

## East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

Decision Notice From: Matthew Hogan (Assistant Director – Strategic Growth and Development)

Date: 23/10/2023

Title: **AWARDS UNDER THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (ROUND FOUR) AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND**

Wards Affected: All Wards in East Lindsey

Key Decision: No Implementation Date: 01/11/2023

Urgent Decision: **No**

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### **DECISION:**

**Decision to undertake separate awards to successful applicants in Round Four of the UK Shared Prosperity/Rural Prosperity Fund Programme. Specifically including allocations of funding to the following projects:**

- **Magna Vitae – International Cultural Exchange Programme (£100,681)** - To develop and deliver an International Cultural Exchange Programme in partnership with the International People's College (IPC), Denmark and the British Embassy in Copenhagen. The Programme aims to support at least 12 students from East Lindsey District with a personal training programme enabling formal qualifications to be studied at the IPC. Participants will gain experience, and knowledge to enter into employment in the Cultural / Creative sector and to start their own creative businesses in East Lindsey. Pathways into employment will be created directly with partner organisations' and along the east coast, including Magna Vitae.
- **Active Lincolnshire – Active Communities (£107,750)** This consists of a skills programme to support local social enterprises and sporting organisations to provide training and development in the sporting sector to residents, with a particular focus on supporting them to start their own businesses and gaining new skills relating to sport, wellbeing and physical activity.
- **Lincolnshire Community Foundation – Youth Engagement Project (£15,708)** - The project is to provide grant funding to organisations that can deliver preventative measures to help young people at risk of committing a criminal offence or becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, with a focus on reducing ASB in our area. The aim is to support 10 organisations and projects to assist with

these preventative measures. This project will be delivered throughout the Partnership and in partnership with local policing services. It is set to leverage in an additional £107k of match funding.

- **East Lindsey District Council – Pride in Place Community Volunteer Scheme (£18,416)** - The aim of this project is to increase the feeling of 'pride' within our local communities for the places people live, work and visit. A Trusted Community Volunteers Scheme, led by an appointed coordinator, will increase the number of volunteers, with a particular focus on the SELCP pride in place scheme, by involving local people in their local communities and also building a sense of purpose and pride in their local area. This will support the improvement of street cleanliness, the appearance of townscapes and the range and diversity of community initiatives.
- **Transported Arts – Wings Over the Wolds Trail (£26,615)** – This will be a co-created community arts Programme, where communities will be supported by a commissioned artist to create 8 unique artworks across Wolds towns. This will allow visitors and residents alike to visit each site, driving an increase in footfall.
- **National Trust – Sandilands Connect (£203,825)** – Supporting the creation of an expanded nature reserve at the National Trust's Sandilands site, to include an expansion of biodiversity and the creation of new spaces for communities to walk and play. This will include a programme of engagement with schools and opportunities for additional volunteering, as well as promotion to support an expansion of visitor numbers to the site (key objectives of the UKSPF/REPF Investment Plan). It is distinct from but compliments the current Town Deal funded project at this site.
- **Bishop Grosseteste University – LORIC (£23,739)** – This Programme will support businesses to better engage with data and new technology, as well as providing 1:1 support which compliments the Grants 4 Growth/Advice 4 Growth offer, with a particular focus on supporting local businesses to introduce new to market products.
- **Lincolnshire Community Foundation – Supporting Social Enterprise (£46,409) (Awarded in Round Two, Contracting under Round Four)** – Looking to strengthen local enterprise ecosystems and grow the local social economy by increasing the number of charities and social enterprises operating in the District. This will include 1 to 1 advice, guidance, mentoring from a specialist Social Enterprise Advisor and grant funding from an Innovation and Ideas fund for these organisations (this to be provided as a match funding to the project).
- **Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce (£28,651) – SEL to the World (Awarded in Round Two, Contract Variation in Round Four)** – This is an amendment to an existing project to account for additional time allocated for local businesses through an International Trade coach and for an expansion of project outcomes, supporting local businesses to engage in new export markets.

**It must be noted:** These projects sit separate to the ringfenced funding available to village halls, parish councils and community spaces (administered

by LCF), the second round of which will be determined this week. These projects are also separate to the monies ringfenced for grants to businesses (Grants 4 Growth II), which are now being actively disbursed by the relevant service area within the Council.

**Reason for the Decision:**

As part of HMG’s Levelling Up Agenda and in line with the commitments made by East Lindsey District in the UKSPF Prospectus and Investment Plan, we have committed to invest in high-impact projects across three core themes:

- Communities and place - Supporting community groups and investment in community facilities; enhancing the cultural and heritage offer; widening the use of community buildings; initiatives to help support our town centres.
- Supporting local business - Helping local businesses invest for future growth; growing the food processing, horticulture and logistics sector; encouraging new businesses to establish; helping the local social and community enterprises to innovate and grow.
- People and skills - Developing skills and employment opportunities within the fresh food, food processing and logistics sectors; creating new training hubs; supporting local residents with skills and access to employment.

These allocations principally meet the objectives that we have committed to under the Communities and Place and Supporting Local Businesses Themes and with the projects passing a rigorous assessment process, we are confident that they can deliver the outcomes expected from the Programme quickly and substantively. This has been the basis of the decision.

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**Alternative options considered:**

These funds were allocated on a competitive basis, based on the third round of submitted EoIs and Full Applications to the UK Shared Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Fund. The alternative would be to not award the funding, which would bring severe reputational risk to the Council both with the public and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

**Conflict of interest declared:**

**None**

**Dispensations granted in respect of a conflict of interest: Not Applicable**