

Subject:	Shared Prosperity Fund Update	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Full Council	Date:	22 March 2023
Report of:	Director of Economic Development	Lead Member:	Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Economic Development
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception	<input type="checkbox"/> Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: Yes/No
Biodiversity Impact Assessment:	Required:	No	Attached: Yes/No
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1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

1.1 To note progress of the introduction of the Shared Prosperity Fund in Rossendale.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Progress is being made in the delivery of a range of projects submitted as part of the SPF bid to Government.
- Good progress is being made to recruit key staff including the town centre managers and the business advisor
- Service Level Agreements sent to partners and internal teams to ensure delivery
- Key projects in year 1 and 2 are Town Improvement Teams, Chamber Low Carbon Programme, Park Improvements,
- The announcement to award the funds was significantly delayed so any underspend can be carried over but it must be accompanied with a plan to spend that funding.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 This report builds on the report to Council on the 20th December 2022 which covered the contents of the Council’s successful UKSPF bid.
- 3.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the Government’s domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF) which is essential for local regeneration, employment and skills. Across the UK, councils were all allocated a sum of money and were required to submit an investment plan in order to unlock the funds. The three investment priorities which had to be addressed in the investment plan were communities and place, local businesses and people and skills.
- 3.3 Rossendale BC was awarded £2,643,864 covering the period from 2022/23 to 2024/25. The formal start date is April 2022. The funding profile increases from £320,857 in 2022/23 to £641,715 in 2023/24 and £1,681,292 in 2024/25. Government has indicated that the fund will continue beyond 2024/25, but this is not certain as it will be dependent on future Government policy.
- 3.4 Since the announcement the Economic Development, Finance, HR and PPU Teams have been working together to progress each of the key projects which are highlighted below.

4. PROJECT UPDATES

4.1 The key areas of activity for 2022/23 are:

- 4.1.1 Rossendale Skills & Employment - The former Rawtenstall Town Hall, also known as The Bridge, is intended to become a new education and skills facility. This was a key part of the Rossendale's Levelling Up Fund bid and so, to an extent, reliant on the outcome of discussions following the LUF 2 announcement. We have been having initial discussions with potential users and these will allow us to develop options that we will bring to Members for consideration. To complement the capital works to create the Learning Centre, the Shared Prosperity Fund will support a development worker who will shape and implement the scheme. The budget for 2022/23 is £4,000
- 4.1.2 Rossendale Business Advisor - The role will provide dedicated support to both start-ups, entrepreneurs and established SMEs. The Business Advisor has been appointed and is due to start in March. Initial priorities for the Advisor will be to establish a business start-up scheme, to support the development of business plans for the Whitaker and the Bridge and support the business associations in Haslingden and Waterfoot. The budget for 2022/23 is £31,000
- 4.1.3 Town Improvement Teams – Three town centre managers along with the town centre caretakers will support the town centres of Haslingden, Rawtenstall and Bacup to develop their own unique offer and improve them as a destination for shoppers and visitors. They will work with businesses, liaise with RBC and others to deliver a range of improvements to the appearance and the function of the towns. All three managers have been appointed and they are due to start in April 2023. The underspend in 2022/23 will allow each manager to have a small budget to enable events and small projects in each town. The budget for 2022/23 is £161,857
- 4.1.4 Chamber Low Carbon Programme - The programme enables local businesses to access one-to-one advice and support on driving down their carbon emissions. The businesses will then be able to access other funding opportunities to deliver their plans. The Service Level Agreement has been sent to the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce. The budget for 2022/23 is £10,000.
- 4.1.5 Park Improvements - To bring “brightness and imagination” to Victoria and Whitaker Parks. This is part of a wider project to improve our parks and open space. In the first year the focus is on improvements to the seating and waste bins and also the drainage in Whitaker Park. The works will be managed by RBC teams. The budget for 2022/23 is £45,000
- 4.1.6 Pride Groups – To expand the help to local voluntary groups across Rossendale to improve our open public spaces. In order to minimise bureaucracy for community groups the responsibility for the delivery of the outputs will be held by the Parks and Green Spaces team of RBC. The budget for 2022/23 is £69,000

The indicative split in the funding across the three years to support the work of the town pride groups is:

Annual Allocation to Pride Groups	£33,000
Britain in Bloom	£15,000

New Planters in Rawtenstall	£12,000
Barriers/Hanging baskets	£15,000
Bulbs/Bedding	£15,000
Rawtenstall Town Square	£51,000
RBC support for Pride Groups	£65,000

- 4.1.7 Haslingden Market – the redevelopment of Haslingden Market is one of the largest individual schemes within the SPF programme. Although the majority of the works will occur in 2024/25, preparation of the scheme has commenced. A consultation exercise has received 371 responses to date and this shall be used to shape the designs for the scheme. The consultation and the initial designs will be the subject of a future workshop with councillors.
- 4.1.8 Rossendale Works – to support people to become ready for work so that they can enter the labour market. This project is funded through ESIF until December 2023 so use of SPF funding will start in January 2023. The detail of the Rossendale Works activities is dependent on the requirements of who is the funder of the scheme at that time so the use of SPF will allow us to amend the scheme to allow it to more closely meet Rossendale’s needs.

