

Report to: EXECUTIVE CABINET

Date: 24 April 2024

Executive Member: Councillor Jack Naylor, Executive Member for Inclusive Growth, Business & Employment

Reporting Officer: Julian Jackson, Director of Place

Subject: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - PERIOD 9 (DECEMBER 2023) UPDATE

Report Summary: The report provides an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for all three investment priorities including Communities & Place, Local Business & People & Skills.

Recommendations: It is recommended that Executive Cabinet notes the update on UKSPF delivery in Tameside and progress to date.

Corporate Plan: Key aims of the Corporate Plan are to provide opportunities for people to fulfil their potential through work, skills and enterprise and to ensure modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment that works for all generations and future generations. The interventions that will be supported by the UKSPF programme in Tameside will deliver against these aims in the areas of job creation, modern infrastructure and a sustainable environment

Policy Implications: The interventions that will be supported by the UKSPF programme in Tameside will support delivery of the Borough's Inclusive Growth Strategy 2021, the Housing Strategy 2021 to 2026, Tameside Climate Change & Environment Strategy, the Council's growth priorities agreed at Council February 2020 and the draft Greater Manchester Places for Everyone joint development strategy.

Financial Implications: (Authorised by the statutory Section 151 Officer & Chief Finance Officer) Tameside Council have been awarded £3.812m UKSPF grant funding from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) via GMCA. This funding covers the period 22/23 – 24/25; the table below shows the agreed profile, factoring in the requested slippage (**section 5.5**) of £0.282m from 23/24 to 24/25 against the Communities and Place Investment Priority.

UKSPF Investment Priority	Funding Allocation			
	22/23 £m	23/24 £m	24/25 £m	Total £m
Communities and Place	0.010	0.983	0.986	1.979
Local Business (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise, SME Workspace)	0.000	0.262	0.953	1.215
People and Skills	0.000	0.226	0.392	0.618
Total	0.010	1.471	2.331	3.812

This funding combines both revenue and capital elements:

UKSPF Investment Priority	Revenue £m	Capital £m	Total £m
Communities and Place	0.899	1.080	1.979

Local Business (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise, SME Workspace)	0.422	0.793	1.215
People and Skills	0.618	0.000	0.618
Total	1.939	1.873	3.812

Update on the progress being made is set out in the report with the forecasted financial position in 23/24 shown in the table below. This shows the progress against original budget allocation and does not factor in the requested slippage against the capital funding, or any potential reprofiling of unspent revenue funding.

UKSPF Investment Priority	23/24 Financial Position			
	Original Budget £m	Expenditure as at P9 £m	Total Forecast £m	Forecast Variance £m
Revenue Expenditure				
Communities and Place	0.574	0.250	0.502	(0.072)
Local Business (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise, SME Workspace)	0.038	0.028	0.038	0.000
People and Skills	0.226	0.082	0.226	0.000
Total - Revenue	0.838	0.360	0.766	(0.072)
Capital Expenditure				
Communities and Place	0.691	0.069	0.409	(0.282)
Local Business (Small and Medium-Sized Enterprise, SME Workspace)	0.224	0.000	0.224	0.000
Total - Capital	0.915	0.069	0.633	(0.282)
Total Expenditure	1.753	0.429	1.399	(0.354)

Of the forecast underspend shown above, the £0.282m underspend against the Communities and Place capital allocation has been requested to be reprofiled into 24/25 (section 5.5). £0.042m of the £0.072m underspend against the Communities and Place revenue allocation relates to projects in Hyde Town Centre. As outlined in section 2.5, this underspend will be used to fund a Shop Frontage Improvement Scheme. The remaining £0.030m forecast underspend relates to the Stalybridge West Delivery Strategy, for which a separate report is being produced that will consider the options for utilising this funding.

There will be no adverse impact on the General Fund as a result of this grant; all posts funded through UKSPF are on a fixed term basis. Alongside the wider benefits, there will also be contributions to existing management costs which will be one off mitigations for some of the pressures across the Place directorate in 23/24. These will be monitored and reported as part of the normal revenue monitoring process.

**Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)**

There are no direct legal implications arising from the report except that its contents support the wider legal requirements for the Council to comply with its Corporate Plan's initiatives and objectives, and its

overall strategic aims to build an improved economic, social and health environment for its citizens.

Risk Management:

Risk is managed within the monthly monitoring and reporting of this funding.

Access to Information:

Not confidential

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer, Christopher Ward, UKSPF Project Manager, Investment, Development and Housing



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a £2.6bn fund designed to succeed and improve upon EU structural funds.
- 1.2 The UKSPF funding is split into three investment priorities; Communities & Place, Local Business and People & Skills with one overarching objective to build pride in place and increasing life chances. As introduced in the first update report ([UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update](#))
- 1.3 Devolved authorities were responsible for submitting implementation plans, working to set Government timescales. The submission was designed to be an economic driver that delivers genuine levelling up opportunities across Tameside supporting national, GM and Tameside strategic policies.
- 1.4 The council has been allocated in total £3.812m of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for Tameside across the three different investment priorities:
- £1.979m Communities & Place
 - £1.215m Supporting Local Business
 - £0.618m People & Skills
- 1.5 All funding must be fully spent / disbursed by 31 March 2025.
- 1.6 Currently, there is no indication from Government as to what funding will follow UKSPF or if this funding model will be extended.

