

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



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Monday, 11 March 2024, 2.00 pm

Committee Members present

Councillor Philip Knowles (Chairman)
Councillor Lee Steptoe (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Ashley Baxter
Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing
Councillor Helen Crawford
Councillor Patsy Ellis
Councillor Bridget Ley
Councillor Virginia Moran
Councillor Sarah Trotter

Other Members present

Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren

Officers

Director of Growth and Culture, Nicola McCoy-Brown
Deputy Director Finance & IT, Alison Hall-Wright
UKSPF Programme Manager, Hannah Heath
UKSPF Officer, Favour Uweh
Democratic Officer, Lucy Bonshor

43. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Tim Harrison and Councillor Nikki Manterfield.

44. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Lee Steptoe declared a non-registrable interest in respect of the Grantham College application and left the meeting during consideration of the application.

Nicola McCoy-Brown informed the Board that she was no longer a Governor of Grantham College and therefore remained in the meeting.

45. Minutes from the meeting held on 19 February 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2024 were proposed, seconded and **AGREED**.

46. Update on Rural Applications

As part of the supplementary papers circulated, the Board received an update which confirmed that the Rural Applications that had been deferred at the February meeting of the Board would be going to the meeting scheduled for Monday 13 May 2024. Due to the amount of funding requested it was felt that more time was required to enable the Local Economic Sub-Group to determine the applications and to receive presentations from the groups. The applications had therefore been deferred to the May meeting of the Board.

47. Expenditure Profile and Heat Map

The Heat Map circulated with the agenda showed no change since the February meeting of the Board.

Due to population figures it was felt that the Heat Map did not tell the whole story, but the information it contained was helpful.

48. Summary of Main Programme Applications

A summary of the Main Programme applications had been appended to the agenda to enable the public to see what applications the Board would be considering and the amount of funding requested.

49. Exclusion of Press and Public

The Chairman made reference to the previous meeting of the Board and the comments made by the Monitoring Officer in respect of going into private session to determine the applications before them. The Chairman was still of the opinion that the meeting should go into private session. A discussion then followed in respect of excluding the press and public from the meeting at this point. The majority of the Board Members present felt that it was right that the applications were dealt with whilst the press and public were excluded. Some Members did not agree with this and argued the point, stating that in the past reference had been made to including a box on the application form which asked for permission to make the information public. The Deputy Director of Finance and Deputy 151 Officer stated that the information contained within the funding applications contained commercially sensitive information which if made public had the potential to give an unfair advantage to other businesses and therefore should be dealt with privately.

Following a wide ranging discussion, it was proposed, seconded and **AGREED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting.

(14:21 Councillor Steptoe left the meeting at this point)

50. Main Programme Applications

SKMP05b – Grantham College

Funding requested: £48,500

SKMP08 – Steadfast Training Ltd

Funding requested: £51,500

Joint funding requested: £100,000

Following the comments made at the February meeting of the Board a joint proposal between Grantham College and Steadfast Training had been put forward. Information on the joint project was circulated to the Board. The project sought to continue work supporting those individuals living in South Kesteven who were unemployed due to health reasons and move them closer towards sustainable employment and/or training, learning or volunteering opportunities. Grantham College would target those unemployed due to health reasons in and around Grantham, whilst Steadfast Training would do the same in Stamford, The Deepings and Bourne.

The Board discussed the joint application in detail acknowledging the match funding from both Grantham College and Steadfast Training. The Board were concerned that there was no certification given by Grantham College at the end of the period where as Steadfast did provide a form of certification. The number of people who would benefit in relation to the funding requested was also queried by the Board. After an in depth discussion, the Board **REFUSED** the joint application.

51. South Kesteven Prosperity Fund Applications

(14:51 Councillor Steptoe returned to the meeting)

The UKSPF Programme Manager referred Members to the papers circulated before the meeting which listed the amount of funding remaining under the relevant interventions for the applications listed within the agenda. She wanted to make the Board aware that the amount of funding being requested exceeded the funding remaining in some of the interventions. There was some flexibility for moving some of the funding within the interventions but this was very limited.

It was noted that there was another fund available the Village Hall Fund which may be able to accommodate funding requests between £2,000- £5,000 but the criteria for this funding was very specific.

SK-2132 – Great Ponton Parish Meeting
Funding request: £25,000

A funding application had been submitted to enable the conservatory roof at the village community centre to be finished. The original roof purchased had been incorrectly ordered. Following a short discussion, the funding request was **REJECTED**.

(15:03 Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing left the meeting and did not return)

As Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren was in attendance it was agreed that the Aveland History Group application would be dealt with next.

SK-2150 – The Aveland History Group
Funding request: £12,000

Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren spoke in support of the application which was for funding for a two-day family event honouring our Allies who flew in great numbers for Operation Overland in June 1944. A query was made in respect of the funding requested to which the UKSPF Programme Manager replied. Members were supportive of the request especially the local connection to the area and on being put to the vote the funding request was **ENDORSED**.

It was agreed that SK-2142 be considered next as it fell within the same intervention E6 as SK-2150.

SK-2142 – Wyndham Park Forum – Centenary
Funding request: £19,166.65

The funding was in respect of hosting a three day public event to celebrate the centenary of Wyndham Park in Grantham which opened in July 1924. Comments were made in respect of possible revenue for the Council as the park was owned by the Council. The Board were broadly supportive of the event taking place but felt that different ways of financing the event should also be explored. The Board agreed to **DEFER** the final decision to the Chairman of the UKSPF Board to make the decision following further information exploring a reduction in costs/funding.

SK-2140 – Great Gonerby Parish Council
Funding request: £6,500

A funding request had been submitted from Great Gonerby Parish Council for a new bus shelter on Grantham Road, Great Gonerby as the existing shelter was in a poor state of repair. The Board were supportive of the application which was **ENDORSED**.

SK-2143 – Horbling & Billingborough Scout Group
Funding request: £100,000

The funding request had been made following recent flooding to the building. It was proposed to reconfigure internal walls and refit the kitchen following the flooding and also to build a separate shower/toilet block. The Board discussed the application with concern being expressed over the drainage proposed as it was felt that this would be inadequate to stop further flooding and should be addressed.

It was felt that alternative funding should be explored and the Board **REJECTED** the funding request.

(A short adjournment took place between 15:32 – 15:42)

SK-2148 – Swayfield Village Hall
Funding request: £25,000

The village hall had requested funding to install solar panels on the roof of the hall in order to provide a renewable energy solution, reduce energy costs and reduce its carbon footprint. The Board discussed the application and it was felt that the Village Hall Fund should be explored to help with funding for the project. The Board were not against the funding request but felt that other funding should be explored.

SK-2151 – Jubilee Church (ACM) Grantham
Funding request: £10,000

A funding request had been received for three air source heat pumps as the existing units were not economical to run and frequently broke down. The Board discussed the request but felt that there was a lack of clarity in respect of where the heat pumps would be situated and due to the over application in respect of the fund the funding application was **REJECTED**.

SK-2152 – Memorial Hall Barrowby
Funding request: £45,000

The funding application was for car park renovations and an extension to include disabled parking bays at the Memorial Hall in Barrowby. The Board discussed the application but felt that other funding sources should be approached such as the National Lottery.

On being put to the vote the funding application was **REJECTED**.

SK-2153 – Great Gonerby Memorial Hall
Funding request: £19,914

The application was for funding to install solar panels on Great Gonerby Memorial Hall. The Board discussed the funding proposal and were supportive of the funding request but felt that alternative funding streams should be researched to reduce the funding requested.

The Board were **MINDED** to support the funding request with the **PROVISO** that alternative funding be explored.

SK-2156 – Langtoft Parish Council
Funding request: £17,769

The application was in respect of funding for a wheelchair accessible viewing platform, wildlife information boards and direction indicator finger posts for the Penfield Nature Reserve which was a 20 acre site on a former gravel pit which was situated at the eastern boundary of Langtoft. The area had been restored with

areas of water, grassland and tree planting between 2005 and 2010 to provide an area for recreation and nature.

The Board were very supportive of the proposal and **ENDORSED** the funding request.

52. Any other business that the Chairman, by reason of special circumstances decides is urgent

None.

53. Close of meeting

Meeting closed at 16:02.