

TO:- Cabinet

Councillor Roger Lees BEM ,Councillor Victoria Wilson ,Councillor Rita Heseltine ,Councillor Kath Perry MBE
,Councillor Robert Reade ,Councillor David Williams ,

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Cabinet will be held as detailed below for the purpose of transacting the business set out below.

Date: Tuesday, 05 March 2024

Time: 14:00

Venue: Council Chamber, Community Hub, Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, South Staffordshire, WV8 1PX



D. Heywood
Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Part I – Public Session

- | | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1 | Minutes
To approve the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 6 February 2024. | 1 - 2 |
| 2 | Apologies

To receive any apologies for non-attendance. | |
| 3 | Declarations of Interest

To receive any declarations of interest. | |
| 4 | Approval of Governance for Distribution of Community Wellbeing Funds
Report of Corporate Director of Place and Communities | 3 - 8 |
| 5 | Allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding
Report of the Assistant Director Enterprise and Growth | 9 - 14 |

RECORDING

Please note that this meeting will be recorded.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO AGENDA AND REPORTS

Spare paper copies of committee agenda and reports are no longer available. Therefore should any member of the public wish to view the agenda or report(s) for this meeting, please go to www.sstaffs.gov.uk/council-democracy.

Minutes of the meeting of the **Cabinet**
South Staffordshire Council held in the
Council Chamber Community Hub,
Wolverhampton Road, Codsall, South
Staffordshire, WV8 1PX on Tuesday, 06
February 2024 at 14:00

Present:-

Councillor Rita Heseltine, Councillor Roger Lees, Councillor Kath Perry, Councillor Robert Reade, Councillor David Williams, Councillor Victoria Wilson

24 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 9 January 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

25 **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

26 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

27 **THE COUNCILS MEDIUM-TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2024/25 - 2028/29 AND 2024/25 BUDGET**

RESOLVED (1): Members approved the report together with the draft Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), projected expenditure for 2023/24, revenue estimates and capital programme for 2024/25 and proposals 2024/25 budget:

RESOLVED (2): Members pass a resolution in the form attached at Appendix 5 (noting that this is in draft form only for Cabinet as we await further information from precepting authorities)

RESOLVED (3): Members note the report of the Chief Finance Officer on the robustness of the estimates and the adequacy of the Council's reserves, attached as Appendix 6.

RESOLVED (4): that the Leader of the Council be authorised to make any necessary amendments to include any late information or to correct any errors or omissions.

28 **CAPITAL STRATEGY 2024/25 - 2028/29**

RESOLVED (1): Members support the attached Capital Strategy 2024/25 to 2028/29.

RESOLVED (2): Members note the document will be further revised (if necessary) further to the approval and publication of the Council Plan 2024-28.

29 **SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE HABITAT BANK**

RESOLVED (1): Members support that the proposed sites as outlined in Table 1 are progressed as BNG delivery sites, and should progress to the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) stage which will override any existing Habitat Management Plans.

8 February 2024

RESOLVED (2): Members agree discussions should continue with the legal team on the use of Section 106 Agreements and Conservation Covenants, with a view to registering the proposed sites on Natural England's Net Gain Register at the point of sale.

RESOLVED (3): Members agree that discussions should also continue with the legal team to understand the implications of registering to become a Responsible Body for the purpose of Conservation Covenants and to progress with the application to Natural England.

The Meeting ended at: 14:14

CHAIRMAN

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET - 5 MARCH 2024

APPROVAL OF GOVERNANCE FOR DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING FUNDS

REPORT OF CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF PLACE & COMMUNITIES

LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR ROGER LEES BEM LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

- 1.1 South Staffordshire Council has been successful in attracting Health Inequalities Funding (£236,000) from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) which is held by Staffordshire County Council. This fund combined with funding from the Council's Community is the Best Medicine Funding (£30,000), Community Wellbeing funding (£20,000) and the West Midlands Interchange Community funding (£65,000) has been launched as one 'Community and Wellbeing' funding package totalling (£370,000), to maximise the reach and benefit to residents and communities across the district.
- 1.2 The governance arrangements for determining applications for bids against this funding is detailed within the report and in summary a panel consisting of senior officers, along with Cabinet Members in respect of the WMI funding, will assess bids. Determinations on funding allocations will be made by the Panel (WMI funding) or the Corporate Leadership Team. Regular reports on funding allocations will be made to Cabinet Members and Wellbeing Select Committee for oversight and scrutiny.

2. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	Partnership working in the Staffordshire and surrounding areas
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) been completed?	
	No	
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	The Constitution and associated protocol provides that front line Councillors, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer will have five clear working days following dispatch of a notification of a proposed decision in which to call in for scrutiny, decisions proposed by the Cabinet or its members. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and associated protocol, any two or more members wishing to request that this proposed decision should be called in for scrutiny should do so by giving notice to the Corporate Director of Governance either by e-mail or in writing before the end of the fifth day specifying the reason or reasons	

	therefore. The Corporate Director of Governance will then call in the proposed decision and arrange for it to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee/relevant Scrutiny Panel. A copy of such notice must also be sent to the Lead Cabinet Member either by email or in writing by the end of the fifth day. This proposed decision will be confirmed and implemented or, where appropriate, referred to the Council for consideration at its next meeting, on or after the date to be notified upon circulation of the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet, unless called in for scrutiny by that date.	
KEY DECISION	No – governance relates to grant funding allocations only.	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	Launched February 2024 but no allocation decisions will be made until governance arrangements are agreed.	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	No	There is no financial impact on the Authority's approved budget and MTFs. This is a fully grant funded project with new resources received to be applied as detailed in the report. This report ensures that use of these funds follows a formal governance process to avoid any possibility of expenditure occurring outside the remit of conditions set.
LEGAL ISSUES	No	The proposed governance structure is appropriate in the circumstances to ensure that any criteria set out in the funding sources or other legislative requirements are met.
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES	Yes	The funding package provides an opportunity for local communities to benefit from funding to help mitigate some of the impacts presented by Health Inequalities by implementing preventative measures that tackle the root causes.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	No	Bar the WMI funding which can only be utilised in a set geography, funding will be available to providers to deliver programmes across South Staffordshire. However, some projects will be targeted to specific wards/parishes or localities to tackle health inequalities utilising available data and intelligence.

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3. INFORMATION

- 3.1 South Staffordshire Council has been successful in attracting Health Inequalities Funding (£236,000) from the Covid Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) which is held by Staffordshire County Council. This combined with funding from the Council's own Community is the best Medicine Funding (£30,000), Community Wellbeing funding (£20,000) and the West Midlands Interchange Community funding (£65,000) is proposed to be launched as one funding package totalling circa £370,000.
- 3.2 Dealing first with the Health Inequalities funding. South Staffordshire Council, via the Staffordshire Health Inequalities Directors' Group (HIDG), have been given access to

£236,000 to tackle health inequalities within the district. The funding is via remaining Covid Outbreak Management Funding (COMF), held by Staffordshire County Council.

- 3.3 The funding aims are to tackle health inequalities, have measurable impact/outcomes and improve the health of the local population.
- 3.4 There are several example Projects / Interventions which could be delivered using the available funding these include (not exclusive list)
- Enhancing public open spaces
 - Reducing social isolation
 - Preventing Falls
 - Increasing physical activity participation
 - Improving energy efficiency.
 - Play Provision
 - Reducing damp and mould
 - Cost of Living Support
 - Reducing homelessness
 - Healthy Eating
 - Improving community cohesion
- 3.5 This funding must be allocated by September 2024; it must also meet the original grant conditions of Covid Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) which are
- Public health action on addressing the impact of COVID-19 on health outcomes and health inequalities.
 - Public health projects aimed at directly addressing health inequalities arising from the pandemic.
 - Public health prevention projects intended to prevent or mitigate health inequalities or unequal impact on populations in future outbreaks.

South Staffordshire Council Community Wellbeing Funding

- 3.6 This funding is to support community and wellbeing projects that meet local priorities which are identified within the Place Narrative and Partnership plan.