4.2 As the confirmation of the award of the funding from DHLUC was significantly later than expected, it has created challenges to spend the budget within the year it was originally envisaged. In the first year it was expected that it would support projects that started to the 1st April 2022 so it is essential that we work with partners to capture any outputs achieved across the first year. If a local authority do not spend their in year allocation then a business case needs to be submitted to DHLUC to request that the funding is carried forward.

5. RISK

All the issues raised and the recommendation(s) in this report involve risk considerations as set out below:

The delay in the programme requires any underspend to be carried forward subject to a business case being approved. It is not expected that this will be onerous.

6. FINANCE

6.1 The table below shows the UKSPF approved funding profile:-

UKSPF	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
	£	£	£	£
Capital	45,000	85,000	866,000	996,000
Revenue	275,857	556,715	815,292	1,647,864
Capacity*	20,000			20,000
	<u>340,857</u>	<u>641,715</u>	<u>1,681,292</u>	<u>2,663,864</u>
*Capacity funding was to cover the cost of developing and submitting the bid.				

6.2 The Council received confirmation of the UKSPF funding allocation on 5th December 2023, following DLUHC’s validation of the Council’s investment plan. The timing of Governments’ approval has meant that there has been a delayed start to the 2022/23 projects, which has

resulted in project underspends. The Council will submit a revised business plan requesting that any underspends be reprofiled into future years.

6.3 The Council is required to submit quarterly monitoring reports to DLUHC.

7. LEGAL

7.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from this report but further reports will be presented as and when required to seek the necessary authorisations. Any necessary legal agreements will be completed in line with the Council's Constitution.

8. POLICY AND EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The works undertaken by the UK Shared Prosperity Funding will support the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan.

Any equality implications related to the project will be given consideration in a relevant and proportionate manner.

9. REASON FOR DECISION

To note the progress that has been made to deliver the SPF across Rossendale.

Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Annex 1	Rossendale Borough Council Shared Prosperity Fund GANTT Chart

Rossendale Borough Council Shared Prosperity Fund Gantt chart

UKSPF

Gant chart - strategic overview

UK:Project	Activity	JFM	AMJ	JAS	OND	JFM	AMJ	JAS	OND	JFM	AMJ	Funding	UKSPF funds								
		2022/23 Q4	2023/24 Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2024/25 Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1		2022/23	Capital 2023/24	2024/5	2022/23	Revenue 2023/4	2024/5			
Haslingden Market	Prep studies Design Consultation Contractor procuremt Planning Construction												UKSPF: £300K RBC:£200K Total: £500k		50,000	250,000					
Waterfoot	Prep studies Develop Action Plan Consult Announce Local Improvement works Improvement works												UKSPF: £300K			300,000					
Rossendale Works	Ross Works Phase 1 Ross Works More Positive Together Ross Works Phase 2												UKSPF :£345K					85,000	30,000	50,000	
Rossendale Skills & Emplm't	Employment &Skills support x 1												UKSPF: £42K				4,000	14,000	24,000		
Rossendale Business Advisor	Business Advisor x 1												UKSPF: £146K				28,000	56,000	62,000		
Town Improvement Teams	Town Centre Regeneration Officers x 3												UKSPF: 736K				151,857	266,715	317,292		
Chamber Low Carbon Prog	Chamber Low Carbon Programme												UKSPF:£70K				10,000	30,000	30,000		
Park Improvements (Victoria and Whitaker Parks)	Design schemes Consultation Contractor engagement Scheme delivery												UKSPF:£145K Other:£470k Total:£615k	45,000	25,000	75,000					
Football Pitch Upgrades (Upgrade x 2 + 1 new)	Design Consult Tender/procure contractor Deliver schemes												UKSPF: £251K Other:£1.25m		10,000	241,000					
Pride Groups	Consult with groups Allocate funds Groups to deliver/spend												UKSPF:£206K				69,000	50,000	87,000		
4% Administration Fee												Sub-totals	45,000	85,000	866,000	262,857	531,715	750,292	12,710	25,070	65,220

Key	
	Preparation/Studies
	Delivery
	Partner delivery
	Third party delivery
	Completion/Handover

UKSPF 2022/23	320,567
UKSPF 2023/24	641,785
UKSPF 2024/25	1,681,512
UKSPF Total	2,643,864