



CABINET – 19TH MAY 2021

SUBJECT: UK GOVERNMENT FUNDING FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL ECONOMIES – THE LEVELLING UP FUND, UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND AND UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND

REPORT BY: HEAD OF REGENERATION AND PLANNING

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on the UK Government's recent announcements of a number of new funding and finance programmes for local and regional economies.
- 1.2 To outline the opportunities and constraints for the Council presented by the new UK funding programmes and initiatives including eligibility criteria, funding allocations and development timescales.
- 1.3 To propose an initial pipeline list of Council projects eligible for submission to the new funding programmes and seek endorsement to begin the necessary pre-application development work.
- 1.4 To highlight the impact the programmes will have on the Council in administering the new programmes.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The UK Government has recently published details on several new funding and finance programmes for local and regional economics, which are intended as the "replacement programmes" for EU Funds, namely: The Levelling Up Fund, The UK Community Renewal Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
- 2.2 The Report provides an overview of each of the new UK funding programmes and their future funding opportunities for the Council. A move towards this domestic funding arrangement will be instrumental to the future economic resilience and prosperity of Caerphilly County Borough but will have resource implications for the Council who will be responsible for administering the programmes.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Cabinet:-
 - (i) Consider the details of each of the new UK Funding programmes and the

opportunities for the Funds to contribute significantly to the Council's own Place Shaping, Transformation and Regeneration agendas.

- (ii) Approve the projects set out in paragraph 5.12 in respect of the Levelling Up Fund that have been identified through a Project Prioritisation exercise and to seek approval to add the Risca brownfield site to the Council's Place-shaping Framework
- (iii) Approve the submission of the Merthyr/Rhymney constituency bid by the Round One deadline with the other bids being submitted in Round 2 of the programme (June 2022)
- (iv) Note the need for funding to be earmarked to support the projects development in order to maximise their chance of success and to cover the necessary match requirements.
- (v) Endorse the creation of a Task and Finish group, under the TeamCaerphilly governance framework, to further develop the prioritised projects for the Levelling Up Fund (LUF) including all necessary pre-application work, including engagement with neighbouring Local Authorities on collaboration projects.
- (vi) Support the continuation of our collective challenge towards the UK Government prioritisation methodology used to determine the Community Renewal Fund Priority 100 places, to enable us to influence the forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund indicators.
- (vii) Acknowledge that there will be a significant resource impact for the Council in administering the Programmes and a need to identify suitable resources to administer the Levelling Up, CRF programmes and the impending Shared Prosperity Fund.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure that the Council is fully prepared to maximise future funding opportunities from the new UK Funding Programmes for the benefits of its citizens and communities and to allow for robust engagement to take place.
- 4.2 To ensure Caerphilly CB transitions successfully from EU Funding programmes to the emerging new UK funding landscape and existing levels of external investment are maintained.
- 4.3 To foster collaborative working across Service Areas to ensure the viability and realisation of the Council's long-term Place Shaping, Transformation and Regeneration strategies.
- 4.4 To ensure that there is sufficient officer capacity to co-ordinate and administer the new funds.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The UK Government has recently published details on several new funding and

finance programmes for local and regional economies, which are intended as the “replacement programmes” for EU Funds. A summary of the new funding programmes follows:

THE LEVELLING UP FUND (LUF)

- 5.2 The UK Government has recently announced that the LUF would apply for the whole of the UK, with a £4.8bn budget of which £800 million is being made available for Scotland Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 5.3 The Fund is managed by the UK Government via the Treasury, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Transport. The UK Government has opened applications for the LUF and published a Prospectus to provide guidance on how to submit bids. It is important to note that funding will be delivered through local authorities – Welsh Government will no longer have a role in administering the funds.
- 5.4 The UK Government has published rankings for local areas, between 1 and 3. Those areas in category 1 are considered most in need of “levelling up” and will be prioritised for investment. Caerphilly has been classed as a category 1 area.
- 5.5 The LUF is a competitive fund. The £800 million will be allocated across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland over four years from 2021-22 to 2024-25. To apply for funding from the first round of the LUF, local authorities must submit their bids to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by **noon on 18 June 2021**. Decisions on successful bids are expected to be made in the autumn of 2021. Annual rounds are then expected thereafter.
- 5.6 The first round of the LUF will focus on three themes:

