

## East Lindsey District Council

Not Confidential

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

Date: 25/10/2024

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

Wards Affected: All

Key Decision: No Implementation Date: 23/10/2024

Urgent Decision: **No**

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### **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 been evaluated by the relevant Officer Panel and have also received political and Senior Officer approval.

#### **Steadfast Training – Connect2Grow - £25,000**

This project aims to work with DWP to support those facing mid-to-long term unemployment to access the labour market through provision of a qualification and a guaranteed job interview with a local employer. Currently delivering successfully in South Holland and moderately successfully in Boston, this intervention will be new to East Lindsey. There was also a proposed component oriented at specifically targeting and supporting veterans' communities.

#### **University of Lincoln – Higher Level Engineering - £20,750**

The University will work to deliver Level 4 'taster' sessions introducing young people and adult learners alike to AI, Agri-Tech and careers in the food production sector. This has been highly successful in South Holland and Boston Borough but will be new to East Lindsey.

**PAB Languages – Global Gateway Transforming Local Talents into Global Entrepreneurs - £12,030**

An extension of the current successful PAB languages project operating in East Lindsey which supports people mid-level employment (management and leadership) in East Lindsey (specifically within manufacturing and food production) to engage with new markets and cultures with the aim of facilitating international trade for businesses in the District.

**The UK Fresh Produce Network – Access to Finance and Institutional Investment Event - £10,000**

The UK Fresh Produce Network will hold an event at the London Stock Exchange inviting between 60 and 90 Lincolnshire businesses (focussed mainly on the agricultural sector), alongside financial experts from banks, venture capital firms and institutional investors. The focus will be on linking businesses in this sector with institutional finance and supporting ongoing access to capital, which will in turn support job growth in our local area. This will include a substantial proportion based within East Lindsey.

**Scorer Hawkins Architects (Lead Applicant) – The Old Bolingbroke Butcher’s Shed - £10,000**

To approve an additional allocation of funds to the above project to cover an unexpected expense associated with establishing a sewerage connection, to enable the installation of toilet facilities at the new Bolingbroke Castle visitor complex.

**It must be noted:** These projects sit separate to the ringfenced funding available to village halls, parish councils and community spaces (administered by Lincolnshire Community Foundation (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. With the exception of Bolingbroke (which was subject to a political decision alone due to time constraints associated with active capital works on site), all were appraised through a competitive process. Consultation occurred with the relevant Portfolio Holder. 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**