

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Executive

5th December 2023

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 3

Portfolio Holder: Cllr Kel Finan-Cooke – Economic and Income Development
Head of Service: Martin Breeden – Head of Investment & Development
Report Author: Joe Walsh – Economic Development Manager
Key Decision: Yes.
Date Portfolio Holder signed off the report: 13 November 2023
Wards Affected: All.

Summary and purpose

The purpose of this paper is to:

- 1) Seek approval from the Executive for projects that will be delivered in Year 3 as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Recommendation

The Executive is advised to RESOLVE that

- (i) the projects that will be delivered in Year 3 as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, as set out at Annex 1 to this report, be agreed; and
- (ii) authority be delegated to the Head of Property and Economic Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic & Income Development and the relevant project Portfolio Holder to make any amendments to the Year 3 project programme should it be necessary, including assessing the project 3 deliverables set out in Annex 1.

1. Background and Supporting Information

- 1.1 After agreement from Executive in July 2022, SHBC submitted its UKSPF Investment Plan to Government in August 2022. The Council was informed in January 2023 that this has been approved and will receive £1m of funding over 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 1.2 In July 2022, the Executive agreed that due to the timescales for delivery, only projects already agreed within the SHBC Annual Plan would be supported with UKSPF funding in 2022/23 (Year 1). These have now been delivered.

- 1.3 In March 2023, the Executive agreed Year 2 projects. An update report was provided in September on these projects, and is available within the Background Papers section of this report.
- 1.4 Due to the significant amount of spend associated with UKSPF Year 3 (£881,281) it was agreed that a report would be submitted to Executive in September 2023 to agree themes for Year 3 project spend (available within Background Papers section of this report). A subsequent report would be submitted for review and approval in December 2023 (current report).
- 1.5 Projects have now been developed, informal discussions have been had with Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities regarding alterations to the Investment Plan. These have been positively received, formal agreement will be sought through the monitoring period. Unfortunately due to digital issues, DLUHC have delayed this process.
- 1.6 The Local Partnership Group have also approved the proposed projects / themes in the Surrey Heath Partnership Meeting on 20/09/2023.
- 1.7 Where possible, officers will seek to utilise this funding to leverage additional funding from other sources.
- 1.8 It should be noted that this is one off funding from Government and therefore projects will cease in line with this funding concluding. Officers will review other funding opportunities accordingly.

2. Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 Officers have engaged with services across the council to review existing and eligible projects and aligned these with current Council priorities.
- 2.2 Projects are eligible for UKSPF spend.

3. Proposal and Alternative Options

- 3.1 Executive are able to suggest alternative options. Officers will be required to check these against UKSPF guidance, and review deliverability within the required timescales.
- 3.2 Officers will also be required to seek approval from Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and The Local Partnership Group for any changes put forward.

4. Contribution to the Council's Five Year Strategy

- 4.1 All projects being delivered contribute to the delivery of the Council's Five Year Strategy and other Council strategies.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 Officers have aligned projects with Council priorities and there are no additional internal resources required for the delivery of these projects.

6. Section 151 Officer Comments:

- 6.1 Formal approval of the expenditure will be included in approval of the 2024/25 budget.

7. Legal and Governance Issues

- 7.1 In order to receive the funding SHBC has signed a 'Memorandum of Understanding' with Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. This was agreed with S151 and Head of Legal Services.

8. Monitoring Officer Comments:

- 8.1 No matters arising for the Monitoring Officer

9. Other Considerations and Impacts

Environment and Climate Change

- 9.1 All projects within the environment actions were considered as part of the review of the annual plan. The Climate Change Officer will contribute to the delivery of projects where appropriate.

Equalities and Human Rights

- 9.2 The projects are designed to support all parts of the Surrey Heath community.

Risk Management

- 9.3 Funding has now been agreed with Government for all three years. Each project will include a risk evaluation appropriate to the level of spend.
- 9.4 Risk mitigation includes:
- 9.4.1 Ensuring effective project management processes are in place including regular reviews
 - 9.4.2 Regularly reviewing costs, particularly with high inflation. Due to this fund being a one-off amount, should project spend increase a decision will need to be made regarding which projects to continue.
 - 9.4.3 Ensure that UKSPF guidance is followed
 - 9.4.4 Ensure that Council procedure is followed by organisations delivering on our behalf. E.g following procurement guidelines.

Community Engagement

9.5 Engagement with the Local Partnership Group, run through the Surrey Heath Partnership has been consistent during the application process. A presentation was given to the Surrey Heath Partnership meeting to discuss and agree the projects outlined within this Annex 1. It was approved.

Appendixes

Annex 1 – UKSPF Year 3 Project Recommendations

Background Papers

UKSPF Executive Report 19th July 2022

<https://surreyheath.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s27412/5.%20UK%20Shared%20Prosperity.pdf>

UKSPF Executive Report 15th November 2022

<https://surreyheath.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s28660/6.%20Year%201%20projects%20UKSPF.pdf>

UKSPF Executive Report 14th March 2023

<https://surreyheath.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=127&MId=3899>

UKSPF Executive Report 19th September 2023

<https://surreyheath.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=127&MId=4140>