

## Delegated Authority Approvals Paper

06 September 2023

### Programme Approvals – UKSPF

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<b>Is the paper exempt from the press and public?</b>	No
<b><i>Reason why exempt:</i></b>	Not applicable
<b>Purpose of this report:</b>	Funding Decision
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Yes
<b>Has it been included on the Forward Plan?</b>	Yes

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**Director Approving Submission of the Report:**

Gareth Sutton, Chief Finance Officer/s73 Officer

**Report Author(s):**

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**Executive Summary**

This report requests the progression of two UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) schemes.

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

This report is seeking approval to progress two business cases and enter into contract for an investment proposal which will support the MCA's aspirations.

**Recommendations**

This report recommends the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer approve:

- a. Progression of "Skills & Employability South Yorkshire" to full approval and award of £6.67m UKSPF grant funding to Sheffield City Council (SCC)
- b. Progression of "Rural Business Grants" to full approval and award of £0.425m UKSPF Rural grant funding to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC)

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The UKSPF is a key fund for economic development and will impact on the quality of life and growth opportunities of residents, businesses, and places in South Yorkshire. In November 2022 the MCA board granted delegated approval to the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the Section 73 and Monitoring Officer to enter into funding agreements in accordance with submitted investment plans, local delivery plans and any conditions agreed with government.
- 1.2 The report seeks full approval for two UKSPF schemes. The report provides details on each project and outlines how schemes would be funded

### **UKSPF Approvals**

- 1.3 **Sheffield City Council (SCC)**  
**Skills and Employability South Yorkshire**  
**Progression to full approval and award of grant**

SCC are seeking £6.67m UKSPF funding to contribute towards an approximate total scheme cost of £7.97m at an intervention rate of 83%.

The project will offer an integrated, regional programme of bespoke pre-employment activity designed to support economically inactive and socially excluded unemployed residents of South Yorkshire to move towards and access the labour market. Provision will fill gaps that mainstream services are not currently able to. The approach will ensure provision is flexible to respond to local needs and is one which fundamentally addresses the issues of preparing for and getting into employment for those furthest from the labour market with multiple barriers to address, thereby, adding value to current mainstream services and supporting the hardest to reach economically inactive residents.

Each participant, following local triage to determine eligibility and the general nature of their needs, will receive:

- Access to a keyworker who will work with them 1:1
- A recorded whole-person diagnostic of need to understand their current position, barriers and need.
- A personalised action plan which identifies the most relevant support and interventions bringing together UKSPF funded and non-UKSPF support where relevant
- Continued ongoing support from their keyworker who will be a touch point throughout their journey
- Support and interventions identified for participants will then be drawn from a suite of activity.

Strand 1 'Ambition' will feature preparation for employment activity designed to engage target participants and provide employability and holistic support designed to address personal and circumstantial barriers. This will include 1:1 keyworker support, group activity and specialist interventions.

Strand 2 'Into Employment' will feature activity designed to help residents access the labour market, through employer-focused recruitment support and sector-specific training targeted at industries with high numbers of vacancies and in particular, those industries reporting difficulty in meeting recruitment needs. The strand will extend support provided to those who entered UKSPF provision in Strand 1 'Ambition' and are now ready to access work opportunities, while providing an entry-point for more 'job-ready' economically inactive and socially excluded unemployed individuals who are seeking targeted support to gain employment. Support will focus on equipping candidates with the entry-level skills, employability, knowledge, key competencies, qualifications, licences and/or work experience required to move into employment.

The project is recommended to progress to full approval and award

#### **1.4 Barnsley Metropolitan Council (BMBC) Rural Business Grants Progression to full approval and award of grant**

BMBC are seeking £0.65m UKSPF funding to contribute towards an approximate total scheme cost of £1.37m at an intervention rate of 47%.

The Rural Fund provides capital funding to support new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams.

The project will support eligible rural businesses in three key areas.

- Funding (capital grants) for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.
- Funding (capital grants) for growing the local economy and supporting innovation.
- Funding (capital grants) for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy

The grants are primarily aimed at SME's in rural areas who can create new employment opportunities. This could include.

- Rural leisure and tourism businesses.
- Cooperatives and social enterprises
- Community and voluntary sector groups
- Cultural and heritage groups
- Farms (diversification)
- Community business

The activities proposed dovetail with BMBC's Inclusive Economy goals to develop thriving vibrant places, as well as grow more and better jobs for local residents. They focus on building a sense of pride in place, a strong identity for our communities and building local capacity. All of these proposals will contribute to providing more and better jobs for local residents which in turn will help address systemic health inequalities in the longer term. The proposals also align with the SYMCA Strategic Economic plan, the Mayor's manifesto and priorities and Barnsley's Place based Investment Plan

The project is recommended to progress to full approval and award

## **2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 2.1 **Option 1**  
Approve the recommendations
- 2.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**  
Approval of the progression of the investment propositions will result in a commitment being made against existing programme budgets.
- 2.3 **Option 2**  
Reject the recommendation
- 2.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**  
Rejection of the recommendations in this report would mean the region foregoing the forecast benefits arising from the investments and the delivery of the project at risk.
- 2.5 **Recommended Option**  
Option 1
- 3. **Consultation on Proposal**
  - 3.1 Discussions for these projects has continued with the programme board during project development.
- 4. **Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**
  - 4.1 Subject to the approval of the recommendations and approval by, the Head of Paid Service in consultation with the portfolio lead and Section 73 Officer the schemes will progress to enter into a legal agreement.  
  
The promoter is responsible for the further development of projects that have gateway approval to the next stage of the MCA Assurance process
- 5. **Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice**
  - 5.1 The project is presented with a proposed funding source.
- 6. **Legal Implications and Advice**
  - 6.1 The legal implications of the project have been fully considered by a representative of the Monitoring Officer.
- 7. **Human Resources Implications and Advice**
  - 7.1 N/A
- 8. **Equality and Diversity Implications and Advice**
  - 8.1 Equality and diversity implications are taken into account as part of the assurance of the project business cases.
- 9. **Climate Change Implications and Advice**
  - 9.1 Climate change implications are considered as part of the assurance of the project application process
- 10. **Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice**

10.1 N/A

**11. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice**

11.1 The approvals provide positive opportunities to highlight the difference the MCA's investments will make to people and passengers, businesses and places across South Yorkshire and how Members are taking action to support the region's recovery from COVID and the cost-of-living crisis.

**List of Appendices Included**

A None