

UKSPF Lincoln Programme

The Council has been awarded £2.8 million for the delivery and completion of a programme of work by March 2025 that supports the government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK, build pride in place and increase life chances for communities.

At Executive on March 20th the Council approved a Round 1 programme of projects valuing £1.5 M for immediate development and delivery, and that a Round 2 programme, be developed for further approval.

Programme Management

Processes and protocols are now in place to assure the funding is administered within the terms of the Government guidance and assurance requirements, and a monitoring and reporting framework has been established to ensure projects are delivering to the agreed delivery plan and achieving the agreed outputs and outcomes. Delivery progress will be publicised through the Council's communication team and website. The Council will continue to report progress to DLUCH on a six-monthly basis. Programme management is expected to cost around 7% of the total Programme costs.

Progress on the Round 1 projects is as follows:

Cost of Living Support Programme: This programme will provide support for residents in most need arising from the cost-of-living crisis. The programme is being led by City of Lincoln Council's Revenues and Benefits team, working with the Welfare Teams and local partners including Bridge Church and Acts Trust. Projects currently include; a cost of living community support grant scheme; a research commission into cost of living support need and access in local non English speaking communities; and a voucher scheme for the Lincoln Community Grocery.

Community Grant Scheme Project: A Community Grant scheme has been developed with support from Investors in Lincoln, to be administered through each of the 11 city wards for grants up to £5000 to support the community priorities. Grant eligibility will require evidence of how use will support local community priorities and 100% match funding – although volunteer time can be used as match funding. Priorities and grant awards will be developed and made through ward panels made up of locally elected councillors and community partners, and supported by the City Council's Neighbourhood Management Team including two newly appointed Community Connectors. Ward panels are in the process of being established and grants are targeted to be open for applications later this autumn via the City Council's website.



North Lincoln Community Hub(s) Programme ; In response to the identified priorities and building on the success of Ermine community Library and Hub, the City Council's neighbourhood team are working with Bishop Grosseteste University and other partners to identify opportunities for further community support within the area. Funding has already been provided to enable the Hub to extend its opening times in July and August, providing an important community resource for children during the summer holidays. A scoping report to identify wider deliverable proposals is now being undertaken, reporting at the end of September, which will consider wider community need within the Ermine/St Giles area and how local assets can be best used to meet those needs.

No Wrong Door Project: Funding to support the Acts Trust's to develop their existing bespoke Triage software, 'The Restore System' making it accessible to any organisations in the Lincoln area. Organisations can use the triage tools through any web browser on any device to guide beneficiaries through a questionnaire, to develop bespoke personalised support plans, listing all local services relevant to the individuals need. The Acts Trust will provide systems training as well as coaching/befriending training and continue to administrate the system to ensure up to date information is maintained. It is expected that many beneficiaries will be economically inactive, socially excluded, low-skilled (including life skills) and many will also be vulnerable to poverty/have been accessing food aid. A delivery Plan for this project is complete and funding will be released on completion of a Grant Funding Agreement with staff appointment to support delivery expected soon.

Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub: Funding support towards a shared service of Business support to be delivered by the Lincolnshire Growth Hub across Lincolnshire, will provide the continuity in Business support developed previously through European funding. A delivery plan is in place and outputs have been agreed.

Business Advisor for Lincoln: The appointment of a Business Support Adviser to build capacity in supporting Lincoln Businesses in key growth sectors is underway. A key aim of the new post is to support those who may struggle to start up and/or manage business growth, as well as to look at connecting developing and established businesses, particularly in priority sectors, to build networks/clusters for economic advantage. Recruitment has commenced and if successful an appointment should be made by October.

The Restore Programme : funding to support the Acts Trust 'Restore Programme', a programme of training support designed to empower those aged 18+ to understand and overcome issues of poverty is proposed for allocation to the Acts Trust. The Restore Programme consists of course modules designed to support those experiencing poverty, in particular those people who are economically inactive and those with mental health challenges. These modules will be run at various venues across the city such as Energize Youth Centre, Alive Church, Ermine Library, Beaumont Manor (Lincoln Community Grocery) and also within foodbank and Night Light Cafe locations. The programme will target the unemployed, particularly those who have been out of work for longer than 6 months, as well as those not fit for work (with the aim of empowering them to feel 'work ready'). It will also target people who



have had to use foodbanks within the last 6 months, as this is an indicator of poverty and engage with referrals from multiple organisations across the City using the Restore Triage tool of the 'No Wrong Door'. A delivery plan has been completed and the project will commence delivery on completion of the Grant Funding Agreement.

Linking Local Business to Local People programme : This programme aims to unlock the barriers to local Businesses training and upskilling locally, to address recruitment gaps for new and growing Business sectors, but will also address the low skill and high economic inactivity levels within the District. As such the programme will span both the supporting Business and People and Skills UKspf strands. The programme is in development, but some exciting emerging projects aimed at addressing skill gaps in electric vehicle and green energy maintenance and servicing sectors have been identified to date and are currently being developed. A full project programme is expected for reporting to Executive Committee late autumn.

Round 2 projects

A workshop with city council members is planned for the end of September to review the scope, priorities and opportunities for future projects in advance of developing proposals for reporting to Executive Committee late Autumn.

Recommendation

That Town Board note progress in respect of the UKSPF programme.