



West Midlands
Combined Authority



UK Government

WMCA Local UK Shared Prosperity Fund Group

Thursday 7th July 2022 at 3.00pm

Minutes

Members

Councillor Ian Brookfield (Chair), Dr Julie Nugent, Dr Fiona Aldridge, Alex Cole, Simon Down, Professor Jackie Dunne, Dr Clive Hickman, Henrietta Brealey, Henrietta Breukelaar, Rob Johnstone, Mike Hopkins, Andrew Smith, Amrick Singh, Richard Smith, Martin Sutherland, Joe Reeves, Delia Garratt, Lloyd Broad, Kelly Thomas, Rachel Egan, Paul Mountford, David Hope, Philippa Venables, Heather Clark, Lisa Hamilton

1. Welcome and Apologies

Clare Hatton, Jonathan Skinner, John Denley

Noted awaiting confirmation of representatives from: Young Combined Authority, WMCA Homeless Taskforce, Voluntary and Community Sector.

The Chair welcomed the group to the inaugural meeting of the WMCA UKSPF Local Partnership Group.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair asked the group if any Declarations of Interest. Noting that going forward the group will be involved in discussion on specific project proposals and funding, as such whilst this is an informal group this will ensure good governance in respect of UKSPF activity.

Members were advised that Declarations of Interest will be included on the agenda at the start of all meetings. Members who are in attendance noted if they have a personal interest in any item on the agenda, they should declare such an interest and take no part in discussions on that item. This will also be formally recorded on the meeting minutes.

Resolved: No Declarations of Interest raised.

3. The Role and Remit of the WMCA SPF Local Partnership Group

Dr. Fiona Aldridge provided an overview of UKSPF and the role and remit of the WMCA UKSPF Local Partnership Group. The group noted that membership has been selected from key regional stakeholders and sectors that reflect the breadth of the areas covered by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The group's role would be in an advisory capacity and not a decision making group, which is progressed through WMCA governance processes.

Members were advised that their role on the group was on behalf of their respective sectors and not individual organisations, as such they were asked to consider how they will engage and consult with their wider sectors. Cascading information down and bring intelligence and information back to the group.

Members noted that the WMCA will publish details of membership of the group including contact details on the WMCA SPF webpage along with discussions of meetings.

Members were advised that substitutes would be permitted by prior arrangement only, to attend in place of core members and not in addition to.

In relation to MP engagement, as set out in the UKSPF Prospectus Dr Aldridge advised the group that this would be undertaken separately to the Partnership Group, due to the large numbers of MPs in our region.

The group's role will be key to the ongoing process in the development and delivery and UKSPF projects in an advisory, subject matter expertise and insight capacity, and whilst it is proposed that the group will meet twice a year, if required this may be more frequently.

Advance notice of future meetings will be provided, and meeting papers will be issued one week in advance. Where specific issues are to be covered on agenda, where possible the WMCA will provide information on this in advance in order for members to consult more widely with their sector.

Resolved:

- WMCA UKSPF Local Partnership Group to act in an advisory and not decision-making role.
- List of members to be shared with group.
- ToR to be issued to group.
- Membership details (including contact emails) and notes of meetings to be posted on public WMCA SPF webpage.
- Members to consider how they will cascade information and engage with their sectors in respect of agenda items.

4. WMCA Approach to Developing UKSPF Investment Plan

Dr Fiona Aldridge and Dr Julie Nugent provided an overview of the approach being taken by the WMCA to develop a high level UKSPF Investment Plan for submission to government by the 1st August.

The presentation included the current principles the WMCA are working to and broad parameters around the split and allocation funding. The group noted that at this stage the High level Investment Plan will not including detailed proposals.

Information on next steps was provided to group, outlining activity that will be progressed over the summer to develop more detailed proposals for inclusion in the WMCA Investment Plan. Including a further meeting of the Local Partnership Group proposed for September time, followed by submission to Economic Growth Board in September, Mayor and Met Leaders in October and Full WMCA Board for approval in November.

The group were advised that activity around routes to market would be progressed in parallel to the development of the more detailed Investment Plan but at this time this is still be developed.

Members expressed an interest in being involved in proposals as they are developed and asked if this could be facilitated.

Resolved:

- A second meeting of UKSPF Partnership to be arranged for September, prior to Economic Growth Board to consider the more detailed Investment Plan.
- Workshops/offline community to be established with theme areas/Local Authorities and UKSPF Local Partnership Group Members to input into evolving proposals.
- Consideration to be given to wider business support offers, such as Chambers of Commerce
- PCC to engage directly with LA partners on local resilience and safer neighbourhoods
- Slides from the meeting to be shared with the group.
- Investment Plan to shared with group.

5. Any Other Business

None Raised.