

AGENDA

REGENERATION AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Thursday, 7 July 2022

Time: 7.00 pm

Venue: Council Chamber, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 3HT*

Membership:

Councillors Cameron Beart, Monique Bonney (Chair), Lloyd Bowen, Simon Clark, Richard Darby, James Hall, Angela Harrison, James Hunt, Peter Marchington, Paul Stephen, Sarah Stephen (Vice-Chair), Eddie Thomas, Roger Truelove, Tim Valentine and Mike Whiting

Quorum = 5

Pages

Information for the Public

*Members of the press and public may follow the proceedings of this meeting live via a weblink which will be published on the Swale Borough Council website.

Link to meeting: To be added.

Privacy Statement

Swale Borough Council (SBC) is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your personal information. As data controller we ensure that processing is carried out in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulations. In calling to join the meeting you will be asked to provide a 'username' which will be visible to those Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting and will not be shared further. No other identifying information will be made available through your joining to the meeting. In joining the meeting you are providing the Council with your consent to process your 'username' for the duration of the meeting. Your 'username' will not be retained after the meeting is finished. Please note you may use a pseudonym as your username however please be aware use of any inappropriate language will not be tolerated.

If you have any concerns or questions about how we look after your personal information or your rights as an individual under the Regulations, please contact the Data Protection Officer by email at dataprotectionofficer@swale.gov.uk or by calling 01795 417114.

Recording Notice

Please note: this meeting may be recorded, and the recording may be added to the website.

At the start of the meeting the Chair will confirm if all or part of the meeting is being audio recorded. The whole of the meeting will be recorded, except where there are confidential or exempt items.

You should be aware that the Council is a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act. Data collected during this recording will be retained in accordance with the Council's data retention policy.

Therefore by entering the meeting and speaking at this committee you are consenting to being recorded and to the possible use of those sound recordings for training purposes.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact Democratic Services.

1. Emergency Evacuation Procedure

The Chair will advise the meeting of the evacuation procedures to follow in the event of an emergency. This is particularly important for visitors and members of the public who will be unfamiliar with the building and procedures.

The Chair will inform the meeting whether there is a planned evacuation drill due to take place, what the alarm sounds like (i.e. ringing bells), where the closest emergency exit route is, and where the second closest emergency exit route is, in the event that the closest exit or route is blocked.

The Chair will inform the meeting that:

(a) in the event of the alarm sounding, everybody must leave the building via the nearest safe available exit and gather at the Assembly points at the far side of the Car Park. Nobody must leave the assembly point until everybody can be accounted for and nobody must return to the building until the Chair has informed them that it is safe to do so; and

(b) the lifts must not be used in the event of an evacuation.

Any officers present at the meeting will aid with the evacuation.

It is important that the Chair is informed of any person attending who is disabled or unable to use the stairs, so that suitable arrangements may be made in the event of an emergency.

2. Apologies for Absence and Confirmation of Substitutes

3. Minutes

To approve the [Minutes](#) of the Meeting held on 18 May 2022 (Minute Nos.

14 - 15) as a correct record.

4. Declarations of Interest

Councillors should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves or their spouse, civil partner or person with whom they are living with as a spouse or civil partner. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

The Chair will ask Members if they have any interests to declare in respect of items on this agenda, under the following headings:

(a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) under the Localism Act 2011. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DPI, the Member must leave the meeting and not take part in the discussion or vote. This applies even if there is provision for public speaking.

(b) Disclosable Non Pecuniary Interests (DNPI) under the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in May 2012. The nature as well as the existence of any such interest must be declared. After declaring a DNPI interest, the Member may stay, speak and vote on the matter.

(c) Where it is possible that a fair-minded and informed observer, having considered the facts would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Member might be predetermined or biased the Member should declare their predetermination or bias and then leave the meeting while that item is considered.

Advice to Members: If any Councillor has any doubt about the existence or nature of any DPI or DNPI which he/she may have in any item on this agenda, he/she should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Legal or from other Solicitors in Legal Services as early as possible, and in advance of the Meeting.

