



REPORT of CHIEF EXECUTIVE

to
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
18 SEPTEMBER

UK SHARED AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUNDS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

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 In the Autumn Budget 2024, the Chancellor confirmed the continuation of 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 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 the Chairperson of the Strategy and Resources Committee, under UKSPF.
- 3.3 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 (Minute No. 537 refers), meaning there is a total delivery fund of £654,292.
- 3.4 At the Council meeting on 3 April 2025, Members approved the proposed projects to be delivered detailed presented in the report. At the same meeting, an [Addendum](#) paper was presented outlining Maldon District's allocation for Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025 / 26. Members granted delegated authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chairperson of the Strategy and Resources Committee, and Ward Members, to identify projects for delivery.
- 3.5 As required by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), the Council submitted its forecast spend, outputs and outcomes for 25 / 26. MHCLG confirmed the submission had been accepted.
- 3.6 Of the £783,369 available budget, from UKSPF, REPF and the Council's match fund, £98,408.37 of actual spend has been incurred. Updates on the individual project progress is contained within **APPENDIX 1**.

- 3.7 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 2026 / 27 from its own Reserves.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – The coordination work for UKSPF work will be undertaken by the Head of Economic Development. 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 arising from Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

Background Papers:

APPENDIX 1 – UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds 2025 / 26 Project Delivery

[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](#)

Enquiries to: Leanda Cable, Head of Economic Development.