

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

21 September 2023

North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Update

Report of Councillor Jayne Barry, Portfolio Holder for Growth and Assets

Classification: This report is public

Report By: Tris Burdett, Partnership Development Officer

Contact Officer: Tris Burdett, Partnership Development Officer

PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To provide Members with an update on the North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Members are asked to note the content of the report.

Approved by the Portfolio Holder – Cllr. Jayne Barry

IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Risk: Yes No

Details:

The Programme Management Team oversee the management of the North East Derbyshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund. All commissioned activities and grants awarded adhere to NEDDC's Financial Regulations and Risk Management.

On Behalf of the Section 151 Officer

Legal (including Data Protection): Yes No

Details:

The Grant Funding Agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities are legally binding with the Council. All data monitoring information and agreements are stored securely.

On Behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

Staffing: Yes No

Details:

There are no human resource implications as a result of this report. The funding is being managed through a combination of existing and new resources funded by the SPF Programme.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

DECISION INFORMATION

Decision Information	
Is the decision a Key Decision? A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds: NEDDC: Revenue - £100,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Capital - £250,000 <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Significantly Affected	All
Consultation: Leader / Deputy Leader <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet / Executive <input type="checkbox"/> SMT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Relevant Service Manager <input type="checkbox"/> Members <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes Details: Cllr. Jayne Barry and Steve Lee, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Programmes.

Links to Council Plan (NED) priorities or Policy Framework including Climate Change, Equalities, and Economics and Health implications.

A Great Place to Live Well:

- A community with lifelong good health
- A place to live that people value
- A place where people enjoy spending time

A Great Place to Work:

- A community with growing employment opportunities

A Great Place to Access Good Public Services:

- Assist and influence other public partners to improve their services in the District

REPORT DETAILS

1 **Background** *(reasons for bringing the report)*

1.1 During the summer of 2022, the Government announced the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which is the central pillar of the Levelling Up agenda. The primary aim is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK by investing in the following priorities:

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

1.2 Local authorities were invited to submit an Investment Plan based on a national list of interventions and outputs which demonstrated how investment would achieve the priorities set out by Government.

1.3 A consultation process was held with a breadth of stakeholders who live, work and deliver services across the District. This was aimed at those who focus on building pride in place, developing community assets and improving the look and feel to create communities where people want to live, work, visit and invest in. In December 2022, North East Derbyshire District Council (NEDDC) was awarded £2.568m to implement the Investment Plan between January 2023 and March 2025.

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

2.0 The Council has adopted a hybrid approach using targeted investment, grant schemes and commissioned activity to deliver the Investment Plan over nine priority areas which are summarised below. The amounts noted represent the total allocation by theme for the duration of the Programme. Each theme is being monitored to ensure interventions and projects will deliver contracted outputs, outcomes and spend allocations by March 2025. In the event that a certain theme or underpinning element will not be delivered in time, Cabinet may be required to consider alternative delivery solutions to ensure successful delivery of the Programme.

2.1 Town Centre Improvements: Pride in the Public Realm - £500,000

To support the development of public space including landscaping, street furniture and public art to create pride in the local area. Dronfield was identified as a priority area in the Investment Plan with officers currently trying to engage with local landowners to progress.

2.2 Green Space and Routeways: Quality Parks and Play Areas - £640,000

The development of parks and play areas to provide attractive and accessible facilities for all to use. Identified as a priority in the Investment Plan, Landsbury Park in Eckington has been allocated £200k. In addition, £55k was allocated to the refurbishment of Killamarsh Skate Park to compliment the newly opened leisure centre, Killamarsh Active, in the autumn of 2022, which unlocked the ability to access Home Office funding for the improved Skate Park. The remaining allocation has been committed through two grant

funding rounds which was open to all Parish and Town Councils across the District, with a further 18 parks and play areas received grant offers ranging from £3,500 to £150,000. Progress against developing all parks will be reviewed in early October 2023 to ensure the funding is being utilised.

