

## Executive Board – 11 February 2025

<b>Subject:</b>	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
<b>Corporate Director(s)/Director(s):</b>	Nicki Jenkins, Corporate Director for Growth and City Development Beverley Gouveia, Director of Economic Development and Property
<b>Executive Member(s):</b>	Ethan Radford, Deputy Leader of Nottingham City Council Executive Member for Skills, Growth and Economic Development
<b>Report author and contact details:</b>	Alex Reader. alex.reader@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
<b>Other colleagues who have provided input:</b>	Matthew Wheatley. matthew.wheatley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk
<b>Subject to call-in:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Criteria for Key Decision:</b>	
(a) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expenditure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income <input type="checkbox"/> Savings of £750,000 or more taking account of the overall impact of the decision	
<b>and/or</b>	
(b) Significant impact on communities living or working in two or more wards in the City <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<b>Type of expenditure:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital If Capital, provide the date considered by Capital Board Date:	
<b>Total value of the decision:</b> Up to £6.75m	
<b>Section 151 Officer expenditure approval</b> Has the spend been approved by the Section 151 Officer? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/a Spend Control Board approval reference number:	
<b>Commissioner Consideration</b> Has this report been shared with the Commissioners' Office? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Any comments the Commissioners wish to provide are listed below.	
<b>Wards affected:</b> All	
<b>Date of consultation with Executive Member(s):</b> 30/01/25	
<b>Relevant Council Plan Key Outcome:</b>	
Clean, Green and Connected Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Working	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Carbon Neutral by 2028	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Safer Nottingham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Child-Friendly Nottingham	<input type="checkbox"/>
Living Well in Our Communities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Keeping Nottingham Moving	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improve the City Centre	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Better Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Serving People Well	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):</b>	
<p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) is the Government's successor programme to the previous European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF), a programme that integrated five main funding streams, each supporting economic prosperity. UKSPF has three investment priorities: Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills. As part of UKSPF, the Government also allocated funds for Multiply, an adult (19+) numeracy programme. Each Local Authority received 'ring-fenced' allocations for this programme within its UKSPF allocation.</p> <p>To access the 2022-2025 UKSPF funding, the Council developed and submitted two investment</p>	

plans (one for UK SPF core programme and one for Multiply). These plans were created in partnership with local stakeholders and received Government approval in the Autumn of 2022.

The previous Government allocated funds to Local Authorities for a three-year period, from April 2022 to March 2025. In the Government's 2024 Autumn Budget, a one-year extension to the programme was confirmed. The amount of funding available nationally for the 2025-26 financial year will be 60% of the 2024-25 financial year budget. There will not be any separate of ring-fenced funds for Multiply in the 2025-26 allocation.

Nottingham City Council 2022-25 UKSPF programme has supported Nottingham's residents, communities and businesses, through a diverse range of projects including, employment support, community development, City Centre and neighbourhood improvements, Visitor Economy and Inward Investment activity and business growth support.

As with the initial allocation, the Fund's interventions will be planned and managed by local authorities across England, however Government has confirmed that the funds for Nottingham City, alongside those for all East Midlands local authorities, for the 2025-26 Financial Year will be allocated to the East Midlands Counties Combined Authorities (EMCCA) rather than to Nottingham City Council. This was part of the East Midlands Devolution Deal. EMCCA has committed to passing on a proportion of this 'regional' UKSPF allocation onto Nottingham City Council.

The Government updated the UKSPF Prospectus for the 2025-26 extension, along with details of the allocations to Mayoral Authorities. They also confirmed that places with a new or revised devolution deal that is operational by 31 March 2025 (including EMCCA) are not required to submit a revised investment plan. Lead local authorities are required to update Government on plans for 2025-26 through routine reporting.

Local authorities that no longer act as 'lead local authority' for UKSPF from 2025-26 will be required to close down their UKSPF programme. Information on the closure process will be communicated in due course.

**Does this report contain any information that is exempt from publication?**

No

**Recommendation(s):**

1. Upon confirmation from East Midlands Counties Combined Authority of the allocation of UKSPF funding for the 2025-26 Financial Year to Nottingham City Council, to accept this and enter into any associated funding agreement with EMCCA for receipt of funding
2. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to use and allocate the funds for the delivery of the UKSPF projects in accordance with compliant processes under the Contract Procedure Rules (through a combination of an open call grant competition to public or private organisations, the procurement of contracts, and in-house delivery provision, including the use of funding for the internal administration and management of the project)
3. To delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to award and sign contracts and grant agreements associated with the project delivery;

## 1. Reasons for recommendations

- 1.1 Whilst there have been recent improvements in areas such as digital connectivity and some skill levels at higher tiers, Nottingham is still experiencing ongoing challenges related to deprivation and inequality.

