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**UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Nottingham: Public Sector Equality Duty Statement**

This is the Public Sector Equality Duty statement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme managed by Nottingham City Council. The following explains our duties under the Equality Act of 2010 and how we will carry out such in the commissioning part of our actions as Lead Local Authority.

The information refers to Nottingham City Council.

**The Equality Act 2010**

The Act introduced the equality duty to harmonise all previous equality duties and extend it across the protected characteristics. This gives local authorities the obligation in the exercise of our functions, to have due regard to the need to:

* Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the act.
* Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
* Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

This involves us:

* Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
* Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.
* Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionally low.

Complying with this latter duty may involve us treating some people more favourably than others. The Act covers the nine protected characteristic:

* Age
* Disability
* Gender reassignment
* Pregnancy and maternity
* Race
* Religion or belief
* Sex
* Sexual orientation
* Marriage or civil partnership status

**UKSPF Nottingham**

UKSP Nottingham has an overarching objective of building pride in place and increasing life chances. There are three investment priorities which may overlap over the programme and within a project. These are:

* Community and Place
* Support for Local Businesses
* People and Skills

UKSPF Nottingham focuses on narrowing regional inequalities across a broad range of indicators and critically, prioritises interventions that directly address those issues most impacting people, businesses, and communities. Therefore, our two key priority areas are:

1. Economy – Improving the economic prosperity of people and places by:

* Addressing regional inequalities in employment, pay, skills, productivity and investment in R&D.
* Creating a more sustainable inclusive economy, adapted for a post-Covid and digitally enabled world.

1. Health & Wellbeing - Maximising opportunities to improve health outcomes (e.g. healthy life expectancy, anxiety, wellness) through:

* The development of programmes that drive economic growth and prosperity, contributing towards increased life chances and improvements in healthy living.

This translates into the following priority themes for Nottingham:

1. Supporting the development of Nottingham’s communities (including employment support)
2. Improving Nottingham city centre and neighbourhood high streets
3. Supporting Nottingham’s visitor economy
4. Supporting inward investment in Nottingham
5. Supporting business growth
6. Reducing digital poverty
7. Developing Nottingham’s skills (including green skills)

**Nottingham**

Nottingham continues to see high levels of inequality and deprivation across a number of indicators important for quality of life (e.g. Pay, Employment, Healthy Life Expectancy, Anxiety) with some areas within the City (e.g. the Nottingham North Constituency) ranking inside the top ten in England for levels of deprivation.

UKSP Nottingham will contribute to the delivery of the six major ambitions of the “Nottingham Economic Recovery & Renewal Plan”:

* City of Creativity & Culture
* Reshaping the City
* Carbon Neutral City
* Digital Enterprise
* Entrepreneurship & Innovation
* Skills & Employment

Underpinning these six ambitions is the drive for greater socio-economic inclusion, the need to address the inequalities experienced by too many people in the city – BAME communities, women, young people, older people and people with disabilities.

As a result Nottingham City Council in carrying out its duties under the Equality Act 2010 encourages applications for grant funding that support people from these groups to access UKSPF Nottingham.

**Equality Impact Assessment**

Nottingham City Council has completed an Equality Impact Assessment for UKSPF Nottingham.