



## Officer Decision Record – Key Decision

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Key decisions taken by an officer are subject to the 5 day call in period from circulation to Members, and therefore the decision will be released for implementation following the call-in period and no call in being received

#### 1. Cabinet date and copy resolution this key decision relates to

20<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

#### DN.30 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

1. That the submission of Investment Plan for UKSPF to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) be approved.
2. That authority be given to the Executive Director for Environment, Economy, and Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to take all actions necessary, including
  - 2.1 Acceptance of the grant funding award from the DLUHC.
  - 2.2 Defrayal of the grant and any ancillary activity in support of the above recommendations.
3. That the Assistant Director Law, Governance and Assets (Monitoring Officer) be delegated the responsibility to execute all documentation arising.

#### 2. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision)

The purpose of this report is to update on the one-year extension to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the new delivery and monitoring arrangements, and to seek approval for the proposed expenditure and delivery model for the 2025/26 allocation of funds to North East Lincolnshire Council and to recognise North East Lincolnshire Council as the nominated authority to act as lead on behalf of the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral Combined County (MCCA) authority.

## **Background**

UK Shared Prosperity Fund was launched in April 2022 as an allocated fund based on population size and a needs-based index. North East Lincolnshire was awarded a total of £6,244,819, allocated as £962,714 to support adult numeracy interventions (Multiply), and £5,282,105 for core UKSPF.

In December 2024, government announced a final year of UKSPF with all areas receiving a further allocation to deliver interventions across mission led themes under the three priority areas of Communities and Place, Support for Local Business, and People and Skills as shown in the diagram below. In addition, the government has reduced the UKSPF budget.

Multiply has not been extended, but local authorities can choose to deliver this through UKSPF for 2025/26.

UKSPF investment priorities and the government’s Missions



Image description: This picture sets out the 5 government Missions.

- Mission 1: Kickstart economic growth
- Mission 2: Make Britain a clean energy superpower
- Mission 3: Take back our streets
- Mission 4: Break down barriers to opportunity
- Mission 5: Build an NHS fit for the future

It then shows the three investment priorities for UKSPF (Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills), their underlying themes and the sub-theme/scope of each. It shows how the five Government Missions will be delivered by UKSPF activity under each priority and theme.

The primary goals of UKSPF have remained the same, and any projects which were funded under the original scheme can continue to be funded in the final year, however the reporting process is being streamlined and the outputs reduced.

Governance

Where new devolution deals have been agreed since the initial UKSPF programme launch, allocations are pooled into a single allocation under the MCCA, with one lead authority for each devolved area. A new investment plan is not required, the lead authority will be expected to update on the delivery programme in April 2025 as part of the monitoring process, with all other councils closing current programmes at the end of March 2025. There will not be an option to submit bespoke interventions to the 25/26 programme.

It was agreed by the MCCA that a constituent authority with existing knowledge and expertise in the UKSPF monitoring and management processes be appointed as the lead authority for the 25/26 programme. Each of the three constituent authorities could fit that profile, but with North East Lincolnshire having financial responsibility for the MCCA this was the most appropriate fit.

All other councils will close their existing programmes at the end of March 2025, repaying any underspend as per the contract.

The Greater Lincolnshire MCCA has received an allocation at local authority level of £12,119,794 which is split between capital and revenue, plus a capital only top-up which is exclusively for the MCCA to support the early development of Local Growth Plans and priority investments of £2,666,354. This top-up was derived from other government sources, not taken from the UKSPF programme allocation.

UKSPF national guidance states that Management and Administration (M&A) of up to 4% can be deducted from the overall allocation, however, this must be forecast and spent as revenue. As the MCCA allocation is capital only, this has been excluded from the top-slice process. In view of the additional reporting and administration responsibility on the lead authority, it is agreed that the first 0.75% (£90,898) is allocated to the lead authority, leaving a suggested 3.25% M&A allowance for each council to deduct for delivery costs. It will be up to the individual councils to determine how they utilise this.

Each individual council will have responsibility for updating their own investment plans, seeking approval for these through their own governance processes, and submitting to North East Lincolnshire Council for collating into one submission document through the Delta reporting system.

Due to the need to submit updated investment plans at the beginning of April 2025, to fast-track political briefing process Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) will complete this stage on behalf of LCC and districts, North and North East Lincolnshire councils will carry out briefings with individual Leaders.

