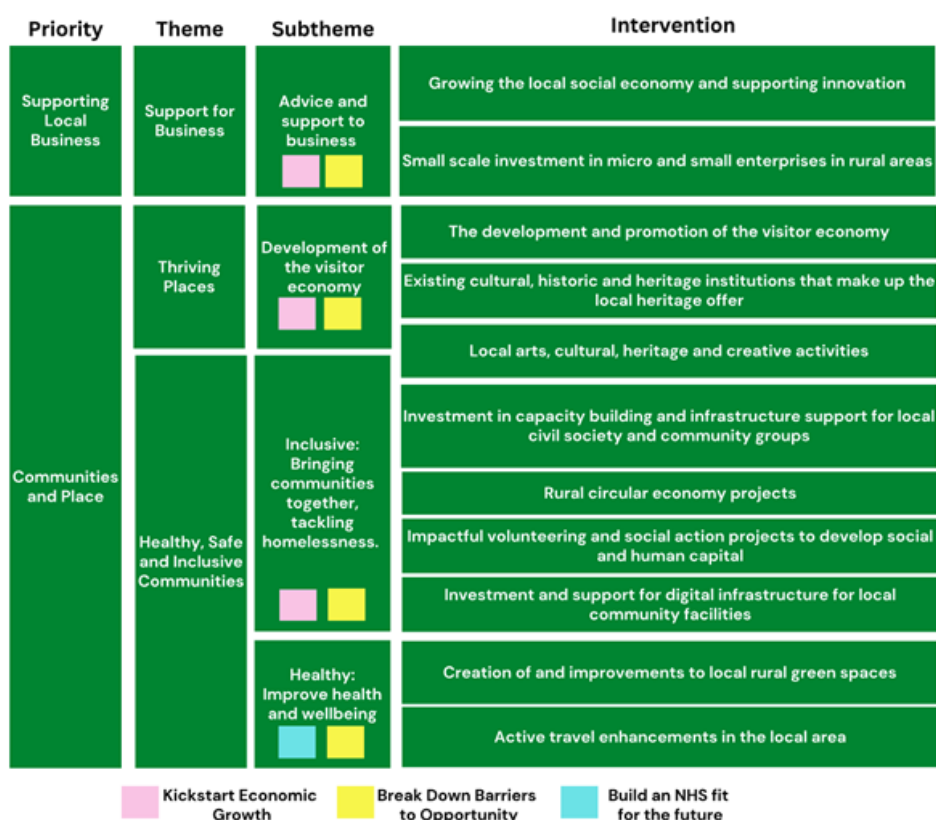
					Allowable M&A at 3.25% (deductable from Revenue)
Authority	% of the balance	Capital	Revenue	Allocation 25/26	
MCCA		£2,666,354	£0	£2,666,354	
Boston	6%	£112,170	£570,386	£682,556	£22,351
East Lindsey	11%	£226,875	£1,153,660	£1,380,535	£45,206
Lincoln	7%	£143,680	£730,615	£874,295	£28,629
NE Lincs	16%	£319,221	£1,623,239	£1,942,460	£63,607
North Kesteven	8%	£163,328	£830,524	£993,852	£32,544
N Lincs	17%	£330,968	£1,682,972	£2,013,940	£65,948
South Holland	7%	£137,662	£700,014	£837,677	£27,430
South Kesteven	10%	£199,286	£1,013,373	£1,212,660	£39,709
West Lindsey	7%	£138,040	£701,934	£839,974	£27,505
Lincolnshire CC	10%	£205,579	£1,045,368	£1,250,947	£40,963
		£4,643,163	£10,052,087	£14,695,250	£393,893

