

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

26 January 2023

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM MIDDLETON - DEPUTY LEADER & CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE.

For the period to January 2023

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England prosperity Fund update.

A report to cabinet is being prepared for a meeting next month that sets out the next steps in relation to both programmes. Since my last update in November the Government has approved the interventions as set out in the West Norfolk Investment Plan submitted last summer. The agreed priorities were:

- Leading as a Centre of Excellence for the Visitor Economy
- Embedding approaches that are Active, Clean & Green
- Strengthening local enterprise and innovation systems
- Supporting people to access opportunities

From this a menu of types of interventions (projects both revenue and capital) were selected. A number of specific interventions have been selected that are required to be delivered in the current financial year. One of these interventions includes a project aimed at providing energy saving measures including draft proofing and insulation to vulnerable households. In the year 2023/2024 there will be some interventions funded that are currently being funded only to 2022/2023. In 2024/2025 a skills element of the fund will become available. Further consideration of this element of the programme will be undertaken and proposals will be brought to cabinet in early 2024. The Rural England prosperity Fund (REPF) capital only funding complements the UKSPF but specifically targets rural areas (thereby in our area excludes King's Lynn). As set out in my previous report the priorities determined for this fund are:

- Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.
- Grants for the development and promotion of the visitor economy.
- Active travel enhancements in the local rural area.
- Capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- Supporting impactful volunteering and social action projects.

It is proposed that both a grants scheme for businesses and for communities is administered by a third party (3rd parties). The active travel interventions identified will be delivered in conjunction with Norfolk County Council

Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Public meetings attended

Various meetings with officers and stakeholders