### **Deprivation:**

- Nottingham remains the 11th most deprived Local Authority in England according to the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Over half (55.2%) of Nottingham's population lives in areas within the 20% most deprived nationally
- In terms of income deprivation affecting children, 37.9% of Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Nottingham fall within the 10% most deprived in England

### **Economic Productivity and Employment:**

- Nottingham's Gross Value Added (GVA) per head remains 13.7% lower than the national average. The local employment rate (71.7%) continues to lag behind the national rate (75.1%), with disparities among priority groups such as Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) workers, disabled individuals, and older workers
- Recent data show a significant employment rate gap for disabled residents, standing at over 22% below the national average

### **Skills and Education:**

- Skills attainment, particularly at basic and entry levels, remains a challenge. Nottingham continues to rank poorly in numeracy skills, falling in the 96th percentile nationally for numeracy needs

### **Health and Life Expectancy:**

- Healthy life expectancy in Nottingham is significantly below the national average, with men living 5.7 years fewer in good health and women 6.8 years fewer. Life expectancy inequalities between the most and least affluent areas exceed 8 years

- 1.2 The **Nottingham Economic Plan** published in July 2024, is a ten-year strategy designed to boost the city's economy through sustainable and inclusive growth. Created by Nottingham City Council in partnership with various stakeholders, the plan aims to address economic challenges while leveraging the city's strengths in creative industries, digital innovation, life sciences, and its cultural and educational assets.

- 1.3 The plan is structured around four key themes, each with specific goals for 2030:

- **People and Skills:** Facilitate the creation of 20,000 additional jobs, enhance educational offerings, and support lifelong learning to improve employability.
- **Enterprise and Investment:** Increase Gross Value Added (GVA) by £1 billion by nurturing existing businesses, promoting new enterprises, and diversifying the economy.
- **Infrastructure and Regeneration:** Develop infrastructure to support a growing population, ensuring quality living spaces and connectivity.

- **Liveability and Experience:** Secure £4 billion in regenerative investment to create a vibrant, clean, and globally competitive city centre.

- 1.4 Nottingham's current UKSPF programme is actively funding projects and initiatives that align with the plan's core themes, enhancing the economic prosperity of individuals, communities, and businesses, while driving improvements to the City Centre and its neighbourhoods. Notably, the programme has already delivered significant outcomes, including the improvement of over 19,000m<sup>2</sup> of commercial space, supporting 1,900 individuals in job-search activities, and providing business growth advice and support to 1,100 businesses. The extension of the UKSPF funding will enable the continuation and expansion of these impactful activities.
- 1.5 The themes of Inclusion, Productivity and Carbon Neutrality run through the heart of the existing Nottingham's UKSPF programme and will retain prominence in the extended programme.

## 2. **Background (including outcomes of consultation)**

- 2.1 The UKSPF Investment Plan for Nottingham City Council was developed collaboratively through the Nottingham UKSPF Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG), a subgroup of the Nottingham Growth Board. The SAG included diverse representation from MPs, community and faith organizations, education and skills providers, civil society groups, employer bodies, and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP). To ensure broad input, the Council also hosted webinars and engagement sessions with community partners and stakeholders.
- 2.2 In partnership with the East Midlands Combined County Authority (EMCCA), Nottingham City Council is developing an approach for managing UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) extension funds. This collaboration considers the balance between funding regional projects through EMCCA and local initiatives administered by City and District Councils.
- 2.3 The expectation is for EMCCA's Board to consider and approve the approach for the use of the 2025-26 UKSPF fund at its meeting on February 10<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- 2.4 A significant funding reduction is anticipated for activities within Nottingham City for 2025-26. Nottingham City Council is expecting an allocation of no more than £4.75 million for this local activity, a decrease from the £6.1 million allocated in 2024-25. This reduction is attributed to a smaller national budget and the anticipated retention of revenue funds by EMCCA for regional projects. Nottingham City Council has actively collaborated with EMCCA on the allocation and use of funds for the extension and fully supports the approach adopted.
- 2.5 Local authorities, including Nottingham City Council, can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to cover administrative costs.
- 2.6 EMCCA is exploring the possibility of allocating the £2 million of revenue funding for regional initiatives, such as business support, to one of the City or County councils to administer and manage. Should Nottingham City Council agree to oversee the distribution of these regional grants on behalf of EMCCA, they would be allocated up to 4% of the total funding to cover the additional administrative activity.