2. UKSPF COMMUNITIES & PLACE

- 2.1 Projects details and progress to date on those current projects funded through the UKSPF can be found in Table 1 in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 Table 2 in **Appendix 1** shows proposed spend for the communities & place investment priority and actual spend to the end of December in this financial year.
- 2.3 The following outputs and outcomes have been delivered within this investment priority;
- Communities & Place (E1, E3 & E6);

Outputs	Unit Of Measure	Achieved to P9	Profile 23/24
Amount of public realm created or improved;	Square metres (M2)	101,437 M2	96,300 M2
Number of local events or activities supported;	Number of events/activities	130	89
Number of feasibility studies supported;	Number of studies	2	3
Increased use of cycleways and/or footpaths;	Number of cyclists or pedestrians	4086	3600
Number of socially excluded people accessing support;	Number of people	20	125
Number of people reached;	Number of people	4156	600

Outcomes	Unit Of Measure	Achieved to P9	Profile 23/24
Jobs created as a result of support Note: work is ongoing with GMCA to ensure evidence required is gained and recorded.	Number of Full time equivalent (FTE)	2 evidenced 50+ in process of requesting evidence	19
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support;	Number of programmes	92	84
Increased footfall;	Number of people	248,983	104,100
Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of support;	Number of volunteering roles created	64	60
The number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies;	Number of projects	9	8

2.4 Full details on all UKSPF outputs and outcomes can be found here: [UKSPF Output and Outcome Indicator List](#)

2.5 Projects linked to Hyde Town Centre have been completed using less money than originally planned, this has allowed for additionality which will provide additional outputs and outcomes to those initially forecast, positively impacting the local community and key stakeholders on the Hyde masterplan increasing the amount of commercial space completed or improved & number of local events or activities supported. The below table shows the linked projects and variation;

Project	23/24 Budget	23/24 Actual Spend	Variant
UKSPF - Footfall data for town centres	£37,000	£13,550	£23,450
UKSPF – Tameside Market Study	£30,000	£10,815	£19,185
		Total	£42,635

2.6 A shop frontage improvement scheme will be introduced to respond to a number of comments and concerns raised during the consultation in the Hyde masterplan relating to the poor quality town centre shop frontages, primarily on Market Street. Comments raised as part of the public consultation of the masterplan identified concerns in respect of the condition of some of the primary shopping frontages in Hyde Town Centre. The masterplan includes precedent examples of shop frontage improvement schemes across the country that have improved the environment and market attractiveness of town centres.

2.7 Similar to the community grant scheme in Ashton town centre as part of the Cultural Sector Support project, local community groups in Hyde will be able to apply for funding to deliver cultural activity in Hyde. There is currently a small culture programme offered in Hyde by the authority organised by the Culture section. This is mainly provided in the library and is on the corporate schedule. Close working with the culture department and local groups will minimise/prevent duplication. Community events have a proven record of increasing footfall and dwell time in the town centre and provide an outlet for local talent currently unavailable. There is a rich talent pool in Hyde of groups who can provide a unique offering that would otherwise be unfulfilled.

3. UKSPF SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

3.1 Progress to date on the current projects within this investment priority can be found in Table 3 in **Appendix 2**.

3.2 Table 4 in **Appendix 2** shows proposed spend for the supporting local business investment priority and actual spend to the end of December in this financial year.

3.3 The following outputs and outcomes have been delivered within this investment priority;

- Supporting Local Business (E22);

Outputs	Unit Of Measure	Achieved to P9	Profile 23/24
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Number of enterprises	78	40
Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready. (Achieved shows where work is complete, others are within the support process)	Number of entrepreneurs	22	29
Outcomes	Unit Of Measure	Achieved to P9	Profile 23/24
Jobs created as a result of support. <i>A number of jobs have been brought into the Borough under this work (e.g. 10 from 1 employer) however cannot be claimed due to the evidence requirements imposed after the target was agreed. This issue is under discussion with GMCA.</i>	Number of Full time equivalent (FTE)	2	24

4. UKSPF PEOPLE & SKILLS

4.1 Progress to date on the current projects within this investment priority can be found in Table 5 in **Appendix 3**.

4.2 Table 6 in **Appendix 3** shows proposed spend for the supporting local business investment priority and spend to the end of December in this financial year.

4.3 The following outputs and outcomes have been delivered within this investment priority; this project went live in early December 2023 and was ahead of monthly profile at the time of writing. Targets are expected to be achieved in year.