5.	Handover Report	5 - 8
6.	Procurement of Provision of RNLI Lifeguard Service	9 - 14
7.	UK Shared Prosperity Fund	15 - 22
8.	Forward Decisions Plan	23 - 24

Issued on Monday, 27 June 2022

The reports included in Part I of this agenda can be made available in **alternative formats**. For further information about this service, or to arrange for special facilities to be provided at the meeting, **please contact DEMOCRATIC SERVICES on 01795 417330**. To find out more about the work of the Cabinet, please visit www.swale.gov.uk

**Chief Executive, Swale Borough Council,
Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT**

Regeneration and Property Committee	
Meeting Date	07 July 2022
Report Title	Handover Report: Executive Model to Committee System
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Joanne Johnson Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property
Lead Officer	
Classification	Open
Recommendations	The committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report is intended to ensure that all Regeneration and Property committee members share a common understanding of the committee's remit, including the services it has oversight of, and of current issues and major pieces of work relevant to that remit. Similar reports have been or will be provided to all of the new service committees.

2 Background

- 2.1 Council agreed unanimously in October 2021 to move to a committee system of governance from the 2022/23 municipal year, and the new constitution was adopted in April 2022. The constitution establishes five politically-balanced service committees to undertake the decision-making on what would previously have been executive matters.
- 2.2 The Regeneration and Property committee has a number of areas of responsibility on which it is able to make decisions under delegation from Council. These are set out in the constitution as follows:
- regeneration
 - economic development
 - town centres and markets
 - visitor economy
 - property asset management, including beach huts
 - learning and skills
 - sea fronts, harbours and quays
- 2.3. The majority of these functions are delivered by the Regeneration, Economic Development and Property service, although beach huts, sea fronts, harbours and quays are delivered by Environment and Leisure.
- 2.4. The Regeneration, Economic Development and Property service also delivers some functions which are within the remit of other Committees, such as Active Travel (Environment Committee) and support for local culture, e.g. Platinum Jubilee grants, Queen's baton relay (Community Committee)
- 2.5. The Regeneration, Economic Development and Property service is made up of three teams as follows:
- **Economic Development and External Funding:**
4.6FTE. Two vacant posts as at 1 July 2022.

- **Destination and Place:**
2FTE. One vacant post as at 1 July 2022.

- **Property:**
10.3FTE (including 7.7FTE print room, facilities and cleaning staff). Supported currently by a fixed-term Interim Property Manager.

2.6. Key management contacts are shown below:

- Head of Regeneration, Economic Development & Property – Joanne Johnson
- Head of Environment & Leisure – Martyn Cassell
- Economic Development & External Funding Manager – Kieren Mansfield
- Destination & Place Manager – Lyn Newton
- Interim Property Manager – Jeremy Pilgrim

2.7 The 'Proposals' section below provides background information on the committee's areas of responsibility.

3 Proposals

Corporate plan objectives

3.1 The Corporate Plan 2020-2023, which was adopted by Council in October 2020, includes 20 strategic objectives grouped under four priorities. The Regeneration and Property Committee will support a number of the Corporate Plan 2020 - 2023 objectives. The most relevant of these are:

Priority	Objective
1 Building the right homes in the right places and supporting quality jobs for all	1.4 Develop a new economic improvement strategy to diversify the borough's economy, expand the range of employment opportunities, and boost wages so that payment of the UK living wage becomes the norm.
	1.5 Support residents and businesses to improve the borough's vocational skill levels, and vigorously pursue all opportunities to enhance the provision and accessibility of further and higher education for Swale residents at all stages of their careers.
	1.6 Implement the visitor economy framework to increase investment, address new visitor demands and grow the value of the sector to the Swale economy.
2 Investing in our environment and responding positively to global challenges	2.4 Recognise and support our local heritage to give people pride in the place they live and boost the local tourism industry.

