

# Minutes of UK Prosperity Fund working group

Meeting Date: Tuesday, 31 October 2023, starting at 1.30 pm  
Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chair)

Councillors:

S Fletcher  
S Hore

J Rogerson  
L Jameson

In attendance: Director of Economic Development and Planning, Senior Economic Development Officer, Head of Financial Services, Head of Legal and Demoractic Services, and Chief Executive.

Also in attendance: Councillor K Spencer

## 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

## 2 UPDATE ON SUPPORTED UKSPF SCHEMES

**Townley Garden Event Space** – It was suggested that the project be completed using capital spend, and the town council could consider enhancing with lighting sound system etc. The spend was currently estimated and plans could be drawn up and shared via email. The working group recommended to Policy and Finance Committee the allocation of £100k UKSPF.

**Barrow Community Space** – the project was to create a small community building and space on land to the rear of the former pub. Members of the working group supported the project. The Director of Economic Development and Planning had some queries over the proposal which would be brought back to the working group. It was also noted that the Council needed to give permission as the landowner, and planning permission as the planning authority. The working group recommended to Policy and Finance Committee allocation of £25k of UKSPF.

**Whalley Education Foundation** – the project was to improve facilities at the former grammar school and seeking funding for a final extension. Planning permission had been obtained, along with quotes and a timetable for the works. Match funding was available from other sources and the project had been worked on for many years and was ready to go. The working group recommended to Policy and Finance Committee allocation of £100k UKSPF.

**Pump Track, Longridge** – The working group recommended to Policy and Finance Committee allocation of £60k UKSPF along with £60k of S106 monies.

The Leader suggested that the Working Group consider contingency schemes as the funding had to be spent within the timeframe. If projects were not deliverable within the timeframe they would need to be reconsidered.

## 3 UPDATE FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

**Primrose Community Nature Trust** – Members wished to support the project however the amount of funding required was considered too high for one project. It

appeared there wasn't an option to deliver the project in phases, and to part fund the first phase, therefore the project not was not currently recommended for approval.

**Sports Centre/ Community Park, Whalley** – further information had been requested in writing. It was believed that there were a number of outstanding actions, and the project was therefore not currently ready to go. Members felt that the £400k requested was a high amount for one project. The project was not currently recommended for approval and the further information requested would be brought back to the working group.

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#### NEW UKSPF SCHEMES

**Whalley Chamber of Trade** – project seeking £60k to support lease and enhancement of market and events space including incentives, infrastructure, and marketing. There was concern that the scheme did not meet the approved interventions for the UKSPF and the request from Members to allocate to Capital schemes. The Working Group did not recommend the scheme to Committee for approval.

**Ribblesdale Wanderers Cricket and Bowling Club** – project seeking 2 amounts, £125k for lighting columns for a path to encourage evening use of the facilities, and £8k for fence/retaining wall. It was difficult to clearly identify output and outcomes for the project, although the scheme did loosely fall within the approved interventions. Members did wish to support the project, which they felt was needed at the facility. There were also other competing projects in Clitheroe and the project may be suitable to apply to the Council's recreational grants scheme. The scheme was not currently recommended for approval but would be kept under consideration.

**Ribble Valley Sports and Recreation (Roefield Leisure)** – project seeking £80k to convert climbing wall room into spinning room for which plans and planning permission had been obtained. It was noted that Roefield was the only leisure facility in the Borough under public ownership and that the Council had supported the facility in a number of ways over the years. It was anticipated that the project could increase income and sustain the provision of public leisure facilities for the Borough's residents. Members felt that further information was required therefore the scheme was not currently recommended for approval but would be kept under consideration.

**Dandy Crowdfund** – project to erect a sculpture of a dog inspired by the pendle witches on land donated by Booths. The project had been granted some funding from the Town Council and Members felt it could be impressive and attract visitors. It was suggested that the project should apply for a Culture & Leisure grant therefore the Working Group did not recommend the scheme to Committee for approval.

**Clitheroe Cricket Club** - Project seeking £48k for clubhouse improvements including new clubhouse roof section, smart tech, solar panels, reconfiguration of the changing rooms, and new private shower and toilet units. The scheme was not currently recommended for approval but would be kept under consideration.

**Longridge Girl Guide Association Hut** – Project seeking £50k to demolish existing timber hut and rebuild including disabled access. The project had originally applied to the REPF and it was anticipated the project would total much more than the requested amount. There was also concern over timescales and the time limit for the UKSPF. Other alternatives including another site and a shared space were discussed however it was noted that the association required storage and therefore needed their own space to accommodate this. The scheme was not currently recommended for approval but would be kept under consideration.

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## EXISTING UKSPF SCHEMES

**Clitheroe Market** – The Chairman noted that the market was doing well and that understandably traders were concerned about changes that may affect business, therefore the project should be planned carefully. A report was going to Policy and Finance Committee on 7 November 2023 requesting that the Committee approve one of two options to include in the tender document. Resurfacing the bullring was thought to be essential and would require the casual stalls to be removed therefore there would be disruption. The project was anticipated to go above the £100k allocation.

**Website and promotion** – a report would be brought back to the group once quotes had been received. Five new circular walks and cycle routes were being created.

**Castle Street** - £300k had been allocated and the project was due to begin soon under a collaboration agreement with LCC.

It was noted that in order to ensure the money is spent within the required timeframes approval may sought from P&F Committee to reallocate funds between each trench of funding. The Working Group were asked to focus on the projects for consideration and Officers would advise Members accordingly.

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## REPF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Working Group reviewed the list of expressions of interest to date. It was noted that there were two 'B4RN' projects listed and that the total cost of the two would be a high portion of the allocation. There was also concern around funding towards the EV points feasibility scheme at Newton in Bowland, as an EV project was already underway for which a feasibility study had been funded from the UKSPF at a much lower cost than the amount being requested. The Working Group supported the projects in principal and a report was being submitted to P&F Committee on 7 November 2023 to approve which eligible projects should be invited to proceed to full application stage.

The meeting closed at 3.00 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, [rebecca.tait@ribblevalley.org.uk](mailto:rebecca.tait@ribblevalley.org.uk)