



Subject: Community Partnerships Development Fund (UKSPF)
Report of: Head of Inclusive Growth
Portfolio: Education, inclusion and skills

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Community Partnerships that will be established as part of the North of Tyne UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) programme. The report includes a proposed financial investment of £147,976 of UKSPF funds to provide an initial capacity grant to each constituent Local Authority so they can establish their Community Partnerships and develop a delivery plan to unlock further UKSPF investment.

The approved North of Tyne UKSPF Investment Plan includes the creation of a Community Partnership in each Local Authority area to plan and fund activity that meets the following two interventions under the Community and Place theme:

- Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places
- Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

Community Partnerships will support and co-ordinate a programme of activity in each area that increases opportunities for people to come together to build strong and trusting relationships, strengthens the capacity of VCSE sector organisations to meet the needs of the local community and supports the community to play a stronger role in shaping and making decisions on local activities and developments.

Reason for Delegation

Cabinet at its meeting on 31st January 2023 delegated to the Chief Executive to make final approvals and associated decisions for implementation in accordance with NTCA procedures for Community Partnerships

Recommendation

The Chief Executive is recommended to approve the financial investment of £147,976 of UKSPF funds to provide an initial capacity grant to each constituent Local Authority so they can establish their Community Partnerships and develop a delivery plan to unlock further UKSPF investment. The funding agreements will be as follows:

| Local Authority | Amount |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Newcastle City Council | £50,000 |
| North Tyneside | £50,000 |
| Northumberland | £47,976 |
| Total | £147,976 |

1. Background Information, Proposals and Timetable for Implementation

1.1 NTCA will deliver three programmes of activity in the UKSPF Communities and Place theme:

- Regeneration of our Places: Towns, high streets, rural centres, and local events
- Community programmes and partnerships
- Energy efficiency

- 1.2 Community Partnerships are a key element within the second of these programmes of activity and will have a specific focus on achieving the Levelling Up mission of restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging.
- 1.3 Investment will take a place-based approach to supporting our most deprived communities to develop local solutions in response to needs and opportunities, which will result in stronger local economies and more prosperous and resilient places.
- 1.4 A place-based Community Partnership will be established within each of the three North of Tyne constituent local authorities. Partnerships will be made up of Local Authorities and VCSE Local Infrastructure Organisations as well as representatives from areas such as health, education, employment, community safety and NTCA.
- 1.5 The purpose of the Partnerships will be to support and co-ordinate a programme of activity that seeks to:
 - Increase opportunities for people to come together to build strong and trusting relationships.
 - Strengthen the capacity of VCSE sector organisations to meet the needs of the local community.
 - Support the community to play a stronger role in shaping and making decisions on local activities and developments, so that change can come from the grassroots.
- 1.6 Each Local Authority is being awarded a capacity grant to begin the development of their Community Partnership. This will involve agreeing the target geographic area within which each partnership will operate based on existing levels of deprivation, social capital and place-based investment.
- 1.7 Once the geographic focus of each Community Partnership has been identified, targeted research and consultation will be undertaken to gain a more in-depth understanding of needs and opportunities in the area. Based on the research and consultation phase, each Community Partnership will submit a Business Case in May 2023 describing the key investment priorities identified for the local area and how they will be addressed. Local Authorities will then be able to access up to £1.5m of UKSPF investment each to support a programme of activity to be delivered between July 2023 and March 2025.

2. Potential Impact on Objectives

- 2.1 This work seeks to support NTCA's vision of a dynamic and more inclusive economy, one that brings together people and opportunities to create vibrant communities and a high quality of life, narrowing inequalities and ensuring that all residents have a stake in our region's future. Investment will take a place-based approach to supporting our most deprived communities to develop local solutions in response to needs and opportunities, which will result in stronger local economies and more prosperous and resilient places.

3. Key Risks

- 3.1 The risks associated with this application have been mitigated through funding conditions. These include the submission of a completed Business Case by each Local Authority with the final claim submission to unlock further investment.

4. Financial and Other Resources Implications

- 4.1 This work has already been budgeted for as part of the approved UKSPF Investment Plan.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Interim Monitoring Officer's comments have been included in this report.

6. Equalities Implications

6.1 This work seeks to actively address socioeconomic inequalities within Community Partnership areas by strengthening relationships, building the capacity of the VCSE sector and increasing opportunities for participation in decision-making. Local Authorities will be expected to complete an Equality Impact Assessment as part of their subsequent Business Case.

7. Inclusive Economy Implications

7.1 This work seeks to develop communities with high social capital, based on strong relationships and trust, that can develop local solutions in response to needs and opportunities that will help to create stronger local economies and more prosperous and resilient places. These communities will be more resilient in the face of hard times thanks to their ability to look after one-another, solve problems together, and shape services. High levels of social capital will also support a more inclusive economy where people are better able to take advantage of economic opportunities through having access to strong, supportive and diverse social networks.

8. Climate Change Implications

8.1 Community Partnerships will be expected to integrate sustainability and net zero into their Delivery Plans and decision-making processes to ensure all activities seeking UKSPF resources consider the impact of the project on equalities and environment.

9. Consultation and Engagement

9.1 Capacity funding is key to enabling Local Authorities to carry out detailed consultation with partners, communities and residents when scoping this work. This process will involve taking stock of the current situation in communities to understand strengths and weaknesses, whilst also collecting key baseline data collection around current levels of social capital. The key objective of Community Partnerships is to develop places with increased opportunities for people to come together to build strong and trusting relationships, strong VCSE sector organisations able to meet the needs of the local community and additional support for the community to play a stronger role in shaping and making decisions on local activities and developments, so that change can come from the grassroots.

10. Appendices

None

11. Background Papers

None

12. Contact Officers

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13. Glossary

UKSPF: UK Shared Prosperity Fund
VCSE: Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise

14. Sign-off

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| 1) Director of Finance: Yes | 2) Monitoring Officer: Yes |
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