Key Policies and Strategies

3.2 One of the ways in which the committee system differs from the executive model is the absence of individual member decision-making and the need - which to some extent flows from that - for members to direct the activities of the organisation by means of policies and strategies. While it will be for the Policy and Resources Committee to adopt all of the council's policies and strategies which are not reserved to Full Council, the Regeneration and Property Committee will take a particular

interest in those policies and strategies which relate to matters within its own remit, including:

- [Swale Economic Improvement Plan 2020-2023](#)
- [Swale Visitor Economy Framework and Action Plan 2018-2023](#)
- Beach Hut Policy

Current issues and large pieces of work

3.3 Recent highlights include:

- Award of over £50m business grants from March 2020 – 2022, including development of a Clean Growth grant.
- Sheerness Clock Tower restoration complete
- Five UK Community Renewal Fund projects awarded funding, totalling £1.59m
- Delivery of Welcome Back Fund investment totalling £118k.
- Salix grant funding secured (£273k) to support restoration of Master's House
- Near completion of Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) works at Queenborough and Rushenden, on schedule and to budget.
- Imminent letting of final units at Bourne Place

3.4 Current workload includes:

- Development and submission of the £20m Sheerness Revival Levelling-Up Fund bid (by 6 July, decision due in the autumn)
- Development, submission and delivery of the £1.169m UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan (plan submission 1 August 2022, delivery ongoing to 31 March 2025)
- Completion of Master's House refurbishment (due 31 August 2022)
- Completion of Swale House improvement works – roofing, insulation and windows (due late 2022 / early 2023)
- Finalisation of the town centre regeneration schemes (including St Michael's church wall, Faversham wayfinding and Faversham pedestrianisation).
- Conclusion of the 22/23 service restructure (including recruitment to vacant posts)
- Ongoing promotion / optimisation of Visit Swale
- Snagging for Bourne Place / town centre schemes
- High Streets Task Force engagement with Sheerness town centre
- Development of Beach Hut Policy and future expansion programme
- Blue Flag applications
- Seafront concession opportunities and management of existing
- Barton's Point Coastal Park Concession EOI

3.5. Significant issues include:

- Need to promote appropriate opportunities to provide a mix of employment land to accommodate future business requirements across the borough
- Entrenched issues relating to the quality of secondary school provision on the Isle of Sheppey

3.6. Baseline data includes:

- The current claimant count rate in Swale (April 2022) is 4% which is a small reduction on the rate seen in March 2022. The claimant count represents the number of people claiming an out of work benefit such as jobseekers' allowance or universal credit.
- Sheppey has a claimant count of 5.6%, which is the highest of the area committees in Swale and has decreased slightly since March 2022.

Sittingbourne at 4.3% and the Eastern area at 3.6% have also seen small decreases. The Western area at 2.5% has stayed the same since the previous month.

- Of the 3,865 claimants in Swale, 2,190 were male and 1,675 were female.
- Swale youth unemployment (18-24) is the age group currently with the highest proportion of claimants at 6.1%. The rate has seen a decrease since March 2022 of -0.2%.
- In the English indices of multiple deprivation, Swale is overall the 56th most deprived borough, out of 317 lower-tier authority areas. On the education and skills domain, however, Swale is the 28th most deprived, making this one of the borough's worst-scoring areas. Over a quarter of Swale's lower super output areas are among the 10% worst off nationally on the education and skills domain. These low average skill levels are correlated with the borough's low average wages compared to the rest of Kent and the wider South-East.
- From the latest available data, there were 5,045 businesses in Swale in 2021.
- The business birth rate was 10.6% in 2020 which was a 6.5% decrease on 2019. The South East rate was 10.9% and saw a 7.4% decrease, while nationally the rate was 12% and saw an 8.4% decrease. The rates represent the number of new businesses as a percentage of total active companies.
- The one-year survival rate for Swale businesses was 89.4% in 2020, which was a 4.7% decrease on 2019's results. The South East Region was at 89.4% following a small decrease of 0.9%, and nationally the number was 88.4% after a 1% decrease since 2019.
- The three-year survival rate for Swale businesses was at 57.3% in 2020, after a 1.2% increase since 2019. The South East Region was at 58.5% having seen a 0.7% increase since 2019, and nationally there had been an increase of 1.2% to 53.1% in 2020.

