

RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL REPORT TO ACCOUNTS AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

meeting date: 14 FEBRUARY 2024
 title: INTERNAL AUDIT UPDATE – UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)
 submitted by: DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES
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1 PURPOSE

1.1 The purpose of this progress report is to provide an update to the Accounts and Audit Committee relating to the internal audit review of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

1.2 Relevance to the Council’s ambitions and priorities:

- To ensure a well-managed Council providing efficient services based on identified customer needs.
- To sustain a strong and prosperous Ribble Valley.
- To help make people’s lives safer and healthier.
- To protect and enhance the existing environmental quality of our area.

2 KEY MESSAGES

2.1 The UKSPF was launched by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). Ribble Valley Borough Council has been allocated £1,967,754 (plus capacity funding) over the three-year funding period (2022/23 to 2024/25). The DLUHC approved the Council’s Investment Plan on the 5th December 2022 with funding allocations as follows:

Allocation 2022/23 (£)			Allocation 2023/24 (£)	Allocation 2024/25 (£)
Capital	Revenue	Capacity	477,610	1,251,339
189,000	49,805	20,000		

2.2 The release of payments for the financial year 2023/24 and 2024/25 is dependent on the submission of a Statement of Grant Usage for 2022/23 and 2023/24 spend and corresponding reporting and monitoring returns.

2.3 The overall objective of the internal audit review is to provide assurance that to the best of our knowledge and belief, and having carried out appropriate investigations and checks, the conditions attached to UKSPF are complied with. The audit is focussing on the following sub-objectives:

- **Expenditure** – expenditure to date is valid, accurate, timely and made in accordance with conditions of the funding.

- **Procurement** – rules applied are in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and the Council’s local procurement procedures as included in the Constitution.
 - **Risk Management** – risks have been identified, managed and reported in line with expectations.
 - **Performance & Reporting** – reports (both internal and external) are accurate and reflect the current position.
- 2.4 The DLUHC has set out the requirements of the funding for all local authorities delivering the UKSPF. This is in relation to (but not exhaustive of) reporting and performance, evaluation and equality. The following links provide more detail in relation to key aspects of the audit and have formed the basis of our review:
- Assurance & Risk – [UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Assurance & Risk](#)
 - Procurement - [UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Procurement](#)
- 2.5 A detailed report and relevant findings, recommendations and agreed actions will be agreed with lead officers within the Council and Members will be provided with assurances following completion.

3 CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The Council has been awarded substantial grant funding under UKSPF. As would be expected, the government have stringent requirements around the management and use of these resources, applying to this council and any onward awarded bodies. There are key controls that the council must ensure are in place and the audit will help provide assurances around their operation. Returns will ultimately need to be approved by the Council’s S151 Officer.

INTERNAL AUDIT MANAGER
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DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND

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