- People & Skills (E33, E34)

Outputs	Unit Of Measure	Achieved to P9	Profile 23/24
Engaging with Keyworker Support	Number of people	14	86
Support to gain employment	Number of people	7	10
Engage in job searching	Number of people	5	50
Outcomes	Unit Of Measure	Achieved to P9	Profile 23/24
Engaged in job searching	Number of people	4	24
Reduced structural barriers	Number of people	1	0
In employment/self-employment	Number of people	1	0
Sustained engagement with keyworker support	Number of people	5	0

4.4 No performance issues have been raised with regards to achieving the outputs and outcomes set from the service areas within UKSPF programme board meetings or from GMCA within monthly catch-up meetings. The project went live in early December 2023 and was ahead of monthly profile at the time of writing.

5. FINANCE

5.1 In November 2023 DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) informed all LA's initial payment for 24/25 will be determined by previous spend over the first two years of the Fund.

5.2 The total payment to the GMCA (Greater Manchester Combined Authority) will be paid based on the five bands of spend performance, shown in the table below;

% Total spend 2022/2023 & 2023/24 (combined)	Initial Year 3 payment to local authority	Amount local authority can claim (In Arrears)
1. less than 20%	0%	100%
2. 20% - 39%	20%	80%
3. 40% - 59%	50%	50%
4. 60% - 79%	70%	30%
5. 80% and higher	100%	0%

5.3 This table shows the percentage spend required to receive each band of funding for initial payments in 2024.

5.4 Late November 2023 GMCA communicated that delays to funding have impacted on project delivery and that there is potential for slippage of spend between 2023 and 2024.

5.5 A review of the expenditure profile took place to gain detail on slippage from the current financial year to the 2024/25 financial year and identified the following potential slippage;

Project	Amount	Cap/Rev	Proposed Spend Year
Hyde Outdoor Market	£75,000	Capital	24/25
Ashton Market Hall	£125,000	Capital	24/25
Improvements to Parks, Play Areas & Countryside	£82,000	Capital	24/25

5.6 The outputs & outcomes linked to these projects are still due to be achieved within the funding period and are not at risk.

6. CASE STUDIES

6.1 Four pilot events titled 'Fridays on the Square' were delivered in Ashton's Fletcher Square from September – December 2023. The pilots tested the appetite for a monthly early evening event in the town centre focusing on culture and accompanied by a food and drink offer. The events were well attended despite the challenging weather conditions. General public feedback indicated an appetite for such events continuing in the future. The pilot has given staff a good indication of what events and activities could work within the developed Market Square. A key learning point is that local food businesses are keen to be involved and could see the benefit of extending opening hours to participate in the event. In 2024 the UKSPF Ashton Creative Improvement District funding will enable the Council to pilot a series of family

friendly Saturday afternoon events to test the appetite for creative events and activities in the town centre and how these can support footfall to the town centre and the town's businesses.

- 6.2 The mechanisms within the St Petersfield Fountains have been repaired, enabling them to be brought back into use, this provides a significant feature to the public realm and is in line with the ambitions of the St Petersfield masterplan. Fountains & Features Ltd were appointed to provide work and parts to enable the functioning of the fountains feature in St Petersfield opposite Ashton Old Baths. It will also fund a twelve-month maintenance package to run concurrent with the repair works.
- 6.3 Following a meeting with our business support officer a Dukinfield based company have donated a wealth of unwanted IT equipment to computer refurbishment company who will refurbish and repair the equipment before distributing the technology to the borough's care leavers. Positive feedback received highlighting the positive partnership working.

7. CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The interventions supported by the UKSPF programme for Tameside will support delivery of the Council's strategic priorities as set out in the Tameside Corporate Plan and Tameside Inclusive Growth Strategy.
- 7.2 The funding secured provides a significant financial contribution to the Council and provides a proactive approach to the delivery of future inclusive growth.

8. Risk Management

- 8.1 The main risks associated with UKSPF have been identified in the table below.

Risk Area	Detail	High / Medium / Low	Mitigation	High / Medium / Low
Procurement	Lack of capacity in the consultancy sector to undertake the work.	Medium	Early engagement with STaR procurement to understand the most appropriate procurement routes.	Low
Financial	Conditions attached to funding agreement may not be acceptable.	High	Early engagement with GMCA in relation to terms and conditions.	Low
Financial	Insufficient budget to complete the scope of works required.	High	Early engagement with internal Council teams and external partners to clearly understand requirements.	Low
Financial & Programme	Funding subject to annual confirmation of the grant from Central Government reflecting the terms of the MOU with GMCA.	High	Programme management and effective engagement with GMCA throughout to ensure all terms are complied with.	Medium
Programme	Lack of resource capacity to undertake workstreams in line with expectations.	Medium	Apply adequate resource to the project to ensure programme adherence.	Low

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 As set out at the front of the report.