

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL DECISION

DECISION OF: ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PLACEMAKING & GROWTH.
IN ACCORDANCE WITH DELEGATED AUTHORITY 22/23 DP 53 AND
S151 OFFICER.



WITH ADVICE FROM: FINANCE BUSINESS PARTNER (PLACE) AND HEAD OF ECONOMY

DECISION NO: 22/23 DP 175

SUBJECT: UKSPF INVESTMENT PLAN

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: The value of this decision exceeds £500,000

This is an urgent decision. The public notice procedure has been followed.

BACKGROUND:

1. Context and objectives

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was introduced by Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to replace European Structural and investment funding which the UK continues to participate in until 2023. This funding was focused on local regeneration, employment and skills.

UKSPF will focus on activities that must support three Investment priorities:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

UKSPF was allocated to combined and unitary authorities to deliver the priorities above over three years April 2022 to March 2025, with year 1 delivery to commence in October 2022.

North Somerset allocation of core UKSPF is £2,516,852.

In order to determine the priority outcome and intervention areas for North Somerset, investment principles, and allocation of funding to the three priorities set out by Government North Somerset Council has carried out an extensive consultation process with internal and external stakeholders, as well as mapping evidence and priorities from across the council's major existing strategies.

2. Stakeholders consulted:

Council:

- Executive Elected Members
- Libraries

- Community and Environment
- Placemaking and Development
 - Weston Placemaking
 - Heritage and Design
 - Climate emergency team
- Economic Development team including
 - The Employment and Skills
 - Business support and sector development
 - Inward Investment
- Policy and Partnerships

External:

- Weston College
- Voluntary Action North Somerset (VANS)
- North Somerset Enterprise Agency (HIVE)
- Citizens Advice
- The Stables
- Culture Weston
- Age Diversity Forum
- CURO Group
- Department for Work and Pension
- Local MPs

Boards / Groups:

- North Somerset Partnership Board
- NSC Economic Steering Group
- NSC Employment and Skills Taskforce
- North Somerset Wellbeing Collective Board
- CRF Community Hubs delivery partners

Strategies reviewed:

- Corporate Strategy
- Economic Plan
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Employment and Skills Strategy
- Empowering Communities Strategy
- Green Infrastructure Plan
- Placemaking Strategy
- Inward Investment Vision
- J21 Vision
- Creative Industries Plan
- Visitor Economic Action Plan

3. North Somerset Priority Areas and Investment Principles identified from consultation and strategy review:

Priority areas:

1. Wellbeing and Engagement
 - a. Tackling social isolation (dovetailing with Health budgets)
 - b. Improving mental health (In particular in relation to access to advice and guidance, access to open space and nature, and targeted support for key groups including younger people, older people, people with additional needs)
 - c. Cultural programmes that support communities to participate in and access a range of cultural activities
 - d. Food and food poverty interventions
2. Community Infrastructure
 - a. Community infrastructure support provision (ensuring sustainable provision of leadership development, engagement, support and guidance, organising, capacity building)
 - b. Access to flexible funding to deliver partnership programmes based on evolving community need and opportunities
 - c. Support for strengthening partnerships and leveraging larger scale funding into community sector led programmes
3. Physical infrastructure
 - a. Transport connections for communities (could include work to support communities to influence and shape wider transport spending)
 - b. Assets , buildings development (including access to capital funds, and access to specialist business support, feasibility work)
 - c. Public realm, high streets (dovetailing with placemaking agenda)
 - d. Green infrastructure development (dovetailing with Green Infrastructure strategy)
4. Business support infrastructure
 - a. Business support including universal and specialist support, and a clear focus on carbon reduction, as well as supporting community business
 - b. Business grants (including Green Business Grants, and building on CRF voucher scheme)
 - c. Activities to increase local footfall (including investment in cultural events, public realm, high streets, and marketing, across all of NS)
5. Employment and Skills
 - a. Work experience and outreach (including enabling key providers to deliver in more locations e.g., through libraries etc; including work with business support programmes to build up work experience opportunities)
 - b. Accessing employment support (including WoE Works-type provision; including NEET provision)
 - c. In-work progression (including support to businesses to build better job design and workforce development)
 - d. Core and technical skills offer.

Core principles for outcomes:

1. SPF money should build long term strength in the underlying infrastructure of an area, including:
 - a. quality and quantity of physical infrastructure;
 - b. quality and quantity of capabilities across institutions and communities;
 - c. quality and strength of partnerships;

- d. strength of institutional resilience
- 2. All four of these dimensions need to be equitably strengthened across different parts of the local community - this may require greater support to communities with less historic infrastructure wealth and strength, and support to longer term institutions to more equitably support and represent all parts of the community (including on geographic, ethnicity, class, age, specific needs, etc)
- 3. Some of this will be through direct investment in infrastructure; some will be in explicitly ensuring that direct funding of activities is designed to build infrastructure and institutional capacity as part of programme delivery.

