

Meeting of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Board



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Tuesday, 28 February 2023, 2.00
pm

Committee Members present

Councillor Philip Knowles (Chairman)
Councillor Helen Crawford (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Nikki Manterfield
Councillor Annie Mason
Councillor Judy Stevens
Councillor Adam Stokes
Councillor Sarah Trotter

Other Members present

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Hilary Westropp

Officers

Nicola McCoy-Brown, Director of Growth and Culture (Acting Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Alison Hall-Wright, Assistant Director of Finance (Deputy Section 151 Officer)
James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager
Patrick Astill, Communications Officer
Jordan Brooks, IT Help Desk Engineer
Jon Hinde, Head of Economic Development
Rebekah Sadovnikov, Programme Support Officer

11. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kelham Cooke and Paul Wood.

12. Declarations of Interests

Councillor Judy Stevens declared an interest in two items being considered under the 'South Kesteven Prosperity Fund' as she was the Chairman of the Friends of Deepings Library. She would take no part in or vote on any proposal for Deepings Library.

Councillors Adam Stokes, Nicola Manterfield and Annie Mason declared that they were Grantham Chartered Trustees, but that they had had no involvement in the submissions from that organization and therefore felt able to remain in the meeting, consider and vote upon the applications under 'South Kesteven Prosperity Fund'.

Councillor Philip Knowles declared an interest in an item for consideration under 'South Kesteven Prosperity Fund' as he was currently the Chair of Bourne United Charities who are the landlords of the Bourne Lawn Tennis Club; he would take no part in or vote on any proposal for this club.

13. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 were agreed as a true record.

Members present proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to vary the order of the agenda to allow the presentations from external bodies to be heard prior to the submissions to the South Kesteven Prosperity Fund.

14. Local Economic Forum (LEF)

Members considered a report on the terms of reference for the Local Economic Forum (LEF), which would aim to bring together local stakeholders in the District to provide guidance on the strategic fit and deliverability of the South Kesteven UKSPF Investment Plan and the emerging South Kesteven Economic Development Strategy.

The government had set the principles for the LEF in terms of decision making, and the membership. It was important to be able to administer the LEF and to set its parameters.

Membership of the LEF was outlined at 5.1 of the draft Terms of Reference. It was vital to ensure that any identified members of the LEF were fair and representative of their respective sectors; appointed representatives from the Council's UKSPF Board were initial invitees. It was suggested that the Chairman of the UKSPF Board also be the Chairman of the LEF.

The following points were raised during debate:

- One member suggested that some work needed to happen on the name of the LEF to differentiate it from the South Kesteven UKSPF Board.
- It was confirmed that the total number of members of the LEF was not set, and it would be for the UKSPF Board to set this number. The Chairman suggested that any members of the UKSPF Board interested in joining the LEF should submit their expressions of interest to the Head of Economic Development.

- Officers would take guidance and then conclude on whether interested parish and town council members were representative of the whole District.
- It was confirmed that representation at a local level was confined to parish and town councils and therefore parish meeting members were not eligible to apply. All parish councils would be written to and asked whether they wished to be part of the LEF.

The terms of reference were moved, seconded, and **AGREED**.

15. Presentations from applicants

Prior to the presentations from representatives from 'The Bread and Butter Thing' (TBBT) and the 'Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub' members moved, seconded and **AGREED** to exclude the public and press under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 due to the likely discussion of sensitive financial information of those third parties within their presentations and the discussion that followed.

Note: Councillor Ashley Baxter arrived during this item.

The following information was raised during discussion of TBBT:

- Preventing food poverty and supporting cost of living issues met many of the government indicators for UK Shared Prosperity Funding.
- The use of fast food would not be tackled directly by the group. Areas where there were no supermarkets within a reasonable distance (known as 'food deserts') would be targeted, as would 'food swamps' (areas where there were high concentrations of non-nutritious food outlets).
- TBBT largely worked on an in-person basis to enable direct contact with people. They would work out of schools and other similar buildings.
- The food distributed changed on a daily basis. There were around 100 hubs across the country, and TBBT operated in communities where they could add value.
- It was confirmed that any money granted to TBBT would be via UKSPF funding, and not from the Council's reserves.

The following information was raised during discussion of 'Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub':

- Any funding granted would be used directly for business support delivery.
- There were currently 11 advisors covering Greater Lincolnshire, with one in the South Kesteven District.
- Lincolnshire was a pilot region for the 'made smarter' programme.

- There were 38 'growth hubs' nationally. Business Lincolnshire was within the East Midlands cluster so took the lead on the Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire growth hubs.
- The District had over 7000 registered businesses, and Business Lincolnshire had worked with 2515 of these since 2015.
- Business Lincolnshire had an extensive PR and Marketing department.
- Business Lincolnshire were experienced in developing European Regional Development Funding (ERDF), as well as state aid. State aid was now referred to as subsidy control.
- A breakdown of the funds that Business Lincolnshire were requesting could be provided. An answer was not required immediately as this was not a bid for year one funding.
- Business Lincolnshire had a dedicated agricultural food advisor.

16. South Kesteven Prosperity Fund

Members considered applications for funding from the South Kesteven Prosperity Fund whilst still in private session as discussions were likely to include sensitive financial information.

The following applications for consideration and agreement were discussed by the Board:

Arnhem 1944 Fellowship

Further information was sought by the Board on this application on how it would benefit the local community, as well as options after the feasibility study had been completed.

It was moved, seconded, and **AGREED** that a decision on this application be deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

Stamford Civic Society

As there was money still present in the Community Fund for the coronation, it was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to move this application forward for consideration for Community Fund monies.

Note: Councillor Philip Knowles left the Chamber whilst the Board considered the application from Bourne Lawn and District Tennis Club as he was currently the Chair of Bourne United Charities, landlords of the Bourne Lawn Tennis Club. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor Helen Crawford took the Chair.

Bourne Lawn and District Tennis Club

Officers informed members that the club were not considered eligible for funding as they a private, member only club. However, officers could work with them if they wanted to return with a revised application that opened up the Tennis Club to the community.

It was moved, seconded, and **AGREED** that this application be **REJECTED**.

Note: Councillor Philip Knowles returned to the Chamber. Councillor Judy Stevens left the Chamber during consideration of the next two items as they both related to the Deepings Community Library.

Deepings Community Library

The application to run a History Heritage Day was eligible, and members moved, seconded, and **AGREED** the application.

Friends of Deepings Library

Members advised that this application should be deferred until a later date as there may be other alternatives to provide a 2 day pop up cinema weekend.

Members moved, seconded and **AGREED** that this item be **APPROVED** but requested further information on the event to be provided at the next meeting.

Note: Councillor Judy Stevens returned to the Chamber.

Swinstead Parish Council

Officers advised members that this was an eligible application; to erect deer fencing around the internal boundary of the orchard.

The application was moved, seconded, and **AGREED**.

Grantham Chartered Trustees – coronation picnic on the green

Officers advised that further guidance was required as to the powers of trustees, as although there were similarities to a parish or town council, the bodies were not the same and were funded differently.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to:

1. **REJECT** the application.
2. Ask officers to establish the eligibility, and rights of the Chartered Trustees applying for funding.

Social Committee of the Priory Church, Deeping St. James

Officers advised members that there was a sum of match funding for this project; a pop concert in the Church Hall.

The application was moved, seconded and **AGREED**.

Grantham Rivercare

The application to fund extra equipment for litter picking was moved, seconded and **AGREED**.

Grantham St. Wulframs

The application was to fund work on the spire at St. Wulfram's church that was necessary due to the buildup of pigeon droppings.

Members were advised that further guidance was required on whether UKSPF funding could be used for religious activities and maintenance of church buildings.