- 1.10 **West Lindsey District Council's identified allocation for 2025/26 is £839,974. Following reprofiling, £539,974 of this total allocation is Capital and £300,000 is Revenue. As part of WLDC's allocated Revenue budget, £27,505 can be utilised for scheme administration ('M&A').**
- 1.11 North East Lincolnshire Council have been appointed as the Lead Authority for the 2025/26 programme (based on their experience in UKSPF monitoring and management processes and their confirmed role of providing interim financial resourcing and oversight for the MCCA).
- 1.12 All Greater Lincolnshire Delivery Authorities were asked to provide a high level summary of their refreshed investment plans to the Lead Authority in April 2025 to enable a government return by the accountable body on 1st May.
- 1.13 Delivery Authorities are required to have taken their 2025/26 UKSPF/REPF programme through their own relevant governance process and ensure alignment with the slightly revised government guidance.
- 1.14 On 27th March 2025, allocations were published for the continuation of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). REPF is a top-up awarded to UKSPF by DEFRA to address the additional needs and challenges facing rural areas.
- 1.15 **West Lindsey District Councils capital only allocation for REPF is £238,694.**

1.16 UKSPF aims to support the following:



1.17 REPF aims to support the following:



2. WLDC's UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 Programme

- 2.1 WLDC's UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 Investment Plan was approved by government in 2022 (REPF in 2023) and Green Book compliant business cases were produced to confirm WLDC's approach to delivering the 2022/25 UKSPF/REPF programme locally.
- 2.2 WLDC was allocated (with the addition REPF) £3.496m to deliver the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme, split across three priority areas identified in government guidance: (1) **Communities and Place** (£1.75m); (2) **Supporting Local Business** (£1.238m); and; (3) **People and Skills** (£0.4m) and 4% admin grant. 2022/25 UKSPF/REPF had a local capital/revenue split of c.27% and c.73% respectively - REPF was 100% capital.
- 2.3 The specific composition of the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme is identified in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Director for Planning, Regeneration & Communities was delegated authority, by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, to manage the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme via a UKSPF/REPF Programme Board – overseeing programme delivery, governance and reporting.
- 2.5 Scheme progress was formally reported to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee every quarter and as required to government.
- 2.6 Additionally, following internal scheme approval, members were appraised of the composition of the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme and its' progress in an open member session (Jan 2024) and via a progress update to PC committee (Jun 2024). Regular project specific releases were used as a means of providing public oversight of the programme.
- 2.7 A full review of the impact of the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme will be conducted during 2025/26 and presented to Prosperous Communities Committee.

3. WLDC's UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 Programme Extension

- 3.1 **As identified in 1.10 and 1.15, West Lindsey District Council's identified total UKSPF/REPF allocation for 2025/26 is. £1,078,668.**
- 3.2 In line with government guidance, there is a clear requirement that any UKSPF/REPF funding which is not committed by 31/03/26 should be returned to MHCLG/DEFRA.
- 3.3 When planning UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programmes, all Delivery Authorities are recommended to factor in the single year nature of the allocation and note that any future funding of this nature will be managed and distributed by MCCAs. As such Delivery Authorities are encouraged to give priority to schemes aligning closely to MCCA priorities and collaborative schemes crossing authority boundaries, to assist in the transition to a centrally funded position and maximise opportunities for longer term funding sustainability.
- 3.4 The GLCCA have recommended that a review of projects in delivery is undertaken by the Lead Local Authority in September 2025 and January 2026. Any underspend from projects which have been unable to achieve the level of spend anticipated will be pooled across the Greater Lincolnshire geography and made available for additional, or overachieving projects elsewhere, subject to approval from the MCCA.

- 3.5 The constraints identified in 3.2. to 3.4 provide the defining structure for the composition of WLDC's UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 Programme (as well as government's updated guidance on UKSPF 2025/26: www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-2025-26-technical-note) and REPF 2025/26: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus/rural-england-prosperity-fund-prospectus-updates-for-2025-to-2026>
- 3.6 To inform the development of the UKSPF/REPF 25/26 programme some members received an update from officers at a meeting of Leaders Panel held on 3rd February. Subsequently the Leader provided a list of priorities for delivery in the 25/26 programme. This has formed the basis of the programme.
- 3.7 Given the additional UKSPF/REPF allocation essentially represents an extension to the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme (essentially a UKSPF/REPF 2022/26 programme) – where possible, elements of the original WLDC Investment Plan remain consistent, such as consultation with stakeholders. During the delivery of the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme, there has been continuing on-going dialogue with providers regarding the progress and successes of the various programme elements and this dialogue is reflected in our UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme.
- 3.8 Aligned to this, the original UKSPF/REPF priorities (identified in 2.2) have been retained by government for the UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme and are now linked to their 'Missions' e.g. Kick-Starting Economic Growth and 'Themes' e.g. Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities, Thriving Places, and Support for Business (see 1.16 and 1.17).
- 3.9 Although there is not a requirement to deliver schemes across all three priorities, government guidance identifies that 2025/26 programmes should continue to reflect the local needs identified through the UKSPF/REPF 2022/25 programme investment plan and best practice realised during the delivery of the 2022/25 programme. Outputs and outcomes to be achieved are provided within the guidance.
- 3.10 In identifying the WLDC UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme, the following hierarchical guiding principles have been utilised:



