

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 13 July 2022

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Investment Plan

Report summary:

Cabinet considered a report on the 4th May 2022 that provided an overview of the published UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Prospectus and highlighted the need to work in partnership with local stakeholders to develop and submit an Investment Plan by the 1st August 2022. It pledged a further report on the Investment Plan prior to it being submitted to Government.

The purpose of this covering report is to seek endorsement for the proposed Investment Plan as set out at Appendix A. Subject to receiving final sign off, the District's allocation of £1,796,363 will enable a series of projects to be delivered over the next three year period. These projects address the three SPF investment priorities: Community and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People and Skills.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendations:

That Cabinet;

- Endorses the proposed Investment Plan contained at Appendix A
- Gives delegated authority to the Service Lead for Growth, Development & Prosperity in consultation with the Strategic Lead for Finance and the Portfolio Holder for Economy and Assets to make any final changes to the Investment Plan and to submit this by the 1st August deadline

Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that the Council submits a suitable Investment Plan to unlock our UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation and ensure delivery of the included interventions and subsequent projects over the next three years.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance

- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

The Shared Prosperity Fund is intended to support the key objectives of the Levelling Up White Paper.

Climate change High Impact. The Investment Plan includes interventions designed to support the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy and the transition to a zero carbon economy.

Risk: Medium Risk; This report highlights the need to approve the UK SPF Investment Plan which must then be submitted to Government by the 1st August. Subject to endorsement by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, there will be an ongoing need for robust programme management to ensure that the key interventions contained in the Investment Plan are delivered.

Links to background information

Report to Cabinet 4th May 2022: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#)
[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
[Levelling Up White Paper \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: pre-launch guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
[Delivery geographies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better homes and communities for all
- A greener East Devon
- A resilient economy

1 Background and context

1.1 On the 4th May, Cabinet received a [report](#) on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) following the [prospectus for the Fund](#) being published on the 13th April. This followed the broader [Levelling Up White Paper](#) which introduced a series of 4 objectives which the SPF is intended to help deliver - boosting productivity and pay; spreading opportunities and improving public services; restoring a sense of community and local pride; and empowering local leaders and communities.

1.2 For East Devon District Council to unlock its £1,796,363 allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding, an Investment Plan must be developed and submitted prior to the 1st August 2022. This Plan is to comprise of a series of projects/interventions to be delivered over the next three years which address 3 SPF investment priorities: Community and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People and Skills.

2 Progress to date

2.1 To meet UK SPF guidance in the development of this local Investment Plan, the previous Cabinet report set out the need to ensure wide-ranging stakeholder consultation and robust programme management. This was to be achieved through the establishment of:

- 1) a Local Partnership Group (LPG) of external partners to guide the development of the district Investment Plan; and
- 2) a Programme Management Panel (PMP) comprised of a cross-party group of members reporting to Cabinet and having oversight of the deployment of the Fund

2.2 These recommendations were approved and since the 4th May Cabinet meeting, the following progress has been made in the development of the proposed Implementation Plan now presented at Appendix A.

3 Formation of Local Partnership Group

3.1 The SPF prospectus encourages lead authorities to consult with representatives from a broad range of sectors, services and organisations. A briefing and invitation was developed and shared with stakeholders, including those suggested by Cabinet members, explaining the context to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the opportunity to work together in the development of our Investment Plan.

3.2 It was made clear that the purpose of group would be to meet, be engaged in/consulted on and develop consensus on which interventions/projects best reflect local need and opportunity consistent with the [interventions list](#) for England published alongside the SPF prospectus.

3.3 The specific objectives of the LPG were laid out in a terms of reference which outlined the following roles and responsibilities to the group members:

- a) To develop an understanding of the UKSPF objectives as outlined in the Prospectus.
- b) To consider and suggest prospective UKSPF interventions and provide constructive feedback and advice.
- c) To ensure that there is local support for the preferred UKSPF interventions, that they complement other activities in the local area and adhere to UKSPF and local objectives.

3.4 Response to our invitation was strong and to date three meetings have been held with a broad range local stakeholders. Those representatives and organisations with whom we have communicated in the development of our Investment Plan include: Arts & Culture East Devon; Axminster Tools; Citizens Advice East Devon; Clinton Devon Estates; Cosmic; Devon Association of Local Councils; Devon Climate Emergency Tactical Group; Devon Director of Public Health; Devon Wildlife Trust; DWP (Greater Devon Partnership Manager); East Devon AONB Partnership; East Devon Community Network; East Devon Excellence; Exeter Airport; Exeter Chamber of Commerce; Exeter College; Exeter Science Park Company; Exmouth Chamber of Commerce; Exmouth Transition; HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership; Leisure East Devon; Libraries Unlimited; MP for Central Devon; MP for East Devon; the new MP for Tiverton and Honiton; National Farmers' Union; National Trust; Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall.

4 SPF Programme Management Panel

4.1 Having secured Cabinet approval for the establishment of a Programme Management Panel, nominations were sought for the cross-party group of members.

