

Business Recovery and Growth Board

09 February 2023

Shared Prosperity Fund Year 1: Community & Place

Is the paper exempt from the press and public?	No
Reason why exempt:	N/A
Purpose of this report:	Discussion
Is this a Key Decision?	No
Has it been included on the Forward Plan?	Not a Key Decision

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Report Author(s):

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Executive Summary:

To provide an update on the development and allocation of The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in South Yorkshire. The paper provides commentary on the amount of funding allocated, progress towards year one and two and highlights forthcoming milestones.

What does this mean for businesses, people and places in South Yorkshire?

UKSPF is the replacement for EU structural funding. How this is allocated and spent will have a profound impact on the quality of life and growth opportunities of residents, businesses, and places in South Yorkshire in the years ahead. The year one programme focuses on supporting vulnerable people with the impacts of cost-of-living, community improvements, and enhancing the cultural offer of the region.

Recommendations:

The Business Recovery and Growth Board is asked to:

- Note the update of Year 1 activity.
- Offer any comments on the approach to future delivery in Years 2 and 3.

Consideration by any other Board, Committee, Assurance or Advisory Panel

None

1. Background

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the Government's major economic development fund to replace EU Structural and Investment Funds. It is a largely revenue fund aiming to boost productivity. The MCA submitted its Investment Plan to Government in August 2022 and received confirmation of its acceptance in December 2022 without any additional conditions. Note: Year one spend must be completed by March 31st, 2023.
- 1.2 The focus of the Plan is to materially improve the life chances of residents (especially the most deprived) and boost pride and confidence in South Yorkshire. The primary ambition is to focus SPF investment on driving up levels of economic activity and community participation.
- 1.3 There are three themes for UKSPF: Community & Place; Local Business Support; and People & Skills. The funding is allocated as follows:

UKSPF (Total)									
	2022-23		2023-24		2024-25		2022-25		
	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Total
BMBC	£ 88,442	£ 795,976	£ 265,325	£1,503,509	£ 926,869	£ 3,707,525	£1,280,636	£ 6,007,011	£ 7,287,647
DMBC	£108,749	£ 978,736	£ 326,245	£1,848,724	£1,139,684	£ 4,558,796	£1,574,678	£ 7,386,257	£ 8,960,935
RMBC	£ 85,965	£ 773,682	£ 257,894	£1,461,399	£ 900,910	£ 3,603,686	£1,244,768	£ 5,838,767	£ 7,083,535
SCC	£189,007	£1,701,062	£ 567,020	£3,213,117	£1,980,792	£ 7,923,270	£2,736,819	£12,837,449	£15,574,268
SY	£472,162	£4,249,456	£1,416,485	£8,026,750	£4,948,255	£19,793,277	£6,836,902	£32,069,483	£38,906,385

- 1.4 UKSPF Rural funding: South Yorkshire has an allocation of £1,434,307 of which Barnsley was allocated £400,000, Doncaster was allocated £634,307, and Rotherham was allocated £400,000. Funding will be split across the region with 40% of spend in Year 1 and 60% in Year 2, with an even split between the Rural Business investment priority and Rural Communities investment priority, as shown in the tables:

	2023-25	2023-24			2024-25		
	Total	Total	Business	Community	Total	Business	Community
South Yorkshire	1,434,307	573,723	286,861	286,861	860,584	430,292	430,292
Barnsley	400,000	160,000	80,000	80,000	240,000	120,000	120,000
Doncaster	634,307	253,723	126,861	126,861	380,584	190,292	190,292
Rotherham	400,000	160,000	80,000	80,000	240,000	120,000	120,000

