
Report to CABINET

UKSPF Grant Acceptance – Part A

Portfolio Holders:

Councillor Amanda Chadderton, Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Housing

Councillor Abdul Jabbar, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Low Carbon

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20th March 2023

Reason for Decision

Cabinet Members are asked to approve and accept the £2,295,803 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant allocation following confirmation of award from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHUC) in early December 2022. Oldham submitted applications against three interventions from the UKSPF Communities and Place programme; namely:

- E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high street, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital costs and running costs.
 - E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
 - E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
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Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- i) Approve the acceptance of the £2.296m UKSPF grant against the three interventions approved for funding by DLHUC broken down as follows:
 - o E1: Accessible Oldham – allocation **£1,283,853** - Increase accessibility into and around the town centre – primarily on the Eastern Gateway and new park staff to maintain and improve the public realm
 - o E3: Active Travel Oldham – allocation **£506,000** - Increase the take up of active travel, modal shift away from cars and increase access to the Northern Roots Urban Farm and Eco-Park Northern Roots Bike Hub
 - o E6: Support for Local Arts, Culture and Heritage Events –allocation **£505,950** - Co-designed community led events including satellite sessions from Oldham Theatre Workshops and the exciting 'Illuminate Festival'. These directly support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and will support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan. This allocation includes a Cultural Strategy Co-Ordinator post for two years.
- ii) Note that as accountable body for UKSPF, GMCA has issued a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in respect of the grant, along with supporting documentation, which is currently under review by the Council 's legal services.
- iii) Delegate authority to the Executive Director for Place and Economic Growth to agree the terms of the MOU issued by GMCA in respect of the grant award in consultation with the Director of Legal Services and approve appointments of professional teams and contract award in respect of the agreed budgets.
- iv) Delegate authority to Director of Legal Services or their nominated representative to finalise and enter into the MOU issued by GMCA in respect of the grant award subject to the completion of any necessary due diligence on subsidy control compliance and authority to agree and complete any project change requests under the MOU.
- v) Delegate authority to the Director of Economy or their nominated representative to agree monitoring and evaluation of defined outputs and negotiations thereupon as required over the grant delivery period of 2022/23 – 2024/2025.
- vi) Note and endorse that the internal governance and administration for the UKSPF grant will be performed via the Creating a Better Place Programme Board (CAPB) structures alongside a dedicated UKSPF Delivery Group for which Terms of Reference will be agreed by the Director of Economy or their nominated representative.

UKSPF Grant Acceptance

1 Background

1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula.

1.2 Local Authorities were directed to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances. Local places will be able to use the Fund to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision to maximise impact and simplify delivery. There are three key investment priorities under the Fund:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business; and
- People and Skills

This paper relates to the Community and Place investment priority.

1.3 GMCA are the accountable body for the Fund and, following submission of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan to Government at the end of July 2022, the focus of UKSPF in GM is on implementation planning. GMCA invited local authorities to submit proposals to ensure projects are compliant with Government guidance and will collectively meet the required outputs and outcomes as set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan for the Communities and Place Investment Priority.

1.4 Oldham has been allocated £2.298m from UKSPF across the key interventions of the programme namely E1, E3 and E6. We have focused our proposals around active, accessible public realm and travel routes; rehabilitation of green space including infrastructure for community and visitor use; and a programme of cultural events that build upon and generate legacy projects for Oldham's residents and visitors alike.

1.5 The proposed programme is drawn from the Creating a Better Place strategy and action plan and will support a range of projects that will meet the core 3 interventions, namely:

- E1: Accessible Oldham - increase accessibility into and around the Town Centre – primarily on the Eastern Gateway and new park staff to maintain and improve the public realm
- E3: Active Travel Oldham - Increase the take up of active travel (modal shift away from car and increase the access to the Northern Roots Urban Farm and Eco-Park Northern Roots Bike Hub
- E6: Co-design community led events including satellite sessions from Oldham Theatre Workshops and the exciting 'Illuminate festival'. These directly support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and will support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan. This allocation includes a Cultural Strategy Co-Ordinator post for two years. Details of the expenditure profile and outputs are set out in the table below.

UKSPF Oldham:	Spend £000	Jobs Created	Km of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths	Public realm created or improved Sqm	Amount of rehabilitated land Sqm	Local events or activities supported	Increased footfall
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**E1 Town
Centre**

2022/23	350	0	0	0	2,000	0	0
2023/24	448	32	0	12,500	0	0	0
2024/25	486	76	0		0	0	2,741
TOTAL	1,284	108	0	12,500	2,000	0	2,741

**E3 Green
Space**

2022/23	139	0	0	0	6,500	0	0
2023/24	218	3	6	10,680	0	67	15,200
2024/25	149	0	3	2,800	0	72	22,800
TOTAL	506	3	9	13,480	6,500	139	38,000

**E6 Art and
Culture**

2022/23	140	2	0	10,040	0	37	0
2023/24	183	2	0	12,120	0	80	0
2024/25	183	2	0	14,120	0	80	0
TOTAL	506	6	0	36,280	0	197	0

<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>2,296</u>	<u>117</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>62,260</u>	<u>8,500</u>	<u>336</u>	<u>40,741</u>
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1.6 These proposals all address the 3 themes of the Communities and Place interventions in delivering improvements to town centres and high streets, creation of and improvements to our green spaces and delivering community focused arts and cultural events. The UKSPF will allow Oldham to build on and improve our Towns Fund and Future High Streets projects either through enhancing original ambitions or developing new projects that will help deliver our cultural strategy, increasing participation in cultural activity in areas that are normally difficult to engage.