THEME	TYPE OF PROJECT SUPPORTED
TRANSPORT INVESTMENTS	Investments in new or existing cycling provision Improved priority for local bus services (e.g. bus priority lanes or signal priority at junctions). Enhanced public transport facilities, such as bus stops and stations. Accessibility improvements to local transport networks for disabled people. Enhancements and upgrades to local road networks (e.g. by passes and junction improvements) Structural maintenance works to local roads, including bridges. Multi-modal proposals which combine two or more interventions to enhance transport across modes.
REGENERATION AND TOWN CENTRES	Regenerating key leisure and retail sites and improving their security, in order to encourage new businesses and public services to locate there.

	<p>Removing derelict buildings and other eyesores to make way for new developments.</p> <p>Site acquisition and remediation of abandoned or brownfield sites, for both commercial and new residential use.</p> <p>Improving the public realm including high streets, parks and green spaces, designing out opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Creating better connectivity between and within key retail and leisure sites.</p> <p>Putting forward 'Town Deals' for individual or groups of smaller towns.</p>
<p>CULTURAL INVESTMENT</p>	<p>Upgrading and creating new cultural and creative spaces including sports or athletics facilities, museums, arts venues, theatres, libraries, film facilities, prominent landmarks or historical buildings, parks or gardens.</p> <p>New, upgraded or protected community hubs, spaces or assets (and associated green spaces).</p> <p>Acquiring and refurbishing key cultural and heritage sites including hotels and historic buildings.</p>

- 5.7 The first round of funding will prioritise projects which are able to demonstrate investment or begin delivery on the ground in 2021-22 financial year. In addition, it is expected that there will be some spend in 2021/22. The UK Government has advised there will be future opportunities to bid in subsequent rounds.
- 5.8 The number of successful bids that a local authority can make will relate to the number of MPs in their area. In this context Caerphilly CB is eligible to submit three applications, one of which will be a joint bid with Merthyr. Notably the MP for the area should endorse the projects to be submitted for their constituency. In addition, the authority is allowed to submit **one additional** transport related project.
- 5.9 As outlined above £800m has been identified for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. It is predicted that Wales will receive circa £240m over the course of the programme. This equates to only 12 projects (assuming that bids are up to the £20m threshold) throughout Wales being funded. If large transport projects (valued at up to £50m) are approved, then the number of projects funded will further reduce.
- 5.10 It is expected that all funding under the first round the LUF will be **spent by 31 March 2024**. (2024-25 by exception only for larger transport schemes). Deliverability is a crucial consideration both in terms of the ability to produce a bid with an acceptable level of detail by the 18th June 2021 followed by the ability to complete the project by 31st March 2024.

- 5.11 The LUF will focus investment on projects that require up to £20 million of funding. There is scope for investing in larger high value transport projects by exception. Bids above £20 million and below £50 million will be accepted for transport projects only. Local authorities will be expected to provide match funding at an intervention rate of at least 10% for all projects submitted.
- 5.12 A list of CCBC projects which would potentially be eligible is outlined below. This list has been distilled through a vetting process undertaken by senior officers from within the Regeneration and Infrastructure divisions with the Place-shaping Framework in mind.

Caerphilly Constituency (up to £20m)

Project	Place-shaping Framework
Provision of infrastructure at Caerphilly Business Park for new industrial/employment units aimed at SME's	WB02 - Industrial / employment Proposals. Develop proposals for improving and enhancing the offer at sites across the county borough.
Bedwas Bridge roundabout –road and bridge enhancements to mitigate against traffic congestion along with complementary active travel schemes	WB04 - County borough Wide Highways investment Maintenance and upgrade of the highway infrastructure.
Ness Tar brownfield site – Provision of an access road to traverse the rail line to unlock this large site for development (subject to due diligence)	WB05 – Caerphilly Basin, potential development of a key brownfield site within Caerphilly town centre for mixed use facilities.

