



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

**to
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
5 JUNE 2025**

UK SHARED AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUNDS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on the closure of the UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds for the allocation period 2022 to 2025.
- 1.2 To update Members on the progress of the UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds for the allocation period 25 / 26.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That the Committee acknowledges the closure of the UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds for the allocation period 2022 to 2025 and its successes;
- (ii) That the Committee acknowledges the update provided on Maldon District's UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity fund allocations for 25 / 26 and continues to monitor the delivery.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds allocation period 2022 to 2025

- 3.1.1 **APPENDIX 1** of this report sets out the projects completed with the Maldon District's allocation of £1,000,000 for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) over the three-year period.
- 3.1.2 All projects were completed on time and within budget. A £669 underspend was reported to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which the Council has not claimed as part of its final return.
- 3.1.3 **APPENDIX 2** of this report details the grants issued to organisations and the purpose of the funding under Maldon District's allocation of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). There was no underspend with this allocation.
- 3.1.4 The Council successfully submitted its final return to MHCLG, who has confirmed there are no outstanding queries, and the submission accepted.

3.2 UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds allocation period 25 / 26

- 3.2.1 In the Autumn Budget 2024, the Chancellor confirmed the continuation of UKSPF for a further year, which will allow local authorities to invest in local growth, in advance of wider funding reforms.
- 3.2.2 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 Strategy and Resources Committee, under UKSPF.
- 3.2.3 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.
- 3.2.4 At the Council meeting on 3 April, Members approved the proposed projects to be delivered detailed presented in the report. An update on these projects is contained within **APPENDIX 3**.
- 3.2.5 At the same meeting, an [Addendum](#) paper was presented outlining Maldon District's allocation for REPF 25 / 26. Members granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chairperson of Strategy and Resources Committee, and Ward Members, to identify projects for delivery.
- 3.2.6 Following project identification and engagement with the aforementioned Ward Members, **APPENDIX 3** of this report details the projects for delivery.
- 3.2.7 As required by MHCLG, the Council submitted its forecast spend, outputs and outcomes for 25 / 26. MHCLG has confirmed that there are no outstanding queries, and the submission is accepted.
- 3.3 Officers across the authority will continue delivery of the projects over the funding period, submitting the required MHCLG returns as required. Further progress updates shall be brought to the Performance, Governance and Audit Committee throughout the municipal year.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 UKSPF and REPF 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 and REPF investment priority of Communities and Place directly supports this through the theme of:
- Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities

5.2 Investing in our district

5.2.1 The UKSPF and REPF 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 and REPF 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 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. The Council has already committed to match 100% fund the UKSPF allocation and replenish REPF in 26 / 27 from its own Reserves.
- (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. Project Managers have been identified and are required to report through the Project Management Office monthly.
- (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 2022 – 2025 Delivery

APPENDIX 2 - REPF Grant Recipients

APPENDIX 3 - UKSPF REPF 25 / 26

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

[Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus updates for 2025 to 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

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

[Rural England Prosperity Fund: Allocations 2025 to 2026](#)

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