

APPENDIX B

Scrutiny request

Issue - Review of the work being undertaken by the Councils to obtain funds from the Government Shared Prosperity Fund

Request from - JOSC Members

Public interest - The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. It will help places right across the country deliver enhanced outcomes and recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

Score = High

Ability to change - Places will be empowered to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances. Local places will be able to use the Fund to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision to maximise impact and simplify delivery.

The Fund's interventions will be planned and delivered by councils and mayoral authorities across England, Scotland and Wales – 'lead local authorities', working closely with local partners.

The UKSPF will help to deliver the levelling up objectives which are:-

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

Score = High

Performance - The UKSPF does not relate to Council performance

Score = High

Extent - The UKSPF will apply to both Adur and Worthing Council areas.

Score = High

Replication - No

Score = High

Expected Outcomes - JOSC will have the opportunity to review the work which the Councils have been undertaking to try and access some of the UKSPF.

Does the proposed review link with the Council strategic objectives or does the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the ability to influence and/or add value on the subject?

The UKSPF can help levelling up across the UK and improve prosperity and overcome geographical inequalities. Additional funding for the Councils will help deliver against the strategic objectives which aim to provide 'Prosperous Places' and 'Thriving People and Communities'.

The fund is a mix of capital and revenue and is allocated to every 'place' within the UK in a similar way to the WBF and has an emphasis on investing in people, business and place.

Full guidance will follow in Spring with Investment Plans (the Councils intended projects and schemes) to be submitted this summer with all being signed off by autumn.

Score = High

How could this review be undertaken? Report to JOSC reviewing the approach to the Shared Prosperity Fund. The Councils are already working on identifying projects and finalising applications against the timetable for applying for the Fund.

Recommendations from Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairmen/Vice-Chairmen:-

That JOSC receive a report from Officers later in 2022/23 which sets out the work undertaken by the Councils to identify the projects and schemes to Bid for the UKSPF and the outcomes of the funding allocations.