

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	21 February 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth & Tackling Deprivation/ Liz Grieve, Head of Customer, Communications & Marketing
Report author	Nicola Kneale, Interim Head of Business Improvement & Modernisation
Title	Commissioning organisations to deliver a programme under the Shared Prosperity Fund

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. The proposal to commission two organisations to deliver a programme of work (including a grant regime or 'Key Fund') under certain Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) interventions.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To explain the rationale for commissioning DVSC and Cadwyn Clwyd to run a programme of work for the following themes, as recommended by Denbighshire's SPF Partnership Group

- Healthier, Happier, Caring: Community Capacity Building
- Prosperous: Business Support Across the County

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet agrees to commission Cadwyn Clwyd and DVSC to run a programme of work combining direct delivery and a key fund for themes (which

will be open for applications from Denbighshire communities, be they residential or commercial), detailed in Appendix A and Appendix B, respectively.

4. Report details

- 4.1. It has been agreed that UKSPF applications must have a project value of at least £250k. To enable to support lower value projects we are looking to establish grant regimes (Key Funds) that will be available to communities and businesses.
- 4.2. Projects delivered through the Key Funds approach will contribute to the outputs and outcomes of the individual interventions and it will be the responsibility of the Key Fund delivery body to ensure that robust procedures are in place for third party delivers to collate the required evidence in relation to due diligence, claims, outputs and outcomes reporting.
- 4.3. Third party Key Fund providers will require some preparatory time in order to be ready to run the grant scheme. Due to the spend deadline of December 2024, DCC would like to support the expedience of this preparatory work. Should this request not be approved, the next key decision point for Cabinet is likely to be April 2023, which would delay grant preparations being made for two months and further shorten the delivery window available to communities. For that reason, it is proposing to commission this work under themes where it is considered that:
 - i. There will be interest from residential and business communities in delivering projects of a value of less than £250k;
 - ii. There are limited organisations with the specific subject/technical expertise to deliver such Key Funds under the themes identified.
- 4.4. For the reasons outlined above it is proposed that commissioning takes place under the Business Support and Community Capacity Building themes, and that Cadwyn Clwyd and DVSC (respectively) are directly commissioned to deliver a package of support that will be available to our communities.
- 4.5. Under Contract Procedure Rules this action can be taken under the following Exceptions:

- i. in relation to time limited grant funding from an external body, where the time limitations will not allow a competitive procurement process to be completed and where the grant conditions allow this;
- ii. where delay attributable to the quotation or tendering process would, in the estimation of the Head of Service concerned, result in the Council incurring net expenditure or forfeiting net income in excess of the savings on the contract sum that might reasonably be expected to accrue from competitive tendering

4.6. It should be noted that the value of the contracts also covers complementary roles to maximise the impact of the Key Fund. For example, a Community Leadership Programme to build community confidence and skills. The whole programme is subject to the Exceptions above.

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 plan themes as detailed in section 2 of this report.

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

6.1 The level of funding available is £2million under the Business Support theme, and £1.9million under the Community Capacity Building theme. The funding is provided by UK Government under the Levelling Up programme, so there are no direct costs for Denbighshire.

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

7.1 This report is about awarding funding under Denbighshire County Council's SPF Investment Plan. This Investment Plan was subject to a well-being impact assessment itself, and monies are awarded only if projects comply with the strategic aims of that investment plan, hence a Well-being Impact Assessment is not needed.

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

8.1. This approach has been discussed regionally and neighbouring authorities are taking a similar approach where they see fit.

- 8.2. This has been discussed with Denbighshire's Legal Team and they have agreed this approach subject to the approval of an Exceptions report.
- 8.3. This proposal has been shared electronically with Denbighshire's SPF Partnership Group who were asked to provide feedback. The proposal and any feedback received was then subsequently discussed at Denbighshire's SPF Core Partnership Group meeting on 25th January. These recommendations are those agreed by the Core Partnership Group.
- 8.4. The recommendations were discussed at Cabinet Briefing, where the opportunity was also taken to seek assurance that both Cadwyn Clwyd and DVSC would ensure fair and appropriate geographical delivery.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

- 9.1 This report is about the rationale for commissioning two organisations as Key Funds delivery bodies to deliver a programme of Shared Prosperity Fund interventions. As stated in 4.1 the Key Funds approach will allow communities and businesses to access SPF support for smaller scale projects. As stated in 6.1. there is no direct cost to the Council. The approach is supported.

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

- 10.1. There is the possibility of a challenge from other organisations that may have been interested in applying to deliver against these themes. The Exceptions outlined in 4.5. justify the approach taken.

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