Community is the Best Medicine Fund

- 3.7 The funding is to respond to increased pressures and the demand that is likely to arise from existing community support provision. The funding will be utilised for a variety of purposes including:
- To support and promote the provision of a network of warm and welcoming spaces for anyone in our community / communities to go to on a regular basis.
 - Bespoke support packages offered by community groups to those most in need. As

the cost-of-living increases (i.e. heating, food price inflation, housing costs, other costs, etc.) this will start to impact on our residents' daily lives. Visitors to these locations would be able to receive a friendly welcome, someone to talk with and be listened to, whilst having a warm drink. & food in venues that are equipped to offer this facility. Food and drink maybe offered free of charge depending on their individual's circumstances and the resources available to the provider.

- Befriending and support for those most vulnerable in our communities including those who experience rural isolation.
- To provide support packages that are bespoke for individual communities.

WMI Community Fund

3.8 As part of the West Midlands Interchange ("WMI") Project, a Community Fund has been created. A total of £100,000 (index linked) is available for community purposes through the Fund. This is released in two tranches £50,000 initially (index linked) and £50,000 (index linked) on the fifth-year anniversary of commencement of the occupation of the West Midlands Interchange.

3.9 Applications are invited for grants from the WMI Community Fund. The types of projects that will be potentially eligible for grants are:

- a) Schemes to enhance the public realm in the vicinity of the WMI Development (e.g. Improvements to parks/open spaces for the benefit of the community)
- b) Initiatives to maximise the use of the Community Parks to be provided at WMI by members of the public; (e.g projects to facilitate programming within the parks or projects to enhance connectivity to the Community Park beyond the WMI boundary; and
- c) Other community schemes and initiatives agreed by the Council and the WMI Developer as helping to mitigate the impacts of the WMI development.

Governance and determination of bids.

3.10 A Governance structure (at appendix 1) to determine the acceptability of the bids in line with the relevant criteria has been established and this report seeks approval of this. With all funding streams (apart from the WMI fund) a panel involving the Assistant Director for Partnerships and the Assistant Director for Community Services from South Staffordshire Council along with a Public Health representative from Staffordshire County Council will assess bids and then recommend to the Corporate Leadership Team Locality Board to approve.

3.11 These decisions will be reported to the Wellbeing Select Committee and Cabinet on a regular basis. With regards to the WMI fund the assessment panel will comprise the Cabinet Member for Business Enterprise and Community Infrastructure and the Cabinet Member for Community Service and Climate Change along with the Assistant Directors for Partnerships, Community Services and Enterprise and Growth (as set out in the Lead Members Decision of the 18th of October 2023).

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members to agree the governance for allocation of Community and Wellbeing funding.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

None

6. PREVIOUS MINUTES

None

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS



Final Individual
Decision - WMI Comm



Appendix A WMI
Community Fund.pdf

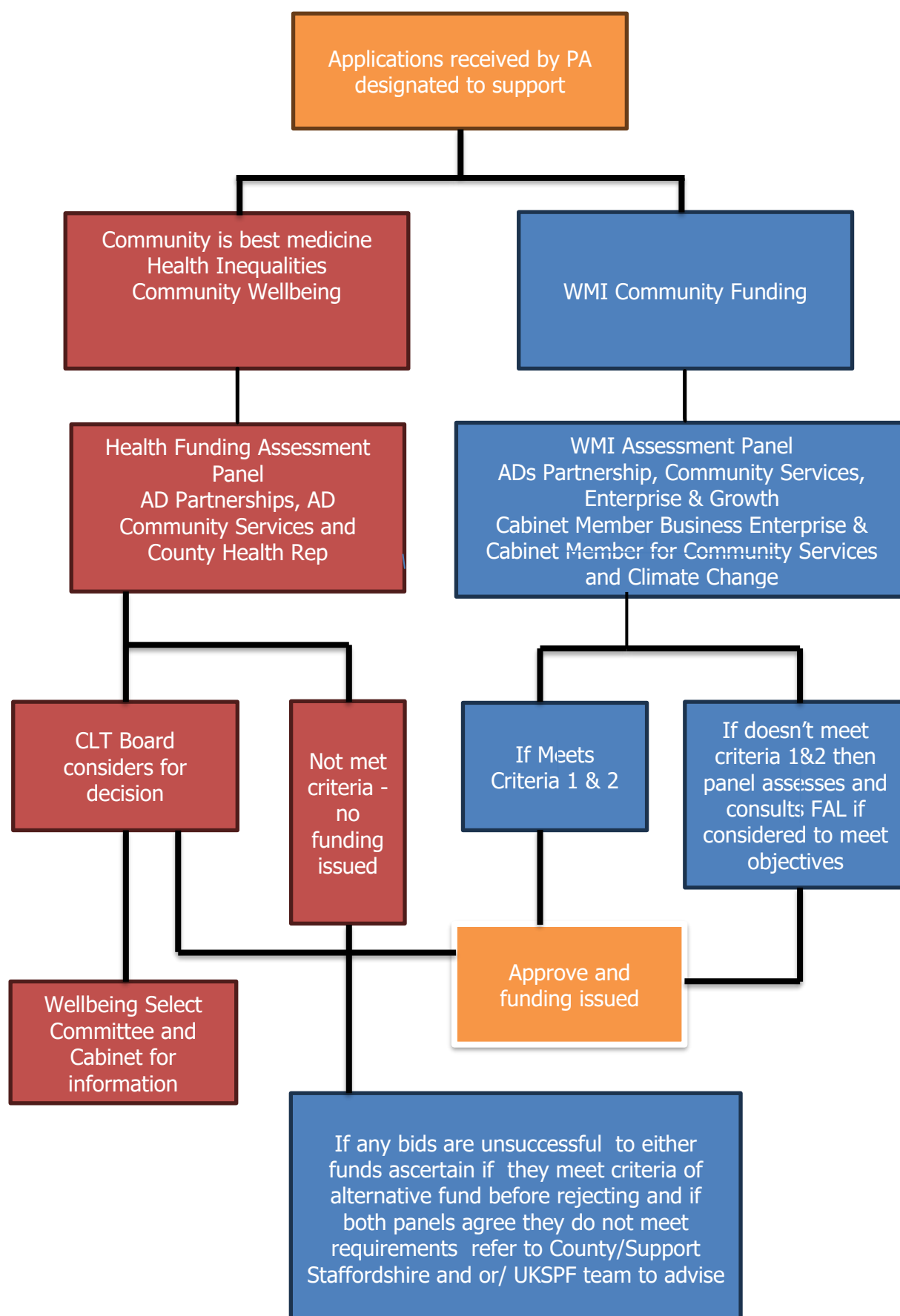


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Draft Fund
Application Form (006

Report prepared by: Assistant Director Community Services

Governance Structure

SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET – 05 MARCH 2024

ALLOCATION OF UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUNDING

REPORT OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ENTERPRISE AND GROWTH

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – COUNCILLOR VICTORIA WILSON, CABINET MEMBER FOR
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE**

PART A – SUMMARY REPORT

1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS

1.1 The report will seek formal approval from the Cabinet to allocate UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) resources to the following:

- £125,000 from a previously approved allocation for the improvement of open spaces to the 8 Council owned open space areas at various locations throughout the district.
- £99,475 from the residual unallocated UKSPF funds to the Edward Marsh Centre, Kinver, for underpinning work to the building and refurbishment of the changing rooms and disabled toilet.

2. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

POLICY/COMMUNITY IMPACT	Do these proposals contribute to specific Council Plan objectives?	
	Yes	Prosperous and Vibrant Communities
	Has an Equality Impact Assessment (Equal) been completed?	
	No	Each bid goes through a formal panel led evaluation process and equalities implications are considered as part of that process
	Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been completed?	
	No	N/A
SCRUTINY POWERS APPLICABLE	Yes	The Constitution and associated protocol provides that front line Councillors, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer will have five clear working days following dispatch of a notification of a proposed decision in which to call in for scrutiny,

		<p>decisions proposed by the Cabinet or its members. In accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and associated protocol, any two or more members wishing to request that this proposed decision should be called in for scrutiny should do so by giving notice to the Corporate Director of Governance either by e-mail or in writing before the end of the fifth day specifying the reason or reasons therefore. The Corporate Director of Governance will then call in the proposed decision and arrange for it to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. A copy of such notice must also be sent to me either by email or in writing by the end of the fifth day. This proposed decision will be confirmed and implemented or, where appropriate, referred to the Council for consideration at its next meeting, on or after the date to be notified upon circulation of the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet, unless called in for scrutiny by that date.</p>
KEY DECISION	No - This report deals with the allocation of grant funding (outside of the approved budget) as opposed to the incurring of expenditure or the making of savings over the financial threshold for a Key Decision.	
TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE	UKSPF funding ends in March 2025	
FINANCIAL IMPACT	Yes	There is no financial impact on the Authority's approved budget and MTFS. This is a fully grant funded project with new resources received to be applied as detailed in the report. This report ensures that use of these funds follows the strict conditions set out by DLUHC to avoid any possibility of spending occurring outside the remit of conditions set.
LEGAL ISSUES	Yes	The governance for the UKSPF grant funding streams is in accordance with government requirements and as set by Cabinet on 7 March 2023. Reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee forms part of that governance structure
STRATEGIC RISK	Yes	The delivery of our UKSPF programme has now been added to the corporate risk register. One of the key risks identified is to ensure that we're able to distribute the funding fairly and transparently against a set of funding criteria that is clearly set out and publicly available. The approved

		governance structure provides the mechanism to deliver that. Another key risk with the programme is to ensure we spend the allocation by March 2025, this report again provides the mechanism to allocate and spend our allocation
OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS & OPPORTUNITIES including climate impacts and health impacts if applicable		The UKSPF provides an excellent opportunity to improve the prosperity of our residents, businesses and the infrastructure of our communities. The nature of the funding also enables us to reduce the impacts of climate change and improve the local environment. The report outlines the specific opportunities the funding brings to the residents and community groups in South Staffordshire.
IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS	Yes	Perton, Wombourne, Great Wyrley Landywood, Cheslyn Hay, Penkridge, Bilbrook, Kinver and Brewood

PART B – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

3. INFORMATION

- 3.1 UKSPF is a central pillar of the UK Government’s levelling up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. This recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.
- 3.2 Within the context of the Fund’s objectives, each place has the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. Places were able to choose from investment in three investment priorities of communities and place, local business and people and skills. In addition, there are 41 interventions across the three investment priorities, each with their expected outputs and outcomes. We did not have to target all 41 interventions but they formed a menu from which we could chose whichever ones best met our local priorities.
- 3.3 South Staffordshire Council was allocated £3.82m (revenue and capital) across three funding years from 2022/23 – 2024/25 but had to submit an investment plan in Summer 2022. The plan needed to set out a degree of local context, what our priorities were, what outcomes and interventions we would be looking to target with the funding, and whether we had the capability and capacity to deliver this level of funding.
- 3.4 Our draft Investment Plan was put together focusing on existing Council priorities in consultation with Members and partners. The Plan set out the interventions we

would target with the funding and included projects in all three of the investment priorities as prescribed by the Government. Broadly they could be headlined as:

- A strong and effective package of business support across our business sectors
- Skills and support for access to employment for our residents
- Investment in our village centres
- Environmental improvements
- Decarbonising our assets
- Extending our Warmer Homes activity
- Active Travel improvements

3.5 Our Investment Plan was approved in December 2022 with the funding tapering up from year 1 (22/23) with £464k allocated, in year 2 (23/24) £928k and in year 3 (24/25) we have been allocated £2.43m.

3.6 In September 2023, Cabinet approved the allocation of UKSPF to several projects, some of which were more of an indicative allocation whilst specific proposals were being worked up. One of those indicative allocations was £125,000 allocated for the enhancement of open spaces, which would meet the funding intervention of the 'Creation of and improvements to local green spaces'.

3.7 The Council's Street Scene team have submitted proposals to utilise this allocation. The total cost of the proposals is £183,763 and the full £125,000 has been requested. The remaining costs will be met from existing Council budgets. The specific proposals are set out in the table below.

