

North Tyneside Council

Report to Assistant Chief Executive

Date: 30 April 2024

Title: UK Shared Prosperity Community and Places Large Grants

Portfolio(s): Corporate Strategy	Cabinet Member(s):	Cllr Carl Johnson
Report from Service		
Area:	Community and Inclusion	
Responsible Officer:	Anya Lawrence	Tel: 0191 643 3175
Wards affected:	All	

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

On 31 July 2023 Cabinet received a financial management and performance report that reported procurement activity and grant income through the 2023/24 financial year. Included in that report was reference to the UK Shared Prosperity Community and Places Grant that the Authority was due to receive from the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA). Cabinet agreed to the receipt of £2.274m new grant monies which included those grant monies received in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for Communities and Place.

At the meeting on 31 July 2023 Cabinet gave specific authority to the Assistant Chief Executive to procure any goods, works or services to deliver the outcomes in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Assistant Chief Executive

- (1) Agree to the Authority entering into a grant funding agreement with the North of Tyne Combined Authority to receive the UK Shared Prosperity Grant Funding for the North Tyneside Community Partnership Project following consultation with the Director of Resources and Head of Law; and
- (2) Agree to award the UK Shared Prosperity Grant Funding received by the Authority from the North of Tyne Combined Authority under the above grant funding agreement referred to in recommendation (1) to VODA North Tyneside following entry into a suitable agreement between the Authority and VODA North Tyneside to deal with grant allocations and associated matters in consultation with the Director of Resources and Head of Law.

1.3 Forward Plan:

This item appeared on the Forward Plan on 23rd June 2023 as part of the decision take by Cabinet on 31 July 2023 to accept the UK Shared Prosperity Community and Places Grant Funding monies.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priority(ies) in the 2020/24 Our North Tyneside Plan:

A thriving North Tyneside

1.5 Background Information

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the Government's programme replacing the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF). The North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA) acts as the managing authority in the North of Tyne Area. until its abolition and replacement with the North East Mayoral Combined Authority (NEMCA) on 7 May 2024.

The continuity provisions in the Order abolishing NTCA and establishing NEMCA means that anything which is in the process of being done or which is in effect immediately before 7 May 2024 may be continued by NEMCA in place of NTCA.

The Local Community Partnership initiative is part of the Community and Place priority and has a focus on achieving the Levelling Up mission of restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging. Under Communities and Place the Authority was awarded £50,000 Capacity Grant to create a Local Community Partnership, between February 2023 and June 2023, with the research and consultation carried out to support the development of a

business case in partnership with VODA North Tyneside for up to £1.5m further resource. The business case was submitted in May 2023, with cabinet giving the Assistant Chief Executive delegated decision.

The Community Partnership activities will deliver multiple grant schemes for VCSE and Youth organisations that will encourage strong and trusting relationships, strengthen the capacity across the sector, and support communities to play a stronger role in decision making. VODA North Tyneside will act as the accountable body for a large and small grant scheme, with Authority acting as the accountable body for a youth grant. There is also an additional grant scheme to distribute capital funding. Grant projects are to be delivered between March 2024 and March 2025.

All grant schemes were published as an open call in October 2023 to the Voluntary Community Social Enterprise organisations across the borough, who are eligible to apply for the grant funding.

A local delivery plan showing the full breakdown of delivery until March 2025 is attached as background information.

1.6 Decision options:

The following decision options are available for consideration by the Assistant Chief Executive

Option 1

To agree the Authority entering into a contract with North of Tyne Combined Authority and award VODA North Tyneside to distribute funds recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 2

Not to agree the recommendations set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The acceptance of the UKSPF Community and Places by the Authority is in line with the decision taken by Cabinet on 31 July 2023 to accept these grant monies. The decision to enter into an agreement with VODA is considered the most appropriate VODA are also funded to manage and evaluate all UKSPF Community and Places grants. If we don't fund the VCSE we risk not receiving the funding from North of Tyne Combined Authority.

1.8 Appendices:

Appendix: Equality Impact Assessment

1.9 Contact officers:

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VCSE Liaison Manager
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Brian Gooding
Senior Accountant
0191 643 5731

1.10 Background information:

- (1) Cabinet Report dated 31st July 2023
- (2) UKSPF Local Delivery Plan (project plan)

PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

2.1 Finance and other resources

The budgets to pay for the costs of suppliers of goods and services are provided for via Community & Voluntary Sector Liaison cost centre, which ultimately funded by the UK Shared Prosperity funds.

The proposed grant is within the anticipated budget envelope. There is no financial impact on the council. Any additional revenue costs to administer the grants will be absorbed into the revenue budget.

2.2 Legal

The terms of the grant agreement between the Authority and the North of Tyne Combined Authority are not considered too onerous or untypical for agreements of this nature. The grant funding will not be transferred to VODA until a suitable agreement has been entered into between the Authority and VODA.

The subsidy Control Assessment is as follows:

1. Any award from NTCA to the Authority would be public sector to public sector, with no anticipation of economic activity on the part of the Authority, accordingly, no subsidy should arise;
2. Any award from the Authority to VODA would be public sector to not-for-profit charitable organisation, with no anticipation of economic activity on the part of VODA, accordingly, no subsidy should arise;
3. Any award from VODA to:
 - 3.1 a third party individual or voluntary organisation should not give rise to a subsidy as (i) the individual is not an “enterprise” for the purposes of the Subsidy Control Act 2022; and (ii) the voluntary organisation is not operating in a market for such services, being not-for-profit; and
 - 3.2 an enterprise will only be provided on the exempt basis that a minimal financial assistance notice and confirmation will be provided, and the necessary third-party declaration signed.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with relevant services and the Senior Management Team.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

The Engagement team along with commissioned VCSE organisation carried out initial consultations with residents, local businesses and other VCSE organisations to shape the business case submitted to North of Tyne Combined Authority. Consultation has also taken place with relevant VCSE organisations regarding the grant opportunities.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights issues directly arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out prior to funding being awarded to the authority and is appended to the report.

2.6 Risk management

Any risk management issues are included within the Authority's risk register and will be managed by this process.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder issues directly arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

Grantees will be obliged to commit to social value outcomes including carbon reduction and recycling to assist with the climate emergency declaration.

PART 3 – SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive
- Director(s) of Service
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)
- Chief Finance Officer
- Monitoring Officer
- Assistant Chief Executive