

## Officer Non Key Executive Decision

<b>Relevant Chief Officer (Decision Maker):</b>	Neil Jack, Chief Executive
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member (for consultation purposes):</b>	Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council and Councillor Mark Smith, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation
<b>Report Author (Officer name and title):</b>	Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director
<b>Implementation Date of Decision:</b>	29 November 2022

### Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Infrastructure Support in the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To confirm the outcome of the recent tender exercise undertaken for the provision of Infrastructure Support in the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Sector.

2.0 The funding is due to be provided through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) as a result of an Investment Plan submitted to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) required for submission by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022 under the terms of delegation agreed by the Executive at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May (EX20/2022) and also the Executive of the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 (EX34/2022).

#### A decision on funding approval is awaited from government.

#### Recommendation

To approve the appointment of Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde (in partnership with Blackpool Citizens Advice and Social Enterprise Solutions CIC), for the provision of these services, subject to UKSPF funding approval.

To approve the Head of Legal to draw up a Grant Funding Agreement with the successful applicant.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation:**

**3.1** A formal tendering exercise was undertaken between 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022 and 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022 in order to select a provider to undertake the service for a period of upto 2.5 years.

An open (1 stage), above threshold tender was conducted via our electronic tendering portal, The Chest.

Bids were received from:

- Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde (in partnership with Blackpool Citizens Advice and Social Enterprise Solutions CIC, Blackpool.
- Pulse Regeneration Ltd , Liverpool

**4.0** Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde (in partnership with Blackpool Citizens Advice and Social Enterprise Solutions CIC) provided the appraisers with the greater confidence of understanding the needs of the Blackpool community and how through the project funding, would support the beneficiaries of the town whilst delivering the outlined SPF outputs and outcomes. It was the most economically advantageous tender (based on a combination of quality, price and social value) and it is therefore, our intention to enter into a formal agreement with them.

**5.0** Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

**5.1** Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council’s approved budget? Yes

Other alternative options to be considered: N/A

**Council Priority:**

The relevant Council Priorities are

- “The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool”
- “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

**Background Information**

The Executive considered a report on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 which highlighted the background

to the fund and how it could be accessed and agreed :

- a) To note the guidelines issued by Government for the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).
- b) To submit the required Blackpool SPF Investment Plan by 1st August 2022 to access the pre-determined flexible allocation of £5,114,423 (capital and revenue), noting what scheme interventions it is choosing to prioritise and setting out measurable outcomes to be delivered, with the final content of the Investment Plan to be delegated to the Chief Executive after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s).
- c) To submit the required Multiply Investment Plan by 30th June 2022 to access the pre-determined Multiply funding allocation of £770,711 with the final content of this Investment Plan to be delegated to the Chief Executive after consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s).
- d) To approve the proposed approach to utilise the Town Deal Board (which incorporates representation from the public, private, community and voluntary sectors), with its sub-group, the Town Deal Investment Panel, as the basis of the required "Local Partnership Group" for engaging stakeholders (with the Council as the accountable body), with membership to be kept under review as necessary.
- e) For the overall management of this process to be led by the Growth and Prosperity Team with support from other Departments as required and specifically for the Multiply Investment Plan to be led by Adult Services and the Economic Services Department.
- f) To note that an external consultancy, Capita, is to be appointed from the existing Council framework panel, to support the development of the Investment Plan process with Government funding provided for this support.
- g) For the Executive to receive a future report on the Investment Plans and progress in the implementation of the Shared Prosperity Fund.

A further post submission paper was provided to the 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 Executive which highlighted the approach undertaken to determine areas of target support / schemes for SPF monies.

One such area was around capacity building for the VCFSE sector for which a £295,000 allocation was outlined and for which the tender process was undertaken.

**5.6** Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Legal Services alongside the Project Monitoring Office (PMO) in the

Growth and Prosperity Team will carry out the due diligence required. A contract will be entered into with the successful applicant to cover the grant conditions and the Council's own requirements. DWF as external legal advisors have provided subsidy control advice previously.

**7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 The project monitoring, claims and assurance will be led by the Council's Programme Monitoring Office (PMO) team within the Growth & Prosperity Department.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 A Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED) impact assessment has been created for the programme. The successful organisation will be required to report on equalities through quarterly claims returns.

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 The SPF programme and its constituent projects will only proceed upon approval of the Investment Plan (date to be confirmed).

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The project will be required to produce a project specific risk register which will be monitored and worked to during delivery stage.

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 With regards to the original Investment Plan creation...

Internal – Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Business, Enterprise and Job Creation, Chief Executive, Director of Resources, Director of Communications and Regeneration, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director and Growth & Prosperity Board.

External – Town Deal Board and Town Deal Investment Panel

**13.0 Decision of Chief Officer**

- 13.1 To approve the appointment of Volunteer Centre Blackpool, Wyre and Fylde (in partnership with Blackpool Citizens Advice and Social Enterprise Solutions CIC), for the provision of these services, subject to UKSPF funding approval.
- 13.2 To approve the Head of Legal to draw up a Grant Funding Agreement with the successful applicant.

**14.0 Reasons for the Decision of the Chief Officer**

- 14.1 The SPF programme will bring forward significant regeneration, community and business support activities and measures to support the economic renewal of Blackpool and enhance the lives of its residents