

## For publication

### Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

<b>Meeting:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date:</b>	19 July 2022
<b>Cabinet portfolio:</b>	Leader Economic Growth Health and Wellbeing
<b>Directorate:</b>	Economic Growth Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing Corporate
<b>For publication</b>	

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To seek Cabinet approval of the draft Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, and delegated approval for the completion of a final version of the investment plan to be submitted to Government by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the strategic direction and indicative funding proposals as set out in the draft Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan.
- 2.2 That Cabinet delegates approval for the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to make changes to the draft document to enable completion of the Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan for submission to Government.

#### 3.0 Reason for recommendations

- 3.1 Work on the Investment Plan is ongoing and this recommendation will enable the submission of the Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan to Government by the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 deadline.

#### 4.0 Report details

- 4.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will provide £2.6 bn of funding to local areas over the three year period (2022/23-2024/25). The UKSPF is intended to replace EU Structural Funds, although the scope of activities that can now be supported under UKSPF is wider than that under the previous EU funding regime.

- 4.2 The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride of place and increase life chances across the UK. This aligns with the Levelling Up White Paper (2022) missions, specifically Mission 9 – ‘By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.’
- 4.3 Underneath this overarching aim there are three SPF investment priorities: Communities and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People and Skills. Objectives relating to each of these investment priorities are set out below:

#### Communities and Place

- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance the physical, cultural and social ties and access to local amenities.
- Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in.

#### Supporting Local Business

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting a business to improvements in local retail and hospitality facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration between businesses and partners to stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, including adoption of low carbon technologies.

#### People and Skills

- Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low level qualifications and skills in maths, upskilling the working population, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers.
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need.
- Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.

- Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work and supplement local adults' skills provision.

4.4 The UKSPF guidance identifies Chesterfield Borough Council (CBC) as a 'lead local authority' with responsibility for preparing an investment plan for Chesterfield borough. Chesterfield has been allocated a total of £2.69m for the three year period with an annual funding profile as follows:

Year	Funding	Funding Split (Revenue / Capital)
2022/23	£326,852	90% / 10%
2023/24	£653,703	87% / 13%
2024/25	£1,712,702	80% / 20%
Total Funding	£2,693,257	

To note that the capital percentage represents the minimum allocation that the investment plan must make to capital spend in the given year. All funding must be allocated in the given year and cannot be carried over to the following year. A maximum of 4% of the total allocation can be used for fund administration during the investment period.

4.5 The timescale for submitting the investment plan is 30<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> August, with the first plans approved by Government October 2022 onwards. Following Government endorsement of the Investment Plan a report will be provided to Council seeking approval for the capital elements to be added to the Council's Capital Programme.

### **Chesterfield Investment Plan**

4.6 To assist in defining the scope of activities that could be included in the Chesterfield Investment Plan, a review of priorities in key Council plans and strategies has been undertaken, including:

- The Council Plan and annual Delivery Plan
- The Chesterfield Growth Strategy and Covid Recovery Plan
- The Chesterfield Visitor Economy Strategy
- The Climate Change Action Plan
- The Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- The Play Strategy
- Chesterfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership Priorities
- Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Priorities
- The Council's Draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy

4.7 Following review, a focused short-list of 11 priorities have been identified as providing a potential basis for the future delivery of actions / activities in the investment plan. This mix of priorities (set out in the table below, under the three investment headings) is considered to make the best use of the

available funding to deliver positive outcomes for Chesterfield’s residents, businesses and visitors. Indicative SPF allocations, covering the three year period, have been made against each of the priorities (it should be noted that activities in relation to ‘People and Skills’ can only be supported in the third year of the programme unless they meet the voluntary sector considerations detailed in Government guidance which provide some flexibility to fund targeted people and skills interventions in years 1 and 2 where this is a continuing priority for 2024-25 and provision may be at significant risk of ending due to the tail off of EU funds.).

