

Title of Report:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Committee Report Submitted To:	The Leisure & Development Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 February 2023
For Decision or For Information	For information

Linkage to Council Strategy (2019-23)	
Strategic Theme	Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Citizens will have access to a range of leisure, recreational, green and play environments which support better physical and mental health and wellbeing
Lead Officer	Funding Unit Manager

Budgetary Considerations	
Cost of Proposal	£98,600 (100% externally funded)
Included in Current Year Estimates	N/A
Capital/Revenue	
Code	
Staffing Costs	

Screening Requirements	Required for new or revised Policies, Plans, Strategies or Service Delivery Proposals.		
Section 75 Screening	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	EQIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Rural Needs Assessment (RNA)	Screening Completed	No	Date:
	RNA Required and Completed:	No	Date:
Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)	Screening Completed:	No	Date:
	DPIA Required and Completed:	No	Date:

1.0 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform Members that Council's Grant Funding Unit has successfully submitted an application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and to provide members with background on the fund and details of the application.

2.0 Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. By March 2025, Northern Ireland will benefit from an allocation of almost £127 million to help deliver important outcomes to improve pride in place and increase life chances for Northern Ireland's people, businesses and communities.

In Northern Ireland, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) is managing the Fund. Building on the UKSPF Prospectus, DLUHC and local partners have worked together to design the Northern Ireland Investment Plan.

In January 2023 DLUHC wrote to Councils across Northern Ireland seeking proposals to deliver the Green Space Development support identified in the Plan, for the period 2022-23. The timeframe for this first Commission was extremely tight with the fund opening on 5th January 2023 and closing on 16th January 2023.

3.0 Context

DLUHC invited councils to submit one proposal per area which could be comprised of a single project/activity or package of projects/activities). The key aim of this Investment Priority is:

By 2025, we aim to improve people's pride and satisfaction with towns and villages through UKSPF support, ensuring these areas are attractive for new residents, potential investors and visitors

This is short-term funding and designed to be incurred during financial year 2022-23 (by 31 March 2023). The DLUHC plan to launch a commission for funding for 2023-24 and 2024-25 at a later date, possibly in the Spring of this year.

4.0 Project

Considering the tight parameters set for submission and a project completion date of 31st March 2023, Council's Funding Unit submitted an application based on the development of a Green Spaces Amenity Programme in 4 different locations. If successful 3 x derelict spaces will be developed, and 1 x play area will be refurbished for local community use:

Location 1 - Scally Park Amenity Project.

Location 2 - Ballylagan Road/Gateside Road Junction Amenity Project.

Location 3 - Dromore Ave/Barnalt Road Amenity Project.

Location 4 - Glenullin Playpark Project.

The programme is about communities and people and aims to improve local green spaces to make them more attractive for residents and visitors. In **locations 1-3** the following works are proposed:

- Natural landscaping of the 3 areas.
- Resurfacing at each site.
- Perimeter fencing and gates.
- Installation of a basket swing on each site.
- Installation of 4 Summer seats on each site.
- Planters placed at each location.

- Litter bin at each site.

Picture 1: Sample Project



At **location 4** the following works will be undertaken:

- Natural landscaping of the area.
- Installation of Multi-unit (Junior).
- Installation of Swing set.
- Installation of Slide.
- Installation of Rocker.
- Installation of Seesaw.
- Installation of Seating.
- Installation of Polymeric Surfacing.
- Installation of a Planter.
- Installation of a Litter Bin.

The 4 x locations/sites are located in predominantly rural locations and are in very poor condition. Transformation of these sites for wider community use will restore pride and satisfaction as the locations are made attractive for residents and visitors to meet and enjoy outdoor space.

5.0 Location Maps

Scally Park – Loughgiel – BT44 9JU



Islandmore - BT52 2PJ



Dromore Avenue / Barnalt Road Amenity Project – BT49 9LX



Glenullin Playpark Project – BT51 5DX



6.0 Financial Information

Total projects costs are £98,600 and no match funding is required from Council.

7.0 Strategic Fit

The proposed project is a good strategic fit with the following NI strategies:

- Draft NI Programme for Government.
- NI Children and Young Peoples Strategy. (2017 to 2027)
- NI Regional Development Strategy. (2035)
- NI Executive Together Building a United Community Strategy.
- DHSSPS Fitter Future for All Framework. (2012 – 2022)
- The DfC Strategy “Building Inclusive Communities 2020-2025.”
- DfC’s Access and Inclusion Programme.

And the following Council Strategies:

- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Strategy. (2021 to 2025)
- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Play Investment Strategy.
- Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan 2017-2030.

7.1 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Strategy (2021 to 2025)

The mission statement of the strategy provides clarity on how Council as a corporate body along with its departments and units will strive to improve the quality of life for its citizens and visitors by:

- Providing effective, accessible and sustainable local public services.
- Improving economic prosperity.
- Ensuring local communities are at the heart of decision making.
- Protecting, promoting and enhancing our unique natural environment and assets.
- Ensure the facilities and services on offer meet the needs of the community and visitors to the area for the betterment of their health and wellbeing and provide the opportunity to increase participation levels.

7.2 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Play Investment Strategy

Through this strategy the Council aim to ensure that children and young people who reside within or visit the area have access to high value play opportunities that support their growth and development whilst providing fun and enjoyment.

Central to the strategy is a recognition that play is one of the most, if not the most, important activities that children and young people engage in as they grow and develop. This strategy seeks to support children's development in a number of key ways by:

- Providing fun and enjoyable means of developing physical and mental health and wellbeing.
- Supporting the development of social connections and friendships through social play opportunities.
- Supporting intellectual growth and the development of practical skills through the provision of creative and more challenging play opportunities.
- Supporting children to develop their personal resilience through play, and
- Establishing a connection between children at play and the community in which they live.

7.3 Council's Community Plan 2017-2030

Council commissioned a research document prior to initiating the consultation process for the CC&G Community Plan to establish an Area Profile. The research and consultation highlighted several key actions within the CC&G Community Plan within the theme "A Healthy Safe Community".

- Action 1: "to increase opportunities for participation in Physical Activity and Wellbeing Initiatives of traditionally under-represented groupings".
- Action 2: "to develop initiatives which improve the range of Outdoor Activities, encourage physical participation and increase opportunities to enjoy the natural environment of Causeway Coast and Glens. To develop facilities to support physical activity and play opportunities in the natural and green environment".

Outcomes relevant to this project from the community Plan include:

- People will have increased opportunities to participate in sustained physical activity and social and creative activity.
- The historic and natural environment is fully understood, protected and well looked after.