

East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

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

Date: 10/09/2024

Title: **: AWARD OF NON-ALLOCATED FUNDS WITHIN THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (SEPTEMBER 2024)**

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Implementation Date: 10/09/2024

Urgent Decision: **No**

DECISION:

Decision to award non-allocated funds, realised through efficiency savings, arising within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme through the agreed protocol to projects that have engaged with the Programme through referrals from Inward Investment and Place. The proposals have, as with any application to UKSPF/RPF been evaluated by the relevant Officer Panel and Partnership Sub-Group and have also received political and Senior Officer approval.

Sir Joseph Banks Centre – Sir Joseph Banks CIO - £60,000

This project is seeking funding for the Sir Joseph Banks Society to purchase the building in Horncastle that it currently inhabits, which is up for sale and 'at risk' of being lost through sale. The building will provide an expanded rural training hub for botany and geography offer in Horncastle, utilised by local schools and the University of Lincoln – With the long term business plan seeking to develop this further in support of social finance (which will cover the remaining balance of purchase).

Goldwing Owner's Club, Lincolnshire Chapter – The Skegness Light Parade - £7,000

This project supports the growth of the Skegness Light Parade. The purpose of the event is to raise money for multiple local charities, while also providing an out-of-season event in Skegness that draws in motorcycle lovers and interested members of the public alike, driving footfall into the centre of Skegness. The event, which will occur on 28.9.24, will not be possible without UKSPF funds.

Greenborough Management Ltd. – ‘Taming the Dragons’ Angel Investor Network - £17,650

Building on a successful model already in existence in Lincoln, Derby and Nottingham, 18 businesses will be supported through a programme aiming to improve their chances of long-term investment for growth and a proportion of these will go forward to a ‘Dragons Den’ type event, where they will pitch to ‘Angel’ Investors for investment to support business growth. At least four businesses in the SELCP area will receive significant investment from the Angel Investors, with the concordant benefits to local growth realised through the support.

The Old Bolingbroke Gas House - St. Peter and St. Paul PCC, Old Bolingbroke - £19,500

Additional grant funding to support the expansion and development of the pre-existing Old Bolingbroke Gas House and Butcher’s Shed Projects. Specifically:

- 1) improvements in wayfinding to strengthen the links and visitor connectivity between the inter-related heritage projects within the village. 2) Enhancements to the interior fit-out of the Gas House. Specifically, new bespoke folding exhibition screens that would allow greater flexibility and use of the building, particularly for talks, meetings, and community events.

Wainfleet All Saints Market Place Renewal - £1,369

Additional funding of £1,369 to support with the heritage and conservation works at Wainfleet which will act a small adjustment to their pre-existing project and was subject to a delegated officer decision. This subsequent variation has been agreed by the relevant portfolio holder Councillor Steve Kirk.

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 sixth round of which shall be determined in October 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 meet the objectives that we have committed to under all three Themes. 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