

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 24 October 2022
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration

Report Title

Shared Prosperity Fund - Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan

Summary

The report provides an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the approach to the Fund at the GM level. The report identifies the projects within the Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan that forms part of the GMCA's Shared Prosperity Fund Programme.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (i) Approves the Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan and related projects which have been submitted to the GMCA as part of the Communities and Place Investment Priority of the Shared Prosperity Fund application.
- (ii) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place to make minor amendments to the Communities and Place Investment Plan projects as necessary, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration.
- (iii) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place to deliver the Communities and Place Investment Plan projects, including engaging external resources, commissioning surveys and any other works required.
- (iv) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy and Regeneration to progress all matters, including submitting projects where required, in relation to the Local Business and People and Skills Investment Priorities.
- (v) Delegates authority to the Corporate Director of Place to agree and finalise any grant agreement or other legal agreement required in relation to these funds.
- (vi) Authorises the Director of Legal and Governance to finalise and enter into all funding and legal agreements required to implement the above decisions.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

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Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	The SPF proposal has been developed in line with the Council's three Corporate Priorities: Supporting people out of Poverty, Addressing our climate crisis and Reducing health inequalities.
Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework	The proposal and projects put forward have close alignment with UK Shared Prosperity Fund interventions and the Government's Levelling Up Objectives. The Council has also been cognisant of Greater Manchester's Strategy (GMS) Shared Commitments and Ways of Working. In developing the proposal and projects the Council has also been mindful of the Five Foundations which underpin the GM Local Industrial Strategy.
Financial	There is just under £1.8 million assigned to Trafford to deliver on the Communities and Place Investment Priority and a grant agreement will be developed and signed by the Council to receive the funding.
Legal Implications:	The Council will need to ensure that it complies with all reasonable requirements of signing the grant agreement with GMCA.
Equality/Diversity Implications	In developing the proposal and projects, consideration has been given to the Council's Corporate Equalities Strategy 2021-2025.
Sustainability Implications	In delivering the projects associated with SPF, the council will be mindful of ensuring all projects are delivered sustainably.

Carbon Reduction	A number of the projects attached to Trafford's proposal will have a direct benefit in reducing carbon emissions.
Resource Implications e.g. Staffing / ICT / Assets	Existing resources will be used to support the delivery of the projects identified. This will be bolstered through an additional resource which will assist in the administration of the Shared Prosperity Fund which will include making financial claims and providing monitoring reports. The additional post will be funded separately from Trafford's original Communities and Place funding allocation. The funding for the role will be provided directly from GMCA.
Risk Management Implications	Risks will be monitored within each of the projects and appropriate mitigation will be utilised wherever possible by lead officers for each of the projects.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	A number of the projects put forward will have a direct influence on the health and wellbeing of residents.
Health and Safety Implications	There are no health and safety implications arising from the report.

1.0 Background

1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a replacement domestic fund for EU European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) following the UK's departure from the European Union. ESIF was jointly managed through the European Commission and EU countries with a purpose to invest in job creation and develop a sustainable and healthy European economy and environment.

1.2 The primary goal of UKSPF is building pride in place and increasing life chances across the UK, while recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the Covid pandemic. This will be achieved across three Investment Priorities.

- Communities and place
- Local business; and
- People and skills

2. Shared Prosperity Fund and GMCA

2.1 GMCA has been identified as the UKSPF Lead Authority for Greater Manchester. This means that GMCA will be the accountable body for the three-year GM UKSPF non-Multiply allocation of c£84m and will be responsible for the management and administration of the Fund.

2.2 GMCA have been allocated a total of £83,850,595 UKSPF from April 2022 to March 2025. The allocation is to be spent against the three priorities of Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills with each priority being assigned a set amount of funding. An element of this budget will also be allocated to fund administration.

The indicative GMCA UKSPF allocations (over 3 years) are as follows:

Communities & Place	£26,996,571.00
Local Business	£31,500,000.00
People & Skills	£22,000,000.00
Investment Theme Allocations	£80,496,571.00
Management Costs	£3,354,024.00
GM UKSPF Allocation Total	£83,850,595.00

2.3 GMCA has developed a GM Investment Plan which addresses the three priorities, in consultation with GM LAs, which was approved by the GMCA on 29th July 2022. This Investment Plan has subsequently been submitted to the Government for consideration. GMCA are expecting a response to the submission in late October.