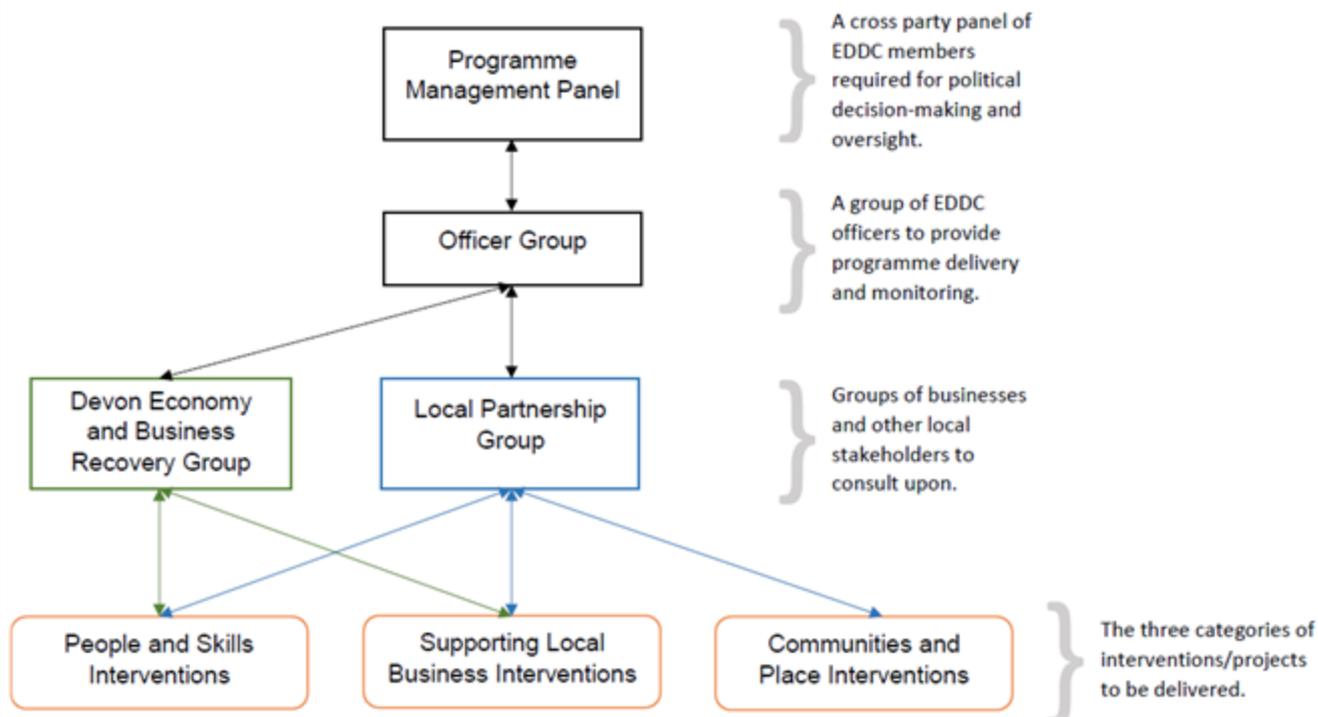
4.2 This Panel now comprises the Leader, Deputy Leader, the Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Leisure, Sport and Culture, Portfolio Holder for Climate Action & Emergency Response, two Conservative members, one Independent member and one Cranbrook Voice member.

4.3 The terms of reference for this cross party group includes the following roles and responsibilities for Panel members:

- a) To develop an understanding of the UKSPF objectives as outlined in the Prospectus.
- b) To consider and suggest prospective UKSPF interventions and provide constructive feedback and advice.
- c) To ensure that there is a strong business case for the preferred interventions which directly link to the priorities outlined in the SPF Prospectus and local and regional strategic objectives.
- d) To ensure that there is local support for the preferred UKSPF interventions, including from the Local Partnership Group.
- e) To ensure that there is consistency of approach with other EDDC funding bids and a logical succession to previous EU funded initiatives.
- f) To give approval to a final list of interventions to be proposed in the SPF Investment Plan.
- g) To evaluate any formal responses to and from Government regarding the Investment Plan, including requests for additional information or the inclusion, amendment or exclusion of particular interventions based on Government feedback.
- h) To provide oversight of the delivery of the interventions and give approval to any amendments to the interventions during delivery (which are compliant with any funding agreement between EDDC and Government) where necessary.

4.4 The establishment of this Panel ensured that our SPF decision-making process is democratic, transparent and reflected local need. The Panel provides political decision making and oversight of Fund deployment according to the following governance structure:

East Devon SPF Governance Structure



5 Call for projects

5.1 At our second Local Partnership Group meeting on the 1st June, stakeholders were invited to develop and submit SPF project concepts via a template form to be considered for inclusion within the Investment Plan submission to Government.

5.2 The same project concept input was sought from a group of EDDC officers with responsibility for services and projects consistent with the 3 SPF investment priorities. This included officers from our Growth, Development and Prosperity; Countryside & Leisure; Housing, Health & Environment; Finance; Place, Asset & Commercialisation as well as our Engagement & Funding Officer.