<b>Communities and Place</b>	<b>Funding Allocation</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver and support a programme of borough wide events, festivals and speciality markets</li> </ul>	£150,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the place marketing activities of Destination Chesterfield</li> </ul>	£125,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and delivery of a Chesterfield Inspired marketing campaign</li> </ul>	£60,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build upon our Covid-19 community recovery approach by embarking on the development of a social investment and development initiatives</li> </ul>	£450,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus on community safety including the strengthening of antisocial behaviour prevention and response</li> </ul>	£160,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of costed 5-year delivery plans in line with the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Play Strategy</li> </ul>	£250,000
<b>Supporting Local Business</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support business growth and investment through the provision of Enterprise Chesterfield</li> </ul>	£70,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partner organisations to ensure a co-ordinated approach to delivery of business support services</li> </ul>	£720,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a Heritage Interpretation Plan</li> </ul>	£50,000
<b>People and Skills</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enable local businesses and employees to access a wide range of skills, apprenticeships and education opportunities</li> </ul>	£300,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure work readiness and employment support programmes are fully accessible and targeted at priority communities and groups</li> </ul>	£250,000
<b>Programme Administration</b>	£107,000

- 4.8 Whilst the detail of the actions / activities that will be delivered against each of the priority headings is still to be finalised, the following sections provide an indication of the scope of activities that are currently being considered.

#### Communities and Place

- 4.9 Activities under the 'Communities and Place' theme fall under two sub-headings of 'Place Marketing and Events' and 'Community Development'. In relation to 'Place Marketing and Events', SPF funding provides the opportunity to encourage more visitors and business investment to the area through a refresh of the marketing approach and an increase in place marketing activity. The delivery of an enhanced programme of events, festivals and speciality markets, will seek to maximise the value of the capital investment being made in Chesterfield (Connecting Chesterfield) and Staveley town centres (Staveley Town Deal), as well as supporting activities across the borough.
- 4.10 UKSPF provides an excellent opportunity to build upon our Covid-19 community recovery approach. A series of social investment / community development initiatives are being developed with a focus on material insecurity, health and wellbeing, social connectedness and building upon a strong community and voluntary sector. The approach will utilise existing and emerging partnerships to increase support for grass root community and voluntary sector organisations, increase sector resilience and sustainability and make vital links with anchor institutions and the business community. This could include a combination of deploying skilled and focused community development workers, strengthening community infrastructure and grant provision.
- 4.11 The UKSPF will enable further positive activity in support of the Community Safety Partnership to take place. Together with our partners, we will put in place positive, joined-up problem-solving activity to bring long term solutions to areas such as anti-social behaviour by seeking to prevent incidents arising in the first instance. This activity will centre on evidence-based practice, in which we will proactively work alongside community organisations, educational establishments and statutory partners to tackle issues as soon as they arise, looking for local solutions and developing community resilience. We will therefore utilise a multi-agency problem solving approach as a means of delivering early intervention and prevention at a neighbourhood level.
- 4.12 Specifically, the UKSPF will enhance capacity to support communities tackle the causes and impacts of anti-social behaviour - a key influencing factor relating to fear of crime especially for the more vulnerable members of the community. The funding will enable targeted intervention and support – where it is needed most - to take place across the borough and will contribute to the collaborative work that is being established through the thematic approach that is set out in the draft Anti-Social Behaviour Strategy.

- 4.13 The parks, open spaces and opportunities for play within our borough are an important element of what makes Chesterfield an attractive place to live, work and visit. They have an essential role in improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life for our communities as well as attracting visitors. The Covid-19 pandemic reinforced the valuable role that they play through offering a real lifeline to many residents by providing access to free exercise and wellbeing opportunities when many other options were unavailable to them.
- 4.14 The UKSPF through the recently adopted Parks and Open Space and Play Strategies will enable these valuable spaces to be protected, enhanced, and cherished for generations to come. Good quality, accessible open spaces provide sporting and recreational facilities, green lungs for communities and contributes to a vibrant economy, encouraging higher quality and more sustainable economic development. Consequently, the UKSPF will enable a range of specific interventions to support our strategies to help in place making and shaping, including the development of natural play opportunities, enhanced biodiversity and improved access to good quality leisure and recreational open space.

