

## East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

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

Date: 30/01/2024

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

Wards Affected: All Wards in East Lindsey

Key Decision: No Implementation Date: 07/02/2024

Urgent Decision: **No**

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### **DECISION:**

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

- **Community Transport Project – Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (£24,640)** – To develop and enhance community transport infrastructure across the South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (SELCP) area, with practical delivery taking place in East Lindsey and South Holland and learning shared with Boston Borough which will deliver the creation of a SELCP Community Transport Consortium with relevant governance.
- **Church Environs Project, St Marys Church, Horncastle – Horncastle St Mary’s PCC (£55,860)** - This project is seeking to develop the St. Mary’s Church Yard as an improved public space, with a particular focus on improving biodiversity and remediating green space within the curtilage of a Grade II\* Listed Building. This will be supported by a series of heritage-led events to engage the local community with the space and the asset.
- **Louth Navigation Recreation – Louth Navigation Trust (£54,650)** - This project will open up a series of slipways on the Louth Navigation, to enable members of the public to access the waterway and to utilise it for sport and leisure, as well as a Programme of environmental improvements to the immediate area surrounding this. Currently, only a few people use the canal due to the lack of safe access but the installation of these slipways will open up 14 miles of useable water to the entire community in Louth. There will also be additional public realm improvements (signage, seating) to make the lock a more attractive place to visit.

- **The Old Bolingbroke Butcher's Shed – Friends of Bolingbroke Castle/Heritage Lincolnshire (£59,340)** - The aim of this project is to restore and refit a building in the grounds of Bolingbroke Castle with basic facilities (toilets, basic kitchen facilities and services) to offer amenity to visitors to this landmark heritage asset. It will compliment the significant investment made in the Bolingbroke Gas House and Bolingbroke Church.
- **Wainfleet All Saints, Market Place Renewal – Heritage Lincolnshire and Wainfleet Town Council (£50,876)** – The primary aim of this project is to resurface the marketplace and conserve the medieval 'Buttercross' and Victorian Clock Tower. This will support improved accessibility and attractiveness of the town centre which in turn will increase footfall and visitor numbers.
- **Louth Art Trail – Cultural Solutions & Louth Art Trail (£122,100)** - This project seeks to replace and install x3 new works of public art in Louth and update the existing Louth Art trail. This will be complemented by a heritage and arts learning Programme for local schools, based on engagement with the trail and with local arts and history.
- **Delivering Heritage Skills in South and East Lincolnshire – Heritage Lincolnshire (£36,773)** – This Programme will deliver a local version of the previously discontinued, yet successful Historic England Heritage Skills Programme, tailored to Lincolnshire. This will involve taster sessions in traditional craft skills and involve a 10 week placement of intensive skills training with an employer on a Skills Bootcamp-type model that will focus on heritage trades and the heritage sector.
- **Global Gateway, Transforming Local Talents in Global Entrepreneurs – PAB Languages – (£8,343)** – This project intends to provide a structured programme supporting the development of entrepreneurship. Participants will be drawn from people in employment in food processing, logistics, social care and e-commerce and receive intensive support to train them in engaging with international trade, global markets and support their development in leadership and management. The objective is principally to upskill managers, leaders and employees of local businesses who may be interested in international trade and engaging with new markets, giving them the skills to do this.
- **Community Based Digital Support Sessions – South and East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership (£22,900)** – The project will be delivered in partnership with SELCP's Healthy Living and Communities teams and will include a series of digital inclusion sessions supporting local people in rural communities to 'get online' and to obtain digital skills as well as supporting them to access jobs and services using the internet.
- **Future Skills Programme – TEC Partnership (£32,575)** – The project will deliver digital training to x100 economically inactive beneficiaries in East Lindsey and Boston Borough. This Programme, centred on the use of AI. This will focus on delivering digital skills to those who are having difficulty re-engaging with education and training. The project's focus will be on key participant groups residing in Louth, Skegness, Boston, and surrounding areas (for example,

those who are unemployed, economically inactive or NEET/at risk of NEET).

**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 third 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, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills 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.

**Alternative options considered:**

These funds were allocated on a competitive basis, based on submission of 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**