Lead criteria:

- Provides full Alignment with Administration delivery priorities;
- Aligns with UKSPF/REPF/REPF policy and wider local and national government policy; and;
- Is realistically deliverable before 31/03/26.

Secondary criteria:

- Builds on the successes the 2022/25 UKSPF/REPF programme;
- Provides geographic coverage/spread;
- Provides a legacy for West Lindsey into local government reorganisation; and;
- Multiplies or saves WLDC budget.

3.11 The proposed UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme is attached at Appendix 2 and includes:

Project name	Description	
 Project 1.1: Flagship Community Grant Programme £474k minimum (£22.5k UKSPF rev, £65k UKSPF Cap, £238k REPF Cap and min £150k WLDC match)	Grant programme to support range of community-based activities, projects and programmes. Districtwide coverage.	2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire Mission: Community; Moving and Living Well
	Government Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities Sub Theme: Inclusive	
	New Project 1.2: Supporting Arts, Sport and Active Leisure £20k (UKSPF Rev)	
	Encouraging and enabling participation in local Arts, Sports and Active Leisure opportunities including at the Trinity Arts Centre and through major events.	
	Government Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities Sub Theme: Inclusive	
 Project 1.3 (extension of former 2.4): Town Centre Regeneration £615k (£115k UKSPF Rev and £500k UKSPF Cap)	Government Mission: Building an NHS fit for the Future Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities Sub Theme: Healthy	GLCCA A Flourishing Lincolnshire Strategic Growth Priorities: Defence, Clean Energy, Employment and Skills 2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire Mission: Innovation-Led Economy and Shared Prosperity
	A package of measures to bring town centre units into active use. Includes Premises Grant / Retail Agent Support / Car Parking Support / Promotional Video and Marketing	
	Government Mission: Kick Start Economic Growth Theme: Support for Business/Thriving Places Sub Theme: High Streets and Town Centres	
Project 2.1: Flagship West Lindsey Business Support Programme £40k (UKSPF Rev)	Extension of the successful UKSPF 23/25 SME retail business advice programme. Part of the package of projects to bring town centre properties into active commercial use and improve the vitality of our markets. Districtwide coverage.	GLCCA A Flourishing Lincolnshire Strategic Growth Priorities: Defence, Clean Energy, Employment and Skills 2050 Vision for Greater Lincolnshire Mission: Innovation-Led Economy and Shared Prosperity
	Government Mission: Kick Start Economic Growth Theme: Support for Business Sub Theme: Advice, Enterprise	
	Project 2.3: Growing Innovation £150k (£50k UKSPF Rev and £100k WLDC match)	
	Development of the STEP Investment Plan for Gainsborough and West Lindsey to secure maximum benefit from STEP programme for Lincolnshire.	
	Government Mission: Kick Start Economic Growth Theme: Support for Business Sub Theme: Advice, Enterprise	
	Government Mission: Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower Theme: Support for Business Sub Theme: Sites	