Islwyn Constituency (up to £20m)

Project	Place-shaping Framework
Cwmcarn Visitor attraction – a commercial opportunities masterplan is being prepared. Phase 1 projects from this masterplan will be implemented including the possible development of an accommodation block plus a number of attractive new visitor attractions;	WB05 - Cwmcarn Adventures play area/new lodges. WB05 - Create a Premier Parks Programme that includes Cwmcarn Forest Drive.
Mon Brecon Cwmcarn spur Canal enhancements – providing longer navigable stretches along the canal and improving the connectivity to Risca from the Cwmcarn Forest site;	WB05 – Canal improvement works at Risca.

Redevelopment of a Strategic Town Centre Site, Risca – Pursue options to purchase and develop this important brownfield site. Options to explore include a new waterside park that will act as a visitor attraction, hotel accommodation and other complementary uses.	Not identified – the site is however identified as suitable for redevelopment in the Adopted Local Development Plan.
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Merthyr/Rhymney Constituency (up to £20m)

Project	Place-shaping Framework
The A469 relief road – improvements to stabilise the arterial road route to Upper Rhymney Valley and the Heads of the Valleys.	WB04 - A469 New Tredegar/ Pontlottyn improvement.

Separate Transport Bid (up to £50m)

Project	Placeshaping Framework
Caerphilly Transport Interchange – take project on from feasibility and design stage (Weltag and RIBA stage 2) to practical completion.	WB04 – Caerphilly Transport Interchange.

- 5.13 Cabinet are asked to consider the suite of projects and the recommendations of officers set out in 5.12 above to determine which projects should be submitted. As outlined above it is important that consideration is given to whether submissions can be made by the deadline of June 2021 for first round consideration and whether projects can be completed by the deadlines set out above. It should be noted that the only scheme that is not included within the current adopted Place-shaping framework is the brownfield site at Risca and officers recommend this now be added to the programme.
- 5.14 After consideration of the bid and project deliverability timescales, officers would recommend delaying 3 of the submissions until 2022 (year 2 of the LUF programme) when the projects will be more fully formed. It is however understood that Merthyr intend submitting a bid centred on Cyfarthfa Castle by the first-round deadline of 18th June 2021. As each bid submitted per constituency can be a bid for an individual project or a package bid consisting of multiple projects, a package bid could be developed collaboratively with Merthyr by June which includes the A469 road improvements and Cyfarthfa castle. In this regard officers have met with counterparts in Merthyr CBC to discuss the submission of a packaged bid (which includes works to the A469) by the 18th June 2021 deadline and are awaiting feedback.
- 5.15 Discussion with MP's has been ongoing throughout the process to date and if Cabinet are minded to support the proposed projects, further detailed discussion will be required prior to proceeding with the projects. Equally, discussion with MS members will also be required.

- 5.16 The LUF assessment process will be based on four key criteria:
- **Characteristics of the place** – each local authority will be sorted into category 1, 2 or 3 based on UK Government assessment metrics, with category 1 representing the highest level of identified need.
 - **Deliverability** - will be based on supplementary finance, management and commercial cases, with bids able to demonstrate investment and which begin delivery on the ground in 2021-22 financial year prioritised in the first round of funding.
 - **Strategic fit with local and Fund priorities** – this should be addressed in the strategic case of submissions and should include support from stakeholders.
 - **Value for money** – an economic case should be submitted to explain the benefits of the bid and how it represents value for money.
- 5.17 £125,000 of capacity funding will be allocated to all eligible local authorities with the primary intention of supporting the relevant local authorities to develop their bids for later rounds of the fund. This could be used to employ additional staff or targeted at project development. However, this funding alone will not cover the work required to get the suite of projects identified above to submission stage. It is therefore recommended that additional resources are identified to allow the necessary design and feasibility work to commence in readiness for submission. The projects outlined in paragraph 5.12 above sit almost exclusively within the Council's Placemaking Framework and the resourcing of these projects will need to be considered as part of the overarching resource plan for the Place-shaping programme. Discussion between the Head of Regeneration and the Head of Transformation will ensure an appropriate resource plan is developed and delivered. This report recommends the setting up of a task and finish group that will sit under the umbrella of the overall Team Caerphilly governance framework.
- 5.18 As it is envisaged that a maximum of 12 projects throughout Wales will be funded through the LUF, expectations of success need to be managed and consideration whether all 4 potential projects should be developed and submitted. Officers recommend focusing resources on those projects that can be developed to the necessary robust stage by the deadlines as this will increase the Council's chance of success. These projects will need to be considered holistically and as such as these projects develop, officers will also explore alternative and complementary funding sources to the LUF.

THE UK COMMUNITY RENEWAL FUND (UKCRF)

- 5.19 The UK Community Renewal Fund is a £220 million programme designed to operate during 2021-22 as a precursor to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund that will be launched the following year. The UKCRF will help inform the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund through funding of one- year pilots. The UKCRF will be a competitive process with no pre-set eligibility.
- 5.20 The UK Government has identified 100 Priority places based on economic resilience that will be prioritised for funding. **Notably, Caerphilly is not listed in the 100 Priority Places.** CCBC is one of only two South East Wales Local Authorities not listed in the top 100, along with Bridgend County Borough Council. Officers have met with UK Government officials to discuss and challenge the methodology. The clear message is that the methodology will not change for the UKCRF but that there is an opportunity for Councils to influence the indicators that will be used for the UK

Shared Prosperity Fund before it is introduced.

5.21 In Wales, Local Authorities will be expected to administer the Fund. The UK Government is expecting the Lead Authorities of all UK places (LA's in Wales) to invite bids from a range of project applicants. The LA will then have to appraise and prioritise a shortlist of projects up to a maximum of £3 million per place and submit a shortlist of projects to UK Government by the 18 June 2021. The role of CCBC is clearly set out below:

- Invite bids from a range of Project Applicants, including but not limited to universities, voluntary and community sector organisations, and umbrella business groups.
- Undertake constructive engagement with local partners, including but not limited to lower tier local authorities and elected representatives, and other public, private and third sector organisations.
- Collaborate with other Lead Authorities or partners across the UK where relevant – for example to promote cross-border project opportunities that address needs in common or achieve efficient delivery scale.

- Appraise and prioritise a shortlist of projects (up to a maximum of £3m per place).

- Submit a shortlist to UK Government who will assess the proposals and select projects based on the criteria set out in the UK Community Fund Prospectus.
- Enter into a funding agreement with UK Government to deliver successful bids.

- Issue agreements to successful bidders once funding has been agreed by the UK Government, and then undertake monitoring and assurance activity.

5.22 The Lead Authority in the 100 Priority Places will receive capacity funding to help them invite and appraise bids locally. Each lead authority in the 100 will receive £20,000. **Notably Caerphilly CBC will not be eligible for this capacity funding and therefore CMT/ Cabinet will need to consider how the CCBC role in appraising and coordinating funding bids for the UKCRF can be resourced.** The UKCRF will however provide all Lead Authorities with funding to be used towards the costs incurred in managing successful Fund awards. For Caerphilly this relates to a flat rate of 2% of the value of the UKCRF spent by each project.

5.23 Cabinet is asked to consider the Council's role as a Lead Authority for the UKCRF and acknowledge that this will have an impact on several departments, most notably Regeneration and Finance. Whilst the Council may decide not to submit its own project proposal to the Fund, it has a responsibility to support other eligible organisations bring forward their own proposals for consideration and instigate the bullet points set out above. This will have an impact on the departments tasked with managing the process and suitable resources need to be allocated to allow them to do this effectively.

5.24 The UK Government is encouraging all Lead Authorities to submit bids, irrespective of their current ranking. A project located outside of the top 100 Priority Places may still be considered for funding but will be scored with a different weighting on the key bid assessment criteria (e.g. Strategic Fit, Deliverability) in comparison to projects within a Priority Place. The UK Government requires Local authorities to evidence that they have consulted with a range of local stakeholders on the bids. CCBC have

started this process and information on the programme is now available on the Council's website.

5.25 90% of funding through the UKCRF will be revenue funding focussed on four main investment areas:

- **Investment in Skills**
- **Investment for Local Business**
- **Investment in Communities and Place**
- **Supporting People into Employment**

5.26 As part of the ongoing discussions regarding the UKCRF, staff from the Authority's Employment Support teams have participated in discussions with counterparts from employment teams across the Cardiff Capital Region, to develop the opportunity for submitting a collaborative regional bid for feasibility for an employability project under the area of Supporting People into Employment. Another Cardiff Capital Region bid will focus on a regional approach to housing retrofit

5.27 The timescales for the UKCRF are as follows:

18 June 2021

- Lead Authorities in Great Britain submit shortlists of projects to UK government for assessment.
- From 18 June and throughout July, UK government assesses bids.

Late July 2021 onwards

- UK government announces successful projects for the UK Community Renewal Fund.

31 March 2022

- UK Community Renewal Fund finishes.

THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (SPF) – 2022-23 Onwards

5.28 The UK Government's long-term vision for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is "to help level up and create opportunity across the UK for all people and places". The UK Government maintains it is committed to ensuring the total domestic UK wide funding will at least match EU receipts with a target of £1.5 billion per year.

5.29 As EU Structural Funds tail off after 2022-23, it is intended that the UKSPF will replace them as a programme distinct from the UKCRF and complimentary to the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), through investment in skills, enterprise and employment.

The main components of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will include:

- A place-based portion which will target places most in need across the UK, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities. It will support people and communities, opening up new opportunities and spurring regeneration and innovation. It will enable joined-up, holistic investment to support local communities and people.

- A second portion of the Fund will be targeted to people most in need through bespoke employment and skills programmes that are tailored to local need. This will support improved employment outcomes for those in and out of work in specific cohorts of people who face labour market barriers.
- 5.30 Based on the information available in the various Prospectus, a broad comparison can be made that the LUF is designed to replace ERDF with investment for capital infrastructure projects while the UKSPF is comparable to ESF with a direct focus on skills, enterprise, employment and training.
- 5.31 Further details on the SPF are yet to be published by the UK Government and the funding profile will be confirmed at the next Spending Review. As with the LUF and CRF the programme will be managed locally (in Wales, the Unitary Authorities) who will have to have appropriate resources aligned to undertake the role.
- 5.32 As highlighted earlier within the report, we have a “window of opportunity” available to us to influence the shape of the UK Shared Prosperity fund. It is therefore recommended that we continue with our targeted lobbying approach, working with our MP’s, local politicians and officers over the next few weeks.

Conclusion

- 5.33 The new UK Funding Programmes, including the Levelling Up Fund, UK Community Renewal Fund and UK Shared Prosperity Fund, represents a significant opportunity for the Council to progress many of its prioritised economic development strategies and plans. However, it must be recognised that this is not the only funding source available for such projects. These projects, as with all other projects detailed in the Place-shaping plan need individual funding packages that maximise the various forms of funding available to us. Many of the sources of UK Government funding that is available at this time, we must be in a position to compete for. However, grant funding such as the two sources of funding discussed within this report, provide a positive foundation upon which to fund such projects.
- 5.34 It must be acknowledged however, that additional resources both human and financial will need to be assigned to these programmes to ensure that the Council is suitably prepared to deliver maximum impact across the county borough. Members are aware that the resourcing of the Place-shaping programme is currently being considered, and these project resource requirements must be considered within this overall programme of projects.
- 5.35 The Levelling up Fund and subsequent Shared Prosperity fund are to address social and economic disadvantage in much the same way as its predecessor ESF so the Council needs to ensure key stakeholders from across the Authority are prepared and engaged, including partners and the community.
- 5.36 The introduction of these two funding programmes from UK Government, has highlighted the need for the Council to respond quickly to the new dynamics associated with these key funding programmes and the new protocols that put the Council at the heart of delivery and administration. The Shared Prosperity Fund, which will be much larger than the CRF will follow this new way of working when it is launched in 2022/23 and every effort should be made now to ensure that Caerphilly is ready over the longer term.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 This report assumes that the LUF programme will continue with similar themes to those outlined above in future funding rounds.
- 6.2 Scrutiny of the LUF prospectus and application forms has concluded that that bids submitted in June 2021 must be ready to move to the construction phase in 2021/22 in order for them to be considered for approval.
- 6.3 This report assumes that a number of external agencies will submit bids under the Community Renewal Fund and that the Council as lead authority will need to appraise and co-ordinate these before their submission.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 The UK programmes outlined in the report will have a positive impact on equalities, Welsh language and the Socio-economic Duty. A generic IIA has been completed with the information that is available for each of the UK programmes that require project proposals to be submitted in June 2021. However, as each proposal is taken forward, a more detailed IIA will be undertaken at the time. A link to the current assessment is provided below:

https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/CaerphillyDocs/IIA/IIA_Planning_Apr2021

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 It is anticipated that the new UK Funding Programmes will not offer 100% grant intervention rate and an element of match funding will be required for each of the Council's endorsed projects and this will be included in the detailed funding model as it is developed. The Head of Financial Services and S151 officer will consider such proposals within the overall funding envelope of the Place-shaping programme which has previously been approved by Cabinet.
- 8.2 The requirement for additional staffing resources will be considered within the project support growth bid which was recently approved by Council as part of the 2021/22 budget.

LUF

- 8.3 The LUF Prospectus encourages bids to include "a local financial contribution representing a least 10% of total costs". A contribution would be expected from private sector stakeholders, such as developers, if they stand to benefit from a specific project. In the same manner local authorities will need to find suitable match should they submit projects.
- 8.4 A flat rate of £125,000 of capacity funding will be made available to all local authorities to support development work on future rounds of the Levelling Up Fund. This could be used to develop projects for submission or to appoint staff to manage the Levelling Up Programme.

UKCRF

- 8.5 The UKCRF will also provide Lead Authorities with funding to be used towards the costs incurred in managing successful Fund awards. A flat rate of 2% of the value of the UKCRF spent by each project may be used by Authorities for the costs incurred during project implementation. For example, for a project with a financial profile of

£2m a budget of £40,000 would be available for its management. However, this will only be available if the bid was successful.

- 8.6 A dedicated resource will be required to appraise and co-ordinate bids under the UK Community Renewal Fund. It is the view of Officers that this one-year programme could require the equivalent of at least two new posts if a volume of applications is received. With the impending deadlines being imminent, there is little scope to advertise and appoint into these positions. Service heads will need to rely on their existing staff to deal with the workloads generated by this programme in its early stages. However, it is apparent that additional resources will be required to deliver future rounds of the UKLUF and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (when it is launched) and managers are now tasked with developing mechanisms for dealing with this pressure.
- 8.7 The Technical guidance note for the UKCRF states that *“UK Government acknowledges that local authorities have established procedures for awarding grants and for financial management and control”*. In this respect, the Council has an established procedure for the appraisal of high value grant awards through delegated powers to the Regeneration Project Board or the Rural Development Plan’s LAG. These procedures could be suitably adapted at pace for the purposes of managing the UKCRF.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In England, Scotland and Wales, funding will be delivered through local authorities. This is a significant change from previous EU funding programmes, which were managed and administered by the Welsh European Funding Office.
- 9.2 In the first instance it is suggested that the £125,000 capacity funding could be part or fully used to appoint an officer to oversee the Levelling Up projects. The resourcing of these projects will be considered with the Head of Transformation as part of the overall resource plan to enable the delivery of the Place-shaping programme.
- 9.3 Managing and administering the UKCRF represents a significant resource challenge for the Council as it will be responsible for inviting bids from project applicants, undertaking the project appraisal and prioritisation process, and the Council will be expected to work directly with UK Government on the administration of the funds, should there be successful applications within the county borough.
- 9.4 There will be issues in identifying sufficient staff resources to manage the UKCRF and a similar position exists with the UKLUF. Cabinet is asked to recognise that clearly this additional work will be prioritised against other existing priority areas.
- 9.5 Following the conclusion of this programme, the Council will need to prepare itself for the launch of the much larger UK Shared Prosperity Fund, alongside the Place-shaping programme, to ensure we are positioned to respond accordingly and maximise all funding sources available to us.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All consultation responses are reflected in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 The Local Government Acts 1998 and 2003.

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Christina Harray, Chief Executive
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