

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	26 th July 2022
Lead Member / Officer	Lead Member for Economic Growth & Tackling Deprivation/Head of Communities & Customers Service
Report author	Head of Communities & Customers Service
Title	Shared Prosperity Fund

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund, part of the Levelling Up agenda.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. To provide information for Cabinet on the local arrangements for planning and delivering a Regional Investment Plan
- 2.2. To seek approval for the recommendations outlined.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That approval is given to further develop the Shared Prosperity Fund programme within Denbighshire, and regionally through officer input, in line with the principles set out in this report.
- 3.2. That delegated authority is given to the Chief Executive and the Lead Member for Economic Growth & Tackling Deprivation to develop and submit Denbighshire's priorities for inclusion in the Regional Investment Strategy to enable the programme funding to be drawn down.
- 3.3. That the proposal to ask Gwynedd County Council to act as the lead body to submit the Regional Investment Strategy to UK Government and to lead subsequent programme delivery is supported.

4. Report details

4.1. An explanation of the Shared Prosperity Fund, progress to date and next steps can be found at Appendix 1

5. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

5.1. Four percent of the value of the programme can be drawn down by the regional lead body for programme governance, administration and monitoring and evaluation. Funds can be allocated from this sum to each local authority to cover programme management costs so the programme should not present an additional burden to Council finances

5.2. UK Government does not require local government to provide match funding for the programme although it is encouraged. The Council may, in order to maximise the availability of limited funding or to comply with subsidy control legislation, require organisations applying for funding from the programme to provide an element of match funding

5.3. Managing and delivering the programme will require the Council to recruit temporary staff which may create the risk of redundancy cost liabilities at programme closure in 2025/26

6. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

6.1. As this is a collaborative project across North Wales a Well-being Impact Assessment has not been carried out to date, but the following impacts have been identified:

6.2. Long-term: The Council will prioritise projects that can demonstrate an impact beyond the duration of the programme

6.3. Prevention: The Council will prioritise projects that can demonstrate that they address underlying issues rather than merely tackling their symptoms.

6.4. Integration, Collaboration, Involvement: The Council has already held some consultation on the priorities for the programme. The Council will, under

appropriate priorities, establish open calls for proposals so that a wide range of organisations can contribute to the delivery of the priorities.

6.5. The Council will prioritise projects that can demonstrate that they are integrated into wider local partnerships and programmes rather than established solely for the purpose of securing funding from this programme.

6.6. The Council will prioritise projects that can demonstrate that they address the Well Being Goals.

7. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

7.1. There have been workshops and meetings regionally to engage stakeholders to inform the priorities for the programme in relation to skills and employment. The majority of skills and employment programmes have tended to be delivered on a regional or sub-regional footprint due the commonality of needs of the clients and the ability to secure economies of scale

7.2. Locally, the Council has held one internal and one external webinar, with representation from Council teams, external partners, third sector representatives and the business community. The feedback from these sessions will be used to inform the priorities for the programme in Denbighshire

8. Chief Finance Officer Statement

8.1. Obviously the Shared Prosperity Fund will form an important part of the funding landscape going forward as EU funding has in the past. There are risks and resource implications which will become clearer as we go through the development of the strategy. It is welcome that it currently seems possible to align the funding with elements of existing activity which has proved to work and can be linked to DCC priorities. A dedicated finance resource has now been allocated to support the programme.

9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Recruitment</p> <p>The programme will require a number of staff to be recruited to manage and deliver the programme. Recruitment will be urgent due to the constrained timescale of the programme and the Council will be competing with every other Council in the UK for applicants.</p>	<p>This will be a strategic risk for the programme and for the majority of projects within it. There is no immediate mitigation possible but close monitoring will help the Council to take corrective action where it can.</p>
<p>Expectations</p> <p>There is a risk that organisations whose priorities and projects are not prioritised will criticise the Council.</p>	<p>The Council will need to be clear from the earliest stages on the approach it will take to setting the priorities for the programme and on its delivery strategy including how it will invite and select proposals from third parties.</p>
<p>Multiply</p> <p>The scale of the programme appears to be disproportionate to the unmet need in our communities and there is existing provision in place to meet these needs.</p>	<p>Further discussion at the strategic level on the approach needed to deliver Multiply and to seek greater flexibility to allow resources to be used more widely.</p>

10. Power to make the decision

10.1. The Council's economic development function are the responsibility of the Cabinet in accordance with the Council's constitution and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007.