#### Supporting Local Business

- 4.15 A number of business support programmes and initiatives are currently funded via ESIF (European Structural and Investment Funds), including the Council's Innovation Support Programme. This programme is considered to add real value to the local business support offer and the Council will be seeking to continue this programme once ESIF funding ends in June 2023.
- 4.16 The Economic Development Team is presently engaging with other Derbyshire local authorities to see if there is consensus around which business support programmes (operating across local, D2 or D2N2 geographies) are adding most value and should therefore be considered for funding support. This remains a fluid situation and it might well be the case that some authorities choose not to prioritise these activities in future, potentially impacting on the delivery viability of certain programmes. Whilst the Council remains flexible in its approach, it sees local value in supporting schemes which: facilitate an increase in the rate of new business start-ups; build business resilience through the adoption of digital technologies; and enable businesses to reduce their carbon footprint.

#### People and Skills

- 4.17 People and Skills interventions will be informed by priorities set out in the refreshed Skills Action Plan and will predominantly be delivered in year 3 of the SPF Investment programme. However, there will be opportunities to lever employment and skills outputs through activity delivered through the Communities and Place and Business Support investment priorities in years one and two of the programme.

- 4.18 There are ongoing discussions with partners and other Derbyshire Local Authorities in respect of opportunities to jointly commission skills and training programmes across local or D2 areas. As highlighted in paragraph 4.16, some Local Authorities may choose not to prioritise the same activities and therefore the situation remains fluid.
- 4.19 In respect of workforce skills training, it is currently it is considered that there will be local value in supporting programmes that increase the capacity and delivery of green and digital skills and enhance capital investments made across the borough, including those delivered through Levelling Up and Towns Deal funding, supporting growth sectors including construction, rail and the visitor economy.
- 4.20 It is envisaged that work readiness and employment support programmes will provide employment support to economically inactive residents, increase levels of digital inclusion and increase access to existing support ensuring the community has a full understanding of all post 16 options.
- 4.21 The Skills Delivery Officer has engaged with Derbyshire County Council in respect of the High-level delivery plan for Multiply; the interventions of which mirror and add value to the indicative actions that are currently being considered under all 3 investment priority areas of the Chesterfield SPF Investment Plan.

#### Stakeholder Engagement

- 4.22 The Council undertook an engagement exercise via an electronic questionnaire inviting feedback from organisations across the VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise), Skills and Business Community in Chesterfield on the investment plan prepared for UK Shared Prosperity Fund, appended at Appendix 3. The approach to engagement was restricted by time constraints, and the local pre-election period and therefore engagement was targeted at chairs and coordinators of key local partnerships, and key contacts within stakeholder organisations.
- 4.23 The engagement exercise closed on 4 July 2022, with responses being received from 7 organisations: Chesterfield College, Derbyshire County Council, DWP, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce, Groundwork Greater Nottingham, Staveley Town Deal Board and United Cast Bar (UK).
- 4.24 Respondents were broadly supportive of both the overall approach and mix of priorities included in the Investment Plan. However, one respondent highlighted the need to have considered the wider strategies of DCC and D2N2 LEP in the approach to identifying the 11 priorities for inclusion within the investment plan and one respondent queried the allocation of funding to the People and Skills investment priority, calling for funding to be allocated from year 1.

- 4.25 As outlined in paragraph 4.7 key Council strategies were reviewed when defining the scope of activities to be included in the investment plan; time constraints limited the breadth of strategic review that could be carried out. It is considered that wider regional strategies are considered during the development of CBC strategies and therefore are reflected in the investment plan. In addition, key stakeholders will be further engaged through Chesterfield SPF Partnership Board to ensure projects will be developed to align with local and regional strategies
- 4.26 In respect of the call to allocate funding to the People and Skills investment priority from year 1 or 2, allocations have been made in line with government guidance that states that investment to support People and Skills interventions should be made from 2024-25 (year 3). During the next stage of engagement, further work will be carried out with the Local Partnership Board to assess the options to bring investment in People and Skills interventions forward within the parameters of the funding guidance.
- 4.27 Chesterfield College, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce and Groundwork Nottingham have submitted additional comments with their responses that provided suggestions for potential projects. These broadly align with the interventions identified within the summary investment plan and will be reviewed and considered in more detail through the project development process.

#### Programme Governance

- 4.28 The Local Partnership – a new Chesterfield UKSPF Partnership Board has been established, with an initial range of partners from across the borough; more partners may be invited as the detail of the programme emerges. The first meeting of the Partnership Board is planned for 12 July to seek support for the draft plan. Verbal feedback will be provided to Cabinet to assist in decision making.