2.4 The current next stage in the GMCA process is different for each Investment Priority as follows:

- Communities and Place
 - LA Communities and Place Investment Plan template circulated to LAs for completion
 - LAs complete the template, identifying individual projects and a 3 year spend profile
 - LAs submit Communities and Place Investment Plans to GMCA by 26th September
- Local Business
 - GMCA Investment Priority leads engaging directly with LAs to establish need and projects.
 - Projects may be commissioned directly by GMCA where appropriate
- People & Skills
 - The majority of the expenditure for People and Skills is profiled for 2024-25 due to ongoing EU funding programmes due to finish by the end of 2023. As such, the next stages of this element of the UKSPF are still to be clarified.

2.5 The timeline for when funding will become available for each of the three UKSPF Investment Priorities (Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills) is different for each.

2.6 The first tranche of funding is available for the Communities and Place Investment Priority, including spend in 2022/2023 (Year 1), hence the focus on each LA producing their Communities and Place Investment Plans. Planning for UKSPF spend in Years 2 and 3 for the two remaining Investment Priorities of Local Business and People and Skills will follow within the next few months or by mid-2023 respectively. It should also be noted that under the Shared Prosperity Fund, there is no requirement for the Council to provide any level of match funding.

3. SME Workspace Fund

3.1 GMCA is also developing a separate SME Workspace Fund. The Workspace Fund for GM totals £15m and is designed to create the conditions in which small businesses can grow and develop across the conurbation. This may take the form of designing or creating shared workspaces within individual areas. The spend profile for the Fund is:

- 2022/23 £2m
- 2023/24 £3m
- 2024/25 £10m

3.2 For the SME Workspace Fund, spend can be both Capital and Revenue, however a maximum of 50% Revenue is permitted across the programme. Benefiting Schemes must be Local Authority led. In view of the tight timescales for spend during the current financial year, the GMCA set a date for initial submissions of 10 October 2022 to the Fund. The Development and Estates Team have taken a lead role in preparing information for a bid. There is no specific funding allocation for Local Authorities and assignment of any funding will be on a competitive basis.

4. Interventions

4.1 The three UKSPF Investment Priorities of Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills are being supported by what have been labelled as interventions. Table 1 details each of the agreed GM interventions which underpin each of the three UKSPF Investment Priorities, each of which has a range of associated outputs and outcomes.

4.2 Local Authorities who wish to access the available funding for their area were requested to develop a series of projects under the Communities and Place Investment Priority which are supported by the interventions E1, E3 and E6 and separately for the SME Workspace Fund under intervention E11.

Table 1 – UKSPF Communities and Place Interventions - GMCA

Communities and Place	Local Business	People and Skills
E1 – Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs. (capital and revenue)	E19 – Investment in research and development at the local level	E33 – Employment support for economically inactive people
E3 – Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces	E23 - Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.	E34 – Courses including basic, life and career skills
E6 –Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.	E22 – Enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation sites	E37 – tailored support for the employed to access courses
E11 – Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	E26 – Growing the social economy	

5. Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan

- 5.1 GMCA has requested that LA’s prepare their own Investment Plan for the Communities and Place Investment Priority covering the interventions of E1, E3 and E6. Trafford’s Communities and Place Investment Plan is attached as Appendix 1. Trafford’s draft Communities and Place Investment Plan has previously been shared with the Executive when it was sent on the 9 September.
- 5.2 Intervention E11 which has a focus on VCSE capacity building/infrastructure, is being developed separately and therefore does not form part of the Investment Plan for Communities and Place. Communities and Place is currently the only Investment Priority with a LA allocation which for Trafford is set out in Table 2 below.