The Investment Plan for the rural allocation was submitted in November 2022, we are awaiting a response from government to release this funding.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 Year one funding (2022-2023) is focussed on the Community & Place strand to help with a cost-of-living response, alongside community improvements and enhancing the cultural offer of the region. The MCA and four local authorities have been working collaboratively to identify and contract Year 1 projects at pace to ensure some delivery ahead of March 2023. It should be noted that any in year underspend will be clawed back unless government is presented with a credible narrative and plan for retention.
- 2.2 Community & Place interventions are targeted and accessed at the community level and therefore it was agreed projects should be developed exclusively through a place-based lens and each Local Authority (LA) has developed delivery plans to allow the MCA to allocate funding.
- 2.3 At the time of writing, the majority of Delivery Plans had been considered by the UKSPF partnership group (see Annex 1 for its membership) The Local Partnership Group is chaired by Martin McKervey and its role is to feedback on the content and engagement of the Delivery Plans. Once endorsed by the Partnership Group plans are submitted to the MCA's Programme Board for final sign-off. All received plans have now progressed through this process and contracts are currently being drafted.

2.4 **Barnsley**

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council will deliver against three primary areas in year one:

- **Culture at the Heart of Communities**
An events programme both in Barnsley town centre and principal towns aimed at building cultural participation and engagement, strengthening links with local cultural providers, and supporting urban centre economies.
- **Enhancing Barnsley Libraries**
Refurbishment of library assets to reflect the modern standards on display at The Lightbox.
- **Green Space Improvements**
This activity will deliver capital works to achieve park improvements as well as align to the 'Ten Thousand Trees' planting programme to enhance biodiversity.

Note: Additional support will include in year business support activity.

2.5 **Doncaster**

The City of Doncaster Council will deliver against three primary areas in year one:

- **Community Wealth Builders**
Support suppliers and stimulate new suppliers within the social enterprise and community sector. There will be a series of training for enterprises to enable community businesses to 'meet the buyer' and for anchor institutions to 'meet the market'.
- **Locality Community Investment Fund**
Test and learn new approaches to commissioning and lead the way in creative bold community placed based commissioning.
- **Cost of Living**
Extending the Covid-19 support to Citizens Advice Bureau Doncaster of free, impartial information, advice, and guidance.

Note: Additional support will include third sector support, increased volunteering and public realm art.

2.6 Rotherham

Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council will deliver against two primary areas in year one:

- **Cost of Living**
 - Warm welcome activities will take place in a range of community venues, where people can access financial support and advice.
 - A small grants scheme, which will enable VCS organisations to provide a range of targeted activities for specific demographics.
 - A number of 'winter warm' packs, comprising items such as socks, gloves, scarves, hot water bottles, blankets and thermal flasks will be purchased and made available to vulnerable residents.
- **Children's Capital of Culture**

Funding to partner with three providers to build capacity within their organisations and support voice and influence from young people across the borough alongside the development of its own team to deliver a programme of events, festivals, experiences and opportunities across Rotherham.

Note: Additional support will include in year business support activity.

2.7 Sheffield

Sheffield City Council will primarily focus year one spend on cost-of-living interventions:

Cost of Living

- Build resilience for VCF organisations to continue to deliver impact at local level in the short term.
- Add funds to the South Yorkshire Community Foundation's Sheffield Cost of Living fund to increase the spread of its impact.
- Supporting the additional costs of keeping community hubs open throughout the winter to facilitate greater engagement.

Note: Additional support will include a culture proposal and in year business support activity.

