

Report title: Accept UKSPF Women and Girls Funding Agreement 2023-25

Date: 12 May 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 5th December the UK Government approved West Yorkshire Combined Authority's (WYCA) Local Investment Plan (LIP) to deliver UKSPF activity until March 2025. As part of WYCA's LIP, £972k was allocated at a regional level for Local Authorities to deliver women and girls outreach programmes to deliver community safety projects. In May 2023 following the Council successfully presenting a business case for the activity which be delivered as part of this funding a UKSPF Funding Agreement was received from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for a total grant allocation of £336,768 to support WYCA's Local Investment Plan. Activity will be delivered from April 2023 until March 2025 and is separate the Council's hyperlocal funding agreement.

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 £336,768 over Years 2023 – 2025 for Women and Girls Activity
- 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 May 2023 the Council received a UKSPF Funding Agreement from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) for a total grant allocation of £336,768 to support WYCA's Local Investment Plans delivery for UKSPF between April 2023 and March 2025.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 2 The funding will be used to deliver activity which supports WYCA's Local Investment Plan from 2023 to 2025 particularly focused on women and girls safety.
- 3 The UKSPF Women and Girls Activity will address four priorities.
 - I. Capital investment in the public realm, including parks; co-designing and delivering safe and welcoming public spaces which are responsive to the safety needs of women and girls.
 - II. A feasibility study for the development of a Leeds Women's Centre where women and girls can access a range of services in a safe, gender-informed and inclusive environment, followed by a 6-week pop-up 'test and pilot' of this initiative.
 - III. Accreditation and roll out of the "Switch onto Women's Safety" training for men and boys, focusing on high impact and influence community organisations.
 - IV. Working with women, girls, communities and policy makers to accelerate the Women Friendly Leeds movement, seeking to create the UK's first Women Friendly City where women and girls are safe and supported to participate in all areas of urban life on an equal basis to men. A city that is better for women; better for everyone.
- 4 The UKSPF Women and Girls Activity will be delivered by the Safeguarding & Strategic Partnerships team within the Communities directorate.

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

Health and Wellbeing

Inclusive Growth

Zero Carbon

- 5 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

- 6 The Executive Member for Community Safety was consulted in December 2022 on the project proposal put forward and is supportive.
- 7 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?

- 8 100% of the activity which will be delivered through this project is externally funded.
- 9 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. The Council will utilise the existing processes and procedures in place for wider UKSPF activity to support the management of the project.
- 10 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)

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

- 11 In year spend presents a risk to the delivery of the project as there is a requirement within the funding agreement to deliver to a yearly financial profile alongside capital and revenue splits. This is being managed by proactive engagement with the service leading the activity to ensure activity is on target to achieve these.
- 12 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 the service to ensure they are kept regularly updated of developments ensuring activity will achieve the required outputs and outcomes.

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).
- 15 In administering grants as part of the UKSPF Women and Girls project the Council has an obligation to ensure that any support provided is compliant with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 16 The agreement is for government funding devolved via WYCA for the years 2023 – 2025. The external funding enables this activity to be delivered in the city which otherwise would not be possible.

How will success be measured?

- 17 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?

- 18 Funding is for two years from April 2023 to March 2025.

Appendices

- CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 1 – LCC GRANT AGREEMENT - exempt under Access to Information Rule 10.4(3).

Background papers

- None.