

## 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 E33 Support Package for the Economically Inactive**

**Please give a brief summary of what the decision was about. A short title for future reference would also be helpful.**

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 contracts against a Provider Framework Agreement which will be to deliver support related to SPF intervention E33: Employment support for economically inactive people.

The Service is specifically for intervention E33 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:

- E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths\* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) is undertaking this procurement exercise on behalf of the following District and Borough councils in the Nottinghamshire region:

- Ashfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Broxtowe District Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Mansfield District Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council

All participating district and borough councils will undertake separate monitoring and evaluation of the project, ensuring their UKSPF allocations for the project is being maximised within their districts / boroughs, and they will be placed at the forefront of all promotional activity.

All projects must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

The shared commissioning framework and above contracts 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

A Key Decision is one that is likely to:

- (a) Result in the Council spending or making savings of over **£50,000 revenue** or **£1m capital**, or;
- (b) Have a significant impact on **two** or more Wards, or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

## 3. Decision Taken:

**Briefly summarise what you have decided to do. For instance, to purchase a specific piece of equipment for a specific cost. Don't include any information in your summary that you would not want to be published.**

To award the following contracts against the agreed Nottinghamshire County Council Commissioning Framework:

- E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths\* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

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:**

**Again, briefly explain why you thought this was the right decision.**

- To enable the Council to work toward achieving its aims as set out in the draft 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 reducing economic inactivity.
- The UKSPF shared commissioning framework and Ashfield District Council awarded contracts 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.

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

**Please attach the relevant Report or Briefing Note. Unless classified as exempt, this information will be included with the Decision Record and published on the Council's website.**

Report titled "11.2023 UKSPF Eco Inactive Support enc. 1" is attached.

#### **6. Was the Decision classed as exempt? If so, what were the reasons for this:**

**Please refer to the Constitution which explains the legal grounds for exempting from publication information used to make a decision.**

Yes

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

**Briefly summarise what other options, if any, you considered and explain why you rejected them.**

Not to award the delivery contract lots from the Joint Commissioning Framework would mean the Council would not be able to take advantage of any cost or timescale benefits available under the joint procurement route and could not draw down any support projects under this framework. **Not recommended.**

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

**Any Declarations of Interest relating to this decision and subsequent dispensations should be listed.**

N/A

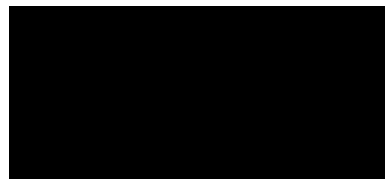
**9. Name / Title of the relevant Executive Lead Member(s) consulted (if appropriate):**

N/A

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

Executive Lead Member: Cllr Matthew 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