4 Alternative Options

4.1 As the report is for noting only, there are no alternative options.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

5.1 As the report is for noting only, no consultation has been undertaken or is proposed.

6 Implications

6.1 As the report is for noting only, there are no implications arising from the recommendations.

7 Appendices

7.1 There are no appendices.

8 Background Papers

- [Corporate Plan 2020-2023](#)
- [Levelling-Up Fund prospectus](#)
- [Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus](#)
- [Monthly unemployment statistics – Kent and districts](#)
- [Property Asset Strategy](#)

Regeneration & Property	
Meeting Date	7 July 2022
Report Title	Procurement of Provision of RNLI Lifeguard Service
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Martyn Cassell, Head of Environment and Leisure
Lead Officer	Mike Knowles, Seafront and Engineering Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	1. That the Committee approves the extension of the current Lifeguarding Contract with the Royal National Lifeboat Institution from 1 st January 2023 for a period of 2 Years at a predicted total value of £106,000.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 The current contract for the Provision of Lifeguard Services by Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) expires on 31 December 2022, with a provision to extend the contract term for a further two years, up to 31 December 2024.
- 1.2 This report seeks Committee approval for the two-year extension to the contract to be implemented at the end of the initial contract term on 31 December 2022.

2 Background

- 2.1. The RNLI is the market leader on providing beach lifeguards in the UK. RNLI lifeguards are qualified in lifesaving and casualty care, highly trained, strong, and fit. They must be able to swim 200m in under 3 ½ minutes and run 200m on sand in under 40 seconds.
- 2.2 RNLI lifeguards monitor sea conditions and set up the appropriate flags, watch visitors to the beach and offer safety advice to beach users. All RNLI lifeguards are equipped not only with the best training but the best equipment enabling them to deal with any situation.
- 2.3 The contract with the RNLI commenced on 1 April 2017 and covers the provision of lifeguard services on our three bathing beaches at Leysdown, Minster and Sheerness. Due to the requirement for specialist training and observation of best practice in lifeguarding principles and all applicable law and regulations, it was deemed most appropriate to issue a VEAT Notice to award the contract to the RNLI. This set out an intention to award the contract direct to the RNLI and was published on the EU procurement portal.
- 2.4 Without suitable alternative organisations or contractors available to deliver this specialist service, this was agreed as the most appropriate route, and no appeals or challenges were lodged against the VEAT Notice.

- 2.5 The tender award criteria for the current contract would have been based on a 60% Price and 40% quality weighting, but due to no other organisations submitting a tender it was a direct contract award. Another important consideration of using the RNLI is the fact that as a charity they provide a substantial amount of financial assistance to the provision of the lifeguarding service equipment, and local authorities pay a contribution towards the staff costs only through the contract. This is how you see the considerable lifeguard huts, powered watercraft, and lifesaving equipment for a low cost.
- 2.6 Performance of the contract has been strong. Their provision of staffing and equipment is unrivalled, they regularly report to SBC officers through contract meetings and there have been no major accidents under their stewardship.
- 2.7 Having a lifeguarding service is a key part of the Blue Flag criteria.
- 2.8 A recent meeting took place with Officers and representatives from the RNLI, to discuss future provision of the Lifeguarding Service in Swale. Several new initiatives and proposals were agreed in principle for a future contract, including exploring options to make the service more commercially viable, and improved initiatives to promote local training and recruit local staff.
- 2.9 To allow the RNLI to further develop these new initiatives and ideas, it was provisionally agreed that the current contract should be extended for the additional two-year period. This will ensure the continuation of a high-quality lifeguarding service on our bathing beaches and provide the necessary period for RNLI to develop their service further in preparation for a new contract to commence in 2025.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 The Committee is requested to approve the proposal to extend the current contract for a further two years using the option detailed in the contract.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 As detailed above, due to the specialist nature of the lifeguarding service, alternative service providers have not been identified through our market research. The majority of neighbouring local authorities use the services of the RNLI, except for Canterbury City Council who run an in-house service. This is possible due to the significant size of the Coastal Team at Canterbury. For Swale, the annual cost of operating the service estimated at £105,000 (based on 2022 dates). There is currently no resource or funding identified for the option of an in-house service, so if members were to choose this option, this would need to be identified through the budget setting process.