- 2.7 In 2024-25, **20% of the UKSPF allocation** was dedicated to capital funding. The proportion of capital funding in EMCCA's 2025-26 UKSPF allocation is 31.3%.
- 2.8 This framework underscores the Council's strategic focus on maximising the impact of reduced resources while addressing local and regional priorities through strong collaboration with EMCCA and other stakeholders.

### **UKSPF Interventions included in the 2025-26 Financial Year**

- 2.9 The UKSPF and Multiply Interventions included in the original Investment Plans were selected based on the evidence base, consultation feedback, Economic Recovery and Renewal Plan priorities and a wider needs assessment of the local provision landscape.
- 2.10 The interventions to be funded and delivered using the additional funding will build upon the successful delivery of the existing programme, while taking into account EMCCA's planned regional approach. The UKSPF funds allocated to Nottingham City Council in the 2025-26 financial year will focus on:
- Supporting economically inactive individuals to transition into employment, particularly priority groups (BAME, over 50s, women, those with health conditions and disabilities, and young people), commissioned services via open call
  - Developing green and local carbon skills and progression into careers in this sectors
  - a range of interventions to support improvements in neighbourhoods and the city centre
  - providing support for Nottingham businesses, including in-house Council delivery and commissioned services via open call. The range of incentives will include:
    - o support for business start-ups
    - o support for businesses to grow
    - o a Social Enterprise Support Programme
    - o improving access to finance
    - o grants for local businesses to support productivity growth and decarbonisation;
  - Community engagement and development activities, including a Winter Support Grant
  - Providing support to employers to develop Inclusive Recruitment practices
  - Coordinating an approach to maximise the impact of employers' Corporate Social Responsibility commitments on Nottingham's communities and neighbourhoods
  - Numeracy Skills courses (if alternative funding source for this activity can not be identified).
- 2.11 The following activities are included in those which EMCCA is looking to fund as part of its regional approach.
- Support for the Visitor Economy and Tourism in Nottingham
  - Support for continued inward investment into Nottingham
- 2.12 For the UKSPF programme, lead local authorities for each area have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund and can use a mix of the following 'support interventions':
- Grant to public or private organisations ("Lead local authorities should note

that competitions for projects is the default approach for selecting recipients of public grants.”)

- Commissioning third party organisations (refers to commissioning a delivery organisation without competition. Normally the only suitable body.)
- Procurement of service provision (following national procurement regulations.)
- In-house provision (Some community level interventions may require a commissioning or in-house approach, recognising that competitions for grant may create barriers to participation in left behind communities.)

2.13 The Council will make it clear to applicants that apply for funds through Open Calls that:

- the outcome of any open call competition is subject to Nottingham City Council receiving sufficient funds from EMCCA
- the number of grants to be awarded through the open call competition will be dependent on the funds allocated to Nottingham City Council
- grant agreements will not be signed with successful applicants until Nottingham City Council has signed an agreement with EMCCA

### **UKSPF and Multiply Internal Resourcing**

2.14 To administer, manage and deliver the 2025-26 UKSPF programme, the Council will employ a dedicated UKSPF project team funded through the programme's allocation. This team oversees fund management, project compliance, claims submission, administration, monitoring, evaluation, as well as the delivery of grant schemes and projects within the programme. The team comprises the following roles, Economic Development Programme Manager (1.0 FTE), three Project Officers (2.8 FTE combined) and a Project Compliance Officer (1.0 FTE). For the 2025-26 programme, the reduction in funding available through the 4% management allocation has been addressed by:

- Reducing the number of posts supported through the UKSPF administration budget (including maternity cover costs).
- Deploying staff on project delivery, including;
  - grant schemes (reflecting the higher percentage of capital funding in the UKSPF programme)
  - implementing and delivering new projects, including maximising Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activities and volunteering opportunities across the City.

2.15 This approach ensures that funding is allocated appropriately to meet the administration and management requirements of the programme whilst delivering externally funded projects and programmes in line with Nottingham's Strategic Council Plan.

