

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

LEVELLING UP FUND

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To give Cabinet an update on the Levelling Up submission made to Government.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Levelling Up Fund was announced at the 2020 Spending Review to support communities in realising their vision. The Fund will focus on capital investment in local infrastructure thereby building on and consolidating prior programmes such as the Local Growth Fund and Towns Fund.

Government have recognised that levelling up requires a multi-faceted approach, from supercharging our city regions, to supporting our struggling towns, to catalysing industrial clusters in the sectors that will drive the future economy – the Fund will deliver as part of a broad package of complementary UK-wide interventions, including:

- The **UK Community Renewal Fund**, which will provide local areas across the UK with access to £220 million of additional funding as they prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund due to launch in 2022. As EU structural funds tail off after 2022-23, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will succeed them as a programme distinct from the UKCRF and help to level up and create opportunity across the UK in places most in need in a manner distinct but complementary to the Levelling Up Fund, through investment in skills, enterprise and employment.
- The **UK Community Ownership Fund**, which will empower communities to protect vital community assets in their area by providing funding to take ownership over them, in support of the social wellbeing of local communities.
- The **Plan for Jobs**, which builds on DWP's Jobcentre Plus network, offering tailored support to help people find work, including through Youth Hubs, Restart, and Kickstart. The Plan for Jobs will support longer term recovery from the unprecedented economic impact of Covid-19.
- The **Freeports programme**, establishing national hubs for global trade and investment in every nation of the UK, promoting regeneration and job creation and creating hotbeds for innovation that will intensify the economic

impact of our ports and generate increased economic activity in areas in need of regeneration across the UK.

- The **UK Infrastructure Bank**, which will provide financing support to local authority and private sector infrastructure projects to help meet UK Government objectives on climate change and regional economic growth. It will also establish an advisory function to help with the development and delivery of projects.
- The **Towns Fund**, providing £3.6 billion to drive the economic regeneration of deprived towns and deliver long-term economic and productivity growth, by renewing and reshape town centres and high streets in a way that drives growth, improves user experience, and ensures future sustainability.

2.1 Through the Levelling Up Fund, it is expected Members of Parliament, back one bid that they see as a priority.

The number of bids that a local authority in the first category can make will relate to the number of MPs in our area.

We can submit one bid for every MP whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary. Every local authority can submit at least one bid. In our case where an MP's constituency crosses multiple local authorities, one local authority should take responsibility as the lead bidder and local areas should work together to designate that lead bidder.

The Fund will focus investment in, individual projects or a programme of projects that require up to £20m of funding. However, there is also scope for investing in larger high value transport projects, by exception.

Bids above £20m and below £50m will be accepted for transport projects only, such as road schemes, and can be submitted by any bidding local authority.

The first round of the Fund focusses on three themes: smaller transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas; town centre and high street regeneration; and support for maintaining and expanding the portfolio of cultural and heritage assets, in particular:

- **Transport** investments including (but not limited to) public transport, active travel, bridge repairs, bus priority lanes, local road improvements and major structural maintenance, and accessibility improvements. We are requesting proposals for high-impact small, medium and by exception larger local transport schemes to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, cut congestion, support economic growth, and improve the experience of transport users.
- **Regeneration and town centre investment**, building on the Towns Fund framework to upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites, **invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction, and bring public services and safe community spaces** into town and city centres.
- **Cultural investment** maintaining, regenerating, or creatively repurposing museums, galleries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces) and heritage assets as well as creating new community-owned spaces to support the arts and serve as cultural spaces.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 North Lincolnshire Council as a priority one area submitted 3 package bids, the bids are aligned with our Economic Growth Plan, emerging Local Plan and Towns Fund Programme:

Package	Constituency	Theme	LUF Ask
1	Brigg and Goole	Employment	£19,997,917
2	Scunthorpe	Town Centre Regeneration – Scunthorpe	£19,999,855
3	NL	Housing	£49,999,811
Total			£89,997,613

3.2 Support is in place from our three constituent MPs and we have an opportunity to submit a joint bid with NELC in the priority 2 round. NLC are acting as lead bidder with ERYC for package 1.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 N/A

5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)

5.1 Financial

There are no financial implications to report at this moment in time. All projects will be subject to Treasury Green Book full business case.

5.2 Staffing

N/A

5.3 Property

All property issues will be addressed through the formulation of Full Business Cases.

5.4 IT

There are no IT implications.

6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)

6.1 Nothing to report at this stage in the programme.

7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

7.1 We will undertake programme-wide level impact assessment, relevant project-level impact assessment and relevant Environmental Impact Assessments through Stage 2 of the programme.

8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

8.1 Consultation has taken place with all relevant stakeholders, prior to submission.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Cabinet notes the submission of our Levelling Up bids to Government.

9.2 That Cabinet receives a further report outlining the details of the 3 packages of work as the Full Business Cases are completed.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –

Timeline: Towns Fund Stage 2

