

SUBJECT:	UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 2025-2026
DIRECTORATE:	MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS
REPORT AUTHOR:	KATE ELLIS – STRATEGIC DIRECTOR MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek Executive approval to submit Lincoln's project programme for the one-year UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund) funding available for 2025-26.

2. UKSPF 2025-26

- 2.1 City of Lincoln Council was previously directly awarded £2,810,773 of funding from the government's UKSPF programme between 2022-25 which has enabled us to deliver a comprehensive programme of projects across Lincoln particularly focusing on community and people projects within our most deprived areas, alongside business support, employment, and skills. That programme needs to be fully and spent and delivered by 31 March 2025 and is on track to do.
- 2.2 The government announced in the Autumn Budget on 30 October 2024 that there would be a further one-year standalone UKSPF programme for 2025-26. As Lincoln is now part of a devolved combined county authority, this new allocation has been pooled into a single allocation for Greater Lincolnshire. North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) is the accountable body for the funding in 2025-26 and will be managing, monitoring and reporting on the overall programme for the Greater Lincolnshire Mayoral County Combined Authority (GLMCCA).
- 2.3 The GLMCCA confirmed on 14 February 2025 that:
- Allocations have been made to each area based on the methodology for the 2022-25 programme.
 - No new investment plans are required but a refresh of the existing investment plans is expected to ensure activity reflects the programme and GLMCCA priorities.
 - The GLMCCA have centralised the funding for the Supporting Business Priority and are administering all supporting initiatives through the Lincolnshire Business Hub under a separate Investment Plan proposal.
 - Revised investment plans for each area should go through their own relevant governance process to ensure alignment, local approval and political sign-off. For Lincoln this means the Town Board for comment/input/recommendations and then the City Council's Executive Committee for final decision and approval.
 - Draft revised investment plans to be submitted to NELC by 28 February 2025.

- 2.4 Lincoln's allocation on this basis is a total of £880,902 which comprises £143,680 capital and £737,222 revenue funds for spend and delivery by 31 March 2026.
- 2.5 A refreshed draft investment plan for Lincoln's UKSPF 2025-26 allocation was submitted on 27 February 2025 following a discussion at Town Fund Investment Sub Committee on 18 February 2025. This follows a review of projects within the existing programme that were successfully and effectively delivering the target outcomes and outputs and the capital projects where early activity could be continued and built upon to maximise their impact in those deprived areas. In addition, there was a review of the evidence base, the emerging anti-poverty strategy work in Lincoln and consultation feedback on the Council's Vision 2030 work to ensure projects and activity met local needs and priorities. The draft investment plan prioritises funding for the community and place and people and skills priorities given the GLMCCA's approach to the Supporting Business priority. The submitted draft investment plan is attached below as Appendix A.
- 2.6 A further update was received on 05 March 2025 from NELC which confirms the following:
- NELC will issue Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to each council area in April 2025.
 - Individual Investment Plans should be locally approved with a target date of 21 March 2025 (Lincoln has notified NELC that Executive will be 24 March 2025 and that is acceptable).
 - Overall Investment Plan agreed by GLMCCA partners and uploaded by 18 April 2025.
 - First payments by early June 2025 (anything prior is at risk).
 - Review of delivery in September 2025 so programme needs to be well underway and committed to avoid clawback/reduction of funding.
 - Full review of programme in January 2026 to ensure spend and delivery achievable by 31 March 2026.
- 2.7 Lincoln's Town Deal Board is meeting on Friday 14 March 2025 to consider the proposed UKSPF 2025-26 programme and their comments will be circulated to the Executive for the 24 March 2025 meeting.

3. Strategic Priorities

- 3.1 The UKSPF programme will deliver a range of outputs contributing to all of the Council's strategic priorities.

4. Organisational Impacts

4.1 Finance (Including Whole Life Costs where Applicable)

Under the original UKSPF allocation for 2022-2025 the Council acted as the accountable body, for 2025/26 that responsibility now sits with NELC.

