



## REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to  
COUNCIL  
3 APRIL 2025

### UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 2025 / 26 ALLOCATION

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the projects proposed for delivery under the 2025 / 26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the Council's 100% match funding.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That Members note the work that has been undertaken to identify projects under the delegation granted to Corporate Leadership Team in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chairperson of the Strategy and Resources Committee;
- (ii) that Members approve the proposed projects for delivery under **APPENDIX 1** of the report and delegate authority to the Corporate Leadership Team to progress within the funds provided;
- (iii) subject to approval of recommendation (ii), that Members approve the commencement of delivery from 1 April 2025, in advance of receiving the funding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities, Housing and Local Government (MHCLG). Updates on delivery will be provided to Performance, Governance and Audit Committee 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 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for a further 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 A report was brought to the Strategy and Resources Committee on 23 January 2025, which granted delegated authority to the Corporate Leadership Team to identify

projects for delivery in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chairperson of the Strategy and Resources Committee.

- 3.4 That report also recommended to the Council 100% match funding of the UKSPF 2025 / 26 allocation be provided from the Council's Reserves. This recommendation was approved by the Council on 13 February 2025, meaning there is a total delivery fund of £654,292.
- 3.5 To maximise the delivery duration and impact, it is suggested not all the Council's match funding should be delivered simultaneously with the MHCLG allocation over 2025 / 26.
- 3.6 Officers across the Council have worked to identify projects suitable for delivery in accordance with the MHCLG issued guidance and were robustly reviewed as to the:
- **Need rating** – including strategic alignment to the Council's Corporate Plan 2025-2028 priorities.
  - **Deliverability** – can the proposed project be delivered in the 12-month funding duration.
  - **Reporting** – does the proposed project align to the outputs and outcomes reportable to MHCLG.
- 3.7 **APPENDIX 1** of this report sets out the projects proposed for delivery.
- 3.8 As agreed at the Strategy and Resources Committee on 23 January, One Maldon District Partnership, acting as the Council's Local Partnership Group, has approved the proposed delivery.
- 3.9 UKSPF allocations for 2025 / 26 will be paid in full upon the successful submission of a forecast report and agreement of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The MoU has been signed and returned to the MHCLG as per the requirements. To ensure projects in **APPENDIX 1** are not delayed, the Council should commence delivery on 1 April 2025.
- 3.10 Members will note that **APPENDIX 1** does not include delivery of any projects identified from the Strategic Asset Working Group (SAWG). The SAWG has made a recommendation to the Council that a separate investment plan, funded from the Council's Reserves, is brought with the Promenade Park Management Plan to Council for consideration when presented in June 2025.
- 3.11 Updates on delivery will be provided to the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee for the duration of the fund.
- 3.12 On 4 March 2025, the Council received confirmation the Rural England Prosperity Fund would also be extended for a further year. An allocation and further details of this are expected imminently and a further report will be brought to Committee once received.

## 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 28

### 5.1 Supporting our communities

5.1.1 The UKSPF investment priority of Communities and Place directly supports this through the theme of:

- Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Economy

### 5.2 Investing in our district

5.2.1 The UKSPF investment priority of Communities and Place directly supports this through the theme of:

- Thriving places

### 5.3 Growing our economy

5.3.1 The UKSPF investment priority of Supporting Local Business directly supports this through the theme of:

- Supporting local business

### 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)** – Delivery will be reported through the Council's Project Management Office monthly, which records and reports risk. A separate Fraud Risk Assessment, issued by MHCLG, is maintained. 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 projects to ensure viability and value for money.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – The coordination work for UKSPF work will be undertaken by the Lead Specialist Prosperity. Project delivery will need to be well supported by resources drawn from the wider organisation, coordinated through the UKSPF Project Delivery Group.

- (vi) **Impact on Devolution / Local Government Reorganisation** – None, the funding is not affected by changes from Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

Background Papers:

**APPENDIX 1** – UKSPF 25/26 Proposed Projects for Delivery

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

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

[Strategy and Resources Committee 23 January 2025, agenda item 14, UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025 / 26 Allocation](#)

Enquiries to: Leanda Cable, Lead Specialist Prosperity.