

Hull and East Yorkshire Business Support Board
UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update
Report by Andrew Hewitt, Senior Policy and Business Growth Manager
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Paper B

1. Introduction

1.1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is designed to succeed the old EU structural funds. The first round of UKSPF is a £2.6 billion programme which covers a three-year programme period from 2022 to 2025.

1.2. It is the UK government's objective that UKSPF will support wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

1.3. Every place in the UK has been allocated a share of the UKSPF. In order to access this funding allocation local government is being given responsibility for developing an investment plan for approval by the UK government, and for delivery of the Fund thereafter. East Riding and Hull are required to develop separate Investment Plans and manage separate programmes of delivery until the point at which a combined authority is formed.

2. UK SPF Update – December 2022

2.1. Following the report from the last meeting, both Local Authorities submitted their investment plan proposals to UK Government ahead of the 1st August submission date. At the time of writing no feedback or approval has been received following these submissions.

2.2. Hull City Council UK SPF Shadow Partnership Board.

2.2.1. The Hull City Council UK SPF Shadow Partnership Board met on the 13th October 2022.

2.2.2. This meeting included an update on Hull CC's plans for progressing UK SPF followed by discussions around future governance arrangements and Partnership Board Terms of reference.

2.2.3. Hull CC have made the decision to continue with an application process at risk to inform deliver of the Investment Plan at risk. The application process for Year 1 projects was opened on the 24th of October 2023 for projects which would be completed by the 31st March 2023.

2.2.4. Hull has been allocated £1,046,984 for projects up to 31 March 2023, with a further £7,681,788 to be spent between April 2023 and March 2025.

2.2.5. The Fund has three overall investment priorities -

Community and place

- strengthening our social fabric
- fostering a sense of local pride and belonging
- building resilient and safe neighbourhoods

Supporting local businesses

- creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses
- promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth
- targeted support to help businesses growth

People and skills

- boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress in work
- supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need
- funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision
- Reducing level of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market

2.2.6. The Hull year one application window closed on 21st November 2022 and is scheduled to reopen in January for years 2 & 3.

2.2.7. The HEY LEP submitted an application for Year 1 activity to deliver support for companies looking to explore export opportunities in the Hull area. This was supported by DIT.

2.3. East Riding of Yorkshire Council UK SPF Shadow Partnership Board

2.3.1. The East Riding of Yorkshire Council UK SPF Shadow Board met on Wednesday, 12 October 2022.

2.3.2. The meeting covered similar topics to the Hull meeting with the addition of an update on the update on the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), which was announced in September by the government.

2.3.3. The REPF supports the aims of the government's Levelling Up White Paper and Future Farming Programme. It will fund capital projects for small businesses and community infrastructure in order to strengthen the rural economy and rural communities in 2023-2024 and 2024-2025. The REPF is integrated into the wider UKSPF and supports activities that address the particular challenges that rural areas face, including lower productivity rates, poorer connectivity and poorer access to key services.

2.3.4. The East Riding has been allocated £1.8 million from the REPF. In order to draw down this allocation, East Riding of Yorkshire Council must submit an addendum to its UKSPF investment plan, As with UKSPF and Multiply, the council is expected to consult with relevant stakeholders on the development of the REPF submission. This consultation was undertaken in October 2022.

2.3.5. The East Riding's delivery model for the key UK SPF allocation is different to the Hull CC model. No direct application process for projects has been held at this point however East Riding directly delivered activity is due to commence at risk.

2.3.6. East Riding are placing a high priority upon Community & Place activity to cement regeneration activity which has already been in operation in the area.

2.4. Next Steps

2.4.1. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities are currently assessing the investment plans they received and seeking clarification on issues. Approval for the Investment Plans is expected imminently.