#### Programme Delivery

- 4.29 Chesterfield Borough Council will act as Accountable Body for the delivery of the UKPSF programme. As part of the funding allocation, authorities are allocated 4% of the scheme for admin and management. This equates to £107,000 over the 3 years of funding that Chesterfield has received. In addition, £20,000 has been allocated to Chesterfield Borough Council as a one-off allocation to support the development of the Investment Plan. Therefore, in total £127,000 is available over 3 years to support the programme management and delivery costs of the implementation of Chesterfield UKSPF Investment Plan.
- 4.30 It is proposed that a Programme Monitoring Assistant role is established within the Economic Development Team to enable effective programme



commissioning and monitoring. A job description is currently being developed and will be reviewed in line with HR procedures. It is intended that this role will be brought to a future Cabinet and Employment Meeting for consideration.

- 4.31 The delivery of UKSPF will also involve the engagement of existing staff teams within the authority. Staff from Economic Development, Policy, Leisure, Procurement, legal, finance and communications teams will all need to be involved in different stages of implementation.

#### Next Steps

- 4.32 The deadline for submission of the investment plan is 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022. The investment plan template, which must be completed on-line, will require the translation of the Council's 11 priorities into a series of 'interventions' (taken from a pre-defined list in the SPF guidance) and the identification of measurable outputs and outcomes in relation to each of these interventions. A three year spend profile, split between capital and revenue expenditure, is also required for each intervention. As stated in paragraph 4.5 following Government endorsement of the Investment Plan approval will be sought from Council to add the capital elements to the Council's Capital Programme.
- 4.33 The template includes a section on local context, where applicants provide evidence of local challenges and opportunities in relation to the three investment themes. Lead authorities must also set out their approach to governance and delivery (i.e., the structures and processes that will support the delivery of the interventions), as well as demonstrating their resource and capability to manage the funding programme.
- 4.34 Given the on-going work in preparing the investment plan, it has not been possible to include the final submission with this cabinet report. As such, Cabinet is requested to delegate final approval of the investment plan to the Leader and Chief Executive Officer.

#### **Alternative options**

- 4.35 Alternative options include choosing not to prepare an investment plan or preparing a single investment plan in partnership with other local authorities. Failure to submit an investment plan would mean Chesterfield missing out on £2.7m of funding over the next three years, so this could not be considered a realistic alternative course of action. The option of preparing a single strategy in partnership with other authorities is likely to have proved difficult given the strong 'local place' focus of UKSPF and the challenge of agreeing a single set of priorities that could meet the needs of all localities.
- 4.36 The preferred option sees the Council taking on its community leadership role as a 'lead local authority' recognising that it is best placed to identify and facilitate a co-ordinated response to the needs of the local area. Equally the

Council will be seeking to work in partnership with other local authorities, across appropriate geographies, where there is value in doing so, for example, in relation to some aspects of business support and skills provision.

## **5.0 Implications for Consideration - Financial and value for money**

5.1 Approval of the Chesterfield Investment Plan by Government will secure funding of £2.69m for the delivery of priority activities in Chesterfield, without any specific requirement to provide match funding. In 2022/23, funding will be paid once the investment plan is signed off. In 2023/24 and 2024/25, funding will be paid at the start of the financial year.

5.2 The maximum 4% top-slice allocation (approximately £107,000 over three years) will be taken by the council to support programme administration costs. In addition, the council will receive a one-off contribution of £20,000, which is available to all lead authorities, to support the development of the investment plan and other associated costs. This funding will be paid on sign-off of the investment plan.

## **6.0 Implications for consideration – Legal**

6.1 Interventions in the investment plan must be delivered in compliance with the national subsidy control regime. The Government is set to publish further guidance on UKSPF and subsidy control, to assist lead local authorities in carrying out their delegated delivery role.

