

TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL

REPORT AND DECISION NOTICE OF OFFICER KEY

DECISION TAKEN ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023

PUBLISHED ON 22 FEBRUARY 2023

DEADLINE FOR CALL-IN 27 FEBRUARY 2023

UK SPF INVESTMENT PLAN

This **Key Decision** was taken by KATHERINE KYNASTON, being the appropriate Officer under Delegated Powers in compliance with the Council's Constitution

The **Key Decision** related to the following identified item contained within the Council's **Notice of Key Decisions** as published on 13 January 2023.

BOROUGH OF TELFORD & WREKIN

UK SPF INVESTMENT PLAN

INFORMATION

UKSPF is the UK Government's national funding programme established to replace European Structural Funding which for a number of years has provided financial support focussed around economic growth, business support, social infrastructure, employment and skills.

All upper tier and Unitary Authorities have received a UKSPF allocation. Telford's funding allocation of £5.8m was confirmed and approved by DHLUC in December 2022 on receipt of a high level Investment Plan for the expenditure of the funding. The Plan was prepared by Telford & Wrekin Council in consultation with an Investment Panel of key local stakeholders (which was a requirement of Government).

In line with Government guidance Telford's Investment Plan has three themes:

1. Community and Place
2. Supporting Local Business
3. People and Skills

Government has identified a series of outputs to be delivered in relation to each theme.

Telford & Wrekin Council is the lead authority and accountable body for the delivery of the Investment Plan, working with the continued involvement and oversight of the Investment Panel.

The Council has established a local UKSPF Investment Panel comprising a number of organisations that are informed about the Borough's economy, needs and challenges and are representative of other bodies, organisations or businesses with an interest in the three funding themes.

The Panel Chair is Graham Wynn OBE, which also provides a link to the Towns Fund Board, and panel members include Telford Business Board, Marches Local Enterprise Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, FSB, DWP, Telford College and voluntary sector representation.

Terms of Reference have been drawn up for the panel who have met to consider the evidence base and proposals for the investment of Telford's UKSPF allocation across the three funding themes. The Panel will continue to play a key role in developing, monitoring and supporting delivery of the Investment Plan.

The Investment Plan covers the whole Borough. The Council's role includes:

- Establishing and managing the local UKSPF Investment Panel representative of key sectors and groups
- Undertaking research and surveys to inform need, challenges and opportunities under each of the three UKSPF investment priorities
- Managing the delivery of the UKSPF Investment Plan, agreed by the Panel and supported by Telford's MP's
- Establishing clear governance/working arrangements
- Overseeing the defrayal of UKSPF funding in line with the agreed Investment Plan and submitting quarterly and annual reports to DHLUC in line with government requirements

Legal Implications

When awarding any grants and conducting any procurement the Council will comply with UK subsidy control and statutory procurement requirements together with the provisions of the Council's Constitution. Legal advice will be provided on an ongoing basis regarding these matters together with any other legal issues that arise. EH 13.2.23

Financial Implications

Telford & Wrekin Council have been allocated £5.8m over 3 years (22/23 – 24/25). The Council has been identified as the lead authority and accountable body for the development and delivery of that Investment Plan including the management and defrayal of all funds. Funding is predominantly revenue with a budget allowance for lead body administration of 4%.

Funding will be released by DHLUC annually in line with the Investment Plan Financial Profile. Claims will be submitted on a quarterly basis and reviewed by DHLUC against the Investment Plan and profiled outputs. Any underspend can be rolled forward for one year. Any amendments to the plan can be made through the normal reporting procedure with no requirement for a formal Change Request as existed under the EU system. MB 17.2.23

DECISION –

Having considered the statement of reasons and consultation responses, the Director of Housing, Employment and Infrastructure Services approves the decision for the Council to take receipt of the government funding allocated to Telford under the UKSPF programme and the decision to defray that funding in accordance with the UKSPF Investment Plan. The Executive Director is aware of this decision being made.

Further Information/Contact –

Kathy Mulholland

Inward Investment & Business Support Service Delivery Manager

Housing, Employment & Infrastructure

Signed:

Anthea Lowe

Director: Policy & Governance

Dated: 22 FEBRUARY 2023