

## **CABINET – 9TH FEBRUARY 2023**

### **Report of the Scrutiny Commission**

#### UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND ‘FUTURE CHARNWOOD INVESTMENT PLAN’ PROGRAMME OF DELIVERY

##### Purpose of Report

To consider the comments and recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission in relation to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund ‘Future Charnwood Investment Plan’ Programme of Delivery.

##### Recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission

That the Cabinet be informed that the Commission welcomes and supports the recommendations set out in the report of the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration.

##### Reason

The Commission, having carefully considered and asked questions on the report felt the Cabinet should approve the recommendations set out.

##### Meeting Discussion

- i. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation offered local flexibility and freedom in terms of expenditure. The Investment Plan had been approved and therefore the Council needed to move forward to the delivery phase. As the delivery of the plan was rolled out, if there were to be any significant underspends, that money could potentially be directed towards other projects that were not within the top ten highest ranked projects in order to increase the impact and scope of UKSPF locally.
- ii. There had been 53 funding expressions of interest from across the Borough and the ten projects selected for funding had been chosen on a ranked basis after assessment against the criteria. The Head of Economic Development and Regeneration agreed that the complete list of the names of projects and the proposing organisations that had put forward project ideas for consideration at the interest expression stage could be shared following the meeting. Details of the submissions were submitted in commercial confidence.
- iii. The criteria used to assess projects was formed using both DLUHC guidance and local priorities, as the government wanted spending to reflect local circumstances and needs. Local Authorities were required to use three thematic areas as part of the selection process; Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. With these themes in mind, the project team were then able to apply criteria which reflected the local needs in the

Borough, with a focus on opportunities, challenges, deliverability, supporting levelling-up and legacy impact.

- iv. It was highlighted that the proposed Delivery Plan would be managed carefully and that resource implications would be considered on an ongoing basis. There was a degree of flexibility which enabled changes to projects where required in order to manage costs effectively and deliver projects within the allocated budget.
- v. The Council issued a call for projects in May 2022. A proactive publicity campaign was launched involving social media, videos, emails, briefing sessions, press releases and liaison with stakeholders and community and voluntary groups. All Borough Councillors had received information about UKSPF and all Parish and Town Clerks had been sent information asking for project ideas.
- vi. It was not possible to exceed the end of programme delivery at the end of March 2025 as this date was confirmed by DLUHC. However, it was considered that governments were likely to be realistic about project delivery and would allow projects nearing completion at the end date to continue.
- vii. To ensure effective delivery within budget and time scales, all successful projects had been instructed to complete Full Business Cases designed in-line with the HM Treasury 5 Case Model. Upon completion, technical appraisal of projects would take place, including scrutiny of expenditure and project level approach to risk management and the development of contingency planning in the event that external cost pressures exceeded the allocated budget for a given project.
- viii. The Future Charnwood Group would act as an advisory panel for the delivery of the Investment Plan. The membership of this group would include local MPs, the Leader of the Council, the Chief Executive of the Council, the Director of Commercial and Economic Development and the Head of Economic Development and Regeneration.

### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Scrutiny Commission Procedure Rule 11.12 sets out the procedure by which a report of a Scrutiny Committee should be considered by Cabinet.

### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

The information in this in the Cabinet report is not affected by the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

### Report Implications

The following implications have been identified for this report.

### *Financial Implications*

There are no further financial implications associated with the recommendation of the Scrutiny Commission.

*Risk Management*

There are no specific risks associated with the recommendations of the Scrutiny Commission.

Key Decision:	Yes
Background Paper:	Scrutiny Commission Minute 85 2022/23, 6th February 2023.
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