

Report to Cabinet

Subject: UK Shared Prosperity Fund KSPF Year 4 Activity Update

Date: 22 May 2025

Author: Assistant Director for Economic Growth & Regeneration

Wards Affected

All wards

Key Decision

This is a key decision

Purpose

To provide an update on activity and plans for projects associated with the extension of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to Year 4 (2025/2026).

Recommendation(s)

THAT:

- 1) Cabinet approves expenditure of the established capital and revenue budget on projects identified at Appendix 2**

1. Background

- 1.1 In April 2022 the former government launched a three-year funding programme of £2.6b, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) to support local investment.
- 1.2 Gedling was awarded an allocation of £2,866,555, split between capital and revenue funding as part of the 2022-2025 award. Over the last three years, the funds have been invested into projects that have supported growth for the borough's communities, businesses and residents, creating a meaningful impact and legacy.
- 1.3 The UK government's Autumn Budget announced a further £900 million of UKSPF funding for local investment in the 2025/2026 financial year. The programme extension will support the government's ambitious plan for change, and focus on ambitious, measurable, long-term objectives that provide a driving sense of purpose for the country.

- 1.4 For the 2025/26 extension, existing interventions have been mapped into Mission-led themes across the three priority areas: Communities and Place; Support for Local Business; and People and Skills (see *appendix 1*).
- 1.5 Allocations for Gedling and other Nottinghamshire districts and boroughs were confirmed following ratification via the EMCCA Board on the 10th of February 2025. Gedling Borough Council will receive £1,172,054 split between capital (£513,506) and revenue (£658,548). Following Cabinet approval on the 19th of March 2025, a capital and revenue budget for the new allocation has been established to facilitate expenditure under year 4 of the UKSPF Programme.
- 1.6 The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) will continue to oversee year 4 of the UKSPF Programme, working in close partnership with the devolved governments and other UK government departments. The aim of the UKSPF extension is to provide a smooth transition from the existing programme to a new, future funding framework.
- 1.7 Lead local authorities have been required to submit a forecast on project and spend activity for the extended period through the submission of a forecast to EMCCA in April 2025.
- 1.8 To identify suitable projects, service areas were invited to submit UKSPF project proposals in the lead up to the April 2025 EMCCA forecast submission. Where appropriate, officers have been working collaboratively with key stakeholders to identify potential proposals. These proposals were reviewed and assessed by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) having regard to the mission lead themes across the three priority areas. A list of the proposed projects and their value is included at Appendix 2.
- 1.9 The Gedling UKSPF Local Partnership Group were updated on planned activity at the meeting which took place on the 13th of May 2025. The Group were supportive and complimentary toward the proposed allocations.

2 Proposals

- 2.1 Approval is sought to expend the established capital and revenue budget on projects identified at Appendix 2

3 Alternative Options

- 3.1 The Council has the option to identify alternative projects for the expenditure of the funding award providing they are in accordance with the mission themes and priorities. The proposed projects detailed at Appendix 2 have however been carefully assessed by SLT to meet the priorities of the funding award and are deliverable in the 2025/26 financial year, providing business support, training and capital projects within the borough.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 As detailed in paragraph 1.5 the Council has been allocated £1,172,054 of UKSPF funding for the one-year extended period (2025/26).
- 4.2 The award of the grant will be subject to approval of a 25/26 activity forecast and the Council's acceptance of the revised Memorandum of Understanding, setting out the UKSPF requirements and obligations.
- 4.3 Procurement of projects and services for 2025/2026 has commenced following approval of a revenue (£658,548) and capital (£513,506) budget.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 It is recognised that there is a need for strong governance of the UKSPF projects to ensure lawful decision making and management in line with the Council's Constitution and relevant statutory requirements, including the selection of projects that will be progressed.
- 5.2 As part of the 25/26 programme there will an assessment of the subsidy rules in respect of both identified projects and the future spend of that funding by the Council.
- 5.3 In terms of procurement, consideration has been given to future procurement options for the projects, again these must be undertaken in line with statutory requirements and the Council's Contracts and Procurement Rules. Grants to third parties must also be awarded in accordance with the Council's Funding Strategy and Financial Regulations. Grants will be subject to appropriate grant agreements being in place to secure how the funds are spent and to comply with any monitoring requirements.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment was produced as part of the 2022/2025 UKSPF Investment Plan.

7 Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability Implications

- 7.1 As a continuation of the 2022/2025 UKSPF, the programme provides opportunities to support carbon reduction as part of
 - Supporting communities and place
 - Supporting local businesses in preparing for Net Zero
 - Developing employment and skills programmes to support Carbon Reduction/Environmental Sustainability

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Mapping UKSPF Interventions
Appendix 2 - UKSPF Y4 Proposals

Appendix 3 – Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)

Appendix 4 – Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)

9 Background papers

There are no background papers

10 Reasons for recommendations

10.1 The proposed projects are in accordance with the themes and priorities detailed in the MHCLG guidance for the programme extension.

Statutory Officer approval

Approved by:

Approved by: