

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19 January 2023

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director Economy, Enterprise and Property

PORTFOLIO: Employment, Learning and Skills, Leisure Community and Culture

SUBJECT: UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Delivery Plan Halton

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide Executive Board members with an overview of Halton's Delivery Plan against the UKSPF allocation for Halton under the following three strands:

Green, Safe, Resilient Communities

Local Culture, Arts, Heritage

Town Centres

This report covers the allocated amounts for each strand and the proposed activity for the utilisation of the funding. The Report has been developed with the input of lead officers in each of the above areas.

The Report does not cover all strands of the UKSPF programme; the Delivery Plan requested by the CA covers the above three strands only at this stage. Other strands such as business support and employment support are being developed separately.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board Members approve in principle the Delivery Plan proposals.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Employment Learning and Skills and Community Policy Performance Board Members have received reports in June and November 2022 which outlined proposals for the development of a UKSPF Investment Plan for the Liverpool City Region. The Investment Plan was submitted in July 2022 and approved by central Government in December 2022. The Investment Plan set out how funding would be used and would demonstrate that the funding allocations would reflect local need and would be developed in conjunction with local stakeholders.

The Investment Plan included a narrative on the local context, outcomes and

interventions and delivery methods, including governance, spend profiles, capacity and resource and compliance.

£44m has been allocated to the Liverpool City Region over three years.

The vast majority of funding will be directed through to Local Authorities, with a small minority of funding deployed for City Region Level activities via open calls.

The funding will be allocated to three themes:
 Communities and Place
 Supporting Local Business
 People and Skills

A separate Investment Plan and delivery approach will be in place for Multiply (a programme focused on increasing numeracy skills for adults).

Funding for an additional post within each Local Authority area is provided to act as the focal point for UKSPF activity. It is proposed that this post will be hosted by the Council's Economy, Enterprise and Property Department.

3.2 Halton Delivery Plan

Halton has been allocated funding for the three strands which are the subject of this report as follows:

Green, Safe, Resilient Communities - £301,059

Culture, Art, Heritage - £188,900

Town Centres - £118,063

The funding covers the period April 2022 to March 2025.

Year 1		Year 2		Year 3	
Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
Green, Safe, Resilient					
£13,923		£5,000		£5,000	
		£16,540	£53,463	£49,406	£46,438
	£41,290	£15,000	£30,000	£25,000	
Culture, Art, Heritage					
£3,935		£15,742		£46,438	
			£40,000		£22,000
	£45,785		£15,000		
Town Centres					
£27,549			£51,830		£38,684

The Summary included at Appendix 1 details the activity to be delivered with the allocated funding; activities have been developed to align with and support key

HBC strategies, including Climate Change Action Plan, Cultural Strategy, Town Deal Investment Plan, Widnes Market Business Plan.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Consideration has been given as to how the funding would be managed and delivered in Halton. Given the limited funding available it is important that the funding will be used to fund initiatives that have a proven track record of delivery and that align with current key strategies. Expectations will need to be managed and overlap and duplication between projects will not be possible.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Whilst the potential funding available under the UKSPF is considerably less than funding that had been available through the European Structural Funds, it is an important source of match funding. Efforts will be made to 'grow' the funding through other sources in order to increase the impact of the funding.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 The UKSPF provides complementary funding which will support a wide range of projects across the borough, particularly in the areas of business support, employment and skills, environment and urban renewal.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

There are no risks identified.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.