

Item 11: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

Summary

The City Council was allocated £2,810,773 UKSPF funding as part of the government's levelling up agenda for expenditure April 2022 to March 2025. The basis of the award was an Investment Plan submitted in 2022, which set out how this fund would be indicatively spent across the 3 pillars of the fund, Community and Place, People and Skills and Supporting Local Businesses.

The phase 2 projects as reported to last Town Board in March were approved subject to delivery Plan sign off at Council Executive committee on 18th of March 2024.

The final project programme and project updates under each of the UKSPF pillars, Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills can be seen at Appendix A.

Programme

The scope of the programme is ambitious and aims to respond to local area needs, and gaps identified in provision, particularly in Ermine and Moorland Wards.

The UKSPF funding was originally expected to support a three-year delivery programme but this has been reduced to a two years due to delays in the approval process. The LGA are lobbying for an extension to the national programme to accommodate the delivery pressure many Local Authorities are experiencing but at this current time all expenditure is still expected by March 2025.

Expenditure

Expenditure evidenced to date as reported to DLUHC to end of March 2024 is £685,333.66, with just over £1.7M committed through approved delivery plans and Grant Funding Agreements across the projects outlined in Appendix A. Discussions are in progress for committing the remaining £360K with potential partners.

Risks

Due to the reduced delivery time moderate risks have been identified across the programme in terms of construction works programming and output delivery. These are currently being managed to minimise or mitigate as follows:

- The capital works on the Community Centres are being undertaken by the City Council using existing contract frameworks
- Community development work is commencing in advance of capital works

- The programme consists predominantly of trusted partners with a track record of delivering similar projects or are extending/scaling up existing
- All projects are monitored on a quarterly basis and any issues responded to efficiently

Investment Sub Committee will be kept updated on risks but there are no major issues to report regarding at this time.

Recommendation

Town Board are recommended to note the report.