

East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

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

Date: 16/08/2024

Title: **: AWARDS UNDER THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND**

Wards Affected: All Wards in East Lindsey

Key Decision: No Implementation Date: 14/08/2024

Urgent Decision: **No**

DECISION:

Decision made to extend the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Award made to the Lincolnshire Community Foundation (LCF) for the purposes of expanding the availability of grant funding to Parish Councils, Village Halls and Community Projects.

Decision made to allocate £135,000 in Rural England Prosperity Fund (£125,000) and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (£10,000) to the current LCF-led GRASSroots Scheme for the purposes of providing an additional £125,000 in capital grant aid to small community projects, as well as Parish Councils and Village Halls. The remainder shall be utilised in the administration and management of these funds. This augments the existing scheme, which has a value in excess of £900,000 (funded through UKSPF, REPF and the new East Lindsey Community Reserve Fund) and allows the scheme to undertake another round of awards (in September 2024) before the end of the UKSPF/RPF Programme (March 2025).

This compliments the release of a further £100,000 from the East Lindsey Community Reserved (released under a separate key decision made at Council in May) leading to a total contractual increase in the LCF GRASSroots Scheme of £235,000. This will uplift the amount of support available to Parish Councils, Village Halls and Community spaces between July 2023 and September 2024 through the UKSPF, REPF and East Lindsey Community Reserve Programme beyond the £1 million mark. This is a represents a significant level of investment in grants for community facilities.

To date, the Fund has delivered 33 individual grants, with 23 projects still in current delivery and 10 already completed. This has led to concordant improvements in community facilities, increased usage of community facilities

and an increased number of local small cultural, heritage and arts projects in East Lindsey District.

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 Theme and with the LCF GRASSroots scheme passing a rigorous assessment in Round Two of UKSPF Awards (June 2023) and since being subject to oversight by the UKSPF Programme Team, East Lindsey UKSPF Partnership Sub-Group, UKSPF Portfolio Holders and the Connected Coast Town Deal Board. We are confident that an additional investment in the LCF GRASSroots Scheme can deliver the outcomes expected from the UKSPF/RPF Programme quickly and substantively. This has been the basis of the decision.

Alternative options considered:

These funds were allocated due to efficiency savings being realised through the main UKSPF/RPF Programme, as the team strives to realise the highest possible value for money, in the interests of the taxpayer. 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