2.14 In 2025-26, the UKSPF project team will be fully funded by Nottingham City Council's allocation from EMCCA. The team's responsibilities will include;

- Awarding funds through open calls and managing relationships with grant recipients.
- Delivery of UKSPF funded grant schemes.
- Delivery of UKSPF funded projects.
- Collating, quality assuring and reporting of financial and performance data, as required under the agreement between Nottingham City Council and EMCCA.

## **Grant Conditions**

- 2.16 The Council will be required to meet the grant conditions included in the agreement with EMCCA. The grant conditions from the existing programme (and are anticipated to be reflected in the agreement for the extension) are given below

### **Financial**

- 2.17 Nottingham City Council will receive upfront payments from EMCCA early in the financial year.
- 2.18 Government will require authorities to report how the money was spent as part of 6-monthly returns demonstrating evidence of defrayal and successful delivery of performance outputs. Nottingham City Council will be expected to provide EMCCA with this information, to enable it to meet its timescales for completing its return to Government.
- 2.19 Nottingham City Council will be asked to return any underspends at the end of the financial year to EMCCA.

### **Publicity**

- 2.20 Lead local authorities and project deliverers must ensure that the appropriate UK Government logos are used prominently in all communications materials and public facing documents relating to funded activity – including print and publications, through to digital and electronic materials. Failure to adhere to publicity guidelines could lead to financial penalties.

### **Subsidy**

- 2.21 Lead Authorities will be asked to detail how their proposed interventions will be delivered within the subsidy control regime and their capacity and capability to manage subsidy. Failure to adhere to subsidy control regulations could lead to financial penalties.

### **Procurement**

- 2.22 All spend associated with the Fund must be assessed by the lead local authority in advance to ensure that proposed investment is compliant with the Procurement Act 2023 where relevant and follows local constitution and grant rules, processes and procedures as and where relevant

### **Performance**

- 2.23 Lead Authorities will be asked to report data to ensure that allocations are being spent to agreed timescales and milestones, including achievement of outputs and outcomes at the project level. Nottingham City Council will be expected to provide EMCCA with this information, to enable it to meet its timescales for completing its return to Government.

### **Meeting Grant Requirements**

- 2.24 UKSPF will be managed by experienced officers within Growth and City Development, a department with a successful track record of managing and

delivering projects on behalf of Government under the existing UKSPF programme and before that, the 2014 to 2020 European Structural Investment Fund Programme.

- 2.25 Economic Development has successfully delivered the existing £8.6m UKSPF programme as well as £54 million of European Funded provision without incurring any financial claw-back from Government and has the capacity and expertise to continue to manage the UKSPF in accordance with all grant conditions, avoiding any financial claw-back.
- 2.26 To manage the potential risk of financial claw-back due to under performance by external delivery partners, the Council will have the right to withhold funding or request the return of any overpaid funding under individual grant agreements or service contracts as applicable.
- 2.27 The UKSPF Investment Plan for the existing programme was developed in partnership with Legal, Procurement, Finance, and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion colleagues to ensure appropriate systems and process are in place to manage the fund in accordance with fund criteria whilst delivering maximum benefit to communities locally.
- 2.28 Officers will continue to work with partners to monitor outputs and deliverables throughout the lifetime of the project, reviewing processes and performance monthly.

### 3. **Other options considered in making recommendations**

- 3.1 Rejecting the UKSPF allocation from EMCCA was considered, but this option was declined. It was determined that forfeiting local management of these funds—along with the best practices established during the delivery of the existing UKSPF programme—would significantly diminish the effectiveness of the additional year's funding, negatively impacting the residents, communities, and businesses of the City.

### 4. **Consideration of Risk**

- 4.1 The extension to the UKSPF programme will be managed by the same experienced officers within Growth and City Development, that managed the existing programme. Economic Development has a successful track record of managing and delivering projects on behalf of Government. Under the 2014 to 2020 European Structural Investment Fund Programme, Economic Development has successfully delivered £54 million of employment and skills provision without incurring any financial claw-back from Government.
- 4.2 The Economic Development Programme Manager is part of MHCLG's Global UKSPF Fraud Risk Assessment Focus Group, which meets regularly to discuss and review the risk register for the National Programme.
- 4.3 A comprehensive risk register for the programme extension has been developed. Existing risk management plans have been updated to address all relevant risks associated with the new funding arrangements with EMCCA.
- 4.4 The following key risks have been identified, along with the corresponding mitigation measures:
  - i. **Underperformance Leading to Financial Clawback**