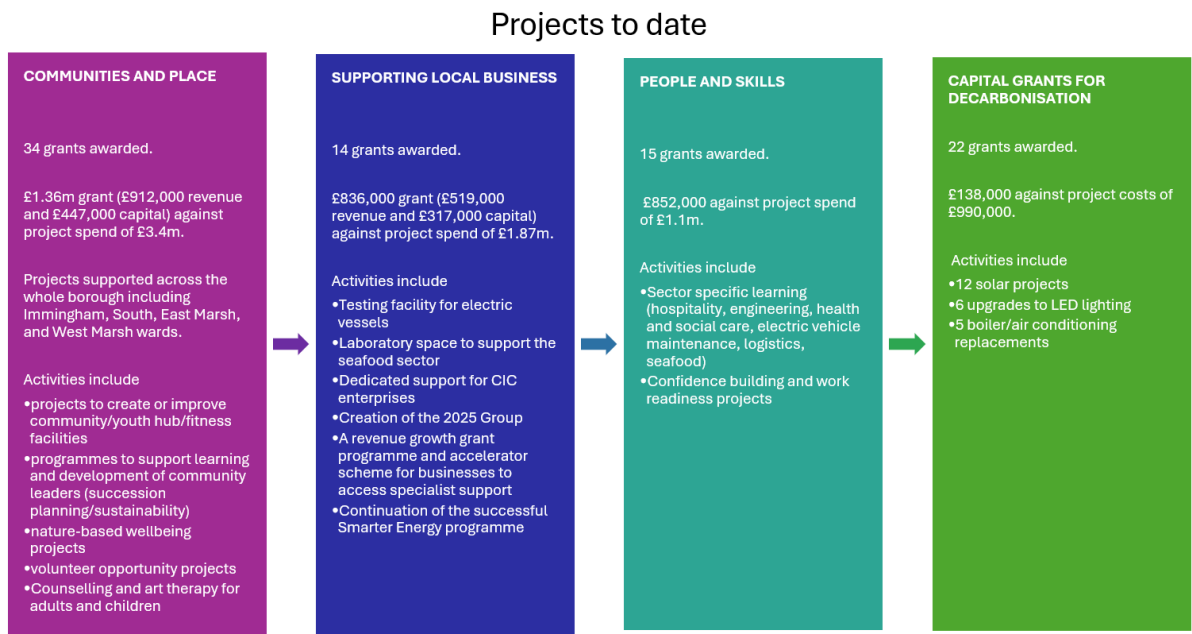
To enable the MCCA to have opportunity to review the programme, only 50% of the allocated funds will be defrayed to councils initially, with balancing payments or reprofiling made at the October reporting period.

**North East Lincolnshire allocation**

Allocations to individual councils have been calculated based on the same percentage split as the original overall Greater Lincolnshire allocations. For North East Lincolnshire, this represents 16% of the MCCA allocation, an amount of £1,942,460, split as £319,221 capital and £1,623,239 revenue.

Our approach to delivering the North East Lincolnshire 2022/25 allocation was to ringfence £1.2m for procured culture, leisure, and tourism events and activities, and for dedicated business support programmes, with the remaining funds offered as an open call for projects across the three priority areas. Applications were assessed by an independent panel for quality, cost, outputs, and the sustainability of projects as a result of funding.

Below is a headline summary of the projects achieved to date.



The proposed approach for the 2025/26 extension is to continue to support as many of the priorities as possible, albeit scaled back wherever possible. It is also important

that future MCCA priorities and possible funding opportunities are taken into consideration with a view to ensuring a smooth transition into future delivery models.

### **Culture, Leisure, and tourism**

Ringfenced funding has enabled several grant schemes to provide match funding to the creative industry, and to support events and activities across the borough aimed at increasing footfall and extending the visitor season. It is proposed that revenue funding is allocated to continue these activities, with a view, wherever possible, to enabling the ongoing sustainability of events once funding is no longer available. This allocation also includes a contribution to the Lincolnshire Visitor Economy Partnership (LVEP) to enable this to progress during the MCCA transition period.

In addition to this, it is proposed that capital funding is allocated to upgrade leisure amenities. Previously under UKSPF, we have not had the opportunity to fund such upgrades, making this proposal a significant step towards enhancing our local amenities and promoting a healthier, more active lifestyle for residents. This could include such enhancements as community sports facilities, new play equipment, etc.

### **Supporting local business**

Under the current programme, funding was allocated to support 4 dedicated NEL business advisors employed by e-factor, continuation of the successful Start-up Academy and Smarter Energy NEL, as well as funding the continuation of the Greater Lincolnshire Growth Hub. It is proposed that this also continues as a transitional measure whilst a future funding mechanism is considered through the MCCA.

