



**REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND IMPROVEMENT**

**to
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
4 JUNE 2026**

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 (UKSPF) for the allocation period 2025 / 26.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee acknowledges the update provided on Maldon District Council'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 (now Senior Leadership Team – SLT) 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 that 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 were presented in the report. At the same meeting, an Addendum paper was presented outlining Maldon District Council's allocation for Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025 / 26 (£129,077). 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 via REPF funding.
- 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 (£327,146), REPF (£129,077) and the Council's match fund (£327,146), £670,407.25 of actual spend has been incurred. This represents 86% of funding spent. Updates on the individual project progress is contained within **APPENDIX 1**.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation	£327,146
Rural England Prosperity Fund Allocation	£129,077
Maldon District Council Match Funding	£327,146
Total Funding	£783,369
Spent to date	£670,407.25
Remaining (allocated to projects)	£112,961.75

- 3.7 **APPENDIX 2** of the report, provides the final programme report of the North Essex Economic Board Business Support delivery.
- 3.8 In January 2026, MHCLG issued notification to confirm UKSPF and REPF 2025/2026 delivery can now continue to 30 September 2026. This is an extension of the spend eligibility deadline, which was previously 31 March 2026. All the projects are still proposed to complete by the original deadline, however, where it is prudent to do so, for value for money, or further robustness of delivery can be obtained, the end dates will be amended. The Council will be expected to continue reporting up to 30 September regardless of whether all projects have completed.
- 3.9 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 Maldon 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 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

APPENDIX 2 – North Essex Economic Board Business Support end of programme report

[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, Director of Strategy and Improvement.