

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan (Chief Executive's Office, Howard Collins, Bid Writer and Grants Officer)

Synopsis of report:
Investment Plan submission to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (DLUHC)

Recommendation(s):

To approve and adopt the projects and high-level budgets for submission to DLUHC for 1/8/22 to unlock RBC's £1 million allocation.

Delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee to make any changes to the project package, if required by changing circumstances.

1. Context and background of report

- 1.1 Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a Levelling Up funding mechanism, with local authorities pre-allocated an amount – in RBC's case £1 million. This is to improve communities and decrease inequalities under the headings:
- Community and Place
 - Supporting Local Business
 - People & Skills
- 1.2 In order to unlock this funding, local authorities are required to submit an Investment Plan, which Community Development and Economic Development officers are currently drafting.

2. Report and, where applicable, options considered and recommended

- 2.1 Following extensive discussions across Senior Leadership Team, suitable UKSPF projects came forward from Community Development and Economic Development Officers, plus a request from the Chief Executive for Citizens' Panel start-up funding.
- 2.2 An initial appraisal by the Council's Bid Writer and Grants Officer recommended projects best fitting the fund and made some suggested budget amendments to fit the £1 million envelope. Further negotiations between Economic Development and Community Development Officers resulted in the following recommended package, in summary:

Community Development	25,000	Sports and leisure club development grants
Community Development	350,000	Management of communities through the launch of Joint Enforcement Team.
Community Development	75,000	Deprived neighbourhood improvements projects
Economic Development	45,300	Public realm improvements to Chertsey and Egham town centres

Economic Development	60,000	Bollards/pedestrianisation of Chertsey town centre
Economic Development	90,000	Shop frontage grants for Chertsey town centre
Economic Development	25,000	High Street markets/events in all towns. Visitor/tourist economy
Economic Development	120,000	Including comms, wayfinding and interpretation.
Economic Development	159,700	Business Growth Hub – providing/facilitating business advice, support and access to finance
Citizens' Panel	50,000	Start up/development of Citizens' Panel
1,000,000		Total

- 2.3 This rounded package has been agreed, in principle, by Corporate Leadership Team, and relevant officers have budgeted and profiled them across three years, according to DLUHC parameters.

3. Policy framework implications

- 3.1 All nominated projects fit with one or more of the proposed Corporate Plan themes of

- Health and wellbeing
- Economic recovery and prosperity
- Empowering communities
- Climate change and sustainability

4. Resource implications/Value for Money (where applicable)

- 4.1 This report gives an outline of projects proposed to be submitted as RBC's Investment Plan for UKSPF within our £1 million allocation from the fund. Once approved and submitted, each individual project within it will be subject to a fully developed business case being worked up, including assessment of any ongoing resource implications.
- 4.2 These will be refined from the outline submissions from Economic Development, Community Development and Chief Executive's Office (for Citizens' Panel).

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The Council has the power under the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual can do provided that it is not otherwise prohibited from doing so.
- 5.2 Compliance with any restrictions that the Council is subject to in relation to the proposals outlined in this report will be monitored as matters progress and where necessary brought back to this Committee.

6. Equality implications

- 6.1 Once funding is received, EIAs will be undertaken on individual projects as part of planning and implementation.

7. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications

- 7.1 Once funding is received, any Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications will be assessed on individual projects as part of planning and implementation.

8. Other implications (where applicable)

- 8.1 Once funding is received, all implications will be assessed by individual projects as part of planning and implementation.

9. Timetable for Implementation

- 9.1 Investment Plans to be submitted by 1/8/22.
Approval and funding received from October 2022 onwards.
Projects to be delivered 22/23, 23/24 and 24/25 (with the majority in 24/25 due to UKSPF profiling requirements for RBC allocation)

10. Conclusions

- 10.1 Officers recommend that:
1. The project package proposed to put forward for UKSPF Investment Plan be agreed by Corporate Management Committee for submission to meet the deadline of 1/8/22
 2. Corporate Management Committee grant delegated authority to the Chief Executive to make changes to the project package if required by changing circumstances. Any such changes would be made in consultation with the Chairman and Vice -Chairman of the Committee.

(To resolve)

Background papers

Project proposals submitted by Darren Williams (Head of Community Development), Paul Hadfield and Azra Mukadam (Economic Development Officers).

UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus.