

# CABINET MEETING

31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022

## UPDATE ON THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

### Purpose:

To provide an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund and to endorse steps taken to date, and proposed, to ensure that the County benefits from this new investment Programme.

### Recommendations / key decisions required:

- 1) Endorse steps taken to date that will enable the County to benefit from the Shared Prosperity Fund
- 2) To approve the proposed Anchor projects
- 3) To approve the establishment of the Programme Management Team that will be responsible for the delivery of the Programme at a local level.

### Reasons:

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda. An allocation of funding of £38.6m has been confirmed for Carmarthenshire which will enable us to deliver against some of the County's strategic objectives. To unlock this funding, UK Government has to approve the South West Regional Investment Plan, which was submitted by the deadline of the 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:-

Cllr Gareth John, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Leisure, Culture and Tourism

Directorate:

Name of Head of Service:

Jason Jones

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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## CABINET MEETING 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2022

### UPDATE ON THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

#### 1. BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT

##### **Progress to date**

Since the report to Cabinet in July this year, which set out the general principles of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a great deal of progress has been made in preparing for this new investment programme.

The Regional Investment Plan, which was prepared by the four local authorities in South West Wales, was submitted to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) by Swansea Council, on behalf of the region by the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022. Positive feedback was received from civil servants prior to submission. UK Government approval is awaited, with anticipated approval by the end of November 2022. We cannot, however, rule out the possibility of policy changes introduced by UK Government at this moment in time.

##### **Implementation**

Since the submission of the Regional Investment Plan, work has been progressing on the implementation of the plan on a regional basis to provide commonality, as far as possible, and to ensure that we achieve a rapid start so that allocations are fully taken up each year.

Despite the programme being structured around a regional plan, with a Regional Lead (Swansea CC), implementation will be devolved to the local level.

The following modes of delivery are proposed:

- Anchor projects
- Standalone projects
- Commissioned projects

These are explained in more detail in the main report.

##### **Project Development**

Since the Regional Investment Plan was submitted at the end of July 2022, officers from the four Local Authorities have been meeting on a weekly basis to work up the detail in relation to the proposed modes of delivery.

To ensure that wider stakeholders are involved in the development of the Anchor projects as well as the standalone projects, thematic sub-groups of the Carmarthenshire Regeneration Partnership have been established. The Carmarthenshire Regeneration Partnership's role is to oversee the delivery of the programme and to provide expert input.

### **Management of the UKSPF in Carmarthenshire**

UK SPF provides for circa 4% of resources to be used to fund administrative support for the programme. The Lead Local Authority (Swansea CC) will need additional capacity to resource its regional management function.

In addition to the regional management function, a dedicated local team will need to be established for the County which will be fully funded via the UKSPF.

Work is currently underway to identify the resource required to deliver the Programme management function in Carmarthenshire. To ensure a timely start to the programme, we anticipate that the recruitment of these roles will commence as soon as approval is granted by UK Government.

### **Conclusion**

A great deal of progress has been made since the Regional Investment Plan was submitted to UK Government earlier this year. Whilst we are still awaiting formal approval from UK Government, work is on-going to ensure that the necessary arrangements are in place and that delivery can start once UK Government approval is granted.

### **OTHER OPTIONS AVAILABLE AND THEIR PROS AND CONS**

The UK Government has allocated funding over the next 3 years which will help address some of the challenges facing the County. With funding from EU programmes ending, the UKSPF presents an opportunity to draw down further investment into the County.

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**



## 2. Legal

Local government is being given responsibility for delivery of the UKSPF. Swansea Council will act as the 'lead local authority' for the South West region and will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates.

Delivery and management of the programme in Carmarthenshire will be the responsibility of the Authority. This will include assessing and approving local project applications, entering into funding agreements with third parties as well as processing payments and day-to-day monitoring.

Appropriate agreements will be put in place between the Regional lead and the Authority which will set out agreed roles and responsibilities.

At a project delivery level, the Authority will enter into a funding agreement with all delivery partners. These will be developed in conjunction with the Authority's legal team at the appropriate time.

## 2. Finance

**Whilst Swansea Council will act as the accountable body for the region and receive the Region's allocation via UK Government, delivery and management of Carmarthenshire's allocation will remain the responsibility of the Authority.**

A dedicated Programme Management Team will be established at a County level to undertake the necessary fund administration. Grant management processes and procedures will be established to ensure that the funding is managed in accordance with the fund requirements. This will involve the establishment of funding agreements with third parties as well as the establishment of procedures for processing payments, monitoring of financial spend, audit requirements etc. These will be developed in conjunction with Corporate services.

## 5. Risk Management Issues

A programme level risk management process will be developed to ensure that risk is assessed and managed at all levels.

Individual risk registers will be maintained at project level together with appropriate mitigation measures.

## 7. Staffing Implications

To manage the UKSPF at a local level, a dedicated Programme Management team will need to be established to ensure that the necessary processes and procedures are put in place to administer the UKSPF. This team will sit within Economic Development.

The UKSPF provides for circa 4% of resources to be used to fund administrative support for the programme.

To ensure that the UKSPF can commence as soon as UK Government approval is granted, work has been progressing in drafting the staffing structure.

# CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: Jason Jones

Head of Regeneration

<b>1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination</b>	N/A
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>	N/A
<b>Date the report was considered:-</b>	N/A
<b>Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-</b> N/A	

## 2. Local Member(s)

Local Members were given an opportunity to feed into the original consultation on the development of the Local Investment Plan which provides the steer for the delivery of the UKSPF at a local level. The proposed modes of delivery identified take into account the priorities as outlines within the Investment Plan.

## 3. Community / Town Council

Town and community councils have also been given an opportunity to input the Local Investment Plan process.

## 4. Relevant Partners

Various stakeholders were given an opportunity to input into the development of the Local Investment Plan and to identify priorities for funding. In addition, the Carmarthenshire Regeneration Partnership has been established which includes representation from business, public and third sector to provide expertise and oversight into the UKSPF process at a local level.

## 5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER AWARE/CONSULTED</b>	YES
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## Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

### THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
South West Wales Regional Investment Plan		
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus		<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus</a>