

To: Cabinet
Date: 14 September 2022
Report of: Scrutiny Committee
Title of Report: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	No
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Dr Christopher Snowton, Scrutiny Committee Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Susan Brown, Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Inclusive Economy and Partnerships; Councillor Imogen Thomas, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice
Corporate Priority:	Enable an Inclusive Economy; Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24
Recommendation: That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report.	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee

Introduction and overview

1. The Scrutiny Committee met on 11 October 2022 to consider a report on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 19 October 2022, recommends that Cabinet endorses the Oxford City Council UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, as submitted to central government on 01 August 2022; delegates authority to the Executive Director (Development) to take necessary decisions and actions to oversee the scheme and the resulting projects; delegates authority to the Executive Director (Development) to enter into contract with central government and to make non-material changes in consultation with the Head of Financial Services and the relevant Cabinet Members; and recommends to Council the establishing of Capital and Revenue budgets in accordance with the report.

Summary and recommendations

2. Councillor Imogen Thomas, Cabinet Member for Zero Carbon Oxford and Climate Justice, introduced the report. She explained that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund had been launched as a result of the Levelling Up White Paper to replace European Union funded structural funds.
3. Matthew Peachey, Economic Development Manager, explained that the Council worked in close cooperation with partner institutions across the City, including the universities, colleges, hospitals, and businesses, and was committed to continuing to do so in the Oxford Economic Growth Steering Board and more widely.
4. The Committee recognised the importance of this collaboration and leverage and sought to encourage the Council to give consideration to exploring and reporting on opportunities for even greater collaboration in the Investment Plan's delivery to benefit citizens across the City.

Recommendation 1: That the Council should explore and report on opportunities to cooperate even further with partner institutions in the delivery of the Investment Plan.

5. The Committee recognised the intention to support communities in areas of economic deprivation and emphasised the importance of that aspect of the Investment Plan. The Committee sought to encourage the Council to give consideration to exploring and reporting on ways in which the funding could be focussed on all those areas of the City which are amongst the most deprived.

Recommendation 2: That the Council should explore and report upon ways in which the funding can be focussed on all those areas of the City which are amongst the most deprived according to the Index of Multiple Deprivation.

6. The Panel recognised that the delivery of the UKSPF would be managed within the Council by an Oxford Shared Prosperity Fund programme board. In order to ensure democratic accountability, the Committee considered that consideration should be given to how the outworking of the Investment Plan would be reported to councillors and suggested that periodic reports should be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee as a matter of course.

Recommendation 3: That the Council should arrange for periodic reports to be submitted to the Scrutiny Committee.

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