

## 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 Jane Hugo, Cabinet Member for Climate Change
<b>Report Author (Officer name and title):</b>	Scott Butterfield, Strategy and Climate Lead
<b>Implementation Date of Decision:</b>	1 June 2023

### BLACKPOOL ECO COACHING PROJECT - SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

##### 1.1 To confirm the outcome of the recent tender exercise undertaken for the provision of “Blackpool Eco Coaching Project”

The funding is 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).

Funding approval was received on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022 from Government.

#### 2.0 Recommendation

2.1 To approve the appointment of Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside for the provision of these services with a contract value of £264,734.

2.2 To approve Corporate Procurement to draw up a Services Agreement with the successful applicant.

#### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation:

3.1 A formal tendering exercise was undertaken between 12 April 2023 and 15 May 2023 in order to select a provider to undertake the service until approximately 31 March 2025.

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

Bids were received from:

- Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside to the value of £264,734 (£265,250 was ring-fenced for this activity).

Following the evaluation process it was determined that Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside provided an exceptionally good response within the budget submission, the evaluation panel are confident they will deliver the outlined SPF outputs and outcomes. The organisation have provided substantial activity in Blackpool for some time too. It and it is therefore, our intention to enter into a formal agreement with them.

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| <b>3.2</b> | Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? | No  |
| <b>3.3</b> | Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget?                  | Yes |

Other alternative options to be considered: N/A

#### **4.0 Council Priority:**

The relevant Council Priorities are

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

#### **5.0 Background Information**

**5.1** 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 a Blackpool Eco Coaches Project for which a £265,250 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 Corporate Procurement alongside the Project Monitoring Office (PMO) in the Growth and Prosperity Team will carry out the due diligence required. A Services contract will be entered into with Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside 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 and Prosperity Department.

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 A Public Sector Equalities Duty (PSED) impact assessment has been completed for the project. 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 due to the Shared Prosperity Fund funding provided. There is no Council financial commitment required.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 A specific risk register has been produced for the project 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 and Prosperity Board.

External – Town Deal Board and Town Deal Investment Panel

**13.0 Decision of Chief Officer**

13.1 To approve the appointment of Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside for the provision of these services with a contract value of £264,734.

To approve Corporate Procurement to draw up a Services Agreement with the successful applicant.

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

14.1 The Shared Prosperity Fund 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.