

Sealing of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Deed of Variation

Date: 22nd October 2024

Report of: Chief Officer Economy and Skills

Report to: Director City Development

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

UKSPF is the governments domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF). West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) are the Lead Local Authority for UKSPF in West Yorkshire and have responsibility for the funding in the region.

LCC currently has an agreement in place to deliver hyper-local UKSPF activity across the city. In August the opportunity became available to access additional funding through UKSPF.

This report seeks authorisation to accept an additional allocation from WYCA and to sign and return the deed of variation.

Recommendations

The Chief Officer Economy and Skills is asked to,

- a) Accept £265,391 additional UKSPF funding
- b) Authorise the sealing of the Deed of Variation and return to WYCA

What is this report about?

- 1 UKSPF is the governments domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF). West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) are the Lead Local Authority for UKSPF in West Yorkshire and have responsibility for the funding in the region. In February 2023 LCC entered into an agreement with WYCA to deliver UKSPF activity at a hyper-local level.
- 2 Following a request from WYCA to put forward a proposal for additional activity, a proposal was submitted by LCC in August 2024. A menu of options were put forward by WYCA for LA's to choose from for the additional allocation. LCC chose options which maintained alignment with the high level priorities set in the October 2022 Executive Board report and were deliverable in the time available to spend the funding (31st March 2025). This was subsequently approved by WYCA and a deed of variation issued for the additional funding.
- 3 In October 2022 an Executive Board key decision was taken to accept UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding (including multiply) which included additional funding should it become available. <https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=55735>
- 4 In June 2023 a report was taken to Executive Board outlining the activity to be delivered in years 2 (2023/24) and 3 (2024/25) of the programme. A key decision was taken to delegate authority to the relevant directors to incur expenditure for the remaining years of the programme.
<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/%28X%281%29S%28fkn0jfigeevz5oferbjpk55%29%29/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Allid=93284>
- 5 This report sets out authorisation to accept additional UKSPF funding which has become available and authorise the sealing and return of the deed of variation to WYCA. This decision is a publishable administrative decision which follows a key decision being taken (D55735).

What impact will this proposal have?

- 6 The funding will be used to deliver activity which supports WYCA's Local Investment Plan in 2024/25 and activity set out in the report taken to Executive Board in June 2023.
- 7 The additional funding will deliver the following activity,
 - a) Supporting the regional UKSPF Youth Unemployment contract delivered by Education Development Trust (EDT) with the tracking of NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training) in the city through working with council officers
 - b) Scaling of resident led social action projects and community cohesion projects which were both oversubscribed. This funding will support several projects initially put forward which were deliverable and impactful but there was not enough funding for.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 8 The additional allocation will be delivered in line with the Best City Ambition and its mission to tackle poverty and inequality and improve quality of life; focusing on an economy that works for everyone; improving the health of the poorest the fastest and improving standards of living in all

the city's communities. We work through our Team Leeds approach, working together with our partners to deliver on UKSPF.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 9 See previous Executive Board key decision on 19 October 2022 to accept UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) (including multiply) published at:
<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=55735>
- 10 In regards to the additional funding being allocated the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Sustainable Development has been consulted and is supportive of the activity which will be delivered.

What are the resource implications?

- 11 As part of the initial funding allocation an administration fee is included. Through this a programme management office (PMO) is in place which manages the current funding agreement and ensures compliance through monitoring returns.
- 12 Within the services delivering the activity resource is available to support and monitor the delivery of this activity.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 13 All funding must be spent by 31st March 2025 with any unspent money being lost to the city and West Yorkshire.
- 14 This is being mitigated through project controls put in place by the PMO. This includes monitoring meetings, financial controls, monitoring of risk registers and escalation where necessary.

What are the legal implications?

- 15 The Deed of Variation has been reviewed by the legal manager in procurement who is satisfied LCC can enter into the terms of this agreement.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 16 Due to this being external funding no other options were considered as there are currently no other funding streams for this type of activity.

How will success be measured?

- 17 As part of the Deed of Variation outputs and outcomes are set out which need to be achieved through the additional allocation of funding.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

- 18 The UKSPF operational lead in conjunction with service areas will be responsible for the implementation of the additional funding.

19 Delivery will commence once a signed agreement is in place with WYCA.

Appendices

- Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration (EDCI) screening.

Background papers

- None.