



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to
STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE
23 JANUARY 2025

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 2025 / 26 ALLOCATION

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the 2025 / 26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Members note the opportunity presented for investment in the District by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025 / 26 allocation and the Council's role in delivery and administration;
- (ii) that Members note the aggressive pace of work required to identify projects that are suitable for delivery within the timeframe and the Corporate Leadership Team in consultation with the Chairperson of Strategy and Resources Committee be granted delegated authority to identify such projects and report back to the next meeting of this Committee for approval;
- (iii) that Members consider the opportunity to 100% match fund the Council's allocation to maximise delivery opportunities for the benefit of communities and the District;
- (iv) that Members approve that the One Maldon District Partnership continues to act as the Local Partnership Group for the duration of the fund.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 In the Autumn Budget 2024, the Chancellor confirmed the continuation of the UKSPF for another year, which will allow local authorities to invest in local growth, in advance of wider funding reforms.
- 3.2 The MHCLG issued the UKSPF 2025 / 26 technical note and allocations on 13 December 2024. The release confirmed that the Maldon District would receive £327,146, split between capital and revenue expenditure. Maldon District Council is the Lead Local Authority (LLA) for administering and managing the fund.

2025 / 26	Min. Capital Expenditure	Max. Revenue Expenditure	Total allocation
Maldon District	£60,401	£266,745	£327,146

- 3.3 For 2025 / 26, MHCLG have mapped existing UKSPF interventions into 'mission-led themes' across the three priority areas of Communities and Place, Support for Local Business and People and Skills.



- 3.4 LLAs are expected to continue engaging with, and seek support from, local partners to deliver the fund as a 'Local Partnership Group'. One Maldon District Partnership has acted in this capacity since the submission of the original UKSPF investment plan in 2022.
- 3.5 MHCLG has confirmed LLAs will not be required to submit a revised investment plan. Instead, the routine reporting periods will update MHCLG on the proposals and delivery progress.
- 3.6 As per the previous allocation, LLAs are permitted to utilise up to 4% of their allocation by default to undertake necessary fund management and administration. The Council had previously sought, and received permission, from MHCLG to utilise 6% to support this activity.
- 3.7 Underspends from the initial allocation (2022 - 2025, £1m) cannot be carried forward to 2025 / 26. LLAs delivering UKSPF in 2025 / 26, may choose to extend existing projects using funding from 2025 / 26.
- 3.8 For delivery, consideration should be given to those projects that were not brought forward under the previous allocation, due to financial constraints, and, be informed by the existing Strategic Asset Working Group and aligned to the Corporate Plan priorities.
- 3.9 To maximise impact, for the benefit of communities and the District, Members may also wish to consider 100% match funding the allocation.

- 3.10 A further report will be brought to the March 2025 Strategy and Resources Committee meeting outlining the proposals to manage, administer and monitor the fund.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 UKSPF continues to present a significant opportunity for the District to support, through direct investment, in our economy, businesses and communities.

5. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES AS SET OUT IN THE CORPORATE PLAN 2025 - 2028

5.1 Supporting our communities

- 5.1.1 UKSPF interventions under Communities and Place directly support this priority through the government's themes of:

- Healthy, safe and inclusive communities;
 - Mission 2: Make Britain a clean energy superpower
 - Mission 3: Take back our streets
 - Mission 4: Break down barriers to opportunity
 - Mission 5: Build and NHS fit for the future

- 5.1.2 Its scope includes improving health and wellbeing, reducing crime and the fear of crime, bringing communities together and tackling homelessness.

5.2 Investing in our district

- 5.2.1 UKSPF interventions under Communities and Place directly supports this priority through the government's theme of:

- Thriving places
 - Mission 1: Kickstart economic growth.

- 5.2.2 Its scope includes development of the visitor economy, and high streets and town centres improvements.

5.3 Growing our economy

- 5.3.1 UKSPF interventions under Supporting Local Business directly supports this priority through the government's theme of:

- Supporting local business
 - Mission 1: Kickstart the economy

- 5.3.2 Its scope includes advice and support to business, enterprise culture and start-up support, as well as business sites and premises.

5.4 Protecting our environment

- 5.4.1 Projects delivered under UKSPF will aim to directly support the authority's Climate Action Strategy and yearly Climate Action Plan.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Any project delivered will be designed to benefit residents / businesses and ensure there is significant customer benefit from its outputs.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Projects will be delivered in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Should projects not progress as anticipated, future spend is at risk, so it is vital that activity is aligned and adequately reported to the funder to ensure compliance. The Council faces increased reputation risk if it fails to deliver to the expectations of stakeholders.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The authority has agreement to use 6% of its revenue allocation to support the management and administration of the UKSPF programme. However, with the cost of doing business and supply chain pressures still being significant, it will be prudent to regularly assess pipeline projects to ensure viability and value for money. Should Members agree to match fund the allocation, £327,146, this would need to be drawn from the Council's reserves.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – The coordination work for UKSPF work will be undertaken by the Lead Specialist Prosperity for the remainder of their contract. Delivery will be reviewed and reallocated as necessary afterwards. Project delivery will need to be well supported by resources drawn from the wider organisation with the Project Delivery Group being reviewed.

Background Papers:

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26: Technical note - GOV.UK](#)

[UKSPF 2025-26 allocations - GOV.UK](#)

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