**Risk:** Financial clawback remains the responsibility of the Council as the grant recipient.

**Mitigation:**

i. A 4% management fee within the grant enables resources to work with grant recipients to effectively monitor performance

ii. **Failure to Maintain Audit and Reporting Records**

**Risk:** Insufficient record-keeping for audit and reporting requirements.

**Mitigation:**

i. Standardised UKSPF claim paperwork provided during implementation meetings.

ii. Dedicated UKSPF compliance expertise available to support all projects.

iii. **Non-Compliance with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)**

**Risk:** Breach of GDPR.

**Mitigation:**

i. Adherence to established protocols and procedures as advised by Data Protection colleagues.

iv. **Breach of Subsidy or Procurement Regulations**

**Risk:** Non-compliance with subsidy and procurement rules.

**Mitigation:**

i. Completed subsidy assessments and follow NCC's procurement processes consistently.

v. **Programme Fraud Risk**

**Risk:** Potential for programme fraud targeting Nottingham City Council.

**Mitigation:**

i. Implement fraud mitigation measures identified in MHCLG's 2024 UKSPF Fraud Risk Assessment.

vi. **Premature Open Call Competitions**

**Risk:** Starting open call competitions before signing the funding agreement with EMCCA.

**Mitigation:**

i. Grant agreements with successful applicants will not be signed until the EMCCA agreement is finalised.

vii. **Inflationary Pressures**

**Risk:** Rising inflation could impact the cost of works and services.

**Mitigation:**

i. Scale back procurement scope to align with the available budget in the event of significant inflation-driven price increases.

**5. Best Value Considerations, including consideration of Make or Buy where appropriate**

5.1 Best value will be a key factor in the open call competitions that are used to determine which organisations will receive grants to deliver projects in the 2025-26 financial year.

**6 Commissioner comments**

6.1 The Commissioners are content with the report.

**7 Finance colleague comments (including implications and value for money/VAT)**

- 7.1 UKSPF East Midlands County Combined Authority (EMCCA) have confirmed that NCC will be allocated additional capital funds as part of the 2025-26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund extension. This is an extension to the existing UKSPF project (Capital project numbers 301891, 301892 and 301893), see below for proposed split of funding:

<b>UKSPF Strand</b>	<b>Capital Project No</b>	<b>2025-26 Allocation</b>
Communities & Place	Capital Project No - 301891	£915,000
Local Business	Capital Project No - 301892	£450,965
People & Skills	Capital Project No - 301893	£175,000

- 7.2 This is external funding available to spend in the 2025-26 FY only. Any money unspent cannot be considered for savings as any unspent funding must be returned to Government via EMCCA at the end of the financial year.
- 7.3 The figures provided are currently indicative but will be confirmed by EMCCA in February 2025.

**Victoria Gelderd – Strategic Capital Accountant 14/01/2025**

- 7.4 The ongoing UK SPF programme will be given, at maximum £4.75m funding to Nottingham City Council for 2025/2026. This will be split by Capital 1.541m and Revenue 3.209m assuming the maximum figure is obtained.
- 7.5 The Council will fulfil the role of Accountable Body. As such, the Council will be responsible for compliance to all grant conditions and in undertaking this role will apply the Council’s Financial Regulations and Contract Procedure Rules to all expenditure. Slippage is a key risk, therefore accurate reporting to EMCCA, in forecasting and updating of budgets is paramount.
- 7.6 The Project Management Team will ensure delivery of the project within these parameters, and this will be fully funded from within the allocations for management fee that are permitted within the overall funding. This is 4% for the SPF. There will be no pressure on the Economic Development Service budget and no call on it. UKSPF funding is both revenue and capital and there is a minimum capital allocation that must be adhered to. This will all be monitored to ensure adherence to conditions by the Project Management Team.
- 7.7 The year’s funding is sent at the beginning of the financial year and the reporting and performance framework required in relation to this funding is set out in detail on From EMCCA and the Project Management Team will ensure full compliance. At financial year end, the Project Management Team will need to work with Finance to ensure correct, timely procedure, with any underspends being returned to EMCCA then on to central government.