## **7.0 Implications for consideration – Human resources**

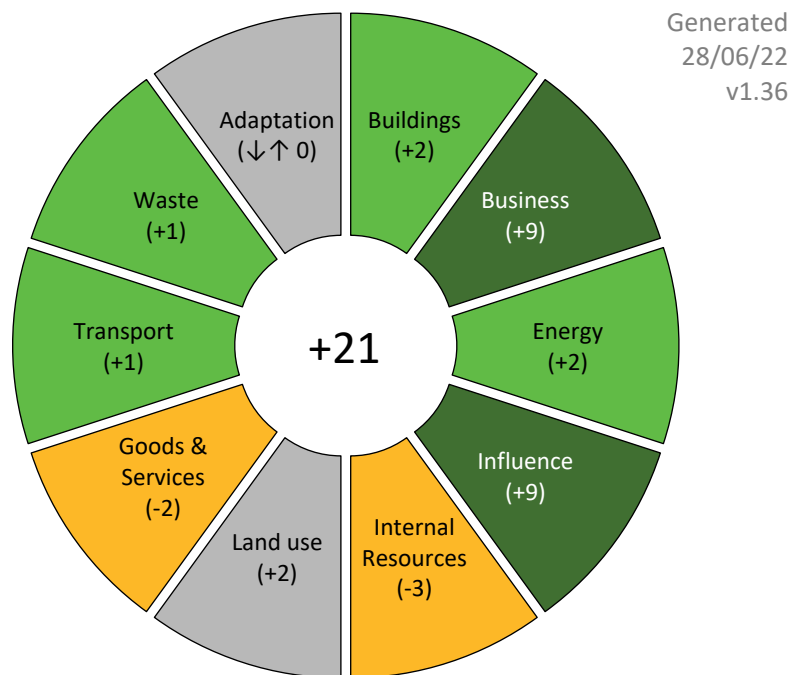
7.1 As stated in paragraph 4.30 it is proposed that a Programme Monitoring Assistant role is established within the Economic Development Team. The job description and person specification are being developed and will be reviewed in line with HR procedures. Due to the timing of progressing the UKSPF Investment Plan it is proposed that this role is considered by Cabinet and Employment and General at a later date, subject to Government approving Chesterfield's Investment Plan.

## **8.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan**

8.1 The development of the Chesterfield Investment Plan supports the Council Plan aims of 'making Chesterfield a thriving borough' and 'improving the quality of life for local people'. The priorities set out in the investment plan are all existing council priorities that have been included in current council plans and strategies. Funding via UKSPF provides the opportunity to secure the delivery of activities, in relation to these priorities, over the next three years.

## **9.0 Implications for consideration – Climate Change**

9.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 1.



Chesterfield Borough Council has committed to being a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 (7 years and 6 months away).

9.2 The Chesterfield Investment Plan has been assessed as having an overall climate impact score of +21. Whilst the actual mix of activities that will be delivered with investment plan funding has not yet been finalised, in principle, there are opportunities to secure positive climate change outcomes in relation to each of the three investment themes.

9.3 Under the 'Communities and Places' theme, funding allocated to 'parks, open spaces and play' provides an opportunity to increase carbon capture and biodiversity adaptation through improvements to local green spaces, whilst also encouraging more active travel.

9.4 The 'Supporting Local Business' theme will see a focus on delivering a low carbon business scheme, whilst green skills and digital skills training will be included under the 'People and Skills' theme.

9.5 More generally, the process of delivering investment plan activities will require wider engagement with communities and stakeholders, providing opportunities to positively influence climate change behaviours.

## 10.0 Implications for consideration – Equality and diversity

10.1 A preliminary Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 2.

- 10.2 It is not considered that the investment plan will have a negative impact on any of the characteristics listed and will potentially have a positive impact on most groups, depending on the actual mix of community based interventions delivered with SPF funding.

### 11.0 Implications for consideration – Risk management

Description of the Risk	Impact	Likelihood	Mitigating Action	Impact	Likelihood
Government does not approve the Chesterfield Investment Plan	H	M/L	The investment plan is being prepared in line with guidance and officers will engage in constructive dialogue with DLUHC staff as required to secure plan approval	H	L
Failure to spend annual funding allocation risks returning underspend to DLUHC	M/H	M	The Council is experienced in managing funding programmes and this will help ensure spend targets are achieved	M	L
Failure to deliver specified outcomes risks future funding allocations	M	M	The Council includes realistic targets in the investment plan and puts in place appropriate project monitoring arrangements	L/M	L/M

#### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	1112
<b>Wards affected</b>	All

#### Document information

<b>Report author</b>
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**Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1                      Climate Change Impact Assessment

Appendix 2                      Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix 3                      Summary Investment Plan

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