



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

29 January 2024

Nicola M^cCoy-Brown, Director of Growth and Culture




UKSPF Business Grants and Decarbonisation and Sustainability Workshop Grant Allocation

Decision made by:	Nicola M ^c Coy-Brown, Director of Growth and Culture
Decision:	To allocate to the Chamber of Commerce a) £30k of the UKSPF fund in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 for the provision of grants to eligible businesses and b) an allocation of £12k to deliver a Decarbonisation and Sustainability Workshop in 2023/2024
Date:	29 January 2024
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	Not applicable
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	The Council's Financial Regulations allow Directors to approve all spend incurred by the Council within certain thresholds.

Contact

Alison Hall-Wright, Deputy Director (Finance & ICT) and Deputy S151 Officer

 alison.hall-wright@southkesteven.gov.uk

1 Background

- 1.1 To approve allocations to the Chamber of Commerce of £30k of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 for the provision of grants to eligible businesses and £12k to deliver a Decarbonisation and Sustainability Workshop in 2023/2024.
- 1.2 The approved UK Shared Prosperity Investment Plan for 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 includes a £60k allocation for the provision of Research and Development to support innovative product and service development within local business.
- 1.3 The Chamber of Commerce have developed a specific South Kesteven Business Growth Grants scheme for local businesses across the district. The scheme gives businesses the opportunity to apply for funding to support productive investment, service improvements, achieve business growth and diversification. Businesses can apply for a £1,000 - £5,000 grant for either capital or revenue projects, at an intervention rate of 35%.
- 1.4 To be eligible to apply for funding, businesses must have less than 250 employees, have an annual turnover of less than £40m, hold an active business bank account, be registered with HMRC or Companies House and have been trading for over 12 months from the date of the expression of interest.
- 1.5 The Chamber of Commerce has also applied for £12k funding from the approved allocation of £30k in 2023/2024 for supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment local business intervention. The funding will be used to deliver a Decarbonisation and Sustainability Workshop event to inform, educate and inspire South Kesteven based businesses to understand available and feasible opportunities to reduce their carbon emissions towards meeting net zero goals, as well as maximising existing and emerging local strengths in low carbon technology and goods and services to take advantage of growing opportunities.
- 1.6 The event would be held at Harlaxton Manor in March and host a variety of speakers, along with networking opportunities.
- 1.7 The proposals were both presented to and endorsed by the Local Economic Forum – Supporting Local Business Sub-group on 17 January 2024.

2 Decision

- 2.1 To approve the allocation of £75k to the Chamber of Commerce for the provision of grants to local businesses and to deliver a Decarbonisation and Sustainability Workshop event for local businesses.

3 Reasons for the Decision (s)

- 3.1 The proposals both meet the grant conditions set by Central Government and support the Council with achieving the interventions set out in the approved Investment Plan.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The proposals are within the funding allocated by Central Government and meet the conditions of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Financial Implications reviewed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

5 Legal and Governance Implications

- 5.1 The draw down of funding is in line with the aims and interventions of the district's allocation of UKSPF. The Director has the delegated authority to take this decision in accordance with thresholds set out in the Council's Financial Regulations.

Legal Implications reviewed by: Graham Watts, Assistant Director (Governance and Public Protection) and Monitoring Officer

Signed by: *Nicola McCoy-Brown, Director of Growth and Culture*

Date: 30 January 2024