

Delegated Authority Approvals Paper

14 April 2025

Programme Approvals – Building Thriving Communities

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

Director Approving Submission of the Report:

Tom Bousfield – Corporate Director Growth, Business and Skills

Report Author(s):

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Executive Summary

This report requests the progression of one scheme subject to conditions set out in the report.

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

This report is seeking approval to progress 1 business case and enter into contract for an investment proposal which will support the MCA's aspirations.

Recommendations

This report recommends the Executive Director for Growth Business and Skills, in consultation with the Portfolio Leads for Skills and Employment and Economic Growth, Section 73 and Monitoring Officer approve progression of **Building Thriving Communities** to full approval and award of £0.64m UKSPF Transition Year 2025-26 funding to Sheffield City Council.

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

Programme Board

19 February 2025

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.
- 1.2 In December 2024 and January 2025 the MCA Board gave delegated authority to the Executive Director for Growth Business and Skills, in consultation with the Portfolio Leads for Skills and Employment and Economic Growth, Section 73 and Monitoring Officer, to develop and submit applications to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for up to £22.5m to deliver the extended UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme across financial year 2025/26 and to approve any subsequent grant offer.
- 1.3 The report seeks full approval of one scheme. The report provides details on the project and outlines how this scheme is funded

1.4 **SCC
Building Thriving Communities
Progression to full approval and award of grant**

SCC are seeking £0.64m UKSPF funding.

The existing BTC programme identifies and supports a network of Welcome Places, which deliver a range of activities to address the cost of living and wider inequality across Sheffield.

Funding is sought to continue delivery of three key elements of the current programme:

- Providing a Cost-of-Living Trainer service in Citizens' Advice Sheffield (CAS), to train community groups and other frontline services in delivery of first line guidance around cost-of-living -related issues, building local capacity, improving access to support and reducing demand on specialist advisors at CAS.
- Creating strategy & fundraising resource, via Voluntary Action Sheffield (VAS), to support organisations experiencing barriers to accessing funding to access organisational development, fundraising and wider support to develop their sustainability
- Creating a team of cost of living and community development workers, with a grounding in asset-based community development, in the Local Area Committee localities to provide support to our network of Welcome Places.

2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal

2.1 **Option 1**

Approve all recommendations

2.2 **Option 1 Risks and Mitigations**

Approval of the progression of the investment proposition will result in a commitment being made against existing programme budget.

2.3 **Option 2**

Reject some, or all, of the recommendations

2.4 **Option 2 Risks and Mitigations**

Rejection of the recommendation 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 this project has continued with the Local Authority during project development.

4. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

4.1 Subject to the approval of the recommendations the scheme will progress to enter into a legal agreement.

5. Financial and Procurement Implications and Advice

5.1 A UKSPF project is recommended for progression in this report. The project is presented with a proposed funding source.

6. Legal Implications and Advice

6.1 The legal implications of the projects 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 case.

9. Climate Change Implications and Advice

9.1 Climate change implications are considered as part of the assurance of the project application process

11. Information and Communication Technology Implications and Advice

11.1 N/A

12. Communications and Marketing Implications and Advice

12.1 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