

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND ADVISORY PANEL (Via Teams)

Friday 4 April 2025

Present: Councillor M Radulovic, (Chair)
Councillor G Marshall
Councillor G Bunn
Councillor MacRae
Councillor Andy Cooper (Substitute)
Councillor S Carr

Officers: Mr Z Darr
Mr J Little
Ms C Gault
Ms F Graca
Mr R Vaughan

1. **Apologies**

Councillor Philip Owen and Councillor Peter Bales sent apologies.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest raised.

3. **Minutes**

3.1 Year 4 UKSPF Programme overview (JL)

JL presented power point slides. Broxtowe have been provided with £1.06 million capital £463k, revenue funds at £593k, taking out 4% allowed for admin (£42,269), leaves £551,476 for revenue projects. This represents 60% less than in 2024/25

As with last year the council can still swap revenue to capital but not visa-versa.

The programme is now a hybrid of old and new government, with missions replacing levelling-up objectives and sub-themes replacing interventions. Health is a new element, though no correlating outputs makes projects difficult. EMCCA, require a tight turn around on outputs so the Panel's guidance is key to completing an indicative forecast.

3.2 Requirements of the Panel at the meeting

- I. Agree on the projects that must proceed without delay to ensure that delivery begins in earnest. (EMCCA wish to review performance in October).

- II. 2. Allocate specific sums of money to the business grants and community programmes.

(Last year's projects went well, delivering strong numbers and Members indicated a desire to repeat this).

- III. Review and prioritise the remaining projects from the list of 12 Capital projects.
- IV. Review and prioritise the remaining projects from the list of 36 Revenue projects.
- V. Create priorities for support and reserve projects given that both strands would be oversubscribed if all expressions of interest were supported.
- VI. Request that all project leads supported provide further information to a Panel in June to be formally ratified.

3.3 Suggested prioritisation process (JL)

Officers propose prioritisation based on the Economic Development Strategy, (previously circulated) and Corporate Plan, cross referenced with the genuine delivery of valid outputs, and value for money. These factors have allowed the creation of a 4-star rating scheme on the projects to assist the Panel Members in their deliberations.

Action: MR – requested a wording change to the strategy which was noted

3.4 Capital projects which were prioritised for immediate commencement

a.) Cedars Phase Two.

The final estimated sum for the works on 47 Nottingham Road is around £80,000. Phase 1 allocated £47,000 and the recommendation is to allocate £50,000 with whatever amount remains underspent or supported by other partner contributions being released for other UKSPF projects further down the list.

b) Business Grants

This scheme generates a series of very positive outcomes and officers are proposing an allocation of £160,000 with a higher contribution from applicants

- c) Officers are recommending putting in £80,000 into grants for communities with a similar amount of revenue

Action: Members supported the recommendation to the S151 Officer to fully commit to these recommendations and in addition prioritised project (d) also:

- d) A project to create a Broxtowe Local Enterprise Agency which could help generate income. A further commercial property possibly a Music Hub had been revealed as having a good business case, a mixed model of commercial and youth and community uses. It could generate up to £20,000 per annum for a redistribution into business support. Panel particularly wanted to create a studio with DJ room and meet the unmet demand.

3.5 Remaining Capital Projects Priorities for Project Inception Documents to return to Panel in June

- a) Nottingham canal -up to £50,000 proposed for works to improve the area owned by Broxtowe Borough Council as a tourism/ green asset for the Borough Council. An asset for the Borough.
- b.) Town Centre and visitor economy signage improvements including way finders, visitor signs and an interpretation board for Nuthall Temple - £17,000
- c.) Development of Eastwood Town Centre Improvements £40,000 to build on the Year three Programme work promoting the DH Lawrence Heritage and encourage visitors to the town.
- d.) Beeston Square band stand, at a previous panel, meeting a cost for that it was £14,000 and it should be something that can be delivered relatively quickly.

Action: the Panel agreed to request PID's for these projects.

ZD noted that some capital projects may drop out and that reserves need to be developed. Current total is £461,000.

