

North East Derbyshire District Council

Cabinet

23 May 2024

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 checked="" 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. Nigel Barker, 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A community with growing employment opportunities A Great Place to Access Good Public Services: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.

1.4 This is a 6 monthly update to inform Cabinet of progress of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

2. **Details of Proposal or Information**

2.1 The Council continues to deliver the investment plan through a hybrid approach using targeted investment, grant schemes and commissioned activity. Summarised below, progress within the 11 investment areas remain broadly on target. The amounts noted represent the total allocation by theme for the duration of the Programme. Monitoring, conducted on a quarterly basis, ensures interventions and projects will deliver contracted outputs, outcomes and spend allocations by March 2025. There are no immediate concerns regarding any underspend by the programme closure date.

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

To improve community pride through the development of public space in Dronfield. A Steering Group has been established with design now progressing to RIBA stage 4, which is anticipated to be completed by May 2024. At that point, procurement for a contractor will commence. Spend to date, £28,733. There is no currently anticipated theme underspend.

2.3 **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. The Investment Plan identified £200k towards Lansbury Park, Eckington. However, without the investment from the Levelling Up Fund, the Parish Council is now progressing with the refurbishment of Stead Street Play Area as a priority investment area, following application reappraisal. The remaining allocation was awarded to a further 18 parks and play areas, receiving grant offers ranging from £3,500 to £150,000. Monitoring of the projects not yet started is ongoing to ensure

the funding can be fully utilised before December 2024. Spend to date £370,993, with no currently anticipated theme underspend.

2.4 Green Space and Routeways: Green Routes - £30,000

To add value to walking and green routes. Investment to focus on completion of a circulate route at Grassmoor Country Park. Grant agreement being drafted with Derbyshire County Council, likely that works will commence early summer 2024. Spend to date, nil, with no currently anticipated theme underspend.

2.5 Green Space and Routeways: Chesterfield Canal Improvements - £25,000

Chesterfield Canal Trust has been awarded a grant to undertake an economic impact assessment identifying the opportunities for future development of the Canal. Delays due to withdrawal of capacity and funding from other key partners but agreement is now in place to proceed with the overarching study which will include a detailed assessment for NED. Full spend of £25,000 allocation.

2.6 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. A series of Extreme Wheels roadshows are taking place at known 'hot spots' across the District 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 over 1,000 individuals engaged so far. Spend to date, £23,000. There is no currently anticipated theme underspend, with all funds ringfenced for Extreme Wheels.

2.7 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 two publicised grant funding rounds Citizens Advice North East Derbyshire, Derbyshire Voluntary Action and Citizen's Advice Mid Mercia have been funded to provide specialist energy and debt advice, building community capacity and reducing social isolation and digital skills training. People engaged and benefiting from the projects have already exceeded 2,000 with 127 volunteering opportunities created from an original target was 20. Spend to date, £92,203. All funds for the theme have been allocated to projects, with no currently anticipated theme underspend.

2.8 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 have been awarded ranging from £1,789 to £10,000 funding LED lighting replacing fluorescent bulbs, boiler and window replacements, plus renewing kitchen and toilet facilities, improving access and creating more usable spaces. Spend to date, £100,000. All funds for the theme have been allocated to projects, with no currently anticipated theme underspend.

2.9 Engaged and Enriched Communities: Exploring the District - £170,000

To promote the District and its cultural offer to residents, visitors and inward investors. Year 2 of the project has seen the development of new branding, launch of a Food and Drink Trail, walking bloggers, key communications equipment purchased and

marketing material. Extended dedicated officer time from the Economic Development and Communications Teams continues. Spend to date, £66,247. There is no currently anticipated theme underspend.

2.10 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 aims to support a total of 40 properties with 16 grants awarded to date. Spend to date, £108,289. There is no currently anticipated theme underspend, with live expressions of interest currently exceeding funding availability.

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

Through specialist business advisors, dedicated District-wide holistic, cross-sector advice and support is 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, saw the appointment of East Midlands Chamber to provide the specialist business advisors through a new Derbyshire Accelerator programme. To date, 32 businesses have completed an Acceleration Expression of Interest Form. The start-up support element to this work will be delivered by Vision Derbyshire who held a Start-Up event in February. Outputs expected to be delivered during 2024/25 with total spend to date, £63,798. As contracted services, there is no anticipated theme underspend.

2.12 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 and high-level digital training skills. A joint tender process with Chesterfield Borough Council is underway to appoint a preferred training provider. The aim is to provide training to 100 people, with 90 gaining accreditation. A £50,000 green skills programme has been awarded, with the tendering for digital skills underway. There is no currently anticipated theme underspend.

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	