

Meeting Information

Meeting Title	Winchester District UKSPF Partnership Board
Location	Walton Suite, Winchester Guildhall
Date	Friday 9 February 2024

Attendees

Cllr Lucille Thompson (LT)	Winchester City Council
Alison Woods (AW)	Winchester City Council
Andrew Gostelow (AG)	Winchester City Council
Susan Robbins (SR)	Winchester City Council
Camilla Sharp (CS)	Winchester City Council
Ellen Evans (EE)	Winchester City Council
Jo Crocker (JC)	WinAcc
Tm Houghton (TH)	Community First
Julie Milburn (JM)	Sparsholt College
Lucy Charman (LC)	CLA
Paul Spencer (PS)	Winchester BID
Paul Sapwell (PS)	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Richard Rous (RR)	Winchester College

Apologies

Liz Keys	Winchester City Council
Dawn Adey	Winchester City Council
Cllr Mark Reach	Winchester City Council
Steve Brine	MP
Flick Drummond	MP
Paresh Thakrar	Winchester College
Elizabeth Stone	Winchester College
Theresa Hogsbjerg	Hampshire County Council
Ross McNally	Hampshire Chamber of Commerce
Mark Mills-Goodlet	Hampshire Chamber of Commerce

Meeting Minutes

Welcome and introductions	CS
<p><u>CS</u> reported on the actions taken since last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCC to check environment agency permit for Itchen Abbas and Avington Village Hall's ground source heat pump. Resolution: EA permit not required. Grant recipient states “– our abstraction will be less than the £20m3 per day threshold before a licence is required” WCC to use resident survey, Local Nature Recovery Strategy and WeCan groups to signpost priorities. Resolution: Investigation complete; no significant resident requests to report. WCC to use language that does not limit the scope of potential projects, within the parameters set by Government. Resolution: application forms, website and marketing materials have been modified to capture as wide an array of projects as possible WCC to investigate expansion of existing projects. Resolution: various recipients have been approached and several are considering applying for additional funding in the third round of the REPF 	
1. Rural England Prosperity Fund	CS
<p><u>CS</u> outlined the progress on current projects 23/24 (£186,000 allocated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 completed applications. 8 approved. 5 to complete by March 2024 = £144,421. 3 paused or have been withdrawn. <p><u>CS</u> summarised recent applications 24/25 (£558,726 allocated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 submitted applications in the funding round 13 November 2023 to 5 January 2024 for £350,000 2 are awaiting assessment. 3 decided to reapply in the next round. 6 passed the initial checks and are with the scoring panel (value £157,477): <p>Three Sustainable projects at Easton Village Hall, Denmead Community Centre, and Colden Common Park Pavilion: Applications submitted thanks to WeCan feasibility studies. Projects requiring planning will be in pipeline for next round.</p> <p>Bishop's Waltham Community Minibus: Community first offered support and advice to applicants. Note that market for electric and accessible minibus was limited and in excess of £100k.</p> <p>Bishop's Waltham Priory Park carpark: They have a travel plan but may make a condition of the grant to have accessible spaces, encourage car-shares, EV chargers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> WCC to feed back the comments from the Board regarding EV charging points. <p>The Cycle Company: A fleet of e-bikes leased and managed by the cycle company.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Query as to how the funding model worked: the award would finance the purchase of ebikes which would be leased and serviced (and, eventually, 	

<p>replaced) by the grant recipient. Local businesses have expressed interest in outsourcing the maintenance of an ebike fleet for their employees along these lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query as to whether it was appropriate for a private company to make profits on the back of public funds: This is specifically encouraged by the micro-enterprise interventions. • Query as to whether there were opportunities for apprenticeships to be encouraged as a condition of the award: TBC, but a condition of the grant. • Generally a popular project and there is a chance we may be able to bring it forward to the 23/24 financial year, to compensate for other projects that have failed to materialise 	
2. UK Shared Prosperity Fund	
<p>AW outlined the progress on current projects 23/24 (£118,390 allocated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £105,000 will be spent on completed projects. • Carry over to 24/25 will be £13,390. <p>AW summarised recent applications 24/25 (£822,415 allocated):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two recent funding rounds closed on 22 December 2023 and 12 January 2024 • 13 applications were submitted • 8 have passed the initial checks and are with the scoring panel = £386,000 <p>North Walls pathway refurbishment (£30,000): Upgrade of existing tarmac path network on Devil's island section of the site.</p> <p>St Giles Hill stabilisation (£30,000): The existing wooden retaining wall which has rotted away will be removed. This will be replaced by a gabion wall.</p> <p>Sustrans “roll and stroll” Winchester (£10,000): Identify areas where walks are most needed by the community. Work with local groups to attract, appoint and train volunteers to risk assess, manage and deliver roll and stroll walks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community First expressed some concerns about additionality. <p>KGV School Sports tournament (£10,000): To promote and celebrate the opening of the new KGV Pavilion, WCC to work with an external coaching provider to deliver a primary school football and cricket programme and tournament.</p> <p>Digital growth factory (£40,000): Commercial courses, acceleration, incubation and scale up support and digital productivity programme for local businesses and entrepreneurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns raised over demand for this project. • Mindful to ensure that this project bridges the gap between what the private sector already delivers successfully / consider collaborating with an already existing infrastructure (ie. WSA). • Who is the target audience and what are the skills gaps? • Are there other funding schemes available for this kind of project? • Will this be open to charity sector? <p>ACTION: WCC will bring revised proposal with expected outputs and outcomes to June board meeting.</p> <p>Sparsholt College low carbon training (£35,000): The project will provide funding to part pay for the build and installation of three low carbon technology training bays.</p>	AW

Friarsgate Medical Centre – interim refurb (£191,000): Interim public realm improvements with seating, planters, a platform for education and events, trees, hoardings and painted flooring.

- Concerns about temporary nature of the project

City of Festivals – (£40,000): combine the resources and expertise of the Theatre Royal and The Arc to work with five existing local festivals to develop and diversify their current programming.

ACTION (JC): WCC to investigate how this project can be related to Green Economic Development Strategy, Cultural Strategy, etc.

ACTION: WCC to include project KPIs and outcomes for all projects in future board papers.

3. Government reporting

CS

ACTION: WCC will present to the board the amalgam of all benefits for all projects that are submitted to DLUHC, (ie. tonnes of co2 saved, green improvements, visitors).

Current position:

	Allocation	Committed	Pending approval	Still available
UK Shared Prosperity	£1 million	£145,998	£739,002	£115,000
Rural England Prosperity	£745,000	£144,000	£168,000	£433,000

Currently awaiting dates for next claim and receipt of 24/25 funding

4. Launch of next round of funding

AW

Third round of funding

- £390,726 = 24/25 allocation (£168,000 from second round)
- £42,000 = underspend from 23/24
- **£432,726 TOTAL**

For the board's consideration:

Proposal for REPF Third Round 24/25 to have larger window (March to June):

- Board agrees unanimously.

Addendum: Fund opened on 10 March and will be open until 17 May 2024.

Proposal to support business applications:

- Social media.
- Press releases to board networks.
- Support from network groups in towns / parishes (ie. New Leaf, WinACC)
- Supporting applicants already in the pipeline.
- Changing funding model to make it more accessible.
- Example of best practice application and outputs/outcomes.
- Accessible and inclusive language.

Proposal to reduce match funding requirement:

- Concern raised over a business being able to support itself. **HOWEVER:**
- Diversification and progressive work is halted by lack of funds. DEFRA is 40% match-funded and it stymies business.
- Prosperous small businesses have massive community impact so should be supported by reduced match-funding.
- Consider flexibility depending on application sum, how well it scored, the size of the business, revenue matched for capital, etc.

Action: WCC to consider and implement a revised suitable match funding requirement for businesses

5. Next meeting

Friday 7 June 2024, 9:30am to 11:30am, The Walton Suite, Winchester Guildhall

Project Proposal Feedback	Response
Rural Fund = 6 projects	
Sustainable projects at Easton Village Hall, Denmead Community Centre, and Colden Common Park Pavilion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Comments 	Progressed to scoring and approved
Bishop's Waltham Community Minibus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments 	Progressed to scoring and approved
Bishop's Waltham Priory Park carpark <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query over potential to include regarding EV charging points to be sustainable and be additional 	The parish council responded that the charging points do not form part of the current application but could certainly be the basis for an additional application. Progressed to scoring and approved
The Cycle Company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Query as to whether there were opportunities for apprenticeships to be encouraged as a condition of the grant award • Query as to how the funding model worked: • Query as to whether it was appropriate for a private company to make profits on the back of public funds. 	Apprenticeships TBC, but not a condition of the grant. The award would finance the purchase of ebikes which would be leased and serviced (and, eventually, replaced) by the grant recipient. Local businesses have expressed interest in outsourcing the maintenance of an ebike fleet for their employees along these lines. Progressed to scoring and approved
Shared Prosperity Fund	
North Walls pathway refurbishment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments 	Progressed to scoring and approved
St Giles Hill stabilisation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments 	Progressed to scoring and approved
Sustrans "roll and stroll" Winchester <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern over duplication with existing schemes 	Sustrans confirms "We anticipate that we will work closely with Jan Barratt at Community 1st to ensure that the project works in harmony with the existing walks programme, adding value through our new accessible walks training and our years of experience in running health walk programmes." Progressed to scoring and approved
KGV School Sports tournament <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No comments 	Progressed to scoring and approved

<p>Digital growth factory</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queries over demand / need for public intervention / target market and duplication 	<p>WCC to include information on the need/demand for this project/beneficiaries/existing provision in their application.</p> <p>WCC will bring will bring revised proposal with expected outputs and outcomes to June board meeting.</p>
<p>Friarsgate Medical Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns about temporary nature of the project 	<p>This will be a usable and valuable space for 3-4 years. There is potential to enhance the longevity of the project. Nearly all elements would go out to the district after the meanwhile use is over (ie. trees, planters, furniture).</p> <p>Progressed to scoring and approved</p>
<p>Actions</p>	
<p>WCC to include project KPIs and outcomes for all projects in future board papers.</p>	<p>Noted and project summary information template up-dated.</p>
<p>WCC will present to the board the amalgam of all benefits for all projects that are submitted to DLUHC, (ie. tonnes of co2 saved, green improvements, visitors).</p>	<p>Agenda item for June Board</p>
<p>WCC to consider and implement a suitable match funding requirement for businesses.</p>	<p>See table below</p>
<p>Outstanding items from previous meetings</p>	
<p>None</p>	

Revised match funding requirement for businesses

Size of business	Description/criteria	Amount of match funding required
Sole trader/freelancer/ Social enterprise/Community interest company	A self-employed person who owns and runs their own business as an individual. A business with specific social objectives that service its primary purpose A special type of limited company that exists to benefit the community rather than private shareholders	None
Under the Companies Act 2006 a business must satisfy two or more of the following requirements:		
Micro business	Turnover: not more than £632,000 Balance sheet total: not more than £316,000 Number of employees: a headcount of staff of not more than 10	10%
Small business	Turnover: not more than £10.2million Balance sheet total: not more than £5.1million Number of employees: a headcount of staff of less than 50	25%
Medium and large business	Turnover: not more than £36million Balance sheet total: not more than £18million Number of employees: a headcount of staff of less than 500	50%