

Report to: **Executive**

Date: **7 July 2022**

Title: **Levelling Up Fund Round 2 and UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

Portfolio Area: **Economy – Cllr Bastone**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **Y** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Immediately following this meeting

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RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive be RECOMMENDED to grant delegated authority to the Director – Place and Enterprise, in consultation with the Leader of Council to:

- 1. ratify the decision to submit an application to the Levelling Up Fund Tranche 2 for capital funding for the A38 Corridor: Lee Mill Interchange Scheme as outlined in sections 2.1 to 2.6 (below) and Appendix A before 6 July 2022 deadline; and**
- 2. submit the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Bid in accordance with section 2.7 (below) and Appendix A before 1 August 2022 deadline.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 This report sets out an opportunity for the Council to submit Bids to the Central Government Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

2. Background

- 2.1 Central Government's LUF initiative was announced as part of the 2020 Spending Review to support communities in order to regenerate town centres, enable investment in cultural facilities or upgrade local transport infrastructure;
- 2.2 The LUF is intended to focus on capital investment in local infrastructure thereby building on and consolidating prior programmes. The LUF must have a visible, tangible impact on people and places and support economic recovery;
- 2.3 Officers have been notified that the next tranche of LUF was re-opening for Bid submissions during the Spring of 2022 to offer a tranche of funding for high value local infrastructure;
- 2.4 As a result, officers intend to work in partnership with colleagues from Devon County Council and its service partner WSP (a multi disciplinary transport consultancy firm), to create a submission for the A38 Corridor: Lee Mill Interchange scheme;
- 2.5 Whilst the funding is subject to a competitive bidding process, it is hoped that the multi-modal emphasis that blends public bus and rail transport, cycling and car use and the focus on active and inclusive travel will see the application looked upon favourably;
- 2.6 The deadline for submission of the Bid during this tranche of funding is 6 July 2022 (i.e. one day before this Executive Meeting is held). It is therefore recommended that the Executive ratify the decision to submit an application to support the A38 Corridor for up to £20 million: Lee Mill Interchange scheme. In the event that the Executive does not ratify this application, then the Bid will be withdrawn.
- 2.7 There is also a small window of opportunity (from 30 June to 1 August 2022) for the Council to make a Bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for £1,062,367. Whilst more information is set out in the presentation slides at Appendix 1, of particular note is the fact that funds are available, but can only be accessed via the production of robust investment plans. To ensure that the opportunity is not lost, the Committee is asked to grant delegated authority to the Director of Place and Enterprise, in consultation with the Leader of Council, to submit a Bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund before 1 August 2022 deadline.

3. Options available and consideration of risk

- 3.1 If one (or indeed both) Bid(s) proves to be successful, a number of partner organisations will be responsible for the multiple strands of project delivery, the Council will not be a direct delivery partner, but will be represented on the project board;

4. Proposed Way Forward

- 4.1 The Executive is asked to approve the following recommendations:

That delegated authority be granted to the Director – Place and Enterprise, in consultation with the Leader of Council to:

1. ratify the decision to submit an application to the Levelling Up Fund Tranche 2 for capital funding for the A38 Corridor: Lee Mill Interchange Scheme as outlined in sections 2.1 to 2.6 (below) and Appendix A before 6 July 2022 deadline; and
2. submit the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Bid in accordance with section 2.7 (above) and Appendix A before 1 August 2022 deadline.

5. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	It is intended that the Governance arrangements will be agreed at project level, with the project sponsor for the District Council being identified as the Director for Place and Enterprise.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	N	The bid to the Levelling Up Fund Round Two for the A38 corridor: Lee Mill Interchange will be for between £15m to £20m. The bids in creation are involving teams from DCC and WSP. There is no requirement for any match funding contributions from SHDC. The bid to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is for £1,062,367. No match funding from SHDC is being requested as part of this funding stream.
Risk	N	These are addressed at Section 4 of the report.
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Successful Bids will ultimately lead to improved economic prosperity across the South Hams.
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		A multi-modal emphasis that blends public bus and rail transport, cycling and car use and the focus on active and inclusive travel will be consistent with the Council's declared Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		

Equality and Diversity		Not applicable
Safeguarding		Not applicable
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		Not applicable
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		Not applicable
Other implications		Not applicable

Supporting Information

Appendices:

A – PowerPoint slides delivered to a Member Briefing session on 9 June 2022.

Background Papers:

None