

28 March 2025

Title UKSPF – Event Safety - Newcastle
Report of: Chrisi Page, Head of Investment Programmes
Portfolio: Culture, Creative, Tourism and Sport

Report Summary

The purpose of this report is to request approval to provide a funding contribution toward costs relating to putting in place the necessary event safety measures to support the celebration event of Newcastle United winning the Carabao Cup on 16 March 2025, to take place on the 29 March 2025. Funding will be drawn from the 2022-25 UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation and the activity set out in this report meets the UKSPF Investment Plan approved by Government and the Implementation Plan originally agreed by the former North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA).

In 2022, the former NTCA as a designated 'lead authority' was allocated funding of £47.1m for 'core UKSPF' and £4.1m for the 'Multiply' adult numeracy programme, until March 2025 and covering the areas of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland. NTCA was also allocated £3,043,546 of Rural England Prosperity Fund. The UKSPF programme is being delivered in line with the Investment Plan agreed by Government.

In September 2022, the NTCA Cabinet delegated responsibility to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Director of Finance and relevant Cabinet Members to approve the commissioning approach and subsequent grant agreements and/or contracts associated with the Shared Prosperity Fund (Minute no 34 Resolution 5). In May 2024, the North East Combined Authority (North East CA) Cabinet agreed that 'the formal decisions which the former North East Combined Authority and the former North of Tyne Combined Authority made be treated as decisions of the Authority.' (Cabinet meeting 7 May 2024, Minute no C6/5/24 (4)). The North East CA is now the Lead Authority for the former NTCA's UKSPF programme.

This report includes one project requesting a total of £160,000 UKSPF Communities and Place funding to 31st March 2025.

Recommendations

The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Investment, the Monitoring Officer, the Mayor and relevant Cabinet Member (s) and in accordance with the scheme of delegation, is recommended to approve the following funding award, and authorise entry into required agreements to facilitate approvals, as set out in this report:

- a) A total of £160,000 of UKSPF funding to be awarded to Newcastle City Council to deliver the event safety measures for a celebration event in Newcastle City Centre to take place 29 March 2025.
- b) To authorise the Director of Finance and Investment and Monitoring Officer to prepare the necessary documentation and enter into a grant funding agreement with the applicant (Newcastle City Council).

A. Context**1. Background**

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will invest in economic growth and regeneration in the regions of the United Kingdom (UK), replacing the previous European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF).
- 1.2 The UKSPF Delivery Plan for the Northumberland, North Tyneside and Newcastle area sets out a more inclusive area and is built on three key aims:
 - Creating a more social and inclusive economy - one which promotes wellbeing across all communities by ensuring wealth is retained locally and distributed more equitably.

- Addressing inequality and poverty, enabling our residents to access opportunities at every stage of their lives.
- Driving better coordination of education, skills, employment, and health activities to help more people move into good work, and progress in work.

2. The Investment Proposal

- 2.1 A celebration event will be held on Saturday 29 March 2025 to honour the achievement of Newcastle United winning the Carabao Cup on 16 March 2025. Since this is the first domestic trophy Newcastle has won in over 70 years, it is difficult to determine the expected attendance. However, based on similar events in other cities, the fact NUFC has a fanatical following, and past experience, it is estimated that upwards of 150,000 people may attend.
- 2.2 The anticipated crowds for Saturday's celebration are expected to make it among the biggest events ever held in the city. The safety of those attending and the local communities and businesses affected by this is the priority of all partners involved. The widespread impact needs to be thoroughly assessed to ensure it can go ahead safely. The North East CA has been working with Newcastle City Council, Northumbria Police, Nexus, and other partners as part of the Safety Advisory Group, which has been leading the preparations for the event from a public safety perspective.
- 2.3 This event will recognise the magnitude of the club's success and, just as importantly, what it means to our city, our residents, and the wider region.
- 2.4 The city is set to be extremely busy as people gather for the celebrations and line the streets for an open-top bus parade carrying the team and trophy. The bus will leave St James' Park and travel through the city centre to the Town Moor, where an open-air event to celebrate the club's historic Carabao Cup final victory is being held.
- 2.5 The UKSPF funding is in addition to significant investment in the event from Newcastle United Football Club and Newcastle City Council. It will support the provision of a safe and secure environment for people attending the parade. This will include specific public safety focused activities, including:
- Traffic management
 - Provision of hostile vehicle mitigation and vehicle provision
 - Advance works to make sure the site is safe and accessible
 - Cleansing
 - Resource deployment for event
 - Equipment to ensure proper resilience planning