Table 2 – Trafford Allocation under Communities and Place Intervention

2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	Total
£484,734	£653,814	£629,484	£1,768,032

- 5.3 When considering the split of revenue and capital within the overarching GM Investment Plan, an indicative split has been set as per Table 3 below:

Table 3 – GM Investment Plan – Revenue and Capital Split

Year	Revenue %	Capital %
2022-23	90%	10%
2023-24	87%	13%
2024-25	80%	20%

- 5.4 Discussions have taken place with the GMCA with regards to the revenue and capital splits of the funding and GMCA confirmed that it set the lowest possible split for revenue and capital. It was considered that this approach would allow the greatest flexibility and also acknowledges that at the time of submitting the GMCA Investment Plan only limited information was known about the future potential projects to be submitted by each LA. Therefore, the focus of the Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan has been on projects that meet Corporate Priorities and local need, irrespective of minimum revenue and capital splits.
- 5.5 The Inclusive Economy and Communities Team (IECT) has engaged with a wide range of relevant departments since June 2022 to develop the Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan. These have included Leisure, Health, Customer Service, Libraries and Culture, Development and Estates, Strategic Partnerships and Policy, Finance and Communications. A summary of the projects contained within the Communities and Place Investment Plan are as follows:

Table 4 Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan - Projects

Project and Bid Amount	Project Detail
Inclusive and Vibrant Town Centres Investment Programme Project Cost= £626,863	Developing a programme of revenue investment in Trafford's town centres, to ensure that they are inclusive, with an improved offer for all groups that boosts footfall, spend and visitor numbers. Projects will include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Marketing & promotion. 2. Town centre performance analytics to help inform the programme and future opportunities 2. Commissioning a night-time economy audit and action plan, delivering initiatives to support the growth of the night-time economy 3. Undertaking a comprehensive review and updating of the Council's Invest in Trafford website to have a greater focus on town centre activities and encouraging greater inward investment and enhanced marketing of the area for visitors. Developing a programme of capital investment in Trafford's town centres, to ensure that they are inclusive, with an improved offer for all groups that boosts footfall, spend and visitor numbers. projects

	<p>will include the following works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding accessibility improvements identified in the accessibility audit 2. 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, 3. Capital improvements identified by the updating of the Sale Moor and Hale Place Plans from April 2023 4 A town centre capital improvement fund, including investment in refurbishment of retail premises and public realm 5.Funding a project manager to oversee the capital scheme management (10% of the overall budget has been assigned to this).
<p>Greening Trafford Park</p> <p>Project Cost = £249,000</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Active Trafford</p> <p>Project Cost = £259,000</p>	<p>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. The project will help promote behaviour change support via social prescribing link workers; access to cycles, equipment and cycle training; and improve the public realm for pedestrians. In addition, resources are to be made available to help the co-ordination of a placed based approach to sport, physical activity and movement and wider health and wellbeing outcomes.</p>
<p>Cycle Hub</p> <p>Project Cost= £165,000</p>	<p>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. The provision of the cycle hub would promote and help embed the active travel agenda and behaviour change.</p>
<p>Creative Trafford</p> <p>Project Cost = £199,606</p>	<p>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. Creative Trafford will aim to bring about pride in the area through the engagement of communities across Trafford who will be supported to develop and deliver their own events and build on existing plans to develop a greater art offering within Trafford including through the provision of arts spaces and performances.</p>

<p>Public Health through Art</p> <p>Project Cost = £42,072</p>	<p>The Public Health Through Art project would be delivered through two elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artwork to be created in a number of locations within the borough with a local artist in collaboration with community groups/schools with guidance from Public Health, supported by the Community Engagement team. Each piece of artwork to have a focus on a decided health priority for that area. To be displayed in community spaces - Hubs, Libraries, GPs, Schools. • Educational films to be produced using local film makers. Films to target ethnic minority communities to address the subjects of LARCs and STIs/HIV. Films to include the experiences from members of the targeted communities and advice from trusted community leaders and professionals.
<p>Libraries Community Engagement Programme</p> <p>Project Cost = £60,000</p>	<p>The Libraries Community Engagement Programme will see the enhancement of the Trafford Libraries community engagement offer which will include provision for a temporary community engagement and events/activities role (18months) to build on what libraries already offer and expand this provision, while working towards embedding more sustainable and efficient planning and delivery for cultural events and activities within the service (upskilling existing staff within our services in the process).</p>
<p>Trafford Heritage Programme</p> <p>Project Cost = £71,760</p>	<p>The Trafford Heritage Programme will be delivered through three connected approaches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. With an emphasis on equality, diversity, and inclusion, these exhibitions would provide interactive and accessible platforms for engaging with the history of Trafford and its communities. • Community Heritage Partnership programme: Foster a deeper engagement with local history and Trafford community groups through a formal research and community lecture

