

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Economy Committee 16/04/24
SUBJECT:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund – update report
LEAD OFFICER:	Denise Vine, Group Head of Economy & Matt Gover, Economic Regeneration Project Officer
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Roger Nash, Chair of Economy Committee
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION:	
<p><u>Fulfilling Arun’s economic potential</u></p> <p>Increase opportunities for more high-quality, well-paid employment, encouraging more people to live, work, study and visit Arun.</p> <p>Use regeneration opportunities to attract new and relocating businesses to the district.</p> <p>Encourage the development of the district as a key tourist destination, supporting and enabling improvements and activities to increase visitor spend.</p> <p>Make best use of our natural assets to help drive the economy.</p>	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT:	
<p>The Council’s Economic Development Strategy includes the following ‘Building Blocks’ and priorities:</p> <p>Shaping our places for people to live, work and visit</p> <p>Attracting investment and success giving businesses the space and support to grow and prosper</p> <p>Putting people centre stage: healthy, happy, prosperous lives</p> <p>Growing business population</p>	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: Subject to Arun achieving 80%+ spend on year one and two projects, we will receive all our year three funding in full. Currently, the spend (including committed) level is at 100%.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update the committee on our progress of Arun’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation. Outlining year one and year two projects and provide an overview for year three projects coming forward.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the committee notes the completed year one and year two projects and projects agreed for year three.
- 2.2 That the committee approves officers pursuing any additional UKSPF funding should this become available from central government where in the opinion of officers the conditions of grant are considered reasonable. This includes approving acceptance to receive and allocate in accordance with the existing and approved investment plan.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 Arun District Council was allocated £1,083,399 by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to spend on local projects between 2022 and March 2025. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is part of the government's levelling up agenda and enables local areas to focus on their own priorities to build pride in place, boost productivity and spread opportunities.
- 3.2 Following extensive consultation with partners resulting in over 120 responses, we submitted our investment plan to government in July 2022, this was approved by central government in December 2022. Local partners were invited to bid to help us deliver our plan. Internal (ADC) projects were also invited to apply.
- 3.3 Our investment plan has three central themes, with sub-themes under each category. These are as follows:
 - Communities and place
 - Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets
 - Creation of and improvements to green spaces
 - Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area
 - Funding to support relevant feasibility studies
 - Supporting local businesses
 - Development and promotion of the visitor economy
 - Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems
 - People and skills
 - Employment support for economically inactive people
 - Tailored support to help people in employment
 - Green skills courses
- 3.4 In total there have been 25 projects supported by the panel and partnership group. This comprises of the Leader & Chair of the Economy Committee of Arun District Council, both local MP's and three strategic partners. The partnership group meets twice a year and monitors all projects, including underspend reallocations, which are recommended to the panel for decision.

Officers collect monthly reports from all projects, this is to measure performance and report any risks. Such as projects not being delivered to the panel as per a RAG status.

The total spends and allocations are £1,041,878 with 4% (£41,521) of the fund set-aside for administration and evaluation. The Department of Levelling Up, Communities and Housing guidance was to set-aside up to 4% for these reasons.

3.4.1 The breakdown of allocated expenditure is as follows:

- Year one (2022-2023): Total expenditure £78,845, (capital £58,845 and revenue £20,000)
 - 8x belly bins in Bognor Regis £44,280 (capital)
 - 22x additional cycle racks in Littlehampton £10,565 (capital)
 - Sunken gardens paving in Bognor Regis £4,000 (capital)
 - Wayfinding strategy in Bognor Regis £20,000 (revenue)
- Year two (2023-2024): Total expenditure £324,563 (capital £82,052 and revenue £242,511)
 - Russet Park enhancements in Angmering £5,000 (capital)
 - Mayflower enhancements in Angmering £2,500 (capital)
 - Extension of shopfront enhancement scheme Pan-Arun £20,230 (capital)
 - 1-2-1 retail consultancy support for independent businesses Pan-Arun £14,440 (revenue)
 - 18-month consultancy to support businesses with bespoke training events Pan-Arun £48,110 (revenue)
 - Public realm improvements in Littlehampton £34,977 (capital)
 - Wayfinding strategy in Bognor Regis £4,000 (revenue)
 - Perception campaign in Bognor Regis £10,000 (revenue)
 - Extension of seafront lights and updated technology in Bognor Regis £9,650 (capital)
 - Installation of 4x bike repair stations in Bognor Regis £7,500 (capital)
 - Town centre consultancy support in Littlehampton £35,000 (revenue)
 - Net Zero support for SME businesses Pan-Arun £50,000 (revenue)
 - Creative and Digital support for sector businesses Pan-Arun £33,000 (revenue)
 - Feasibility study for Regis quarter in Bognor Regis £47,961 (revenue)
 - Littlehampton arcade bespoke shop frontage scheme £2,195 (capital)

- Year three (2024-2025): Total expenditure £638,470 (capital £341,790 and revenue £296,680)
 - Family adventure trail in Arundel £15,000 (revenue)
 - Extension of shop frontage improvement scheme Pan-Arun £16,722 (capital)
 - Littlehampton arcade bespoke shop frontage scheme £3,500 (capital)
 - Alexandra theatre improvements to kitchen and studio areas in Bognor Regis £94,290 (capital)
 - Financial capability advisor Pan-Arun £24,680 (revenue)
 - Wayfinding strategy in Bognor Regis £143,000 (capital) and £20,000 (revenue)
 - Queensway banners – extension of wayfinding scheme £6,521 (capital)
 - Perception campaign in Bognor Regis £10,000 (capital)
 - Extension of seafront lights in Bognor Regis £19,757 (capital)
 - Green skills courses Pan-Arun £31,500 (revenue)
 - Town centre consultancy support in Littlehampton £11,500 (revenue)
 - Net Zero support for SME businesses Pan-Arun £50,000 (revenue)
 - MUGA and Woodlands improvements in Rustington £48,000 (capital)
 - Tourism career courses Pan-Arun £32,000 (revenue)
 - Higher education access courses Pan-Arun £25,000 (revenue)
 - Creative and Digital support for sector businesses Pan-Arun £62,000 (revenue)
 - Think futures programme for young people in Arun £25,000 (revenue)

3.5 Further information relating to Arun’s allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, including the investment plan is publicly available and can be found on our website at this link: www.arun.gov.uk/ukspf

3.6 Arun have been pro-active in working with partners in delivering projects throughout the district. Where possible re-allocations of underspends have been retained in their original locations. For example, this is the case in Angmering and Littlehampton.

Officers are in regular contact with other local authorities via the Local Government Association in meetings about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 120 partners including parish and town councils were invited to participate in expressions of interest, which informed the authority in collating the investment plan.

4.2 The roles of Leader and Chair of Economy committee of the council have been involved in the panel, which was the decision-making body of the fund. This has been superseded by the partnership group which includes councillors, MPs, and local strategic partners. This has a remit of monitoring the projects and re-allocating any underspends.

5. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

N/A

6. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

Externally funded noting 100% is committed in year with remaining balances carried forward next year as per DLUHC guidance.

7. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

None

8. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

Committee is asked (1) to note progress so far and (2) to authorise officers to pursue any additional UKSPF funding should this become available from central government. There are no legal or governance implications.

9. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

None

10. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

None

11. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

None

12. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

None

13. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

None

14. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

None

15. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

None

16. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

None

CONTACT OFFICER:

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None.