

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 31 March 2023

Report Title

Acceptance of UK Shared Prosperity Grant

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report

Simon Moss

Report Author(s)

Lorna Vertigan, Strategic Regeneration Manager
Lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (SYMCA) have allocated £111,410 revenue to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). A grant agreement has been provided by the SYMCA and this report seeks to exercise delegation to the Assistant Director Planning, Regeneration and Transport to accept the grant by signing the agreement.

Recommendations

1. To sign the SYMCA Funding Agreement in relation to the acceptance of the UKSPF under the delegated powers: 'The implementation of any functions associated with any grant regime, including National Grants, City Region Grants & Programmes and European Funding'

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Grant Agreement UKSPF
Appendix 2 Equalities Impact Assessment
Appendix 3 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

[Sheffield City Region Strategic Economic Plan](#)

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Name of Committee – [Click here to enter a date.](#)
Name of Committee – [Click here to enter a date.](#)

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Acceptance of UK Shared Prosperity Fund

1. Background

- 1.1 At the SYMCA meeting of 14th November 2022 it was agreed that Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council should be allocated a grant of £111,414, made available through the UKSPF.
- 1.2 On the 24th March 2023 SYMCA provided a grant agreement for signature. This report seeks to exercise the delegation to sign this agreement and accept the grant.

2. Key Issues

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the major economic development fund, replacing EU Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). The UKSPF aims to contribute to 'Levelling Up'; by providing financial assistance (largely revenue) to boost productivity, tackle geographical inequalities and improve life chances, especially in deprived areas.

The Fund invests in projects that cover one or more of the following investment priorities -

- Investment in skills
- Investment for local business
- Investment in communities and place
- Supporting people into employment

- 2.2 In July 2022, the SYMCA submitted bids on behalf of several promoters to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) seeking grant from the Fund. In December 2022, DLUHC announced the bid had been successful.
- 2.3 A grant of £111,410.00 has been awarded to provide resources and support activities to increase enterprise and employment, including a small grants programme as well as business productivity by improving access to business support through co-ordinating an integrated delivery approach centred on Rotherham's business hubs.
- 2.4 There are currently four award-winning, purpose-built business hubs providing 200 high-quality small offices and workshops across Rotherham, with a fifth due to complete construction in May 2023.
- 2.5 Business support delivered by this grant be delivered directly to businesses by the RIDO Business Development Team. This will include one-to-one sessions initially to gain an understanding of the business and the nature of support required. A bespoke support package will then be developed and agreed. This will reflect the business's stage of development and could take the form of workshop sessions or further in-depth one-to-one support, as well as enabling access to an extensive network of partner services across South Yorkshire.

2.6 The funding will also be used to provide a small grants scheme to help businesses overcome short term financial pressures or to support their growth ambitions.

2.7 The grant offered will be supported by public and private funding as follows:

	Total (£)
UKSPF	£111,410
Other public funding	£29,868
Private funding	£42,000
Total (£)	£183,278

2.8 Headline categories for expenditure have been identified, as follows:

	Total (£)
Business Development Team	£49,410
Marketing of new business hub	£20,000
Grants	£42,000
Other	£71,868
Total (£)	£183,278

2.9 As agreed at Cabinet in January 2023 final allocations and any revisions are delegated to Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with Leader of the Council.

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 That the offer of grant is accepted, and the Council receives £111,414 to support business productivity activities as described above. This option is recommended.

3.2 That the offer of grant is not accepted, and the Council does not pursue the activities described above.

4. Consultation on proposal

4.1 Proposals for the use of UKSPF business support funding have been developed in consultation and collaboration with partners across South Yorkshire through a Business Support Working Group.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The grant agreement should be signed by 31st March, with the first tranche of funding claimed at the same time.
- 5.2 Final expenditure of the grant must take place before June 2023.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)

- 6.1 The meeting of Cabinet on 23/01/2023 approved the proposed use of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant 2022/23 and delegated authority to the Assistant Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader of the Council to determine any revised and final allocations as required. This decision supports the use of the grant in line with the original proposal and the allocation now made
- 6.2 There are no procurement implications arising from the acceptance of grant

7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)

- 7.1 The terms of the Grant are acceptable and need to be complied with, particularly in terms of how the grant monies are spent and timescales.
- 7.2 As stated in the body of the report, the acceptance of grant monies of this nature is delegated to the Assistant Director making this decision in the Sub Scheme of Delegation of the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications

- 8.1 There are no human resources implications arising from this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 There are no specific implications in relation to this delegation.

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 There are no specific implications in relation to this delegation.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 There are no specific implications in relation to this delegation.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. The grant will deliver a positive impact by providing support to Rotherham businesses through direct grants and advisory services.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Failure to spend the grant to forecast within a limited time period. The project has a range of robust project management systems in place to ensure delivery on time.
- 13.2 Lack of engagement from businesses and individuals – the availability of support will be proactively marketed through existing and new channels.

14. Accountable Officers

Simon Moss, Assistant Director, Planning, Regeneration & Transport
Tim O'Connell, Head of RIDO

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

Report Author: Lorna Vertigan, Strategic Regeneration Manager
Lorna.vertigan@rotherham.gov.uk
This report is published on the Council's [website](#).