**Paul Rogers - Commercial Finance Business Partner (Growth and City Development) – 14/01/2025**

**8. Legal colleague comments**

- 8.1 This report seeks authority to accept UKSPF funding for 2025-26 from EMCAA, subject to agree the terms of a funding agreement, and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Growth and City Development to use

such funding and, therefore, award and sign contracts and grant agreements associated with the project delivery.

- 8.2 The 2025-26 funding is an extension to an existing funding programme that the Council has benefitted from. Whilst the funding is now being routed via EMCAA rather than given directly to the Council, on this basis, the terms to be imposed on the use of such funding should be familiar to the Council; this report, therefore, presents no significant legal risks if those terms are complied with. Legal Services are happy to support in reviewing any agreements with EMCAA and 3rd party recipients of this grant funding
- 8.3 It is understood that HR have been fully involved in the development of this proposal and funding is available to meet potential liabilities.

Anthony Heath, Head of Legal Services, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 9. Procurement Colleague comments

This report relates to the receipt and expenditure UK Shared Prosperity Funding as allocated to the Council for the financial year 2025-26. It proposes the delegation of authority for the allocation of funds for the delivery of projects through a combination of open call grant competition, the procurement of contracts, and in-house delivery.

All funding must be used in accordance with the Government's grant conditions and must be compliant with the applicable UK Procurement Regulations and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (Article 18 of the Constitution). In relation to funding proposed to be awarded to external agencies as grants, there are no procurement implications, provided Legal Services confirm that the arrangements constitute grants and not contracts. In relation to the award contracts for the provision of goods, works or services, a compliant procurement process or framework call off must be undertaken. The Procurement team should be consulted at the earliest opportunity on the specific requirements for funding, in order to advise on the appropriate route to market and support as needed.

Jo Pettifor, Category Manager – People, 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

## 10. Crime and Disorder Implications (If Applicable)

While economic prosperity alone does not eliminate crime and disorder, it plays a pivotal role in addressing their root causes, creating environments that promote lawful and harmonious living. The People & Skills and Communities & Place projects and initiatives funded through the extension of the UKSPF programme will continue to impact on the following:

- **Poverty Reduction:** Economic prosperity decreases poverty levels, which are strongly correlated with certain types of crime, such as theft, burglary, and other economically motivated offenses.
- **Financial Security:** When individuals and families have stable incomes, they are less likely to resort to illegal activities to meet basic needs.

- **Investment in public infrastructure**, such as parks and community venues which discourage criminal activity by fostering social cohesion and engagement.

## 11. Social value considerations (If Applicable)

The extended UKSPF programme will create social value by reducing inequalities, fostering economic resilience, and investing in local infrastructure, skills, and communities to deliver long-term benefits.

- **Improve Economic Inclusion through Targeted Support** – by directing resources to disadvantaged areas, fostering economic inclusion and reducing inequality.
- **Support skills development** - by equipping economically inactive individuals to gain the skills needed for to transition into employment, boosting local economies and personal well-being.
- **Improving Social Infrastructure** – by funding improvements to community venues and spaces, enhancing social cohesion, reducing isolation, and creating environments where people can thrive.
- **Sustainable Development** - by funding projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions and contributing to environmental improvements
- **Health and Leisure** - by improving public spaces and recreational facilities, promoting healthier lifestyles and fostering community connections.
- **Economic Growth**: Small business grants and entrepreneurial support schemes have empowered local enterprises, creating jobs and fostering innovation.
- **Cultural and Social Projects**: Arts and heritage projects help to revitalise local identity and community pride.

## 12. Regard to the NHS Constitution (If Applicable)

12.1 Not Applicable

## 13 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

Has the equality impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

An Equality Impact Assessment was completed for the existing UKSPF Programme. This extension will continue to fund projects which support the residents, households and communities identified in this original document

Yes

## 14 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)

Has the data protection impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

A DPIA is not required because the extension will continue to use the DPIA which is already in place for the existing UKSPF Programme.

Yes

**15 Carbon Impact Assessment (CIA)**

Has the carbon impact of the proposals in this report been assessed?

No

Once the projects and initiatives to be funded using the additional UKSPF funds have been agreed a Carbon Impact Assessment will be completed and due regard will be given to any implications identified within it.

Yes

**16 List of background papers relied upon in writing this report (not including published documents or confidential or exempt information)**

Not applicable

**17 Published documents referred to in this report**

Not applicable