

## ASHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL: EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS DECISION RECORD

Please use this form to record any Executive Decision taken by an Executive Lead Member or Chief Officer.

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE DECISION TAKER:

**1. Title / Subject Matter:**

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund - People and Skills Commissioning**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is part of UK government's Levelling Up agenda. The fund is split into 3 investment priorities, and each has a list of interventions sitting underneath it that areas can choose to allocate funding to. The 3 investment priorities are:

- Communities and place
- Supporting local business
- People and skills

The Fund will focus on communities and place and local business interventions in 2022-23 and 2023-24, alongside support for people through the Multiply adult numeracy programme (County Council led). UKSPF investment to support people and skills will follow from 2023-24. Government have allocated £3.2 million of UKSPF to Ashfield District Council.

The People and Skills investment project programme for this theme has been designed to minimise the gaps in provision as European funded projects come to an end and to seize the opportunity to create easy to access programmes, focused on meeting local needs, ensuring that the core issues are addressed in our deprived neighbourhoods and improve people's life chances throughout their working life.

Approval is sought to tender for suppliers to deliver the following UKSPF project interventions:

E34: Basic and Life Skills Courses aim is to support residents to complete functional skills courses which will allow them to take a step closer to the labour market, level up within the digital world, effectively communicate with others, and collaborate with new and emerging technologies in the workplace. Project value £159,000.

E37: Education and Business Collaboration package – ideas include Growing the Discover Ashfield Ambassador programme, Open Doors programmes (for students & teachers) - hybrid model, School talks, Work experience programme (including Health & Safety checks), Careers Service in schools. Prioritising the low performing secondary schools in Ashfield (based on Gatsby Benchmark & OFSTED). Project value £120,000.

E38: Local Careers Service – targeting residents in employment - preparing them to move into priority sectors. Redundancy/upskilling advice. Project value £80,000.

The tenders would be sought via the Ashfield District Council / Nottinghamshire County Council procurement arrangement. The projects have been identified in the ADC 5 year

procurement plan. All projects have to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The tendering process will ensure that the outcomes and outputs identified in the individual project briefs are delivered and are reported back to Government in accordance with the reporting and monitoring requirements.

**2. Is this a Key Decision: Yes**

**3. Decision Taken:**

Approval is sought to tender for suppliers to deliver the following UKSPF project interventions:

E34: Basic and Life Skills Courses Project value £159,000.

E37: Education and Business Collaboration package. Project value £120,000.

E38: Local Careers Service. Project value £80,000.

**4. Reasons for the Decision:**

The tenders would be sought via the ADC / Nottinghamshire County Council procurement arrangement. The projects have been identified in the ADC 5 year procurement plan. All projects have to be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The tendering process will ensure that the outcomes and outputs identified in the individual project briefs are delivered and are reported back to Government in accordance with the reporting and monitoring requirements.

**5. Copy of the Report or Briefing Note setting out the information which was used as the basis for the Decision:**

Report attached.

**6. Was the Decision classed as exempt? No**

**7. Alternative Options Considered / Rejected:**

Not to proceed with the approval would mean that the projects would not progress within the overall UKSFP funded programme resulting in delays to delivery. **Not recommended.**

**8. Declarations of Interest and Dispensations – if applicable:**

N/A

**9. Name / Title of the relevant Executive Lead Member(s) consulted (if appropriate):**

Cllr Relf

**10. Name / Title of the decision taker:**

Executive Lead Member: Cllr Relf

Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning



Date: 16 August 2023

**TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**1. Date that the decision was notified to Members:**

17 August 2023

**2. Date and time when the Call-In period for this decision ends:**

5pm – 24 August 2023

**3. Date when the decision can be implemented (five clear working days following publication):**

25 August 2023

**4. Decision Reference Number (if applicable):**

N/A



The completed form should be emailed to the Democratic Services Team:

[democratic.services@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:democratic.services@ashfield.gov.uk)

They will arrange for it to be published on the Council's web site.

**EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF THE DECISION:**

Use this section to share any confidential information. **This will not be published or placed on the Council's web site.** It will only be shared within the Authority, as appropriate.

For further support or guidance please contact Ruth Dennis, Director of Legal and Governance (and Monitoring Officer) [ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk) or any member of the Democratic Services Team.

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>16 AUGUST 2023</b>
<b>Heading:</b>	<b>UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - PEOPLE AND SKILLS COMMISSIONING</b>
<b>Executive Lead Member:</b>	<b>CLLR MATTHEW RELF, EXECUTIVE LEAD MEMBER FOR GROWTH, REGENERATION AND PLANNING</b>
<b>Ward/s:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Subject to Call-In:</b>	<b>YES</b>

## **Purpose of Report**

Approval is sought to tender for suppliers to deliver the following UKSPF project interventions:

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## **Recommendation(s)**

Approval is sought to tender for suppliers to deliver the following UKSPF project interventions:

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E38: Local Careers Service. Project value £80,000.

## **Reasons for Recommendation(s)**

All UKSPF projects have to be completed by 31st March 2025. The tendering process will ensure that the outcomes and outputs identified in the individual project briefs are delivered and are reported back to Government in accordance with the reporting and monitoring requirements.

## **Alternative Options Considered**

Not to proceed with the approval would mean that the projects would not progress within the overall UKSPF funded programme resulting in delays to delivery. **Not recommended.**

## **Detailed Information**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is part of UK government's Levelling Up agenda. The fund is split into 3 investment priorities, and each has a list of interventions sitting underneath it that areas can choose to allocate funding to. The 3 investment priorities are:

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## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan:**

The tendering of the projects will contribute towards the strategic objectives in the Corporate Plan, allowing the Council to serve the communities and residents of Ashfield, deliver projects that are good quality and value for money.

### **Legal:**

The Council has the power to enter into contracts in order discharge its functions (Local Government Act 1972, s111 and the Local Government (Contract) Act 1997, s1).

The Local Government Act 1972 requires the Council to have regulations for how it enters into contracts. In addition to complying with all relevant legislation, every contract entered into on behalf of the Council must also comply with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Council's Financial Regulations.

The recommendation to seek tenders, as per the report proposal will ensure the Council is compliant with procurement legislation, seeking to obtain value for money, and compliant with the Council's rules within the Constitution. [RLD26/07/2023]

**Finance:** The funding for the projects has been allocated from the Council's UKSPF funding allocation and approved by the Discover Ashfield Board. [PH 20/07/2023].

<b>Budget Area</b>	<b>Implication</b>
General Fund – Revenue Budget	None
General Fund – Capital Programme	None

Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

**Risk:**

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Not to proceed with the approval would mean that the projects would not progress within the overall UKSFP funded programme resulting in delays to delivery.	All UKSPF projects are reported to the Discover Ashfield Board for oversight and project monitoring.

**Human Resources:**

There are no direct Human Resource implications contained in the report. There is likely to be HR implications in relation to the projects and interventions detailed in the report, but these would be highlighted and considered when the full detail is known.

**Environmental/Sustainability**

Enabling growth, innovation, skills and improved productivity workforce supports the Council’s economic objective of helping build a strong, responsive, and competitive local economy.

**Equalities:**

An equalities assessment was undertaken as part of the overall UKSPF project delivery.

**Other Implications:**

None

**Reason(s) for Urgency**

Not applicable

**Reason(s) for Exemption**

Not applicable

**Background Papers**

None



**Report Author and Contact Officer**

Melanie Wheelwright

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**Sponsoring Executive Director**

*Jas Hundal*

INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PLACE

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