Design principles for delivery:

- 1. **NET ZERO dimension** to be woven into all interventions, including through specifying which net-0 related KPIs programmes can contribute to
- 2. **Equalities and target groups** should be key consideration in everything, with particular priority groups identified in the mapping and consultation as follows: migrant communities especially those with NRPF; young people especially NEET 16-24 yrs; Older people especially those with dementia; BAME communities; those living in particularly high deprivation geographic areas; adults with autism
- 3. In general, work should seek to **enable mainstream services and economy to cater well to groups with particular needs**, in the long term; rather than primarily focus on just supporting those with additional needs to cope better with mainstream services through short term support projects

4. Proposed budget split:

By UKSPF Priority Area and Year:

Budget breakdown by year and theme area:

Year 1

Community and Place priority

Revenue - £166,984

Capital - £30,545

Business Support

Capital – £89,570

Revenue - £0

People and Skills

Revenue - £0

Capital – £0

Year 2

Community and Place priority

Revenue - £279,130

Capital - £29,415

Business Support

Revenue – £215,652

Capital - £50,000

People and Skills
Revenue - £116,306
Capital – £0

Year 3

Community and Place priority

Revenue - £203,013

Capital - £70,052

Business Support

Revenue – £247,479

Capital - £250,052

People and Skills

Revenue - £676,932

Capital – £0

By spend type over three years:

In house staff (revenue) - £565,587

Commissioned provision (revenue) - £1,045,000

Fund-based provision (revenue) - £476,201

In house capital spend (capital) - £30,545

Fund-based spend (capital) - £399,519

DECISION:

1. To approve the identified priorities for UKSPF investment, ahead of submission to central government to unlock funds
2. To approve the proposed budget breakdown across priority areas and spend type, ahead of submission to central government to unlock funds
3. To approve submission of Investment Plan to DLUHC

REASONS:

1. The report from the Exec resolution on 27th April 2022 approved: “that the Executive delegated approval to the Directors of Place and Corporate Services to submit an Investment Plan to the Government in respect of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund”.
2. Priorities have been identified through consultation and review of strategies
3. Investment Plan needs to be submitted by 31st July to unlock funding
4. Budget breakdown factors in the necessary funds to sustain in-house staff and partnership delivery currently funded by ESF funding and other external funding streams which runs out over the course of the next two years.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

1. Revised and alternative priorities – rejected as priorities identified are based on consultation and review of current priorities and strategies.

2. Revised and alternative budget split – rejected as proposed budget balances need to continue funding provision of services currently funded through ESF for which funding is running out, with ambition to invest in growing new areas of provision and innovation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Total funding to be unlocked through investment plan: £2,516 851

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

The consultation has been carried out based on central government requirements to consult. Any commissioning, procurement or fund allocation of the UKSPF funds will be delivered in line with statutory and legal requirements

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

UKSPF funding will support investment in climate and environmental priorities

CONSULTATION

See details above for stakeholders involved in consultation

RISK MANAGEMENT

n/a

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The UKSPF investment plan is designed to support some of the most disadvantaged residents in North Somerset, some of whom fall into a protected group. Although a targeted programme, it is open to all who need the type of support offered, so no-one can be excluded on any equalities criteria. We anticipate that the plan will provide specific positive benefits for all that participate, and that this will include people with disabilities, people from minority ethnic groups and people aged under 25 or over 50, as they tend to be over-represented in the unemployed, low wage and/ or economically inactive cohorts.

Take-up of the provision will be monitored and information about protected characteristics recorded; this will be reviewed regularly to ensure that people from all groups are accessing support. The project will also be actively promoted via partners and other stakeholders to priority groups and those with protected characteristics where relevant.

Impact Level Insert X into one box per row, for impact level and type.	Impact type						
	High	Medium	Low	None	Positive	Neutral	Negative
Disabled people		x			x		
People from different ethnic groups			x		x		
Men or women (including pregnant women or those on maternity leave)		x			x		
Lesbian, gay or bisexual people			x		x		
People on a low income		x			x		

People in particular age groups		x			x		
People in particular faith groups			x		x		
People who are married or in a civil partnership			x			x	
Transgender people			x		x		
Other specific impacts, for example: carers, parents, impact on health and wellbeing.			x		x		

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

UKSPF funding will support delivery of corporate strategic priorities

APPENDICES

UKSPF guidance can be viewed here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

BACKGROUND PAPERS: N/A

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S):



Signed: Assistant Director Neighbourhoods and Transport on behalf of Assistant Director Placemaking and Growth

Date: 29 July 2022



Signed: S151 Officer

Date: 29 July 2022.