

Blackpool Town Deal Board Meeting 21

Agenda Item 7

Report to: Blackpool Town Deal Board

Subject: UK Community Renewal Fund Programme Update

Relevant Officer: Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director

Date of Meeting: 9 June 2023

1. Purpose of Report

To provide an update on the UK Community Renewal Fund (CRF) Programme.

2. Recommendation

To note the latest position on the Programme progress and its closure.

3. Update

Members will recall from the last meeting that a final programme return was required which was submitted on the 26 January 2023.

A letter (refer to appendix 7A) was received on the 4 April 2023 confirming that the final report was approved by the Department for Levelling-Up Housing and Communities and that any outstanding payments were to be paid to the Council without any further queries.

It should be noted that the £800,523 referenced in the letter is what the Council has received to date. This was an error and, in separate correspondence, DLUHC have confirmed they will request funding back. £755,522.71 is the correct figure the Council should receive covering £740,254.71 for project specific activity spend and £15,268 in management fees.

A total of £23,095.79 was therefore not claimed against the original funding application due to funds not defrayed by the Youth Hub and funding retained against the UCLAN and Inspira led schemes.

4. Programme Closure

Now the final return has been submitted, and DLUHC have provided this confirmation, the programme is now closed (except for any audit activity) and no further paperwork submissions are required. The PMO has commenced formal programme “closure” ensuring all paperwork is held ahead of any future audit. All paperwork must be kept for a minimum of seven years. Project delivery bodies are aware of this requirement.

Lessons have been learnt from the CRF programme especially around the process for dealing with any sanctions and ensuring timely claims returns. These will influence programme management of the SPF, LUF and Town Deal programmes which are ongoing.



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