	Project 1.1: Flagship Community Grants Programme	Project 1.2: Support Arts, Sport and Active Leisure	Project 1.3: Town Centre Regeneration
Lead Officer:	Grant White	Cara Markham	Wendy Osgodby
Element(s):	Extension of the established WLDC Community Grants Programme and established delivery mechanisms/governance. The main fund is open to any project which demonstrates wider community impact/value. The Environmental and Climate Change Reserve allocation ('Community Sustainability Grant') is ring-fenced specifically for projects which clearly advance environmental sustainability or climate action in the district (administration via the Communities Team with oversight from the E&S MSG).	1. Approach to securing 'attractor' events for WL. 2. Supporting TAC to increase its' community role. These elements will seek to encourage and enable participation in local Arts, Sports and Active Leisure opportunities in the district – linked to wider aspirations to improve local leisure facilities etc.	1. Premises Grant (to include Cinema Unit C). 2. GP Surgery Business Case. 3. Cost appraisal updates (inc. Nat West Bank). 4. Retail Agent Expertise (External Specialists). 5. Free Car Parking Pilot. 6. Promotional Video (Professional). These elements (as well as 2.1) will seek to develop the vitality and sustainability of our town centres with a specific focus on Gainsborough during 25/26.
Budget:	£474k £22.5k UKSPF Revenue £65k UKSPF Capital £238k REPF Capital £150k WLDC (£100k approved from General Fund balances and £50k requested from Environmental and Climate Change Reserve)	£20k 1. £10k UKSPF Revenue 2. £10k UKSPF Revenue	£615k 1. £450k UKSPF Capital 2. £25k UKSPF Capital 3. £28k UKSPF Revenue 4. £75k UKSPF Revenue 5. £32k UKSPF Revenue 6. £5k UKSPF Revenue
Route to/Method of Delivery:	Existing Internal Process (adaptation of existing grant scheme)	Procurement/Consultant	Existing Internal Process (adaptation of existing grant scheme) and Procurement/Consultant
Geographic Coverage:	District Wide	Gainsborough	Gainsborough (+ District Wide)

	Project 2.1: Flagship WL Business Support Programme	Project 2.2: Growing Innovation
Lead Officer:	Wendy Osgodby/Claire Hill	James Makinson-Sanders
Element(s):	Evolution of the successful UKSPF 2022/25 programme, which delivered 1,168 hours of business support to 63 WL businesses - tailored to specifically support SME retail businesses (part of the package of projects to improve the vitality of our town centres).	The STEP Investment Plan will outline the investment requirements and funding mechanisms to support the delivery of growth aligned with STEP and opportunities linked to the wider super-cluster development. The GIP will position Gainsborough as a thriving hub of innovation, clean energy and advanced manufacturing - leveraging the proximity of West Burton (STEP) and the surrounding supercluster to drive economic/housing growth, attract investment, and create high-quality jobs.
Budget:	£40k UKSPF Revenue	£150k £50k: UKSPF Revenue £100k: WLDC (Feasibility Fund Reserve) (potential for additional contributions from the GLCCA)
Route to/Method of Delivery:	Existing Procurement/Consultant	Procurement/Consultant
Geographic Coverage:	District Wide	Gainsborough (+ District Wide)

- 3.12 Wherever practicable we will look to work with partners, such as the Greater Lincolnshire CCA, to identify supportive co-funding opportunities to increase the scope and impact of our UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme.

4. Options appraisal

- 4.1 The development of the UKSPF/REPF/REPF 25/26 programme has been challenging given the changing nature of government guidance, local governance and uncertainty around the REPF allocation.
- 4.2 The proposed UKSPF/REPF/REPF 25/26 programme aims to reflect the hierarchical guiding principles identified in 3.10, acknowledging the proposed UKSPF/REPF/REPF 25/26 programme has a realistic chance of delivery over what will effectively be a nine (9) month programme once committee approval is in place.
- 4.3 Learning from the UKSPF/REPF 22/25 programme, the number of interventions has been reduced in order to ensure delivery is viable. In reviewing how other delivery authorities approached delivery of the UKSPF/REPF 22/25 programme, it is clear that some authorities supported only one or two high level priorities. This approach was discounted as an option for the WLDC 25/26 programme in line with the hierarchical guiding principles set out at 3.10 but also in order to ensure that the full allocation could be invested during the period June 25 to 31st March 2026.

- 4.4 The do-nothing option has also been discounted. In this scenario, it is likely that WLDC's allocation would be redistributed amongst other Lincolnshire local authorities and

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The UKSPF/REPF 2025/26 programme identified in 3.11 presents WLDC with a realistic delivery programme, which concurrently meets all of the criteria identified in 3.10 and negates the risks identified in 3.4.