Members moved, seconded and **AGREED** that this item be **DEFERRED**.

Grantham Jubilee Church

The work to replace an old heater differed from the previous application as it was not repairing the fabric of the building. If this work was not carried out then activities could not take place.

The application was moved, seconded and **AGREED**.

Carlby Village Hall

An application to purchase and install loft insulation at the Village Hall.

The application was moved, seconded and **AGREED**.

Caythorpe and Frieston Parish Council

An application to automate the church clock. Officers offered to go back to the applicants to request a breakdown of the funding.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to **DEFER** the application to year two.

Long Bennington Parish Council

The application was to install gateways to the village. Members discussed the application, and moved, seconded and **AGREED** to **REJECT** the application, and send it back to the Parish Council with a recommendation that they provide more detail.

Brudenell Playing Fields Management Committee

To replace old doors at Baston Village Hall.

The application was moved, seconded and **AGREED**.

Bythams Woodland Trust

This application was to refurbish the wooden play structures.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to **DEFER** the application.

Stamford Arts Centre

This was an application for a community mural at Stamford Arts Centre. Although the Arts Centre was owned by the Council, it was the Arts Centre themselves applying for funding.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to **REJECT** the application.

Uffington Cricket Club

Uffington Cricket Club was a community group, and the project targeted the wider community rather than members of the club so the application was eligible.

The project provided a play area and a cricket net.

The application was moved, seconded and **AGREED**.

Castle Bytham

Members moved, seconded and **AGREED** that this item be **DEFERRED**.

Art Pop Up

An eligible application for funding to support a one-day art festival in Stamford.

The application was moved, seconded and **AGREED**.

British Red Cross Market Deeping

The application was not considered eligible as the Red Cross was a worldwide organization and did not focus on South Kesteven.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to **REJECT** the application.

Open Door Baptist Church, Market Deeping

Due to time constraints, the application for the Open Door Baptist Church was not considered at this meeting and would be heard at the next Board meeting.

17. Consider and agree applications following presentation from applicants

Members deliberated on the two applications for UKSPF funding from TBBT and Business Lincolnshire having earlier heard their presentations.

The following points were noted during debate:

- TBBT was investing a lot of money into the District, and was a project ideally suited to the purposes of the government funding. The set-up costs provided by TBBT were based on the from hubs in other locations around the UK. The delivery of this project would help build the case of effective UKSPF spend.
- South Kesteven would be hosting the regional distribution centre for TBBT which made partnering with them more appealing than if the distribution centre was based in another district.
- Residents needed help with the cost of living crisis.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to delegate authority to the Chairman on behalf of the UKSPF Board, in consultation with the Director of Growth and Culture, the Assistant Director of Finance and the Head of Economic Development, to review and confirm that TBBT's accounts were satisfactory before agreeing the allocation to TBBT.

The following points were noted during debate on the application from Business Lincolnshire:

- Business Lincolnshire would provide in person support and access to the workshops with the 5.2% contribution of UKSPF funding. Business Lincolnshire had to now bid into districts to receive funding. No large change to the services that Business Lincolnshire were proposed as services delivered previously would continue with alternative funding, if approved.
- More information was required on how Business Lincolnshire decided on the percentage of UKSPF allocation for each participating council to contribute.
- Members were advised that as 1 April there would be no specialist business growth support. Further, no risk or overhead with the growth hub.
- Growth hub met many of the UKSPF funding criteria and a main investment priority of UKSPF was 'Supporting Local Businesses'. Found further information on the Business Lincolnshire proposal from the Council Meeting in July 2022.
- Further information was required by members on the Business Lincolnshire proposal.

It was moved, seconded and **AGREED** to **DEFER** the decision on the Business Lincolnshire proposal until the following meeting of the Board.

18. Any other business which the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances decides is urgent

The next meeting date would be scheduled in week commencing 27th March 2023.

There was no other business for consideration.