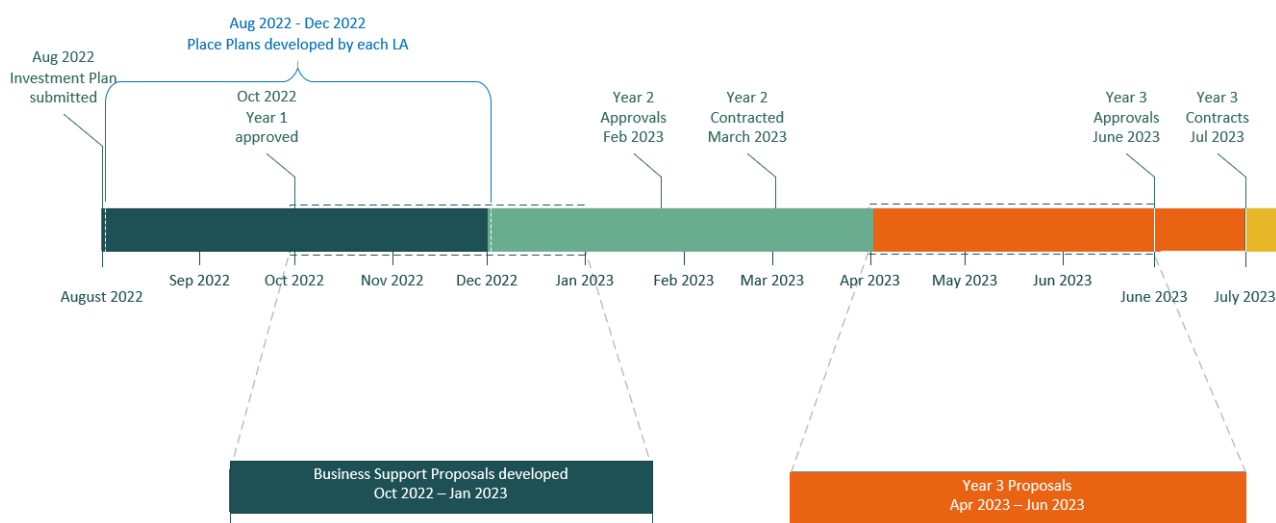
2.8 Year Two Proposals

In addition to continuation of the Community and Place interventions the year two/three funding envelope includes £14.90m of funding for local business support. As a significant proportion of the current business support provision is ERDF funded and will cease in the summer of 2023 it is imperative that we move at pace to allocate funding for business support interventions.

- 2.9 A task and finish group of business support leads has been established to consider priorities and begin project design. Several workshops have taken place with the LAs and two universities. The discussions have been frank and positive, and the scope has since widened beyond UKSPF to account for the wider business support ecosystem. Outline business cases are being developed for several projects that will be taken forward across LA geographies. These projects include Launchpad, business productivity grants, low carbon and specialist advisors.

2.10

Completion of the year two proposal development is targeted for February 2023 with contracting currently forecasted to be completed in March 2023. Engagement on proposals for year three (24/25) will commence in April 2023 with a forecasted completion of proposals targeted for June 2023.



3. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

N/A

4. Consultation on Proposal

- 4.1 Local authorities carried out consultation with local partners in developing their Delivery Plans, and the Local Partnership Group was also involved in shaping the final documents.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 Immediate – Year 1 ends in March 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

- 6.1 The total amount of Year 1 Community & Place funding for South Yorkshire is £4m. This must be spent by the end of the financial year.

The report notes future year allocations. Item 10 to this report provides options on how this resource could be used.

7. Legal Implications and Advice

- 7.1 N/A

8. Human Resources Implications and Advice

- 8.1 Administering the requirements of a Lead Authority will require additional capability and capacity is secured to deliver the fund, maximise the impact and uptake of the fund. So far, a full-time Project Coordinator position has been established, with support from other parts of the organisation. There is 4% as part of the fund, which is for management and

administration costs. This will be used to build a team and cover some management costs of projects.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice

- 9.1 Several of the projects include targeting harder to reach groups and focus on more vulnerable residents.

10. Climate Change Implications and Advice

- 10.1 N/A

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

- 11.1 Adapting to climate change is a part of the Investment Plan, and Barnsley Year 1 plan includes improving their green spaces.

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice. Please also refer to consultation undertaken as per Section 4

- 12.1 N/A at this stage but could be once delivery progresses.

List of Appendices Included

Annex 1

LPG Members

Name	Organisation
Jason Austin	RNN Group
Liz Ballard	Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust
Michelle Buttery	South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner
Andrew Denniff	Barnsley & Rotherham Chamber
Paul Harvey	Voluntary Action Sheffield
Shafiq Hussain	Voluntary Action Rotherham
Martin McKervey	AESSEAL
Lucy Nickson	SYMCA LEP Chair
Lisa Pogson	Airmaster UK
Sharon Riding	DWP
Nicola Speake	South Yorkshire Housing Association
Rupert Suckling	Doncaster MBC
Ruth Willis	South Yorkshire Community Foundation
	Culture (tbc)