REPORT of
DIRECTOR OF STRATEGY AND IMPROVEMENT

to
PERFORMANCE, GOVERNANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
12 NOVEMBER 2026

FINAL UK SHARED AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUNDS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To update Members on the final position of the UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity Funds (UKSPF) for the allocation period 2025 / 26.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee acknowledges the final position of Maldon District Council's UK Shared and Rural England Prosperity fund allocations for 25 / 26.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

3.1 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 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 was accepted.

3.6 Of the available Government issued grant for UKSPF (£327,146) and REPF (£129,077), £456,294.83 of actual spend has been incurred. This represents 100% of

the allocation with a 0.01% overspend, which will be covered by existing budgets. Final updates on the individual project progress is contained within **APPENDIX 1**.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Allocation	£327,146	Remaining	£0
Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF)	£129,077	Remaining	£0
	£456,223		**£0**

3.1 Of the Council's approved match funding (£327,146), £303,839.81 of actual spend has been incurred. This represents 93% of the match funding allocation. The remaining funds are being managed through the Council's Where Quality of Life Matters grant scheme.

Maldon District Council Match Funding	£327,146	Remaining	£23,306.19

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 UKSPF and REPF delivered significant opportunities in the Maldon District, 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 supported 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 supported 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 aimed to directly support the authority's Climate Action Strategy and Climate Action Plan.

6. IMPLICATIONS

(i) **Impact on Customers** – Projects delivered were designed to benefit residents / businesses and ensured there was a significant customer benefit from its outputs.

(ii) **Impact on Equalities** – Projects were delivered in accordance with the Public Sector Equality Duty.

(iii) **Impact on Risk (including Fraud implications)** – Delivery was reported through the Council's Project Management Office monthly, which records and reports risk. A separate Fraud Risk Assessment, issued by MHCLG, was maintained.

(iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The authority had agreement to use 6% of its allocation to support the management and administration of the UKSPF programme. Any ongoing commitment for project maintenance is being funded through base budgets.

(v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – The coordination work for UKSPF work was undertaken by the Head of Economic Development. Project delivery was well supported by resources drawn from the wider organisation. Project Managers were identified and were 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 – Final 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

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