	<p>programme. Organised by Local Studies and available to all members of the public, this programme will create new opportunities for the archive and heritage collections to be studied, and for new perspectives to be shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archives and Local Heritage Internship programme: Employ interns at a Further Education and/or University level to catalogue and repackage Local Studies Archive collections. This summer programme would provide students with paid employment, and the opportunity to gain critical professional skills in the GLAM (Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museum) sector. It would also provide staff with the opportunity to establish and/or further develop mentorship skills. Outputs would be published on the Local Studies department website and appear in the collections catalogue, which in the long-term would provide increased accessibility for the Trafford community.
<p>Social Value Co-ordination</p> <p>Project Cost = £94,500</p>	<p>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. The role would increase the benefits of social value for the VCFSE sector and our communities by delivering a brokerage service between businesses and VCFSE organisations/ communities ensuring identified needs were prioritised to be met from social value offers from businesses.</p>

5.6 Due to timescales set down by the GMCA, Trafford had to submit the Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan and the supporting financial submission document on the 26 September 2022. Prior to this, the Executive had been informed and consulted through a Briefing Note provided on 19 August 2022, and on the completed Draft Investment Plan distributed on 9 September 2022. GMCA will meet to consider the summaries of each Local Authorities Communities and Place Investment Plans and consider recommendation(s) of the LPB on the 28 October which will follow the formal approval of the Council's Communities and Place Investment Plan on the 24 October.

5.7 In addition and as advised by the GMCA, the three MP's covering the borough have also been consulted and were sent the draft Communities and Place Investment Plan on the 13 September following Executive review.

6. Next Steps for the Communities and Place Investment Plans and GM Overarching Investment Plan

- 6.1 Table 5 below sets out the process followed and next steps in relation to Communities and Place Investment Plan and highlights the likely timescale that GM will seek approval from government for the overarching Investment Plan.

Table 5 – Timetable and Next Steps – Communities and Place Investment Plans

Activity	Timeline
Submission of Communities and Place Investment Plans to GMCA	26 September
GMCA aggregate all Communities and Place Investment Plans to ensure GM level indicative expenditure and outcome/output profile set out in the GMCA Investment Plan has been achieved	Early October
Communities and Place Investment Plans submitted to the Local Partnership Board (LPB) for comments and any recommendations to be followed up	19 October
GMCA meet to consider the summaries of each Local Authorities Communities and Place Investment Plans and consider recommendation(s) of the LPB.	28 October
GMCA seek approval of final overarching Investment Plan from government	Late October
Individual grants and legal agreements signed off between GMCA and Local Authorities	Late October/Early November
Commencement of projects	Early/mid November

Other Options

A long list of projects were initially developed and through close working with all relevant departments, these were narrowed down to ensure they met the available funding allocation for Trafford and the Communities and Place interventions set by GMCA.

In addition, an option was considered of bringing individual reports forward which contained projects in support of the Local Business and People and Skills Investment Priorities to the Executive but given the limited timescales that may be available, it is proposed that delegated authority is given to officers to submit the proposals in consultation with the Executive Member.

Consultation

There has been significant consultation and engagement carried out with a range of Council departments, the Executive and MPs to build a robust and coherent Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan. In developing projects for the Local Business and People and Skills Investment Priorities it is expected that a similar, comprehensive approach to consultation will be carried out before any submission takes place.

Reasons for Recommendation

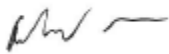
Through submitting a comprehensive Trafford Communities and Place Investment Plan, Trafford will benefit from significant funding being awarded to the borough to deliver a wide range of projects that meet Corporate Priorities and local need.

By seeking delegated authority from the Executive, the Council will be able to submit projects in a timely manner for the Local Business and People and Skills Investment Priorities as well as the Communities and Place Investment Priority, as they are launched.

Key Decision (as defined in the Constitution): Yes
If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? Yes

Finance Officer Clearance **PC**
Legal Officer Clearance **TR**

[CORPORATE] DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE (*electronic*)



To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.