Location	Project description & cost
Perton Lake	£36k- Boardwalk improvements, creation of new Breedon paths
Wom Brook, Wombourne	£25.5k - Improved and new interpretation boards, Giggetty section fencing, Poolhouse wood carving sculpture, contribution towards bridge improvements.
Landywood, Great Wyrley	£15k - Improvements to entrance and existing footpaths
Meadowbank Grange, Cheslyn Hay	£19k- Improvements to existing footpaths, new lighting columns, gate and fencing
Swamp, Penkridge	£11.5k - Improved interpretation boards and improvements to existing footpaths.
Jubilee Wood, Bilbrook	£10k - Improvements to existing footpaths
Brockleys Walk, Kinver	£5k - Improved interpretation boards, new path to bridge, improvements to existing footpaths.
Barnfield Sandbeds, Brewood	£3k - Improved interpretation boards and fencing.

3.8 The report approved by Members in September 2023 also indicated that there was circa £1.2m residual UKSPF funding unallocated and available for organisations to bid for to deliver projects in line with the Council's Investment Plan priorities and interventions.

- 3.9 The first project to progress to a full application for the residual funding is for the Edward Marsh Centre in Kinver, which provides well used sports pitches, recreational facilities and a community centre, in the village.
- 3.10 The wider project is to protect the future of the building by replacing the roof, deal with some subsidence to the building and strengthen it for the roof replacement, upgrade outdated sports changing rooms into a modern accessible area suitable for teams and individuals to change and shower, and to increase the numbers of children participating in sport. These three packages of work are linked but independent. The UKSPF application is for the underpinning, and upgrading the changing room facilities, including the addition of a disabled toilet. The completion of this part of the project will then help to unlock significant levels of lottery funding to complete the much-needed roof replacement.
- 3.11 The total cost of the underpinning work and changing room improvements is approximately £142,000 and the Centre is asking for £99,475, slightly under the maximum grant available. The remaining costs will be met by the Centre and they have the funds already in place to meet that cost.
- 3.12 The Edward Marsh Centre is heavily used by a wide number of local community and sports groups. It's a volunteer led, not for profit charity and community centre, that has no external funding. All income is generated through user hire, community café, fundraising events, and successful grant applications. The Centre will also shortly be receiving the King's Award for Voluntary Service from the Lord Lieutenant for their outstanding community service.
- 3.13 The project meets two of the interventions set out by the government required to access the funding, namely, 'Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together, renovation/maintenance of existing sports facilities', and 'Funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups, improved perception of facilities or amenities and increased users of facilities or amenities'.
- 3.14 Both bids were evaluated by a Panel against how the projects meets the priorities of the UKSPF interventions, value for money, the need for the project, the financial health and projections of the applicant, and the delivery and sustainability of the project. In this instance, the three-person Panel was made up of two persons not employed by South Staffordshire Council.
- 3.15 In March 2023, Members approved a governance structure for UKSPF that required ultimate sign off of bids by Cabinet. Prior to being brought to Cabinet for approval, both recommended bids were evaluated and scored by the above-mentioned Panel and reported to the Corporate Leadership Team, who concurred with the recommendations of the panel for both bids.

4. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 4.1 The impacts of the bids have been considered as part of the application, evaluation and assessment exercise.
- 4.2 All successful applicants will be expected to sign a formal funding agreement setting out the terms and conditions for receiving the funding prior to the transfer of any grant funds.
- 4.3 Under the terms of the funding agreements, applicants will be expected to report back their outcomes and outputs on a quarterly basis. This will enable us to report progress to both Members and to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, which is required under the terms of our funding agreement with them.

5. PREVIOUS MINUTES

- 5.1 N/A

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 6.1 N/A

7. APPENDICES

- 7.1 None

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Cabinet approves the new allocation of UKSPF to the Edward Marsh Centre, Kinver, and confirm the previously agreed allocation of funding for the improvement of Open Spaces to this Council, for the open space improvements set out above in the report.

Report prepared by: Grant Mitchell, Assistant Director Enterprise and Growth