2. Current Position

2.1 Oldham's proposals were submitted to GMCA in September 2022 after seeking the views of the MP Engagement Group. GM then presented a combined proposal for Communities and Place for the ratification of the Local Partnership Board at the GMCA meeting on 28th October. All Local Authority proposals were agreed by GMCA, subject to two conditions: firstly, confirmation of funding from Government and secondly clarifying the delivery of the

three cross-cutting measures – net zero 2038, reducing inequalities and increasing social value.

- 2.2 In January 2023 GMCA issued an MOU and a Grant Determination letter from Government setting out the terms of the UKSPF grant. These documents are currently being reviewed by the Council’s legal services and finance officers. The Grant Determination letter confirms the UKSPF grant for 2022/2023 with indicative funding for 2023/4 and 2024/5. Funding for 2023/4 and 2024/5 requires that the Council demonstrate that delivery of forecast outputs, outcomes and spend for the previous financial year have been met, or failing that, there is a realistic plan to address underperformance.
- 2.3 Given the delay in administering and approving the UKSPF programme allocations, DLHUC is aware that there will be a requirement to backdate eligible spend to April 2022 as well as roll some 2022/3 funding into 2023/4. These details will be finalised with GMCA as part of the MOU and monitoring requirements.
- 2.4 The MOU will confirm an allocation of UKSPF administration fee of £31k for the year 2022/23 and references an indicative £64k per year for 2023/24 and 2024/25 subject to annual confirmation of funding from Government. Upon receipt of Oldham’s signed MOU, GMCA will release the full 2022/3 allocation of UKSPF.

3 Options/Alternatives

- 3.1 Option 1: do nothing. Failure to accept the grant allocation of UKSPF would reflect negatively on the perception of the town and its ambitions. It would have significant implications for delivery of the project budgets and, therefore, the achievement of regeneration ambitions and objectives.
- 3.2 Option 2: Formally accept the UKSPF award allocation for £2.296m and enter into the MOU as set out in this report.

4 Preferred Option

- 4.1 Option 2 is the preferred option to help ensure delivery of the projects to original timescales and budgets and, therefore, the achievement of regeneration ambitions and objectives.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Oldham’s proposals were submitted to GMCA in September 2022 after seeking the views of the MP Engagement Group. GM then presented a combined proposal for Communities and Place for the ratification of the Local Partnership Board at the GMCA meeting on 28th October. All Local Authority proposals were agreed by GMCA
- 5.2 Consultation and engagement work has taken place over the last two years with stakeholders, partners, Council teams and services, elected members, public sector organisations and different voices from our local communities to help clearly define regeneration ambitions, and to ensure that the projects referenced in this report align with local priorities, ideas and suggestions.
- 5.3 Specific detailed project consultation will take place at the applicable time in conjunction with standard practice for project development / planning application considerations.

6 Financial Implications

6.1 Details contained within Part B report

7 Legal Services Comments

7.1 Details contained within Part B report

8 Co-operative Agenda

8.1 The delivery projects in Oldham town centre through the UKSPF will support the Co-operative Agenda by achieving outcomes that contribute to making Oldham a place to invest and do business, and a regenerated town which grows the business base.

8.3 The resulting development will be designed to a high quality and the enhanced built environment will have a positive effect not only on local residents and businesses but also on all arriving in the town centre through Metrolink on Union Street. The development of the Cultural Strategy and the Illuminate Festival will bring new life to the area which will be in keeping with the Council's policy objective of Creating a Better Place Strategic Framework.

9 Human Resources Comments

9.1 N/A

10 Risk Assessments

10.1 Details contained within Part B report

11 IT Implications

11.1 N/A

12 Property Implications

12.1 N/A

13 Procurement Implications

13.1 Details contained within Part B report

14 Environmental and Health & Safety Implications

14.1 N/A

15 Equality, Community Cohesion and Crime Implications

15.1 None

16 Implications for Children and Young People

16.1 None

17 Equality Impact Assessment Completed

17.1 Yes

18 Key Decision

18.1 Yes

19 **Key Decision Reference**

19.1 Rule 13 exemption sought and agreed.

20 **Background Papers**

20.1 None

21 **Appendix**

21.1 Appendix 1: EIA