

Report to	Cabinet
Date of meeting	23 May 2023
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Jason McLellan, Leader and Lead Member for Economic Growth & Tackling Deprivation / Tony Ward, Director: Environment & Economy
Head of Service	Nicola Kneale, Joint Interim Head of Corporate Support Service: Performance, Digital & Assets
Report author	Nicola Kneale
Title	Governance for the Levelling Up Fund monies

1. What is the report about?

- 1.1. Governance arrangements for overseeing delivery of projects funded by the Levelling Up Fund.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

- 2.1. As lead delivery body for the Clwyd West LUF project, Denbighshire County Council is required to have a constituted delivery board that has LUF in its Terms of Reference. This report describes to Cabinet the oversight and assurance mechanisms that are in place, and how they are integrated into the governance arrangements of the Council.

3. What are the Recommendations?

- 3.1. That Cabinet confirms that it has read and understood the governance and assurance arrangements described, and that it is satisfied that those arrangements are sufficiently integrated into the Council's business. In particular, Cabinet may have a view on:

- Strategic Overview of Delivery Approach, p6
- Programme Board Membership, noting the Leader's inclusion on the board, p7
- Reporting to Cabinet, Scrutiny, etc., pp8 & 11
- Relationship with CET, p10
- Relationships with area-specific politicians and other stakeholders, p11

4. Report details

- 4.1. Section 8.3 of the Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government and Denbighshire County Council regarding the Clwyd West Levelling Up Fund project states that:

'The Council will provide upon request evidence of a constituted LUF delivery board or that a pre-existing delivery board has formally adopted LUF governance within its Terms of Reference. Integration into the full governance arrangements of the Council should be evident.'

In order to satisfy that requirement the Governance document at Appendix A has been developed.

- 4.2. The document describes the purpose of the Levelling Up Board that will be created; the frameworks and approaches that will be used as it undertakes its work; Board membership, etc. it also cites how the Board will interact with other key bodies in the Council (CET, Cabinet, Scrutiny, etc.) and also outside of it (i.e. stakeholder management with interested parties such as MPs, Town Councils and third party project deliverers).
- 4.3. It should be noted that this governance document also covers Levelling Up Fund work that is not associated with Clwyd West, i.e. its remit is broader than just that of the Clwyd West project. This is because we're also delivering against the UK Government's levelling up agenda in partnership with Wrexham for the Clwyd South area, and in terms of the Shared Prosperity Fund. This work requires collective oversight to monitor progress, work through issues, etc. This work had previously been undertaken via a less formal Post-Brexit Funding Group meeting of DCC officers. This newly established Board will cover that group's work instead. Membership will be broadly the same, with the addition of the Leader.

4.4. Should there be further awards of monies under the Levelling Up fund suite, it would be in the intention for oversight of their delivery to also be via this Board.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Plan 2022 to 2027: The Denbighshire We Want?

5.1. This decision is about governance for delivery under the Levelling Up Fund. The good practise approach will indirectly contribute to theme 9: A well-run, high performing Council. The projects are aligned to the Corporate Plan as closely as possible (given the parameters from UK Government with which DCC is working).

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

6.1. Costs will be absorbed through existing teams. No extra cost.

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

7.1. This report is about governance arrangements and a WIA is not required.

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

8.1. These arrangements have previously been discussed with the Post-Brexit Funding Group, CET and the Leader.

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

9.1 There are no direct financial implications of this report with any costs, as stated in 6.1, being absorbed within existing budgets. The report sets out the governance arrangements for overseeing delivery of projects funded by the Levelling Up and Shared Prosperity Funds. The formal approval of expenditure decisions will remain within existing delegations and processes, including the requirement for all capital expenditure proposals to be considered by the Capital Scrutiny Group.

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

10.1. No particular risks associated with making this decision.

11. Power to make the decision

11.1. General Power of Competence under the Local Government and Elections

Wales Act 2021 s.24