

East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

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

Date: 27/03/2024

Title: **AWARDS UNDER THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (PEOPLE & SKILLS ROUND TWO)**

Wards Affected: All Wards in East Lindsey

Key Decision: No Implementation Date: 27/03/2024

Urgent Decision: **No**

DECISION:

Decision to undertake separate awards to successful applicants in Round Two of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme for People & Skills (totalling £1.8m across the SELCP Partnership area). Details of the first Round of awards can be found here:

<https://www.selcp.co.uk/article/25465/Nearly-2million-awarded-to-projects-by-South-East-Lincolnshire-Councils-Partnership>

In the Second Round, the following projects will be awarded in East Lindsey District:

Boston College – Career Advance (£79,160)

The Career Advance Programme offers provision beyond the Adult Education Budget (AEB), aiming to support a cohort of 99 learners across the SELCP area with NQF Level 2-3 training (or equivalent) and a guaranteed job interview with a named local employer, supported by wrap-around employability and life skills support. There will also be peer-to-peer support, a series of guest speakers from industry and project-based interventions to support learners in taking the next step in their career.

East Lindsey District Council (SELCP) – The Lincolnshire Academy (£20,168)

The 'Lincolnshire Academy' is the proposal to create a long-term academy model at the SELCP, to support the development of a pipeline of talent into key roles. The current areas that represent need are Building Control, Planning and Environmental Health. This proposition will save the taxpayer

money through reducing the Council's reliance on agency staff and will offer local residents not currently employed by the Council (who are the audience for this intervention) with the opportunity to gain the competences required for a long-term, skilled career in the local public sector.

Boston United Community Foundation – Boston United Education & Training Hub (£5,605)

The Boston United Education & Training Hub is a 1-year project helps people overcome a range of barriers by using the power of football and the local brand of Boston United to create pathways into education, training, volunteering, and employment. The project's objectives are:

- To provide various football themed activities that will engage with a wide variety of people.
- To provide opportunities to allow people to gain work placements and volunteering experience.
- To improve people's soft skills to help them re-engage in employment, education or training.
- To provide routes into Further & Higher Education
- For people to improve their mental health, well-being, self-esteem and confidence.
- To increase the opportunity for people to access vocational sporting qualifications to support the local community.

It is anticipated that this will primarily support communities within East Lindsey who share a border with Boston (though it will be open to all residents).

Lincolnshire Care Association (LinCA) – Step Into Care (£40,000)

This pilot project will support local people to gain much needed care qualifications (Level 2 Care certificate), as well as vital 'hands on' experience in the care sector. On successful completion of the Programme, all participants will be offered a chance to participate in a jobs fair and will be offered a guaranteed interview with a named local employer in the District.

University of Lincoln – Dynamic Growth (£62,557)

This project will focus on upskilling management within local visitor economy businesses, with a particular focus on small VE businesses (SMEs) and supporting them to grow and innovate. A Dynamic Growth (DG) Course will be offered, supporting those in the sector through micro-credentials (accredited, university level qualifications which can contribute towards an MBA in Leadership), peer-to-peer learning in the Visitor Economy sector and working through assignments that will be specific to the development of their own business. Delivery will include a minimum of 2 days on-site delivery at hubs close to the business (accounting for seasonality in the VE sector).

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 fourth round of which shall be determined in April 2024. 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 People and Skills Theme 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 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