

Minutes of UK Prosperity Fund working group

Meeting Date: Thursday, 11 July 2024, starting at 12.30 pm
Present: Councillor S Atkinson (Chair)

Councillors:

S Hore
L Jameson

S O'Rourke
M Peplow

In attendance: Chief Executive, Director of Resources & Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Economic Development and Planning, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Senior Economic Development Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J Rogerson.

2 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes from the meeting held on 13 May 2024 were approved as a correct record.

3 SALTHILL PLAY AREA

The scheme to refurbish Salthill Play Area had been noted at the meeting of Policy and Finance Committee on 18 June 2024. The play area was last refurbished in 2010 and it was suggested to allocate £100,000 of the UKSPF funding. Members agreed to recommend the scheme to Policy and Committee for approval.

4 BRUNGERLEY FOOTPATHS

The scheme to undertake footpath enhancements and improvements had been noted at Policy and Finance Committee 18 June 2024. The Director of Economic Development and Planning informed the group that a broad estimate for the work was £200k, which would not include the bridge or re-opening the section of path that was partially collapsed.

The requirement to spend the UKSPF allocation before March 2025 was noted and it was felt that the Brungerley scheme could be a good reserve project should other schemes not progress. It was also noted that the works would be required at some stage should it not be allocated under UKSPF. Due to the timeframe remaining for UKSPF it was suggested to go out to tender for the scheme now, enabling an informed decision to be made at the next Policy and Finance Committee. Progress on other UKSPF schemes would also be clearer at that stage.

The group agreed to go out to tender with a figure of £150k, and for the outcome to be reported to Policy and Finance meeting of 10 September 2024.

5 CASTLE STREET

The Director of Economic Development and Planning informed Members that the work was nearly complete and was ahead of schedule and under budget.

The Council's Senior Economic Development Officer had attended a meeting of the Clitheroe Chamber of Trade along with local businesses and market traders. It was reported that there was negative feedback directed at both LCC and RVBC. Businesses reported a lack of footfall during the work and were unhappy that it had been done during the summer months. A lack of engagement with businesses was also raised and the lack of response by LCC to emails. Members suggested that LCC share their plans with the Chamber of Trade going forward. A grand re-opening of the high street was also suggested however concerns had been raised at the Chamber of Trade meeting that this suggested the street had been closed.

The total underspend was yet to be confirmed. It was originally estimated to be approximately £100k, however LCC were to resolve some snagging issues and assess potential damage to two of the high street shops which would reduce the amount.

The Director of Economic Development and Planning had met with LCC and discussed extending the paving down to Market Place. Some paving was leftover however not enough to complete the extended work and therefore additional allocation from the UKSPF would be required if Members approved. The Director had discussed splitting the additional cost with LCC and Members felt that would be appropriate given that the high street was an LCC asset.

Members were mindful that a large amount had already been allocated to Clitheroe, and that other areas in the Borough also would benefit from a similar scheme, however the time restraints of the UKSPF were noted and Members wished to explore the opportunity whilst it was available.

Members agreed that the Director of Economic Development and Planning should negotiate with LCC to determine the financial implications of extending the work and include this in the report to the Policy and Finance Committee meeting of 10 September 2024.

6 WHALLEY COMMUNITY SPORTS HALL

The Director of Economic Development and Planning provided Members with the proposed site plan for the project for which the total estimated cost was £3,215,300. Discussions were ongoing with the project lead and the required planning application, however the Director had requested clarification on some elements and was awaiting this from the architect. Planning therefore had not yet been obtained and the amount being requested was unclear.

The working group did not recommend the scheme for approval at this stage.

7 WHALLEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Members had previously discussed the scheme and concerns had been raised that the application did not meet the Council's identified interventions for the UKSPF. The applicant had provided a breakdown of the elements in the scheme, the cost for each element, and the interventions they felt the scheme fell within.

Members discussed each element and felt that the car park did meet the requirements, but the other elements did not.

Members agreed to recommend allocation of £27,600, for the car park element of the scheme, to Policy and Finance Committee for approval.

8

BARROW PARISH COUNCIL

Members had approved an allocation of £25,000 to Barrow Parish Council to resurface the car park, mark out the parking spaces, and install electric vehicle charging points.

The original requested amount was based on a quote dated December 2023 for the provision of a base asphalt surface. The Parish Council had now been advised to install a drainage scheme which fed into the existing culver, and edging stones to prevent the asphalt breaking at the perimeter edges at an additional cost of £6,500. Furthermore, the Parish Council had requested an additional £20,000 to lay the final finishing coat of asphalt and mark the parking bays. It was anticipated that the resurfacing of the car park would be completed during the school vacation when the car park was less used.

Members felt the scheme was good investment on a Council asset and would be of real benefit to Barrow.

Members agreed to recommend an additional allocation of £26,500 for Barrow Car Park for approval to Policy and Finance Committee 10 September 2024..

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PRIMROSE NATURE RESERVE

The Director of Economic Development and Planning provided Members with details of the proposed scheme at Primrose Community Nature Reserve. The application requested £7500 to cover the cost of a scoping exercise for a number of proposed projects which included:

- Refurbishment of the sluice system – estimated cost £25k
- Link path from the reserve to Greenacre Street (opposite Holmes Mill) – estimated cost £90k
- Creation of a circular walk around the lodge – estimated cost £500k - £900k

It was anticipated that the scoping exercise would enable future grant applications to support to proposed projects.

Members agreed to recommend an allocation of £7,500 for the scoping exercise, subject to consideration by the Director of Economic Development and Planning that this fell within the identified interventions, and would enable future external funding.

10

REPF UPDATE

The Council's Senior Economic Development Officer provided the group with an update of the schemes which had been approved to date, full applications, and expressions of interest received. Most of the approved schemes were ongoing. A couple had been completed and the Council awaited receipted expenditure before payment.

Full applications had been received totalling £115,304. An application from Mellor Brook Community Centre was discussed however as it was for revenue and maintenance the group did not recommend it for approval.

Expressions of interest had been received totalling £125,918. A scheme to install EV chargepoints was discussed however it did not meet the criteria and would not be recommended to complete a full application.

To date, Committee had approved allocations totalling £413,093 leaving an unallocated amount of £20,587. Based on the remaining undetermined applications it was expected that the REPF would be overspent and the group discussed the option of requesting approval to utilise some of the unallocated UKSPF. The REPF schemes were felt to be smaller scale and more achievable and good way to ensure the UKSPF was fully utilised. Members felt it was important not to compromise the initial UKSPF allocations to settlements in Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley.

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AOB

It was queried and confirmed that training in farming ventures would not fit the required interventions.

The meeting closed at 1.45 pm

If you have any queries on these minutes please contact the committee clerk, Rebecca Hodgson 01200 414408 .