

Report title: Accept UKSPF Funding Agreement 2022-25

Date: 23 January 2023

Report of: Chief Officer Culture & Economy

Report to: Director of City Development

Will the decision be open for call in?  Yes  No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?  Yes  No

## Brief summary

This decision is subsequent to the previous Executive Board key decision on 19 October 2022 to accept UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding (UKSPF) funding (including multiply) published at:

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=55735>

on the 5<sup>th</sup> December the UK Government approved West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (WYCA) Local Investment Plan to deliver UKSPF activity until March 2025. In January 2023 the Council received a UKSPF Funding Agreement from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for a total grant allocation of £9,769,280 to support WYCA's Local Investment Plan for UKSPF. Due to the timescales delivery and spend for year 1 of the programme presents a

## Recommendations What decision has been taken?

It is recommended the Director of City Development:

- a) Accept the UKSPF Funding Agreement from WYCA for a local authority grant allocation of £9,769,280 over Years 2022 – 2025
- b) Authorise the Council to sign, seal and return the agreement to WYCA legal team

## What is this report about?

- 1 This Significant Operational Decision is subsequent to the previous Executive Board key decision on 19 October 2022 to accept UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding (UKSPF) funding (including multiply) published at:

<https://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=55735>

In January 2023 the Council received a UKSPF Funding Agreement from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for a total grant allocation of £9,769,280 to support WYCA's Local Investment Plans delivery for UKSPF between 2022 and 2025.

### What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The funding will be used to deliver activity which supports WYCA's Local Investment Plan from 2022 to 2025.
- 3 The UKSPF activity to be delivered will address four priorities and the delivery of multiply (the Government's numeracy programme) and will align to the following Leeds City Council strategic priorities;
  - I. Cost of living Measures to support residents which will include advice, signposting and financial support to minimise the number of residents in poverty, increase digital inclusion, increase energy efficiency and enable the development of local food strategies and exploring concepts such as community supermarkets.
  - II. Community Infrastructure Programmes to support pride of place and develop the social fabric of communities, including small capital investment and support for resident-led activity through increased engagement. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, Capable guardian programme which aims to reduce crime and improve confidence of local residents through officers supporting residents and local businesses, community safety and antisocial behaviour initiatives, the delivery of social action projects in communities, volunteering support and high street and district centre improvements.
  - III. Culture, Heritage and Engagement Expanding our inclusive cultural and creative offer across the city to engage a wider and more diverse audience focusing on equality and diversity, social cohesion, celebrating difference and culture for health and wellbeing. Examples of this include expanding the museums offer to communities who do not typically access Leeds Museums and Galleries, increasing the amount of grant funding available to cultural organisations and initiatives.
  - IV. Supporting Innovation, Businesses and Productivity Measures to support the delivery of our Innovation Vision which is to 'stimulate innovation which drives and delivers measurable impact towards a healthier, greener and inclusive future for Leeds and the world'. This will include programmes to encourage local businesses to adopt and develop innovative practices, attract investment, engage in knowledge transfer activity and bring new products to market, leading to increased productivity, business growth and enabling people to reach their potential. Measures also to support new and existing SMEs to support growth and viability, skills programmes and the city's talent pipeline. This includes the development of angel investor networks to increase investment, targeted SME start up support and growing the social economy.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 4 The four priorities have strategic alignment with the Best City Ambition and supporting pillars. This funding will provide additionality to support these pillars to ensure that activity funded through UKSPF provides complimentary activity rather than duplication.

### What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted?

Yes

No

- 5 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>

### **What are the resource implications?**

- 6 An administration fee will be included as part of the funding the Council will receive. This will support the management costs of the programme which will include the coordination of funding, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. An operational lead is in post for the delivery of the project and a programme management function will be established to support the programme. A project management office (PMO) will be established to support this in Spring 2023.
- 7 The council will be required to submit quarterly claims to WYCA in line with the schedule set out in the funding agreement to demonstrate the progress being made against the outputs, outcomes, and evidence of spend as well as compliance with the terms of the agreement.
- 8 The Council will receive payment on successful submission of a claim in line with the terms set out in the funding agreement (Confidential Appendix 1)
- 9 Should additional funding become available for additional UKSPF activity during the duration of the funding agreement LCC will be in a position to deliver this.

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

- 10 The main risk is the pressures of in year spend given the short timescales for year one delivery and uncertainty of UKSPF processes. This is being managed by proactive engagement with services involved in year one delivery ensuring they are updated frequently as information becomes available. Regular communication is also taking place with WYCA as more certainty is provided by UK Government.
- 11 Another risk is achieving the outputs and outcomes set out in year 1 given the short timescales for delivery. This is again being managed through proactive engagement with services to ensure they are kept regularly updated of developments ensuring activity will achieve the required outputs and outcomes.
- 12 A detailed implementation plan for year 2 and 3 will be taken to Executive Board in Spring 2023 to update on progress, plans, and how risk is being monitored and managed.

### **What are the legal implications?**

- 13 The Council procurement legal solicitor has reviewed the WYCA funding agreement and is satisfied LCC can enter into the terms of the agreement.
- 14 The information contained in the Appendix is confidential as it refers to the business affairs of the Council and a third party. It is considered that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this stage. It is therefore considered that the Appendix is treated as exempt under Access to Information Rule 10.4(3).

## **Options, timescales and measuring success**

### **What other options were considered?**

- 15 The agreement is for government funding devolved via WYCA for the years 2022 – 2025. There are no alternative funding streams to deliver the scale of UKSPF activity in the city.

### **How will success be measured?**

16 The funding has several interventions, outputs and outcomes set out in the funding agreement which need to be successfully achieved to receive the funding. These are set out in confidential appendix 1.

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

17 Funding is for three years from October 2022 (when LCC's business case was approved by the Combined Authority) to March 2025.

### **Appendices**

- Confidential Appendix 1 – LCC Grant Agreement - exempt under Access to Information Rule 10.4(3).

### **Background papers**

- None.