

## **YORK UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND PARTNERSHIP BOARD (UK SPF PB)**

14:00 – 15:30, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
Thornton Room, West Offices, York

### **Meeting notes and action points**

---

#### **Attendees:**

**Chair:** Councillor Pete Kilbane (Cllr K), City of York Council  
Andrew Leeming (AL), York and North Yorkshire MCA  
Chris Russell (CR), University of York  
Sally Dillon (SD), Aviva  
Rachael Bean (RB), York BID  
Alison Semmence (AS), York CVS  
Joy Kettyle (JK), York College  
Laura Black (LB), Askham Bryan College  
Carolyn Frank (CF), Federation of Small Businesses  
Penny Bainbridge (PB), York Environment Forum  
Karen Laughlin (KL), Unison/Regional TUC  
Simon Brereton (SBr), City of York Council

#### **In attendance:**

Julie Stormont-Dawber, City of York Council  
Frank Lavery, Momentic  
Kathy King, York Unlocked  
Carole Roberts, Community First Yorkshire

#### **Apologies:**

Rachael Maskell MP  
Julian Sturdy MP  
Peter Roderick, City of York Council  
Councillor Katie Lomas, City of York Council  
Jan Thornton, Representing Rural issues  
Sharon Thorpe, DWP/Job Centre Plus

Marc Fleetham (MF), York St John University  
Kathryn Blacker (KB), York Museums Trust  
Laura Williams (LW), City of York Council  
Sarah Loftus (Make It York)  
Sarah Arnott, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

*See “York UKSPF Partnership Board slide deck 18 April 2024.pdf”*

## **1. Welcome and opening remarks from Cllr Pete Kilbane**

Councillor Kilbane welcomed the members of the Partnership Board to the meeting and reminded them that the minutes would be published on the Council website. He drew the Boards’ attention to the Terms of Reference and the requirement to register conflicts of interest.

Potential conflicts of interest were registered by CR, RB, AS, JK, and LB as all are employees of organisations that are current delivering projects or are current applicants. No decisions were taken regarding any of these projects at the meeting.

## **2. Programme update**

SBr presented his Programme Update Report.

*See “York UKSPF Partnership Board update report April 2024.pdf”*

CF requested that more case studies be developed to show the positive impacts that the programme is delivering.

Cllr K urged all involved to submit case studies showing what is being achieved and highlighted the Volunteer It Yourself project at Fulford Arms that he had visited as an example of an excellent initiative supporting young people’s aspirations.

SD asked about committed spend and SBr confirmed that, in contrast to many areas where Levelling Up funds were not being spent, York has spent more than 97% of the available money and has all the budget for 2024/25 committed as shown in Appendix A of his report.

Cllr K expressed his thanks for the work undertaken by the Council’s UKSPF team to ensure that the programme is delivering strongly. He extended his thanks to the 32 projects being delivered across the city for the impact they are having at community level.

### 3. Project Updates

#### a) York Unlocked

Kathy King presented on York Unlocked 2023.

*See “York Unlocked presentation to UKSPF.pdf”*

AS recommended that York Unlocked contact the Volunteer Centre and funding advice available through York CVS.

PB asked how local residents, particularly those in social housing who may not feel included, might get involved, both as potential volunteers and through the visit programme. Kathy confirmed that leafleting has taken place across York and that attracting a diverse audience and volunteer team is a key objective. She welcomed the interest and offered to work, wherever possible, with all parts of the city.

The Programme Board expressed warm support for York Unlocked and asked the UKSPF Programme Team to extend funding into the current year and explore whether further funding might be available.

#### b) Momentic

Frank Lavery presented on Momentic’s Start and Grow York project

*See “York Momentic presentation to UKSPF.pdf”*

AS asked whether the programme, including webinars, would be suitable for third sector organisations. Frank confirmed that the content was very accessible and would be helpful to anyone running a commercially minded organisation.

PB commented on the current focus on the services sector and asked whether there was scope to include a wider range of businesses. Frank confirmed that there was an active discussion in the project team on how to broaden involvement, but also highlighted the other business support offers which may be more applicable to larger businesses.

LB asked about how Momentic might support some of the rural and land based businesses that Askham Bryan College students might want to establish. Frank offered to meet separately to discuss.

The Programme Board noted the high level of take up of Momentic’s support among female entrepreneurs and thanked Frank for his work.

### c) Acomb Front Street

Julie Stormont-Dawber presented on the CYC Regeneration Service's work in Acomb Front Street.

*See "Acomb Front Street presentation to UKSPF.pdf"*

SD asked about visitors to Front Street and whether there is data on whether it is predominantly local people who currently use the area. Julie described the monitoring that is now underway and how this key question is being explored, particularly for additional events such as the new Artisan market.

## **4. New Projects**

SBr briefly updated on the current live grant competitions for Creative and Tech ecosystem support and the Construction Skills Initiative. Neither had yet concluded.

JK and LB outlined the work planned for the Future Foundation 4U project which was agreed in principle at the previous meeting. They described how the work will train College staff in mentoring and life coaching and then seek to support young people at risk of dropping out from college by helping them to find areas where their interests might lie. There will be visits to workplaces, individual life coaching and mentoring, and active encouragement for young people to find a future which matches their interests.

CF applauded the project, saying how it responds to the challenges that businesses see in recruiting young people.

## **5. Rural England Prosperity Fund**

SBr updated on the overall position on REPF and confirmed that Biorenewables Development Centre have now overcome the Subsidy Control challenge which had slowed implementation. Once the Community buildings element is fully scoped, the Team will move on to developing the final business grant strand for delivery later in the year.

CF expressed her concern that the business grant strand was behind schedule and offered to work with the Team to see whether this might be brought back on track.

Carole Roberts presented the feasibility study that Community First are undertaking to support the development of a community building grant fund through REPF.

*See “REPF Community Buildings presentation to UKSPF.pdf”*

There were no questions to Carole.

## **6. UKSPF after March 2025**

The Board discussed the lack of clarity on what will follow the current UKSPF programme and expressed their willingness to work with City of York Council, North Yorkshire Council and the new Mayoral Combined Authority when future plans become clearer.

## **7. Next meeting**

The next meeting will be scheduled for November 2024 unless the funding position becomes clearer and an earlier meeting is possible.