- 4.2 The recent pandemic, and the substantial challenges it presented which led to no lifeguard service for a season, highlighted that there are no suitable alternative service providers who can deliver this specialist provision, and whilst a security company was able to provide staff presence on our beaches during this time, they were clearly not trained or equipped to the high standard of the RNLI and would not have been in a position to provide a reactive service to emergency water or coast-based situations.
- 4.3 Using alternative service providers would result in a substantial increase in costs to the local authority, as all costs would need to be met.
- 4.4 We could cease to operate a lifeguarding service completely. This would bring an increased risk to the authority as was seen recently with other Councils that did not provide the service. It would almost inevitably stop the Council from applying for Blue Flags at the beaches.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 As stated above, a meeting has taken place with Officers of Swale Borough Council, including the appropriate Head of Service, and a range of representatives at the RNLI to discuss current and future lifeguarding arrangements for our three bathing beaches in Swale.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Appointing a trusted and nationally recognised charity such as the RNLI who meets a good quality standard and provides good value for money contributes towards all the corporate priorities as it ensures that the lifeguarding provision is undertaken in a professional and effective way. Corporate Plan objective to implement the visitor economy framework to increase investment, address new visitor demands and grow the value of the sector to the Swale economy.
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>The anticipated spend on the two-year contract extension is £52,000 for the year 2023 and £54,000 for 2024 without VAT. It should be noted that these calculations are based on the annual RPI and have used predicted figures for future years. These figures give a total anticipated spend on the two-year proposed extension of £106,000.</p> <p>As stated above, the figures are contributions to the RNLI towards the total cost of providing this service.</p>

	<p>The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 as amended (“TUPE”) do not apply to this contract and the implications of this have been addressed in the procurement process.</p>
<p>Legal, Statutory and Procurement</p>	<p>The contract has been drawn up by the RNLI to ensure consistency nationally and has been checked and approved by Mid Kent Legal Services and Finance.</p> <p>The extension is within the scope of Swale’s Contract Standing Orders.</p>
<p>Crime and Disorder</p>	<p>Lifeguards play a role in reducing anti-social behaviour management at our beaches.</p>
<p>Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>The lifeguarding service provides a safer environment for both visitors and residents using the beach facilities at our three bathing beaches, by providing fully trained and well-equipped staff on patrol on all three of our beaches during the summer season.</p>
<p>Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults</p>	<p>All lifeguards are DBS checked by the RNLI as part of their recruitment and training procedures.</p>
<p>Risk Management and Health and Safety</p>	<p>As part of the contract, the RNLI undertake a detailed Risk Assessment of every patrolled beach at the beginning of each season to identify and assess the risks posed by potential hazards and specify a series of control measures to mitigate against the identified risks. This helps the Council to measure and understand the risks on our beaches.</p>
<p>Equality and Diversity</p>	<p>None identified</p>
<p>Privacy and Data Protection</p>	<p>None identified</p>

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

8 Background Documents

Link to Original Cabinet Report:

<https://ws.swale.gov.uk/meetings/documents/s7368/Beach%20Lifeguard%20Service%20Award%20of%20contract%20-%20February%202017%20FINAL.pdf>

This page is intentionally left blank

Regeneration and Property Committee	
Meeting Date	7 th July 2022
Report Title	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
EMT Lead	Emma Wiggins, Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods
Head of Service	Joanne Johnson, Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property
Lead Officer	Kieren Mansfield, Economic Development and External Funding Manager
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree to prioritise interventions and outcomes which best support delivery of the Council's adopted strategy framework and agreed member priorities 2. To agree that we seek to broadly allocate funding across Faversham, Sittingbourne and the Isle of Sheppey, taking account of population and deprivation on a 70:30 basis. 3. To agree to the political membership of the Member Working Group and the Local Panel. 4. To delegate the submission of the final Local Investment Plan to the Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property, in consultation with the Chair of the Regeneration and Property Committee

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out details regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), from which Swale Borough Council has received a funding allocation of £1,169,496. To access this funding the Council must produce a Local Investment Plan, to be submitted to Government no later than 1st August 2022.
- 1.2 This report makes recommendations as to the basis on which local priorities relevant to the UKSPF are chosen and put forward and seeks delegated authority for the final Local Investment Plan to be submitted.

2 Background

- 2.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a £2.6bn government fund covering financial years 22/23 to 24/25 and is the replacement for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).

- 2.2 Local Authorities have been allocated funding based on a combination of population size (70%) and deprivation measures, previously used to allocate Community Renewal Funding (30%). The minimum funding allocation is £1m. The total allocation to Swale is **£1,169,496**.
- 2.3 To access this funding allocation, Swale Borough Council must produce a Local Investment Plan, based around three investment priorities:
- communities and place
 - supporting local business
 - people and skills
- 2.4 There is no recommended split across these priorities, with areas invited to balance investment according to local need and opportunity. However, investment in ‘people and skills’ is not to take place before 24/25¹. Investment should also demonstrate contribution to net zero and nature recovery objectives.
- 2.5 The guidance provided by Government includes a wide-ranging ‘Interventions List’, with a menu of actions, outcomes and outputs local authorities can include in their Investment Plan. These can be found [here](#) and will form the basis upon which an agreed plan is monitored.
- 2.6 Local authorities have flexibility over how they choose to deliver the investment, including competitions for grant funding (the default approach), procurement, commissioning or delivering activity in-house. Shared investment with other local authorities (districts, unitaries or counties) is also strongly encouraged, particularly for the *people and skills* and *business support* objectives.
- 2.7 Match funding is not required, although lead authorities are strongly encouraged to consider match funding and leverage options when selecting *communities and place* and *business support* interventions.
- 2.8 The minimum split between revenue and capital investment in the guidance is set out in the table below. There is scope for capital costs to form a higher proportion of total investment but whilst there is no absolute limit set, it is likely Government will be looking for Investment Plans to have a bias towards revenue-based interventions.

Year	Core UKSPF: revenue	Core UKSPF: minimum capital
2022-23	90%	10%
2023-24	87%	13%
2024-25	80%	20%

¹ With the exception that local authorities are permitted to fund targeted *people and skills* provision in 2022-23 and 2023-24 where this is a continuing priority for 2024-25 and may be at significant risk of ending due to the tail off of EU funds.

2.9 The table below shows how the funding is profiled over the three years. Taking this and the minimum revenue/capital split indicated above, the following table shows the indicative levels of spend to which the Swale's Local investment Plan must commit.

Financial Year	Funding available	Revenue	Capital
22/23	£141,929	£127,736	£14,193
23/24	£283,858	£246,957	£36,901
24/25	£743,709	£594,968	£148,741

2.10 Payment will be made annually in advance. Lead authorities will receive a Grant Determination Letter and Memorandum of Understanding setting out requirements and obligations. Government expect investments and outputs to be achieved in line with the Investment Plan, on time and in-year. They reserve the right to withhold or delay payment in response to performance or delivery issues and any underspends will need to returned at the end of each financial year.

2.11 Up to 4% of the total allocation can be used for administration including assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing engagement. This generates a maximum administration budget of £46,780 over the three years. However, if it can be demonstrated that a higher proportion of the funding allocation is required for this purpose then a case can be made in the Local Investment Plan but would be subject to agreement.

The process for developing Local Investment Plans

2.12 The timescales for the UKSPF are as follows:

- Investment plan submissions window: 30 June 2022 - 1 August 2022
- First payments to lead local authorities: from October 2022
- Funding period: April 2022 - March 2025

2.13 £20,000 per local authority is available to support the development of the Investment Plan and will be paid upon government sign-off. Spend against this money is likely to support the development of clear baseline information against which outputs and outcomes can be monitored.

2.14 In developing the plans Local Authorities are expected to establish or designate a local partnership group to consult when developing their investment plan. Local MPs should also be consulted.

3 Proposals

- 3.1 Given the relatively limited size of the funding allocation made available through the UKSPF, there are challenges in determining how the investment should be geographically targeted and what interventions should be funded, across which themes.