It is further proposed that funding is allocated to continue the High Street Accelerator pilot activities due to the Neighbourhood Plan being delayed. This includes continuing to fund Violence against Women and Girls ambassadors, PSPO enforcement Marshalls, a dedicated CCTV operator for Grimsby town centre, and an extension to the Grimsby in Bloom contract for Victoria Street planting and maintenance.

### **People and Skills**

High performing projects delivered under the current scheme have been invited to put forward proposals for a further year's delivery. It is recommended that 13 projects

under the People and Skills priority are further supported, but at a reduced cost. Additionally, it is recommended that funding is allocated to supporting careers events which have proven successful under the current scheme.

### **Continuation of successful open call projects**

Of the 48 projects supported to date under the communities and business priorities, 30 projects are completed, either because they were a capital project, or a short-term solution or project. The remaining 18 projects have been ranked according to priority, with those offering the highest impact invited to request an extension, albeit at a lower value where possible. This would see 8-10 projects continuing for a further year. In addition to this, it is recommended that capital funding is allocated to support energy efficiency projects as a continuation of the successful decarbonisation strand.

As in the original scheme, Management and Admin of 4% can be deducted. It has been agreed that the lead authority will receive the first 0.75% of the overall allocation (£90,898). In addition, councils can deduct a further 3.25% from individual allocations which represents a further £63,607 for NELC to fund delivery of the programme.

### **3. Decision being taken**

This report seeks to

1. acknowledge the role of North East Lincolnshire Council as the nominated lead authority to act on behalf of the UK Shared Prosperity 25/26 final year allocation to the MCCA, receipt of £14,786,148, and defrayal to Greater Lincolnshire councils as per the agreed allocations.
2. authorisation of the process and delivery model for the North East Lincolnshire allocation of £1,942,460 from the above.

### **4. Is it an Urgent Decision? If yes, specify the reasons for urgency. Urgent decisions will require sign off by the relevant scrutiny chair(s) as not subject to call in.**

No

**5. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

The outputs and outcomes of the scheme have been determined from the list of interventions provided by government and submitted in the Investment Plan. The priorities, as outlined above will see interventions across the themes of communities, voluntary sector, businesses, and skills programmes, all of which fit with our council priorities of stronger economy and stronger communities.

**6. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision** (this should be similar to original cabinet decision)

There are no alternative options to the nomination as lead authority, but the delivery team are very experienced in such activities, and additional M&A funding is allocated to ensure sufficient resource to carry out the additional responsibilities.

For the delivery of our own allocation, we could choose to continue with an open call for new projects and close existing projects. However, the funds have been allocated to us to as an extension to the original programme and is a significant reduction in value. Due to the timing, it is unlikely new projects could be identified, contracted and delivered successfully within one financial year, which puts the funding at risk.

**7. Background documents considered** (web links to be included and copies of documents provided for publishing)

A copy of the Cabinet report of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022 report is available from Democratic Services and online at [Cabinet | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](https://nelincs.gov.uk/Cabinet-Democracy)

**8. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

No

**9. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

N/A

**10. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**



The decision is consistent with the will and expectation of Cabinet. Authorities are free to make their own prioritisation of their allocations and need to ensure investment plans have been through their own relevant governance process to ensure alignment with the slightly revised government guidance and political sign off.

**11. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

The revenue and capital activity and costs are to be fully funded through external grant.

As the designated lead authority, NELC will receive the first 0.75% (£90,898) of the total local authority funding allocation in view of the additional reporting and administration responsibility that will be undertaken.

**12. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications

**13. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

The proposed process and delivery of the programme represents the least risk both in relation to deliverability and expenditure. By supporting the extension of existing projects, the risk of underspend which would have to be returned is minimised.

**14. Has the Cabinet Tracker been updated with details of this decision?**

Yes

**15. Decision Maker(s):**

**16. Consultation carried out with  
Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Sharon Wroot

Name: Councillor Philip Jackson

Title: Executive Director for  
Environment, Economy and  
Resources

Title, Leader of the Council and  
Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net  
Zero, Skills and Housing

Signed: REDACTED

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 02.04.25

Dated: 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025

**17. If the decision is urgent then  
consultation should be carried out  
with the relevant Scrutiny  
Chair/Mayor/Deputy Mayor**

Name:

Title:

Signed:

Dated: