

GMCA

Date: 28th October 2022

Subject: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Proposals and recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board

Report of: Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources and Investment and Eamonn Boylan, Portfolio Lead Chief Executive for Resources and Investment

Purpose of Report

This report outlines the approach to the implementation of the GM UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board to the GMCA as the Lead Authority for Greater Manchester in relation to the first round of GM UKSPF investment proposals. The proposals are for the UKSPF Communities and Place and Local Business investment priorities.

Recommendations:

Subject to Government approval of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, the GMCA is requested to approve the recommendations of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board set out below and to delegate to the GMCA Chief Executive, Treasurer and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Resources and Investment Portfolio Leader, the finalising of the grant funding agreements including the ability to make minor amendments as required:

1. Grant 10GM £1,663,571 of GM's UKSPF allocation to deliver activity to support VCSE sustainability and infrastructure across GM to March 2025 as set out within the 10GM proposal outlined at Section 3 of this report.
2. Grant the GM Business Growth Hub £500,000 of of GM's UKSPF allocation in 2022/23 to deliver a programme of activity in 2022/23 to support GM businesses with the Cost of Doing Business challenges set out within the proposal outlined at Section 5 of this report.
3. Establish a £15m UKSPF funded GM SME (Small and Medium Size Enterprises) Workspace Fund administered by GMCA which will prioritise local authority

proposals for the creation of SME workspace in city and town centres and high streets in GM to March 2025. Prioritised proposals within this programme will come to GMCA for agreement in due course.

4. Grant Bolton Council £2,744,408 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A.
5. Grant Bury Council £1,662,478 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A.
6. Grant Manchester City Council £2,886,652 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A, noting that Manchester City Council will submit a further proposal for their remaining allocation to the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board in due course.
7. Grant Oldham Council £2,295,803 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A.
8. Grant Rochdale Council £2,163,860 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A.
9. Grant Salford City Council £2,243,026 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A.
10. Grant Stockport Council £2,454,134 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A.
11. Grant Trafford Council £1,768,032 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A.
12. Grant Wigan Council £1,050,000 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal by March 2025 as outlined at Annex A, noting that

Wigan Council will submit a further proposal to the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board for their remaining allocation in due course.

13. Subject to GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board recommendation, delegate GMCA approval of Tameside Council's proposal for their UKSPF allocation to the GMCA Chief Executive, Treasurer and Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Resources and Investment Portfolio Leader to grant up to £1,979,141 of GM's UKSPF allocation over 2.5 years to deliver the activity, expenditure, outcomes and outputs that will be set out in their UKSPF Communities and Place proposal.

Contact Officers

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Report authors must identify which paragraph relating to the following issues:

Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Results of the [Sustainability Decision Support Tool](#) to be included here:

Recommendation - Key points for decision-makers

Insert text

Impacts Questionnaire

Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	
Health		
Resilience and Adaptation	G	
Housing		
Economy	G	
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		
Overall	G	Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.
	A	Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.
	R	Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
	RR	Negative impacts overall.

Carbon Assessment

Overall Score

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Buildings	Result	Justification/Mitigation
New Build residential	N/A	
Residential building(s) renovation/maintenance	N/A	
New build non-residential (including public) buildings	#####	
Transport		
Active travel and public transport	N/A	
Roads, Parking and Vehicle Access	N/A	
Access to amenities	N/A	
Vehicle procurement	N/A	
Land Use		
Land Use	G	High standard in terms of practice and awareness on carbon.
	B	Mostly best practice with a good level of awareness on carbon.
	A	Partially meets best practice/ awareness, significant room to improve.
	R	Not best practice and/ or insufficient awareness of carbon impacts.

Risk Management

Key risks identified in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan are:

1. Programme Finances - Grant funding from UKG is not secured in line with the published timeline by GMCA as anticipated resulting in delays to delivery.
2. Contract and Legal - Delays to the execution of the legal documents.
3. Staffing and Recruitment – Insufficient staff recruited to deliver the UKSPF programme in Greater Manchester.
4. Contract Monitoring – UK Government radically alters its proposed UKSPF monitoring expectations midway through the programme.

Mitigation has been identified and there will be further refinement and updating of the risk register over the lifetime of the Fund

Legal Considerations

As projects and programmes are identified, GMCA legal will ensure identified routes to market (e.g. grants, commissions, etc) are compliant with subsidy control and that grant funding agreements and contracts are fully compliant with UK law and manage risk for GMCA appropriately.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The GMCA allocation of non-Multiply UKSPF over the three years to 2024/5 is £83.850m - £10.176m 2022/23, £20.352m 2023/24 and £53.322m 2024/25. The total annual allocation is expected to be received by GMCA in October 2022, April 2023 and April 2024.

Indicatively, a maximum of £69.523m of this allocation will be revenue.

The proposals contained within this report include UKSPF revenue expenditure of £7.841m over 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. This may increase depending upon the outcome of the prioritisation of proposals for £15m UKSPF funded GM SME Workspace Funding set out in this report.

Financial Consequences – Capital

Of the £83.850m indicative UKSPF grant allocation, a minimum of £14.327m of this allocation will be capital as the UKSPF national prospectus sets a minimum capital spend of 10%, 13% and 20% respectively for each year of the Fund.

Number of attachments to the report: 0

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

GMCA July 2022 – GM UKSPF Investment Plan

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

Yes / No **[Delete as appropriate]**

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

GM Transport Committee

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

28th September 2022.

1. Background

- 1.1 GMCA as lead UKSPF authority for Greater Manchester submitted its UKSPF Investment Plan to government at the end of July following approval of the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board, GM MP Engagement Group and the GMCA.
- 1.2 Lead authorities including GMCA are anticipating government approval of investment plans from October 2022 onwards.
- 1.3 The governance set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and agreed by GMCA was to establish a comprehensive, representative and balanced Local Partnership Board. The Board's role is to provide guidance and offer advice to GMCA on strategic fit and deliverability of the activity funded by UKSPF over the next three years. Alongside the Board, GMCA was required to establish a GM UKSPF MP Engagement Group where all GM's 27 MPs are members. GMCA will remain the accountable body for UKSPF and will need to ensure all programme risks are effectively managed as well as having final sign off on all activity.
- 1.4 Following submission, the GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board agreed an incremental approach to UKSPF implementation, recognising the expenditure profile

set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and the UKSPF Investment Priorities of Communities and Place and Supporting Local Business required delivery beginning in 2022/23. Government guidance indicated the final Investment Priority, People and Skills, can only begin delivery in 2024/25. This incremental approach to UKSPF implementation was subsequently scrutinised at the GMCA Oversight and Scrutiny Committee on 28th September 2022.

- 1.5 The Local Partnership Board and the GM MP UKSPF Engagement Group met on 19th October to consider twelve proposals for UKSPF investment with a total value of up to £38.6million of UKSPF. These proposals are outlined below with the Local Partnership Board recommendations to GMCA for each proposal.
- 1.6 GMCA are asked to agree the recommendations of the Local Partnership Board set out in this report and agree all proposals should progress to Grant Funding Agreement, subject to Government agreement of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, and with minor outstanding issues identified by the reviewers/appraisers dealt with via contracting.

2. Communities and Place – Local Authority Proposals

- 2.1 The implementation approach for UKSPF Communities and Place Investment Priority, is that Local Authorities (LAs) would each receive a devolved grant allocation to allow them to manage this element of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan in accordance with local priorities and UKSPF eligibility. This includes LAs being responsible for ensuring value for money, programme/project management and successful delivery of their proposals and that will be part of the grant funding agreement terms to receive their allocation of UKSPF. Additionally, LAs will also be responsible for ensuring their proposals deliver against the cross-cutting themes of taking GM closer to net zero 2038, reducing inequalities and maximising social value. LAs were asked to submit their proposals to GMCA by early October. The allocation for each LA is set out below:

Govt “allocation” by LA and Funding Year		2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Bolton	10.8%	£752,424	£1,014,876	£977,109	£2,744,408
Bury	6.6%	£455,795	£614,781	£591,902	£1,662,478
Manchester	19.8%	£1,374,620	£1,854,100	£1,785,103	£5,013,823
Oldham	9.1%	£629,431	£848,983	£817,389	£2,295,803

Rochdale	8.5%	£593,257	£800,191	£770,413	£2,163,860
Salford	8.9%	£614,962	£829,466	£798,599	£2,243,026
Stockport	9.7%	£672,840	£907,533	£873,761	£2,454,134
Tameside	7.8%	£542,613	£731,882	£704,646	£1,979,141
Trafford	7.0%	£484,734	£653,814	£629,484	£1,768,032
Wigan	11.9%	£824,772	£1,112,460	£1,071,062	£3,008,294
TOTAL		£6,945,448	£9,368,086	£9,019,466	£25,333,000

2.2 In delivering this agreed approach, LAs will be responsible for the achievement of the agreed outcomes and outputs for three Communities and Place interventions set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and below:

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

2.3 As the approach for the Local Authority (LA) allocations to deliver the three interventions above was allocative not competitive, each of the nine LA proposals were reviewed by the GMCA UKSPF team for eligibility with published UKSPF guidance and deliverability. There were eight review criteria used – strategic fit, cross-cutting priorities, stakeholder engagement, equality duty, subsidy control compliance, deliverability, interventions – expenditure and interventions – outcomes and outputs to reach recommendation to the Local Partnership Board.

2.4 In making their recommendations to GMCA, the Local Partnership Board considered the review and recommendations of the GMCA team set out in 2.3 above and was asked to:

- consider the strategic fit of each of the proposals from the Local Authorities against the UKSPF GM Investment Plan and the GMS shared commitments as well as their own local priorities.

- consider the collective impact of the LA proposals as these will deliver the targets set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan for Communities and Place interventions E1, E3 and E6.

- 2.5 GMCA received proposals from nine LAs, with a total value of £19.3 million or 76.2% of the total allocation of £25.3 million. Tameside will bring forward their £1.98m proposal in November. Both Manchester and Wigan submitted proposals for part of their allocation as they have not yet determined projects for later in the programme and will submit “Phase 2” proposals to the Local Partnership Board in due course for the remainder of their UKSPF allocation. Summaries of nine LA proposals can be found at Annex A.
- 2.6 Collectively LAs will achieve 74% of indicative 2022/3 Communities and Place E1,3 and 6 spend in year, at least 95% of 2023/4 spend in year and currently 58% of spend in 2024/25. As projects within proposals are refined, Tameside’s proposal is reviewed and as the outstanding unallocated £4.1m is committed, it is expected that spend across all years will increase.
- 2.7 Government have indicated that, recognising the late start in 2022/23, underspend against the 2022/3 spend profile will be allowed to roll into the following year. GMCA will work closely with Government to ensure there is no risk to the GM programme and that the roll forward of this underspend is managed in a way that Government remain comfortable regarding UKSPF delivery in GM.
- 2.8 Nationally, all UKSPF Investment Plans had to ensure there was a minimum capital spend of 10% in 2022/3, 13% in 2023/4 and 20% in 2024/5 across their UKSPF programmes, based upon GM’s allocation this totalled £14.33million.
- 2.9 The GM Investment Plan indicatively assumed £6.81m or 47.5% of the GM minimum capital spend would be achieved by E1, E3 and E6 under Communities and Place with the remaining 52.5% delivered by the SME Workspace Fund. Collectively, the current LA proposals will deliver £11.45m of capital spend, 80% of the assumed minimum total capital expenditure for the GM UKSPF programme with the Tameside proposal to be considered and a further £4.1m of UKSPF funding for E1, E3 and E6 still to be allocated by Manchester and Wigan. Taken with likely capital expenditure under the SME Workspace Fund detailed at Section 4, it is reasonable to assume GM will comfortably exceed the capital requirements of the UKSPF programme.
- 2.10 Collectively, the nine LA proposals:

- have exceeded six out of seven of the relevant outputs and outcome targets set out in the GM Investment Plan for E1, E3 and E6 with 24% of the programme allocation yet to be determined.
- will deliver significant improvements to town centres and high streets, with almost 7,000 square metres of commercial space completed or improved, exceeding the indicative target of 5,000 sqm in the Investment Plan. The nine proposals will collectively deliver 8,900sqm of rehabilitated land – almost 240% more than indicated in the Investment Plan.
- have focussed on improving the public realm of our town centres and high streets to create places that are attractive and people will be proud of, with 249,115 sqm of public realm improved across GM, again significantly exceeding the targets within the Investment Plan.
- have set out proposals that will support events and activities within their places, with almost 1,500 events or activities planned over the next 2.5 years, well in excess of the indicative target within the GM Investment Plan as well as almost 340 arts, heritage and creative programmes.

2.11 However, there is one outcome – *Jobs Created* - that is lower than the target set out in the GM Investment Plan (345 jobs compared with an indicative target of 600, even following further work between the GM UKSPF Team and LAs. There are a number of reasons for this including higher-than-expected capital spend proposed by LAs, which means that although construction jobs may be created these are not eligible to be claimed against UKSPF and that only permanent full-time jobs can be included that is likely to mean part-time jobs such as those created within cultural and heritage events programmes are excluded. GMCA will reflect this in discussions with Government as the GM programme is reviewed and come back to LAs to readjust if Government is unwilling to accept the revised reduced outputs. The timing of this agreement is uncertain given monies still to be allocated and with the wider programme likely to deliver a greater number of jobs than planned it is hoped that there is no issue with under delivery against the job target for these specific measures.

2.12 Following discussion at the he GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board, the Board recommends all nine LA proposals for approval by the GMCA subject to Government approval of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and with minor outstanding issues identified by the reviewers dealt with via contracting.

3. Communities and Place – supporting VCSE infrastructure

- 3.1 Within the Implementation Plan approach for the Communities and Place Investment Priority, it was agreed that intervention E11 – Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society should be led by a partnership of the local VCSE infrastructure organisations to develop a single proposal for UKSPF funded activity to improve the ecosystem of support for community activity across Greater Manchester.
- 3.2 In delivering this approach the VCSE partnership will be responsible for achieving the agreed expenditure, outcomes and outputs for the Communities and Place intervention E11 as set out in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan.
- 3.3 A comprehensive proposal was submitted by 10GM acting as the accountable organisation for the proposal, at the request of GMCA. 10GM is a joint venture organisation to support the VCSE sector in GM. The founding members are local infrastructure organisations Action Together, Bolton CVS, Macc and Salford CVS. 10GM acts strategically and collaboratively with a shared purpose to champion local voluntary and community action and social enterprise across GM.
- 3.4 The proposal submitted by 10GM plans to develop a common framework of functions for ‘infrastructure’, with each locality in Greater Manchester identifying strengths, weaknesses and development needs. Activity to improve support will be co-ordinated across GM and will create opportunities for collaboration in delivery of infrastructure support, shared practice and the piloting of new approaches.
- 3.5 The proposal was appraised by the GMCA UKSPF Team against eight criteria – strategic fit, cross-cutting priorities, stakeholder engagement, equality duty, subsidy control compliance, deliverability, interventions – expenditure and interventions – outcomes and outputs to reach a positive recommendation to the Local Partnership Board. The Board considered the proposal and appraisal and recommend the proposal to GMCA for approval subject to any minor issues identified by the appraiser dealt with via contracting.
- 3.6 The proposal is summarised below

E11 - Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society - 10GM Proposal Summary
In Greater Manchester, this work will be led by a partnership of local voluntary, community and social enterprise Infrastructure Organisations and specialist partners, who will

implement work to improve the ecosystem of support for community activity cross the whole city region. It is planned to develop a common framework of functions for 'infrastructure', with each locality in Greater Manchester identifying strengths, weaknesses and development needs. Activity to improve support will be co-ordinated across GM and will create opportunities for collaboration in delivery of infrastructure support, shared practice and the piloting of new approaches.

This will deliver:

- a coherent plan for improving the reach, spread and resilience of the VCSE ecosystem across Greater Manchester
- strong partnership working across and between all ten districts in Greater Manchester to support the development of community activity
- improved productivity in the delivery of local VCSE infrastructure by the sharing of best practice and the development of new opportunities
- a new pipeline of well-established community groups and local social purpose businesses adapted to the present and able to play a longer-term role in increasing community resilience into the future.

10GM will provide all aspects of programme management for the E11 element of the UKSPF in Greater Manchester, contracting directly with the Combined Authority and issuing onward grant agreements to the ten delivery partners. There will be a dedicated programme management function, overseen by the Chief Operating Officer, which includes (but is not limited to) contract, financial and project management, administration, reporting functions, evaluation and demonstration of social and added value. The 10GM Board of Directors will provide overarching oversight and a named lead Director for this work.

The programme outlined above will utilise the full E11 allocated expenditure of £1,663,571 by March 2025 and will achieve the output and outcomes for the intervention, namely – 10 organisations receiving grants and a 5% year on year increase in engagement with VCSE over the proposal lifetime to March 2025.

4. Supporting Local Business – E22 SME Workspace Fund

- 4.1 Within the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, only two of the four interventions under Supporting Local Business are required to begin delivery in 2022/3. These are E23, which has a relatively small expenditure requirement in 2022/3, and the proposal for that is set out at Section 5 in this report, and a larger scale proposal to achieve GMs ambitions under intervention E22 - enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation sites.
- 4.2 GMCA may recall that the GM UKSPF Investment Plan set out an ambition to create a Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) Workspace Fund to drive investment in our town centres and high streets and to create new workspaces for SMEs to use.

- 4.3 Lack of suitable SME workspace across GM is as a result of a lack of supply, driven by the fact that such workspace is not financially viable without grant support. The SME Workspace Fund will address several the challenges as set out in the Investment Plan and Greater Manchester Strategy. Such workspace can be a catalyst for growth locations or town centre regeneration alongside the projects that are being funded through UKSPF's Communities and Places allocation and other government grant funding streams that have supported town centre regeneration over the last 3 years.
- 4.4 Following discussion and agreement with LA partners, the model for this SME Workspace fund will be a fund managed by GMCA, with GMCA working with LAs to prioritise investment into SME workspace projects that will complement existing investment and will be in areas of regeneration priority, whilst securing maximum leverage. The SME Workspace Fund has £15m of UKSPF allocated and will deliver all indicative expenditure, outcomes and outputs of intervention E22.
- 4.5 The proposal was appraised by the GMCA UKSPF Team against eight criteria – strategic fit, cross-cutting priorities, stakeholder engagement, equality duty, subsidy control compliance, deliverability, interventions – expenditure and interventions – outcomes and outputs to reach a positive recommendation to the Local Partnership Board. The Board considered the proposal and appraisal and recommend the proposal to GMCA for approval subject to any minor issues identified by the appraiser dealt with via contracting.
- 4.6 The SME Workspace Proposal is summarised below:

E22 – SME Workspace Fund - Proposal summary
<p>The proposal seeks to set up a £15m SME Workspace Fund to be deployed over the 3 years of the UKSPF programme.</p> <p>Prioritisation of funding will be via a call for sites, asking each LA to set out scheme information that demonstrates how their project will align with the principles of UKSPF across all Investment Priorities, with elements of Community and Place interventions relating to town centres and high streets, as well as how a submission will complement existing investment, demonstrating significant leverage to maximise the impact of UKSPF.</p> <p>The application and evaluation programme for the SME Workspace fund will be managed by the existing GMCA delivery team utilising specialist support from the GMCA's Core Investment Team. The assessment will also be supported by both the GMCA Economy Directorate and MIDAS (GM's Inward Investment Agency) to ensure there is a rigorous assessment of the demand assumptions across the proposals. The team will undertake a full appraisal against a set of criteria focussing on strategic fit, deliverability, business plan, funding, evidenced demand and supply, VfM and leverage and outcomes/outputs and</p>

additionality. This will ensure that an appropriately robust appraisal has been undertaken in line with the agreed assessment criteria. The shortlisted schemes will subsequently require GMCA approval prior to entering grant agreements.

This robust process will ensure that the schemes are deliverable within the programme timescales that are proposed and that the total outcomes and outputs are more than those forecast to be delivered under E22. It may be that although the expenditure of the SME Workspace Fund will align with its allocation over the UKSPF funding period, the forecast annual expenditure profile of the shortlisted projects may not directly match the expected profile of the fund. Should this be the case this will be managed at a programme level.

All potential projects will seek to meet their own LA's strategic commitment to reduce carbon emissions and move towards net zero by incorporating low carbon measures into the design proposals. Contracts that are consequently let by the local authorities who will deliver prioritised schemes will similarly incorporate the Councils standard approach to social value and therefore support delivery of further social value outcomes. The creation of such workspace and the growth of SME businesses in our wider town centres will provide the opportunity for residents to access good quality employment opportunities and support the reduction of inequalities across GM.

The programme outlined above will utilise the full E22 allocated expenditure of £15,000,000 by March 2025 and is aiming to secure significant leverage to maximise the impact of UKSPF spend. The proposal will achieve as a minimum the output and outcomes for the intervention over the proposal lifetime to March 2025, namely:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Number of businesses receiving non-financial support | 1,000 |
| • Commercial Buildings developed or improved | 2,577 sq m |
| • Jobs created | 200 |
| • New businesses created | 75 |
| • Businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes | 100 |

5. Supporting Local Business – GM Business Resilience

5.1 Discussions are underway with partners and stakeholders on priorities and routes to market across three interventions under Supporting Local Business Investment Priority, namely:

- E19 – Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices

- E23 – strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks
- E26 – support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, co-operatives and social enterprises.

Proposals will be developed in line with the principle that UKSPF provision needs to add value to existing support, working in conjunction with the already established GM Business Growth Hub.

- 5.2 The GM UKSPF Investment Plan set out £500,000 of expenditure on E23 in 2022/3. The timescale available to deliver activity in 2022/23 as well as the urgency of need for support for businesses given the current Cost of Doing Business crisis means this small project running to March 2023 will not be competitively procured. Instead, GMCA will fund the GM Business Growth Hub (BGH) to deliver the programme set out in the proposal, over and above existing business support delivery, as the BGH are able to begin delivery as soon as the grant funding agreement is in place and are best placed to achieve on the outcomes and outputs by April 2023 by building on the work of the existing Growth Hub. This will be called "Here for Business". The project will assist businesses over the next six months to survive the current energy crisis and to drive additional business growth where there is potential to do so.
- 5.3 The rest of the UKSPF allocation for E23, to be delivered in 2023-24 and 2024-25, is being developed on a longer timescale and proposals will be brought to the Local Partnership Board and GMCA later in the year, as will proposals for E19 and E26, which subject to GMCA agreement will aim to start delivery from April 2023.
- 5.4 The proposal was appraised by the GMCA UKSPF Team against eight criteria – strategic fit, cross-cutting priorities, stakeholder engagement, equality duty, subsidy control compliance, deliverability, interventions – expenditure and interventions – outcomes and outputs to reach a positive recommendation to the Local Partnership Board. The Board considered the proposal, appraisal and recommend the proposal to GMCA for approval subject to any minor issues identified by the appraiser dealt with via contracting.
- 5.5 The proposal is summarised below:

E23 – “Here for Business” proposal summary

The purpose of this proposal is to provide an urgently needed and additional programme of support, over and above existing business support delivery, via the Greater Manchester
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Business Growth Hub, that assists businesses over the next six months to survive the current energy crisis and to drive additional business growth where there is potential to do so.

The challenges around energy costs are coming on top of supply chain constraints, a tight labour market, slowing growth, significant deterioration in value of Sterling (affecting exports and value chains), as well as a potential recession and drop in consumer confidence. The latest GC Business Survey findings (n=311, August) show a fall in the proportion of businesses stating they have reserves to last over 6 months, 66% of firms vs 72% of firms in July, and down from a peak of 80% in October last year.

New support to be provided

The response needed to support businesses in this context will differ according to sector dynamics (particularly more energy intensive sectors), the in-market competitive position of different businesses, their management capabilities and ambition, along with the resources and capital available to each business following Covid and other shocks. However, as a starting point several broad categories of business have been used to define the support required, noting that these groups are not without exception and the groups being supported may need to iterate as the situation evolves and new issues come to the fore:

1. Micro Scale / Foundation Economy Firms that need help to change immediately, due to curtailed demand, alongside supplier shortages, cashflow challenges, lack of investment, prohibitive energy cost rising especially in relation to normal profit margins.
2. Medium Scale / Producer Firms that are facing high pressures around energy, inflation and supply chain disruption, but have capacity and capability to change.
3. Growing Businesses with opportunities that may be supply side constrained.

Precise demand is difficult to assess at this stage but based on GM's sector and firm structure it is anticipated more demand from micro/foundational economy firms, given they comprise the bulk of Greater Manchester's business base.

Expenditure – Proposal requires £500k of funding in FY2022/23 to deliver activities and support businesses. This is 4.8% of the UKSPF allocation for the E23 intervention.

Outcomes and Outputs - 116 businesses supported with 40 jobs safeguarded identified. These will contribute towards E23 interventions overall targets, in particular the proposal will deliver 10% of the jobs safeguarded outcome for this intervention.

6. Summary of Local Partnership Board recommendations to GMCA

- 6.1 The GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board and the GM MP Engagement Group received twelve submissions for UKSPF covering the UKSPF Investment Priorities of Communities and Place and elements of the Supporting Business priority – these proposals are set out above. All twelve proposals were reviewed or appraised by the GMCA UKSPF team according to the criteria set out in para 2.3, 3.4, 4.5 and

5.4 above, and all were recommended to the Local Partnership Board subject to minor amendments.

- 6.2 Following discussion at the Local Partnership Board, the Local Partnership Board recommends all twelve proposals for UKSPF funding for approval by GMCA, subject to Government approval of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan and any minor issues identified by the reviewer/appraiser being resolved during the development of the grant funding agreements.
- 6.3 Subject to GMCA agreement to the recommendations of the Local Partnership Board, GMCA officers will work with LAs, 10GM and the Business Growth Hub to ensure each are fully prepared for delivery to begin as soon as grant funding agreements are in place following anticipated Government agreement of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan.

ANNEX A: Summary of Local Authority Proposals

UKSPF Proposal summary

BOLTON - The Bolton UKSPF Communities and Place proposal includes seven proposed projects that have been developed to support the Bolton Vision and objectives of the 2020 Bolton Blueprint, the £1.5bn masterplan for Bolton town centre.

Through a series of proposed projects, it aims to address a number of key strategic priorities for Bolton, particularly centred around developments across the town centre. The proposal includes;

- A series of town centre projects including Digital Bolton and Light Up Bolton to support the town centre to become more age friendly, improve safety and recover footfall.
- A series of projects to support Bolton's visitor economy strategy.
- A project to develop and improve one of Bolton's key cultural venues.
- The 'Clean and Green Bolton' programme which will see improvements to town centre and community green spaces .
- A series of projects in the 'Creative Bolton' programme which will grow the borough's cultural offer.

The proposal has been designed to align with a number of other complementary funding streams such as Town Deal and Future High Street Fun to maximise the impact of the fund in Bolton.

BURY - Bury Council's overall UKSPF Communities and Place proposal has been developed in consultation with Team Bury and executive directors from across the organisation. With the aim of prioritising interventions that are key to supporting the delivery of key strategies by way of a variety of activity to build pride in place in its towns and communities across the borough post Covid to support its residents.

The proposal consists of a programme of proposed projects ranging from contributing to supporting the delivery of several town centre strategies e.g. Radcliffe Strategic Regeneration Framework, Bury Town Centre Masterplan and Ramsbottom Town Centre Plan; promoting community safety within deprived neighbourhoods; and improving green spaces; to clean-up campaigns across the borough and supporting the important delivery of Bury Council's Culture Strategy.

In terms of ways of working, Bury Council's overall proposal will strive to contribute towards the following as set out in the Greater Manchester ways of working – leadership, environment, equalities, involving stakeholders, effective communication, progressive procurement and social value, evidenced based approaches, workforce, innovation, impact and VCSE sector.

MANCHESTER - Manchester has an allocation of £5,013,823 and have been able to include details of around £3million of funded projects at this stage in the process.

Manchester has focussed on two places with public realm improvements namely Withington Village and Moston Lane. Both have been identified as key development projects that can be implemented as soon as funding is available.

Withington - . Proposed Withington public realm improvements are in two parts:-

1. Copson Street pedestrianisation
2. Creation of a new library square on Wellington / Wilmslow Road

These will create high quality public spaces with improved green infrastructure, areas to rest and provide the Town Centre an open space suitable to host local adhoc events.

Moston Lane is looking to develop a broad Neighbourhood Regeneration Framework to unlock substantial investment available through Section 106 receipts available in the area.

The council has identified a few key interventions:-

1. Environmental Stabilisation Plan
2. Greenspace Investment - capital investment into to two key public spaces,
 - 1) the Simpson Memorial park; and
 - 2) the Church green at the centre of Moston Lane

OLDHAM - The proposed programme for Oldham is drawn from the *Creating a Better Place* strategy and action plan. It will support a range of projects that have been identified across three core programmes of activity:

- **Accessible Oldham** - to increase accessibility into and around the Town Centre – primarily on the Eastern Gateway;
- **Active Travel Oldham** - to 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);
- **Community Led Cultural Events** - to support Oldham's Place Marketing approach, a core element of the Cultural Strategy and to support the emerging Creative Improvement District and Night-Time Economy strategy and action plan.

The UKSPF proposal will complement the Creating a Better Place budget, Town's Fund Programme and Future High Street Fund by adding value and accelerating developments in the projects identified, maximising leverage to support core regeneration schemes in Oldham.

ROCHDALE - UKSPF Interventions E1 & E3 will be directly delivered by Rochdale Borough Council and Rochdale Development Agency. Activity delivered through intervention E6 will be delivered with Your Trust, the Borough's lead cultural organisation, whilst it is intended that the small grant funding pot will be managed via Action Together CVS.

Projects include:-

- Middleton town centre masterplan action plan delivery; Heywood town centre master plan action plan delivery; Rochdale town centre vision action plan delivery. The proposed interventions will be developed based on the action plan for each township masterplan. The masterplans for each township have been developed in consultation with key stakeholders and the public.
- Increasing access to visitor attractions/town centre venues. The intervention will provide match for Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) programme to deliver in each town centre and key venues to enable disabled visitors to in dignity.
- Worldwide co-operative and Borough open archive - Feasibility planning to co-locate the worldwide co-operative and Borough collections in an open archive through re-imagined shopping centre / town centre premises.
- Heritage restoration programme - skills and local training and volunteering - Programme to train local residents in the conservation techniques needed for the restoration of the Grade I listed neo-gothic Rochdale Town Hall.
- Borough wide Flagship events & visitor programme - Series of newly co-curated flagship events over 3 years across the borough tackling themes including nature and environment, community pride and health and wellbeing.
- Visitor economy resource - Creation of a visitor economy team including specialist account management to promote and drive the visitor economy across the borough working with private businesses and public sector partners. Taking advantage of attractions such as Fireground Museum, Rochdale Town Hall restoration and Hollingworth Lake to increase visitor footfall, spend and jobs in the sector.

SALFORD - Salford's proposal has been designed to deliver maximum added value from the investment in order to drive growth, create opportunities and reduce inequalities. Moreover, the proposal will seek to improve the city's liveability and increase civic pride.

Local market testing has been undertaken to ascertain the scale and reach of local initiatives that could be delivered through UKSPF, with a particular focus on the Communities & Place strand.

The market testing has shaped an outline programme of activity (including both capital and revenue expenditure and outputs/outcomes), split into 3 thematic strands:-

1. Thriving Salford (District Centres & the Quays)
2. Green Salford (Parks, Green Spaces and Community Assets)
3. Creative Salford (Community Arts, Culture & Heritage)

The first 2 thematic areas will be managed by Salford City Council, who will directly deliver a number of projects (although not necessarily all), and the intention is to enter into a grant funding arrangement with Salford CVS for the management of all (or a significant proportion) of the 3rd strand, working closely with the city's culture partnership *Suprema Lex*. Positive discussions have already taken place and all parties are ready to move into formal arrangements.

When developing the programme and subsequent projects, due consideration has and will continue to be given to strategic fit, deliverability and geography. There will also be regard to the role of the VCSE sector in both the management and delivery of activity.

The proposal has also been designed to complement other current funding streams such as Future High Streets Funding, Levelling Up Funding (including the recently announced Parks Fund), Community Renewal Funding, Community Ownership funding, whilst retaining enough flexibility to respond to new opportunities. Salford will ensure that UKSPF adds additional value and does not duplicate or displace existing activity.

STOCKPORT - Stockport's approach to the UKSPF Communities and Place priority is to ensure improvements in the local physical environment, and community opportunities and infrastructure, in line with stated ambitions in the One Stockport Borough Plan. This will increase pride in place.

Two complementary programmes have been identified for delivery under the Communities and Place strand:

1. Healthy and Happy Stockport
2. Climate Friendly Stockport.

The programmes align fully with the ambitions set out in the One Stockport Borough Plan and will be complemented by further programmes currently being identified and developed for the other UKSPF themes.

In addition, Stockport's overall approach to the UKSPF Communities and Place proposal is one that is agile and acutely aware of the current cost-of-living crisis and wants to ensure that projects use UKSPF funding to have maximum positive impact in responding to the current

economic challenges and climate on behalf of Stockport's residents, community groups and businesses.

Furthermore, Stockport's UKSPF approach is climate conscious and fully aligned to the Stockport Climate Action Now (CAN) Strategy. Ensuring all proposed projects across all themes of UKSPF, align with the goals of a climate friendly framework, and positively contribute to moving Stockport closer to the Greater Manchester 2038 net zero carbon target.

The programmes identified at this stage have been co-designed in partnership with a range of stakeholders from across Stockport and are designed to act as a coordinated and complementary programme of interventions. The programmes have been developed in a way so that delivery can respond flexibly to conditions on the ground and delivery can be maximised within the UKSPF timescales and parameters.

TRAFFORD - It is proposed that an Inclusive Vibrant Town Centres Programme is developed and delivered to address the needs of our town centres which will be supported through a mix of revenue and capital investment.

The capital elements of the programme will include funding accessibility improvements identified in the accessibility audit of town centres along with funding smaller capital schemes such as hard and soft landscaping, improved signage identified recently by the review of the Sale Public Realm and Movement Strategy and potential capital improvements identified by the updating of the Sale Moor and Hale Place Plans from April 2023. The programme will also support a town centre capital improvement fund, including investment in refurbishment of retail premises and public realm. The capital elements will be supported by a dedicated project management resource. The following projects will be supported:

The Creative Trafford: project will comprise of three linked elements which will see the delivery of community festivals, provision of creative spaces and the creation of a talent development programme.

Public Health through Art: The Public Health Through Art project would be delivered through two elements:

- Art Installations: Artwork to be created in a number of locations within the borough.
- Sexual Health Educational Films: Educational films to be produced using local film makers. Films to target ethnic minority communities to address the subjects of LARCs and STIs/HIV.

The Libraries Community Engagement Programme will see the enhancement of the Trafford Libraries community engagement offer to build on what libraries already offer and expand this provision.

Trafford Heritage Programme: The Trafford Heritage Programme will be delivered through three connected approaches:

Archives and Local Heritage Exhibition programme: Partner with local history and/or community groups to identify and co-curate material to appear in both permanent and temporary displays in Local Studies.

Community Heritage Partnership programme: Foster a deeper engagement with local history and Trafford community groups through a formal research and community lecture programme.

Archives and Local Heritage Internship programme:

Employ interns at a Further Education and/or University level to catalogue and repackage Local Studies Archive collections.

Active Trafford

The project's aim will be to develop clear pathways into active travel through social prescribing, specifically linking areas with high levels of deprivation and health inequalities into local walking and cycling infrastructure.

Cycle Hub

The project would enable a leisure centre to become an active travel hub through the creation of a cycle hub. This would support onward active travel journeys and footfall into the leisure centre.

Greening Trafford Park

Following on from the low Carbon studies recently undertaken on Trafford Park, the project will have a focus on supporting a number of actions to create green vibrant spaces, reducing emissions and improve the general environment in Trafford Park.

Social Value Co-ordination

This project will see the creation of a social value coordination role in Trafford to manage, deliver and monitor Trafford's Social Value Charter and action plan

WIGAN - Wigan Council has submitted proposals to utilise an initial £1.05m of their £3m SPF allocation.

The proposal focuses on generating pride in place in their local communities through:

- delivering visible improvements in district town centres,
- enriching local greenspaces and
- providing high quality cultural events to increase footfall.

It will build on their existing 'Our Town' workstream going beyond just environmental improvements to also improve public realm, visitor accessibility, access to parks and nature reserves and improve shop frontages.

In addition, Wigan wants to increase footfall in their night time economy and support two Heritage Action Zones whilst seeking to leverage in additional funding to complement SPF investment through a Regeneration Capacity Fund. Moving forward, Wigan plans to expand this further with targeted business advice programmes to improve occupation rates and entrepreneurialism.