

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 18TH JULY, 2022

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE, 2022

**“C28 THE LEVELLING UP FUND (ROUND 2) AND UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (DL/SP) (SCRUTINY – ENVIRONMENT AND REGENERATION) – (Matter which the Chair had decided was urgent by reason of the need for Cabinet to consider the current proposals for the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) and UK Shared Prosperity Fund prior to the submission deadlines of 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 and 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022, respectively.)”**

The Leader advised there would also be a Part II report later on the agenda that would consider the confidential commercial and economic aspects of the matter.

The content of the Cabinet report was time sensitive due to the submission deadlines for the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid and the Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation.

Since the last Cabinet report (14<sup>th</sup> March, 2022) UK Government had published guidance for both funding streams and updated the Index of Priority Places for the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2). The Vale of Glamorgan local authority area was now a category 1 area (having previously been a category 2 area). Category 1 represented the highest level of identified need and was one of four bid assessment criteria.

Since the publication of guidance for the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bidding process and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, officers had been working at pace with consultants (Rothwell) and with relevant landowners and partner organisations to develop proposals for consideration by the funding body.

Cabinet was asked to endorse the emerging Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid and Investment Plan linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation, outlined in Section 2 of the report (and the delivery thereof) subject to legislative provisions, statutory consents and funding.

Cabinet was also asked to grant delegated authority for the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to take necessary actions to meet the submission deadlines.

Future reports would be brought before Cabinet for consideration as appropriate.

With regard to the Levelling Up Fund, the Leader said that the selected projects had been specifically chosen for their fit with the UK Government criteria, but also with the Council's overall aims for the regeneration of Barry, with the proposals put forward discussed from paragraph 2.10 to 2.15 of the report.

The Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer said that the report had been put together within challenging timescales to perform the necessary due diligence. Officers from Finance had worked closely with other Council departments and external advisers to address financial risk, and due diligence would continue as the process progressed to ensure the financial case continued to be monitored during challenging economic circumstances.

The Director of Place referred to the local Investment Plan as part of the Shared Prosperity Fund which would be submitted to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council as the regional partner with responsibility for the fund.

The Leader also said that the Shared Prosperity fund was Vale of Glamorgan-wide whereas the Levelling Up fund was focussed on Barry regeneration.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the emerging Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid and Investment Plan linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation be noted and endorsed, subject to the appropriate legislative provisions, statutory consents and funding.

(2) T H A T the Director of Place be confirmed as the Senior Responsible Owner for the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to submit a grant application and associated funding packages, including contributions from sources identified for regeneration purposes in paragraphs 4.2 - 4.4 (inclusive) of this report, for the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

(4) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to negotiate and agree terms with relevant landowners and partner organisations pursuant to the development and submission of the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid.

(5) T H A T the response by the UK Government to the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid be reported back to Cabinet in due course together with more detailed

budget management and governance arrangements relating to the delivery of any successful bid.

(6) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to submit and take all necessary actions to finalise a regional (South East Wales) Investment Plan linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation on behalf of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

(7) T H A T the finalised regional Investment Plan linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation be reported back to Cabinet in due course together with more detailed budget management and governance arrangements relating to the local delivery of the Investment Plan.

(8) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Director of Place (in consultation with the Executive Leader and Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources, Chief Executive, Head of Finance/Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services) to undertake all necessary actions to agree the terms of the Service Level Agreement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation.

(9) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, complete and execute the Service Level Agreement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation.

**(10) T H A T the use of paragraph 15.14.2(ii) of the Council's Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in respect of the above recommendations.**

#### Reasons for decisions

(1) To apprise Cabinet of the current position and to obtain endorsement from Cabinet for the emerging Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid and Investment Plan linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation and the delivery thereof subject to legislative provisions, statutory consents and funding.

(2) To meet an eligibility requirement for the bid.

(3) To obtain authority to submit a bid for the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) in line with the submission deadline of 6<sup>th</sup> July, 2022.

(4) To obtain authority to negotiate and agree terms with relevant landowners and partner organisations pursuant to the development and submission of the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid.

(5) To report back to Cabinet on the success or failure of the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) bid and any advice received from the funding body.

(6) To obtain authority to submit and finalise an Investment Plan linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation in line with the submission deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2022.

(7) To report back to Cabinet on the development of the Investment Plan linked to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation and any advice received from the lead authority and funding body.

(8) To obtain authority to agree the terms of the Service Level Agreement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation.

(9) To obtain authority to prepare, complete and execute the Service Level Agreement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund funding allocation.

**(10) In recognition of the submission deadlines.”**