

East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

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

Date: 24/05/2024

Title: **: AWARD OF NON-ALLOCATED FUNDS WITHIN THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (COMMUNITIES AND PLACE)**

Wards Affected: Louth (all); Mablethorpe

Key Decision: No Implementation Date: 23/05/2024

Urgent Decision: **No**

DECISION:

Decision to award non-allocated funds arising within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme through the agreed protocol to two projects who engaged with the Programme at the end of the final Round (People & Skills Round Two). Details of those awards can be found here:

<https://www.sholland.gov.uk/article/26181/South-East-Lincolnshire-Councils-Partnership-announces-its-new-People-Skills-Programme-Over-1-8m-Invested-in-Employment-Social-Mobility-and-Economic-Growth>

Louth Riverhead Theatre – Renovation and Expansion of the Youth Theatre Offer for Louth - £100,000

This project seeks to support the Riverhead Theatre in Louth expand both the range and size of youth theatre provision available to residents, ensuring that this is accessible for people of all ages and abilities in the town of Louth. The project will also support the purchase of new sound equipment and a general, cosmetic renovation of the theatre. This will be supported by a complimentary bid to the Arts Council to augment the outcomes of this Programme, with the expectation that 140 additional residents will engage with the Youth Theatre and the works will be completed rapidly over the Summer (targeting an October completion date). There will be provision made for fully funded scholarships for young people facing disadvantage, as well as support for young people in rural Wolds communities (for example, with transport) to access the theatre.

ACIS/Riverside Training – Project Thrive - £38,250

This project seeks funding to employ a project officer (with a potential base at the Campus for Future Living) to deliver a programme to a cohort of 85 residents from Mablethorpe and the surrounding area focussed on supporting them to overcome health and confidence barriers to access work and/or volunteering opportunities. The project will also deliver a detailed research piece into Mablethorpe residents' perceptions of place, which could be used to inform future commissioning/regeneration initiatives. The project will principally be delivered in Mablethorpe but will cover surrounding areas (for example, Sutton on Sea).

This is fully in line with the agreed allocation strategy for non-allocated UKSPF funds (detailed below).

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 fifth round of which shall be determined in July 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 both the Communities and Place 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 through the agreed protocol on the allocation of UKSPF 'underspent funds' subsequent to the closure of the last open call for

funds - Procurement or closed competition. This time, the latter was chosen, and the allocation was awarded to projects that had engaged with the Fund prior to its closure for applications or projects that had been referred from other Programmes within the Council. They were appraised competitively by the relevant Partnership Sub-Group and consultation occurred with the relevant Portfolio Holder, as would occur in the open application process. The decision was then made on a delegated officer basis by the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the UKSPF Programme.

The alternative option to awarding funds 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