The Panel also requested that the following projects which had been noted as priorities for which a PID should be requested:

- e.) Broadgate Park - Accessibility works, fencing, raised beds, polytunnel, sensory garden: £50,000

GB commented that there are other community gardens in the area these had raised funding other than UKSPF. Could the project be funded elsewhere? accessibility works, raised beds and a sensory garden seemed strong proposals so request a PID.

- f.) Additional Heritage Murals £16,380 further sites in Eastwood identified but time ran out last financial year, small public realm enhancements.

Moving down the list the panel also sore the following proposal as less of a priority but invited the sponsor to provide further information on:

- g.) Park Statues – one in each of the 4 towns £80,000 – Cultural services proposal mirroring a similar theme to the Holocaust artwork at Bramcote Park,

The Panel did not support the £40,000 for Beeston Square security features as it was out of scope.

3.6 Revenue projects which were prioritised for immediate commencement

- i. Community grants - exceptionally good range and should be continued – grants will be mixed capital and revenue so £80,000 has been allocated to this project to combine with the £80,000 in capital.
- ii. The Citizen's Advice Bureau Cost of Living Advisor – Agree a year four as has been an outstanding success and needs to continue £68,000.
- iii. A business support post to develop and implement some of the regeneration projects £55,000, combining the work of an EMC Chamber secondee and an interim funded in last year's programme. ZD stated that CEO would look to use urgency powers to get the recruitment started.
- iv. RCAN - Voluntary Sector CO2 reduction project £20,000 provides carbon reduction and organisational development support to community halls in Broxtowe, (further information would be welcome at a future panel).
- v. A £1,000 contribution to the Start in South Notts Portal a system dedicated to matching employers and job seekers.
- vi. £7,200 for Year 2 Rent for 47 Nottingham Road for the CEDARS Project (Broxtowe committed to pay this).

Action All projects agreed including

- vii. £10,000 for a feasibility study for a green energy project linked to the joint County & Broxtowe project for a site at Walker Street, Eastwood, this work will need to start soon to prepare bids.

3.7 Projects which scored well, Members minded to support, but require further clarification

- viii. 2 Food bank projects covering different aspects, at £5,000 per project. Members requested further information to understand the distribution of benefits between the schemes and agencies running them. In principle Members support this.
- ix. £25,000 for Transform Training replicating the best performing skills project from last year concentrating in Eastwood – nb need to clarify areas and activities employability, if possible, should be both Beeston and Eastwood.

- x. £25,000 for the Green Doctor - Went very well last year and will continue in the vein of last year £25k achieves 345 people reached and a 125 home visits.
- xi. £25,000 for Town Centre Initiatives across the 4 towns like activity last year.
- xii. £50,000 Retailer Customer Loyalty Rewards Programme – building on the car parking pilot reward programme. This will be done in two phases as a substantial sum committed and will follow on from a survey. If the parking reward is the dominant feature the PID needs to demonstrate that it is doing what is required i.e. making sure customers are using it to park for long stays, hopping on the tram with people shopping elsewhere.
- xiii. £3,000 for the Launch event for the Eastwood Virtual Reality project developed in last year's programme.
- xiv. £75,000 for the Futures programme following a proposal received from main provider last year roll-over contract. MR requested exploration of additional support for Mental Health needs.
- xv. £15,600 for Nottinghamshire County Council Business advisors to assist businesses and provide support possibly badged as BLEA.
- xvi. £8,876 for footfall software & hardware to pilot to see if it can replace the Geo-sense package which is several times more expensive.
- xvii. £27,500 for the events Team as requested by Executive Director, panel requested checking whether all activity is genuinely new, what it is for and if activities support output targets
- xviii. £1,000 for Lime bikes – they exceeded 450 users in the pilot in just a matter of weeks prior to the end of last financial year.
- xix. £15,000 for Business Sector Support activities continuation of activities similar to Food-Ex promotion for businesses locally and to promote Borough for Investment.
- xx. £2,300 for Sum-Up Grant funding software fees to administer community and business grants

Action: Officers to receive PID's the above projects in section 3.7 and to report back to Panel with these clarifications.

If all are funded in full there is £28,000 for further projects from the table in the accompanying report, this may increase if detail in PIDs does not concur.

4. Date of Next meeting:

The date of the next meeting was confirmed for 13 June 2025.