

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: UKSPF E34 Basic and Life Skills Project

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is part of UK government's Levelling Up agenda. It provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.

UKSPF replaces the European Structural Investment Fund. The Fund's interventions will be planned and delivered by councils and mayoral authorities across England, Scotland and Wales – 'lead local authorities (the Commissioning Bodies)', working closely with local partners. The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

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:

1. Communities and place
2. Supporting local business
3. People and skills

The **People and Skills** investment projects/programmes have 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, focusing on meeting local needs and ensuring that the core issues are addressed.

The overall aims of the **people and skills** investment priority are:

- boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress in work
- supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need
- funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision
- reducing level of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market

Approval is now sought to award and enter into the following contract which will be to deliver support related to SPF intervention E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills.

The Service is specifically for intervention E34 and must deliver support to beneficiaries, such as through skills support initiatives, one to one support, training, advice, and some events/workshops. Activities must address the high-level objective:

- E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.

Ashfield District Council will undertake the monitoring and evaluation of the project, ensuring that the UKSPF allocations for the project is being maximised within the district, and Ashfield District Council will be placed at the forefront of all promotional activity.

The project must be completed by 31st March 2025.

The above contract will ensure that the outcomes and outputs are delivered and reported back to Government in accordance with the UKSPF reporting and monitoring requirements.

2. Is this a Key Decision: Yes

3. Decision Taken:

Approval is to award a contract for £159,000 to Future Skills, Advice and Employment Ltd to deliver:

- E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.

Approval is also sought to authorise the entering into and signing of contracts and for the Legal Team to draft and finalise the necessary legal documentation in connection therewith.

4. Reasons for the Decision:

- To enable the Council to work toward achieving its aims as set out in the Corporate Plan, with reference to the economic growth and place priority.
- To enable the Council to work toward achieving delivery as set out in the Council's UKSPF Investment Plan.

- To enable the Council to work toward achieving its aims as set out in the Education and Skills Improvement Plan, with reference to improving basic skills for residents.
- The awarded contract will ensure that any required UKSPF outcomes and outputs will be delivered and reported back to Government in accordance with agreed reporting and monitoring requirements.

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

11.2023 UKSPF Basic and Life Skills enc. 1

6. Was the Decision classed as exempt? Yes

7. Alternative Options Considered / Rejected:

Not to award the delivery contract would mean the Council would not be able to take advantage of any cost or timescale benefits. **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):

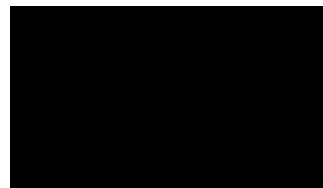
Cllr Relf

Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning

10. Name / Title of the decision taker:

Executive Lead Member: Cllr Relf

Executive Lead Member for Growth, Regeneration and Local Planning



Date: 12 December 2023

TO BE COMPLETED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES	
1. Date that the decision was notified to Members:	13 December 2023
2. Date and time when the Call-In period for this decision ends:	5pm – 20 December 2023
3. Date when the decision can be implemented (five clear working days following publication):	21 December 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

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.

The accompanying report: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – 11.2023 Basic and Life Skills enc. 1 is NOT FOR PUBLICATION by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 and, in respect of which, the Proper Officer considers that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

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