- 2.3 Green Space and Routeways: Green Routes - £30,000
To add value to walking and sustainable travel links. These could include improvements, signage, way markers, QR codes, interpretation and physical access on existing local trails, footpaths and routeways. The project is currently at planning stage with officers working with Derbyshire County Council Countryside Service to identify a list of potential locations for further consideration.
- 2.4 Green Space and Routeways: Chesterfield Canal Improvements - £25,000
Chesterfield Canal Trust has been awarded a grant to undertake an economic impact assessment to identify the opportunities for future development opportunities of the Canal. It is anticipated that the study will be completed by October 2023.
- 2.5 Engaged and Enriched Communities: Community Activities - £49,250
Working with NEDDC's Community Safety Team to deliver activities for young people across the District, focused on supporting social inclusion and mitigating anti-social behaviour. This will be achieved by funding a series of Extreme Wheels roadshows at known 'hot spots' to provide a large range of activities as well as pro-BMX demonstrations. The activities attract the target audience of secondary school aged young people with 7 roadshows delivered so far, engaging with 114 individuals. It is anticipated that over 1000 young people will be reached by the end of the project.
- 2.6 Engaged and Enriched Communities: Inclusive Communities - £210,000
Supporting voluntary-led community activity and social inclusion across the District with a focus on the economic and social sustainability for households and communities. Through a publicised grant funding round Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Voluntary Action and Citizen's Advice Mid Mercia have been funded to provide specialist energy advice, building community capacity and reducing social isolation and digital skills training. All projects will run until the end of the Programme and it is anticipated that over 2,000 people will benefit from the wide range of activities and advice provided.
- 2.7 Engaged and Enriched Communities: Enhancing Village Halls and Community Venues - £100,000
Providing financial support to local community venues to enable them to become financially and environmentally sustainable by creating quality attractive venues to be used by the community. 14 grants awarded ranging from £1,789 to £10,000 will help to fund LED lighting replacing fluorescent bulbs, from boiler and window replacements, plus renewing kitchen and toilet facilities, improving access and creating more usable spaces.
- 2.8 Engaged and Enriched Communities: Exploring the District - £170,000
To promote the District and its cultural offer to residents, visitors and inward investors by facilitating and publicising local leisure, tourism, arts and cultural

offer through various methods, for example, the production of guides, creating dedicated webpages and using social influences. This will be measured, in part, by monitoring footfall and increased visitor numbers. Extended dedicated officer time from the Economic Development and Communications Teams are in place, with work on branding underway. Further strategy development to take place over the next few months.

2.9 Town Centre Improvements: Shop Front Improvements - £400,000

The aim is to increase footfall and local spend as well as create a positive perception by improving shop frontage for businesses across the District. Grants of up to £10,000 are available for commercial street-facing properties. Launched in April 2023, the scheme will run for the duration of the Programme and it is anticipated that 40 properties will benefit.

2.10 Growing and Sustaining Businesses: Advice and Guidance - £241,226

Through specialist business advisors, dedicated District-wide holistic, cross-sector advice and support will be available to new and existing businesses to encourage and enable start-up, sustainability and growth. It is anticipated that over 150 businesses will be supported. In addition, specialist energy advice will be offered to support businesses to become more energy efficient.

Working in partnership with five other Derbyshire local authorities, a joint tender process, led by NEDDC, has been undertaken to appoint specialist business advisors. A preferred supplier has been chosen and will be announced within the next few weeks, subject to contract. In addition support will be commissioned from January 2024 for start-up businesses.

2.11 Skills for the Future: Sustaining Energy Skills - £100,000

Supporting existing trades people to diversify by providing installation training on new technologies including low-carbon and energy efficiency schemes. Discussions with a professional training body are underway to explore nationally recognised accreditation. It is envisaged that around 100 people will be supported through the scheme. In recognition of similar schemes now in place through other mechanisms, the delivery approach is being reviewed in order that the funding is utilised in the most appropriate manner.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 To note progress of the activity funded by UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 No alternative options are considered appropriate as the Investment Plan has been approved by DLUHC.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
n/a	Click here to enter text.

Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)

n/a