

<b>Report to</b>	Cabinet, 24 January 2023
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth & Tackling Deprivation / Liz Grieve, Head of Customer, Communications & Marketing
<b>Report author</b>	Nicola Kneale, Interim Joint Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation
<b>Title</b>	Year 1 applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund, and a general update re. the process and timescales for future application rounds

## **1. What is the report about?**

- 1.1. Applications to the Shared Prosperity Fund that are recommended for approval by Cabinet, plus a general update on future application processes and timescales.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

A decision is required on whether to fund the applications enclosed, and Cabinet need to be aware of next steps in terms of the Shared Prosperity Fund.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

- 3.1. That Cabinet approves the applications, based on recommendations from the Core Partnership Group.
- 3.2. That Cabinet considers the information on processes and timescales for future applications (Appendix B) and advises on next steps.

## 4. Report details

- 4.1. The UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund makes £21.2 million available to Denbighshire communities between 2022 and end of March 2025 across three investment priority themes: Communities & Place; Supporting Local Business, and People & Skills. The funding is part of the UK Government's Levelling Up suite of investment.
- 4.2. In anticipation of UK Government approval of the Investment Plan in late November, SLT were invited to develop applications for spending year 1 funding. Please note, the invitation to apply for year 1 funding has been restricted to the local authority only due to the terms of the funding between UK Government and LAs not yet being agreed (therefore carrying a level of financial risk that is not acceptable). All applications must cover until March 2023 only, and be able to spend and deliver by then.
- 4.3. As per UK Government Guidance, a Partnership Group has been established '*... to advise on strategic fit and deliverability...*'. Applications have been shared with the Partnership Group and commentary requested. This has then been shared with a subset of the Partnership Group – the Core Group – who are able to make recommendations to Cabinet on what to fund based on strategic fit, deliverability and affordability. The Core Group is made up as follows:
- DCC Leader (Chair):
  - Corporate Director: Economy, Environment & Communities
  - Lead Member: Corporate Strategy, Policy & Equalities
  - Conwy & Denbighshire Area Superintendent, North Wales Police
  - Chief Officer Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council
  - Chief Officer Cadwyn Clwyd
- 4.4. Appendix A summarises the projects recommended to receive funding. The year 1 allocation is not fully committed, with the breakdown being as follows (please note, national agreement is needed about how Multiply will be allocated).

## DCC UKSPF Year 1 Allocation Summary

	Capital £	Revenue £	Revenue: Multiply £	TOTAL £
UKSPF ALLOCATION	850,000.00	1,725,096.00	669,525.00	3,244,621.00
Less Expenditure:				
Committed 4% Admin	0.00	103,004.00	0.00	103,004.00
<i>Applications 1 - 12</i>	<i>497,602.00</i>	<i>1,370,747.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>1,868,349.00</i>
TOTAL SPEND	497,602.00	1,473,751.00	0.00	1,971,353.00
REMAINING	352,398.00	251,345.00	669,525.00	1,273,268.00

This equates to an underspend of almost £604k in 2022-23.

4.5. Recommendations from the Core Group are to fund the projects, details of which are provided at Appendix A.

4.6. Appendix B outlines the process and timelines for opening up further invitations to apply for Shared Prosperity Funding. It also highlights risks to those processes and timescales, and proposed mitigations.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

5.1. The Investment Plan for the SPF has been developed within the context of our corporate priorities.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. Costs associated with this decision will be covered by the 4% administration award that's part of the SPF allocation.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

Not required for this panel. The investment plan was subject to a WIA.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. Scrutiny doesn't have an official role to play in this process. As previously mentioned, the UK Government guidance stipulates the need for a Partnership

Group to advise on investment decisions, in order to aid transparency, accountability, and ensure good value for money.

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

As noted in 4.2, the applications for year 1 of the investment plan has been restricted to the local authority to mitigate the risk due to the tight timescales to deliver these schemes by March 2023. As noted in 6.1, the costs of the year 1 schemes and associated support costs are fully grant funded.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. The tight timescales for applicants to deliver represents a challenge. To overcome this, we will share as much information as possible to help applicants prepare bids, and support successful applicants to help ensure effective project delivery.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

11.1. 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.

11.2. General Power of Competence under the Local Government and Elections Wales Act 2021 s.24