5.3 Alongside this, in acknowledging the Prospectus' strong encouragement for lead authorities to work with neighbouring districts and county in the delivery of interventions where it meets local needs and achieves value for money, meetings were held with the Devon Business and Economy Recovery Group. This Team Devon approach has proved constructive. The meetings provided an opportunity to share respective local priorities, identify synergies/shared objectives and maximise alignment. They resulted in the identification of opportunities for wider scale interventions on the second two investment priorities (supporting local businesses; people and skills) where economies of scale might be achieved. This was supplemented by further engagement with Economic Development teams at Exeter, Teignbridge and Mid Devon to reflect the functioning economic area.

5.4 Together, the respective group briefings, consultations and subsequent requests for relevant project proposals resulted in more than 20 suggested project concepts being received. These were assessed against the Gov. SPF interventions list and guidance before

being presented to our SPF Programme Management Panel on the 10th June whereby a costed set of Investment Plan interventions were identified and agreed.

5.5 Subsequent to this further information was received regarding the year by year split of funding. It is important to emphasize the backloaded nature of this with nearly two thirds of the funds not being available until year 3. This is set out in the table below;

Total allocation	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
£1,796,363	£218,005	£436,011	£1,142,347

5.6 Finally a joint meeting of the Local Partnership Group and Programme Management Panel was held on the 5th July to review the proposed interventions that form the basis for the Investment Plan.

6 Final intervention list

6.1 The final list of interventions agreed by the Programme Management Panel is set out in the table below;

Type	Project	Y1 Cost	Y2 Cost	Y3 Cost	Total Cost
Communities and place	Action on Poverty Fund	£0	£69,333	£70,119	£139,452
	East Devon Council for Voluntary Service	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000	£180,000
	Active Travel Fund	£0	£0	£200,000	£200,000
	East Devon Culture Programme	£20,000	£35,000	£40,000	£95,000
	East Devon Leisure Programme	£38,000	£38,000	£38,000	£114,000
Supporting local business	Net Zero Innovation Fund	£24,554	£55,000	£130,000	£209,554
	Sustainable Tourism Fund	£24,553	£55,000	£130,000	£209,553
	East Devon Towns Feasibility Work	£35,000	£35,000	£35,000	£105,000
	Business Support: Pre-Start, Net Zero/Green Growth	£7,178	£71,238	£112,388	£190,804
People and Skills	Employment Support for Furthest from Work	£0	£0	£81,250	£81,250
	Net Zero Skills; Retrofit Construction Training	£0	£0	£140,500	£140,500
	Support for Young NEET Residents	£0	£0	£59,397	£59,397
Admin		£8,720	£17,440	£45,693	£71,853

Action on Poverty Fund: A grant scheme for local community groups to financially support projects which aim to reduce poverty in East Devon.

East Devon Council for Voluntary Service: Funding to establish a Council for Voluntary Service, providing support, training and coordination services to local our voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Active Travel Fund: Funding to deliver local projects aimed at increasing take-up of walking and cycling.

East Devon Culture Programme: Funding to deliver upon recommendations within the Cultural Development Strategy.

East Devon Leisure Programme: Funding to deliver upon recommendations within the Leisure Strategy.

Net Zero Innovation Fund: Grant scheme to fund R&D for new green technologies, feasibility studies and training and equipment purchases.

Sustainable Tourism Fund: Funding to promote sustainable tourism projects, including a small grant scheme for equipment purchases and promotional activity.

East Devon Towns Feasibility Work: Funding to commission feasibility studies for Honiton and Ottery St Mary, Sidmouth and Exmouth, getting them bid ready for future funding rounds.

Pre-Start and Net Zero Business Support: Business support service to replace current central provision, with additional support for pre-starts, net-zero/green growth and agri-tech.

Employment Support for those furthest from work: Support for economically inactive residents with disabilities to improve their employment prospects and gain access remote and/or digital opportunities.

Net Zero Skills; Retrofit Construction Training: Support to re-skill and up-skill local residents to gain net zero related skills such as accreditations required to enter the retrofitting marketplace.

Support for NEET Residents: Support for young residents not in employment, education or training (NEETs) to improve their employment opportunities.

7 Conclusion

7.1 Having set out how the agreed recommendations in the March report have been delivered - through establishing, and ensuring close consultation with a diverse Local Partnership Group and representative SPF Panel - endorsement is now sought for the resulting Investment Plan presented in Appendix A. This will enable the Plan to be submitted to Government ahead of the 1st August deadline.

Financial implications:

This is submission to government to obtain EDDC's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, there is no additional request identified in the report for additional resources direct from the Council. If unsuccessful then initiatives may be represented for Council to consider funding direct.

Legal implications:

What is proposed is within the power of Cabinet and it is for Cabinet to determine whether the Investment Plan meets the expectations of the Council. Otherwise, there are no legal implications requiring comment.