

REPORT TO:	FULL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM: 9
DATE OF MEETING:	22 JUNE 2023	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	CATEGORY: OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	DR JUSTIN IVES (01283 595700) justin.ives@southderbyshire.gov.uk	DOC:
SUBJECT:	SHARED PROSPERITY FUND	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Members authorise the District Council to enter into a revised Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities regarding the administration and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 1.2 To grant authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to finalise the terms of the agreement with Government.

2. Purpose of the Report

- 2.1 This report seeks Member's authorisation to agree a revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and South Derbyshire District Council regarding the administration and delivery of the Shared Prosperity Fund investment plan for South Derbyshire.

3.0 Detail

Background

- 3.1 A report to Environmental and Development Services Committee on 10 November 2022 and Finance and Management Committee on 24 November 2022 outlined the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund programme and investment priorities. It set out the District Council's role as lead local authority, accountable for the delivery of the Fund in South Derbyshire, including preparation of an Investment Plan and facilitation of a local partnership group. Members also approved the creation of two new posts that would operate until the conclusion of the programme in March 2025.
- 3.2 A report to Council on 19 January 2023 approved the Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan for South Derbyshire, including the Rural England Prosperity Fund Addendum. Authority was delegated to a grant panel to approve funding awards to community organisations and to the Section 151 Officer to approve grant awards to businesses.

Memorandum of Understanding

- 3.3 In order to receive the Shared Prosperity Funds from Government, the District Council was required to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Members endorsed the original MoU as part of the report to Council on 19 January 2023.
- 3.4 In May 2023 the Government issued a revised MoU and has required local authorities to sign this in order to receive further payments from the Shared Prosperity Fund. A copy of the revised MoU can be found at Appendix A.
- 3.5 Section 6 of the MoU has been added setting out the conditions and expectations for Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) allocations, along with minor changes to Sections 1.3, 2.1, 3.2, 3.4, 4.1, 5.6, 5.12, 7.3, 9.2.2, 9.3 to include references to REPF.
- 3.6 In addition, Sections 4.2 and 9.2.2 place additional reporting obligations on local authorities, ensuring that the funding has been used in accordance with World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules in respect of support for agricultural producers.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
- 4.2 The MoU sets out the Accountable Body requirements placed upon the District Council, including: Reporting; Financial arrangements; Branding and communication; Evaluation; and Assurance.

5.0 Corporate Implications

Legal Implications

- 5.1 Legal support will be required to procure and contract with service providers and grant recipients, and to advise on matters such as Subsidy Control.

Corporate Plan Implications

- 5.2 The Shared Prosperity Fund has the potential to contribute to:
- 'Our Environment' which aims to keep a clean, green District for future generations – work with residents, businesses and partners to reduce their carbon footprint; and, enhance the appeal of Swadlincote town centre as a place to visit.
 - 'Our People' which aims to work with communities and meet the future needs of the District – support and celebrate volunteering, community groups and the voluntary sector; help tackle anti-social behavior and crime through strong and proportionate action; and, support social mobility to ensure people have the opportunity to access skilled jobs, higher and further education.
 - 'Our Future' which aims to grow our District and our skills base – support unemployed residents back into work; and, encourage and support business development and new investment in the District.

Risk Impact

- 5.3 There is a risk that if the Shared Prosperity Fund projects and programmes are not delivered in accordance with the funding profile, the underspend will have to be returned to Government.

6.0 Community Impact

Consultation

- 6.1 Consultations have been undertaken with local partner organisations and preparation of the Investment Plan also drew on recently completed surveys of local companies and town centre businesses.

Equality and Diversity Impact

- 6.2 Activities supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund are expected to have a range of positive equality and diversity impacts, particularly relating to enhancing employability. These will be determined through the award of grants and contracts to support activities.

Social Value Impact

- 6.3 Activities supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund are expected to have a range of positive social value impacts, particularly linked to enhancing employment. These will be determined through the award of grants and contracts to support activities.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.4 Environmental sustainability considerations are a key feature of the programme, with consideration to be given to the extent to which activities contribute to the Government's net zero and nature recovery objectives, and their impact on natural assets and nature and support for green growth.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The Council has been designated as the lead local authority for the co-ordination of the Shared Prosperity Fund in South Derbyshire. The Fund aims to address local priorities, building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances.

8.0 Background Papers

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus
Rural England Prosperity Fund Prospectus

Appendices

- A. Revised Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and South Derbyshire District Council regarding the administration and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.