Identifying investments for inclusion in the plan

- 3.2 In setting a framework within which the UKSPF allocation could be spent, it is recommended that interventions and outcomes that best support delivery against the Council's adopted strategy framework and agreed Member priorities are the focus. Those priorities to which the Council is already committed, and that fall within the UKSPF investment themes, are particularly focused around *communities and place* and *support for business*.
- 3.3 Officer discussions and approaches made by some potential partners have indicated a number of possible areas for investment, in particular household support; investment in town centres; support for business, including the visitor economy and support for residents to develop skills and address barriers to employment. There has also been some early discussion with other Kent Councils to establish whether there are any opportunities for collaboration, where this makes sense and delivers better value for money.
- 3.4 Further work is required with partners in respect of *people and skills*. Some dialogue has commenced, and East Kent College Group hosted a Skills Summit, attended by local authorities and businesses from across the area the College serves. Whilst this did not generate any specific proposals, it aired a range of issues around which partners might coalesce, which included support not just for young people but also the adult population.
- 3.5 The expected outcomes and outputs attached to *people and skills* are centred around supporting the economically inactive, those furthest from the labour market and skills provision to support progress in work. This aligns closely with a number of projects operating in Swale, funded through UK Community Renewal Fund. Whilst the UKSPF cannot be used to continue these, with investment only possible from 2024/25, the costs and early progress against targets for these projects could be used as a basis to set out the likely interventions, outputs and outcomes from local activity.

Distribution of funding

- 3.5 In the interests of recognising that investment can benefit many parts of the Borough, an approach which takes account of a fair distribution of funding is recommended.
- 3.6 The government allocation methodology uses a 70:30 split between population and deprivation measures and whilst this cannot be wholly replicated at sub-local authority level, a proxy calculation can be made, producing an indicative split of

funding based on the three areas of Faversham and Swale East, Sittingbourne (incorporating Western) and the Isle of Sheppey. A funding split has been calculated using census ward population figures and taken account of the average scores for each area in the 2019 Index of Multiple deprivation, on a 70:30 basis.

- Faversham £290,812
- Isle of Sheppey £414,800
- Sittingbourne £463,883

3.7 This can be used to guide the development of the Local Investment Plan, but a precise split will be difficult to achieve, particularly as some interventions will operate on a Borough-wide basis.

Member and Local Partnership Inputs

3.8 An ongoing process of refinement is required, to prioritise activity and projects within the available funding. More detail is required in relation to costs, likely outputs and outcomes and how potential interventions fit within the timeframe of the fund. Assuming Members agreement to focus on existing Council priorities, it is recommended that a Member working group is formed, supported by a separate, external group of stakeholders, as per the requirement set out in the fund's prospectus.

3.9 The recommended composition of the Member Working Group is as follows:

- One representative from each administration group
- One representative from Independents First
- One Representative from the Conservative Group

3.10 No existing partnership group provides the range of inputs that will likely be required to help inform the development of the Local investment Plan. It is suggested that the external partnership group should include a range of organisations, reflected in the list below, although inputs could be sought from others, depending on the specifics of the Local Investment Plan:

- Chair of the Member Working Group
- Representative form the Sittingbourne Area Committee
- 1x Sheerness Town Council
- 1x Faversham Town Council
- 3x Business representatives
- East Kent College Group
- Swale CVS
- Job Centre Plus
- Swale Committee, Kent Association of Local Councils

- 3.11 Given the challenging parameters and timescales, it is likely that the detail of the final Investment Plan will remain in development, until the end of July, prior to its submission to Government by 1st August 2022. Delegated authority for the sign off and submission of the final Local Investment Plan is therefore sought for the Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property, in consultation with the Chair of the Regeneration and Property Committee, having due regard to input from the Member Working Group and Local Partnership

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Do nothing. This is not recommended as the submission of a Local Investment Plan is required to unlock the funding allocation that has been made to Swale Borough Council.
- 4.2 An open invitation to external partners to bid against the funding allocation and themes could be extended, an approach that some Councils have adopted. This is not recommended, as there is limited time to run such a process robustly and it may not provide a balance between themes, geographical distribution of activity and the period over which the investment plan is to be set. The Council's adopted policies provide a democratically based framework within which investments can be considered. This does not imply an exclusively Council led programme of delivery, as there can be scope for external organisations to come forward with and/or deliver proposals that sit within the framework set.
- 4.3 The geographical distribution of funding could be approached in a number of ways. Investment could be more focused on a small number of areas (for instance town centres) or the split between areas could be considered solely in relation to population. The recommended approach is preferred as it reflects the basis on which the Government allocations to local authorities have been made, taking onto account population and need.
- 4.4 There is also the potential to consider whether funding is distributed in line with the Area Committees, splitting out Western and Sittingbourne. Such an approach would, however, potentially direct funding away from 'shared' issues, such as Sittingbourne Town Centre and would require a set of investments to be developed for a largely rural area of the Borough, with the lowest level of deprivation in the Borough.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 The report sets out recommendations for a local partnership body to help inform the development of the Local Investment Plan. Aside from this, there has, and will continue to be, informal dialogue with external partners, including other Kent Local Authorities. Outside of the local partnership, if agreed, there will be a programme of engagement with other relevant partners. An internal, officer workshop was also held to help identify possible investments.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	The report recommends that the Council's adopted strategy Framework, of which the Corporate Plan is the parent document, provides the basis upon which the Local Investment Plan is developed. Depending on the final choices made in respect of the interventions to be pursued, the UKSPF will contribute to multiple Corporate Plan Priorities.
Financial, Resource and Property	<p>The UKSPF does not require any match funding, but development and subsequent implementation and monitoring of the plan will require significant officer time. The provision of 4% of the overall funding allocation to support this is unlikely to cover the cost of the staff time required, but would be managed within the existing economic development staff resource. Any expenditure required to help develop the Local Investment Plan would need to be made in advance of the £20,000, to be provided by Government on sign off. Therefore this would be at risk. This is also true of any activity the Council would wish to fund via UKSPF during the 2022/23 financial year, in advance of the plan being agreed.</p> <p>Thereafter, payments will be made annually in advance, after which UKSPF investments would need to be monitored for any potential overrun on spend and managed within the confines of the agreed funding allocation for the relevant financial year.</p>
Legal, Statutory and Procurement	At the time of writing the implications of the UKSPF Local Investment Plan are unclear. It will be necessary to undertake significant procurements to deliver the plan, but the nature and scale of these is not yet known. Further guidance is awaited from Government in respect of a number of technical considerations, including subsidy control and any plan agreed with Government will need to ensure compliance with this. Subject to the receipt of this guidance further advice may be required. The Council would seek to fund this through the £20,000 made available to support the development of the plan, noting that this would be received retrospectively on acceptance of the plan by Government.
Crime and Disorder	Government intervention list includes the " <i>Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'</i> ". UKSPF investments may have positive implications, if included in the Local Investment Plan.
Environment and Climate/Ecological Emergency	The UKSPF prospectus indicates that overall investment should demonstrate contribution to net zero and nature recovery objectives. The government intervention list includes " <i>Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy</i> "

Health and Wellbeing	Health and wellbeing forms a part of the core objectives of the UKSPF and there are a range of interventions identified across the themes that could contribute to this, subject to the detail of the final Local Investment Plan.
Safeguarding of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults	None identified at this stage
Risk Management and Health and Safety	The primary risks are associated with the final approval of the Local Investment Plan, securing the funding and the subsequent management of budgets, outputs and outcomes between financial years. These will be better understood and assessed through the development of Local Investment Plan. Further guidance is awaited from Government in respect of a number of technical issues, including subsidy control, which will need to be considered.
Equality and Diversity	None identified at this stage, although the Local Investment Plan and individual interventions will need to be considered as part of an equalities impact assessment.
Privacy and Data Protection	None identified at this stage, although the Local Investment Plan and individual interventions with individuals as beneficiaries will need to be considered in light of this.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:

8 Background Papers

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92424/UK_Shared_Prosperty_Fund_Prospectus.pdf)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Interventions, Outputs and Outcomes for England [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: interventions, outputs and indicators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/92424/UK_Shared_Prosperty_Fund_Prospectus.pdf)

Regeneration and Property Committee Forward Decisions Plan

Report title, background information and recommendation(s)	Date of meeting	Open or exempt?	Lead Officer and report author
Handover report	07.07.22	Open	Head of Service: Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property Report author: Joanne Johnson
Procurement of Provision of RNLI Lifeguard Service	07.07.22	Open	Head of Service: Head of Environment and Leisure Report author: Mike Knowles
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	07.07.22	Open	Head of Service: Head of Regeneration, Economic Development and Property Report author: Kieren Mansfield

This page is intentionally left blank