

Meeting Date: 3rd January 2023

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Economy, Enterprise & Housing Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Marilyn Bowman**

SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

- The Council received confirmation on 5th December from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) that the UKSPF Investment Plan has been approved for the £4.1m funding allocation
- The funding for this financial year 2022 - 23 of nearly £500,000 has been released

In terms of next steps:

- There has been an open call for projects to support for local arts, cultural and creative activities and feasibility studies this financial year. Those organisations who submitted Expressions of Interest for 'shovel ready' projects, that have been identified in the programme for funding for this financial year, have been contacted with regards to the application process
- Those organisations who submitted Expressions of Interest for projects to be delivered next financial year which are a fit with the Cumberland Investment Plan, will be contacted in due course regarding the application process to be included in the Cumberland programme from 1st April 2023 and beyond

RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND

- The Council has nationally been allocated £475,000 to support the delivery of projects to support rural communities and businesses
- The Council submitted its proposals for the funding on 30th November, which will focus on supporting
 - o rural enterprise
 - o farm diversification
 - o the visitor economy
 - o improving open / green spaces and;
 - o local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities

- The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) has advised that it will be making its decision in due course, but no firm timescales have been given

GREENMARKET / MARKET SQUARE PROJECT

- The second consultation on the project ran from 25th November – 9th December, which sought the views of the community, business and visitors on a number of concepts for the two spaces
- The concepts were developed on the basis of the views and feedback from the first consultation, which asked what the issues were with the spaces and what people would like to see in terms of design and how they should be used
- A consultation report will be produced after Christmas, with the views and feedback informing the final design proposal to be taken forward
- The preferred design will be announced in March 2023

CITY CENTRE BUSINESS GRANTS

- The aim of the fund is to support the high street businesses by providing grants to new or existing business relocating to Carlisle from outside the area – and taking up vacant premises
- The City Council has provided £40,000 this financial year to support the scheme and with the approval of the Shared Prosperity Fund, a further £80,000 of funding will be added to scheme to enable it to support more businesses
- The fund can support business in the city centre, those located in neighbourhood shopping areas, the city and those in the rural market towns

ST CUTHBERT'S GARDEN VILAGE

Work on St Cuthbert's continues at pace. As part of the emerging St Cuthbert's Design Code, we held three drop-in events in Durdar, Cummersdale and Carleton asking those communities and Parish Councils their thoughts on those distinctive design attributes they would want to be retained or enhanced as part of the delivery of the Garden Village. In total, some 130 people attended and we had some really good feedback which will now help us in drafting up the Design Code itself.