The administration of the scheme will continue in the existing way with the Council directly delivering a number of schemes itself along with delivery through external organisations. Grant drawdowns and claims monitoring will be through NELC rather

than through MHCLG. The current, robust, programme management and monitoring arrangements will continue to be in place.

As with the current scheme, there remains a risk to the Council of any cost overruns on projects that it will directly deliver, as there is no guarantee that there will be any underspends on other projects and activity in the year that could be reallocated. The Council will need to continue to ensure its projects are managed effectively and that any potential overspends are identified and mitigated where possible.

The capital allocation of £143,680 will require inclusion in the General Investment Programme for 2025/26, fully funded through external grant.

The revenue allocation of £737,222 will be included in the General Fund revenue account, fully funded through grant.

4.2 Legal Implications Including Procurement Rules

No direct legal impacts arising from this report.

4.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

No direct impacts arising from this report.

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

5. Risk Implications

There are no risks identified arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 To approve the proposed programme for the 2025-26 UKSPF funding in Lincoln to be submitted to NEL for inclusion in the GLMCCA government submission.
- 6.2 Subject to approval of the overall Investment Plan by GLMCCA partners, that the budget allocations set out in paragraph 4.1 are included in the General Investment Programme and General Fund revenue account in 2025/26.

Is this a key decision?

No

Do the exempt information categories apply?

No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?

No

How many appendices does the report contain?

One

List of Background Papers:

None

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APPENDIX A – Proposed Lincoln 2025/26 UKSPF Investment Plan

Investment Priority; Communities and Place		Project						
Theme	Sub-theme:	Title and brief description	New or continuation from 22-25	Is the project specific to location, or could it be delivered across a	Revenue Grant (£)	Capital Grant	Match Funding (£)	Total Cost
Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities	Healthy: Improve health and wellbeing	Initiatives will include; Cost of living programme; No Wrong Door project; Age UK project . These initiatives are targeted at addressing the health and well being issues associated with cost of living crisis, isolation amongst the elderly and vulnerable and digital exclusion.	Continuation	Local	£186,755.00	£0.00	£0.00	£186,755.00
Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities	Inclusive: Bringing communities together, tackling homelessness	Initiatives will include Anti Poverty Strategy and action plan and Neighbourhood working engagement toolkit ; A Citywide Community Grant Scheme ; Ermine Community Hub Project - a programme of community engagement targeted to local need, including better digital connectivity and safe places for the young. Moorland Community Hub - programme of activity targeted to community need. A programme of initiatives targeted at community development and cohesion.	Continuation	Local	£386,602.00	£43,680.00		£430,282.00
Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities	High streets and town centres improvements	South High Street place-shaping framework to promote and enable South High Street to be a diverse, vibrant and sustainable neighbourhood; Greening the City Project - capital works aimed at supporting City centre vibrancy	New	Local	£20,000.00	£100,000.00		£120,000.00
					£593,357.00	£143,680.00	£0.00	£737,037.00
Investment Priority; Supporting Local Business		Project						
Theme	Sub-theme:	Title and brief description	New or continuation from 22-25	Is the project specific to location, or could it be delivered across a wider area?	Revenue Grant (£)	Capital Grant	Match Funding (£)	Total Cost
					£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Investment Priority; People and Skills		Project						
Theme	Sub-theme:	Title and brief description	New or continuation from 22-25	Is the project specific to location, or could it be delivered across a wider area?	Revenue Grant (£)	Capital Grant	Match Funding (£)	Total Cost
Employability		Our Community Bakery - support for hard to reach NEETs to access education, training and employment.	Continuation	Local	£60,000.00			£60,000.00
Employability	Supporting people to progress towards and into employment	Teenage Market Project - upskilling young people to use their creativity, entrepreneurship and innovation to explore self employment opportunities through local market use and targeted events.	New	Local	£20,000.00			£20,000.00
					£80,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£80,000.00