3. Outputs and Outcomes

- 3.1 The event is anticipated to result in significant economic benefits, generating an additional £6.78m of economic value for the city. It is expected that there will be in excess of 150,000 visitors to the City, many staying in and around the centre of Newcastle with all businesses expected to benefit for increased patronage and footfall.
- 3.2 The event will be screened by the major broadcasters and has the potential to showcase Newcastle and the wider region as a visitor destination.

4. Timetable for Implementation

Milestone	Forecast Date
Proposal Start Date	28/03/2025
Celebration Event	29/03/2025
Financial Completion Date	31/03/2025
Anticipated Proposal Completion Date (date by which all outputs/outcomes will have been achieved)	31/03/2025

5. Evaluation

5.1 An evaluation of the event will be undertaken by NGI and NE1.

6. Appraisal

6.1 The appraisal of the business case provided by the applicant has been assessed and is rated green on all aspects.

6.2 The table below sets out the RAG assessment

Overall RAG assessment		
Risk Rating	Strategic case	Green
	Commercial case	Green
	Economic case	Green
	Financial case	Green
	Management case	Green
	Overall rating	Green

6.3 There are no recommended additional Conditions of Funding

B. Potential Impact on North East Combined Authority Objectives

This programme will deliver against the following North East Combined Authorities missions:

A North East we are proud to call home – This event will encourage sustainable business growth as the increasing amount of visitors to the region will lead to increased demand for the accommodation and hospitality sector.

C. Key risks

A summary of key risks relating to the investment proposal is included below:

The risks associated with the delivery of the project outlined in the report are actively managed at several levels. Strategic risks associated with the delivery of the UKSPF programme are managed through the maintenance of a Risk Register and monitoring by the North East CA's UKSPF Programme Board. Risks at a project level are managed by the project sponsor and as a part of the regular claims and monitoring activity undertaken by the Programme Assurance Team.

D. Financial and other resources implications

The financial profile for the project/programme is included below:

As a result of this report £160,000 UKSPF funding will be awarded to Newcastle City Council. UKSPF Funding will be allocated to the appropriate investment priority and intervention within the UKSPF Investment Plan and monitored in delivery in the usual manner; funding will be defrayed against the following profile:

Funding source	2024/25	Total
NoT UKSPF (£)	£160,000	£160,000
Total (£)	£160,000	£160,000

E. Legal implications

The comments of the Monitoring Officer have been incorporated into the body of the report.

F. Equalities implications

The North East CA follows the Public Sector Equality duty and this report has due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010.

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken for UKSPF and the implications of this will be considered in the project mobilisation and delivery stage.

G. Consultation and engagement

Significant consultation was undertaken in the original development of the NTCA UKSPF Investment plan, which included several stakeholder events and the establishment of a strategic stakeholder group.

H. Appendices

None

I. Background papers

None

J. Contact officers

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K. Glossary

NE	North East
NE1	Newcastle's Business Improvement District Company
North East CA	North East Combined Authority
NTCA	North of Tyne Combined Authority
NoT	North of Tyne
NUFC	Newcastle United Football Club
NGI	NewcastleGateshead Initiative
UK	United Kingdom
UKSPF	United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund

L. Sign Off

Cabinet Member: Yes	Director/Head of Service: Yes	Director of Finance and Investment: Yes	Monitoring Officer: Yes
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