

RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY

PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT

Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member
[NO]

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned **[NO]**

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

1.1 The approval of the allocation **North Herts Prosperity Fund** funding of:

1.1.1 **£19,250** to REED PARISH COUNCIL towards playground equipment. ***On condition that three relevant quotes are received.***

1.1.2 **£20,000** to ROYSTON MUSEUM towards upgrading and expanding storage. ***On condition that three relevant quotes are received.***

1.1.3 **£5,427** to ZEO CHURCH towards their Helping Hands project. ***On condition that three relevant quotes are received.***

1.1.4 **£19,775** to GREEN CARE AT NORTON towards a low-emissions van.

2. DECISION TAKER

2.1 Cllr Val Bryant, Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community.

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

21 Oct 2024

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 The **District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel** meetings held on 18 October 2024 considered applications for the North Herts Prosperity Fund and recorded their recommendation to the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships for the formal commitment of North Herts Prosperity Fund monies via the delegated authority process.

5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 There are no other reasonable alternative options.

6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel members in a closed meeting on 18 October 2024. Members are in favour and recommend that the North Herts Prosperity Fund should be used for this purpose.

7. FORWARD PLAN

7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 The grant applications were considered by the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel on 18 October 2024.

8.2 This delegated decision confirms that the recommendations made by the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel members were accepted by the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, and Service Director on applications 1.1.1-1.1.4.

8.2.1 With regards to the applications in 1.1.1-1.1.3 funds to be released on condition of receipt of relevant quotes.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Executive Member has delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)((ii)A 5 of the constitution, in consultation with the Service Director: Legal & Community. That decision will be subject to a five clear working day call-in period, following publication in the Members Information Service (MIS) and on the Council's website.

9.2 These grants have been assessed against the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Most of the proposals in this report are not subsidies as they do not relate to the supporting of goods or services that are also available commercially. The grant for Zeo Church partly relates to gardening and DIY services. Whilst these services would be available from commercial organisations, the overall focus on wider support means that it goes beyond commercial offerings. Therefore, it is not considered to be a subsidy.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1. The available North Herts Prosperity Fund budget is **£210,000**.

10.2. Of the £210,000 allocated there is a prescribed Capital/Revenue split on the funding. The proportion of spend will be £130,000 capital funding and £80,000 revenue funding.

10.3 When all grants that have been recommended are taken into consideration, they represent a split of £130,888.00 capital spend and £69,343.00 revenue spend. While this does not quite meet the prescribed split set out in paragraph 10.2, this has been reviewed in the context of spend against the overall UKSPF grant and this variance does not create a problem. This has been confirmed by the Economic Development Officer and S151 Officer.

10.4 Previously there have been two meetings of the Community Facility Capital and Revenue Grant Panel on 3 and 4 October 2024. Across both meetings, a total of £135,779 has been utilised. This leaves an available budget of **£74,221**.

10.5 The four grant applications in this delegated decision total **£64,452**.

10.6 The amount recommended at all grant panels totals **£200,231**. This leaves **£9,769** remaining in the budget.

- 10.7 Any monies remaining after the completion of the North Herts Prosperity Fund process will be returned to the overall UKSPF underspent budget to be utilised by 31 March 2025.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.
- 11.2 There is a requirement for allocated funds to be spent by the end of March 2025. Therefore, there is a risk that we will have to request the return of funds from applicants where projects have not been completed on time. This is assessed as unlikely, as the application process included an assessment of each applicant's ability to commence their project as soon as funding is available and to progress work in a timely manner.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 12.1 In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 12.2 North Herts Prosperity Fund monies are awarded to groups that clearly demonstrate positive impact on the community and wider environment. The projects outlined in this report seek to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

- 13.1 The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to the matters contained within this report, as there are no recommendations on procurement.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 14.1 The Fund's criteria enabled application for projects related to environment and climate. In addition to this, in further developing the criteria and scoring process applicants were asked to confirm which of the Council's priorities their project supported. Therefore, applications which fulfilled the Council's Sustainability priority were able to score an additional point for this, which could aid in boosting their overall score. Regarding the application for funding towards a van from Green Care at Norton CIC, the group have considered the purchase of an electric alternative to a diesel vehicle, but due to the availability of electric vehicles of a suitable nature this may not be possible. The applicant has advised they will strive to purchase an electric vehicle or a BlueHDi alternative. A larger van would mean less trips between sites.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 15.1 The activities of the Community & Partnership team are covered by existing budgets.

16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 16.1 Terms of Reference for the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel can be found on the Council's website [Terms of reference](#)

16.2 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#)

16.3 [North Herts Prosperity Fund Criteria](#)

16.4 [Community Grants Policy, 9th May 2023](#)

17. APPENDICES

17.1 See website links above.

NOTIFICATION DATE

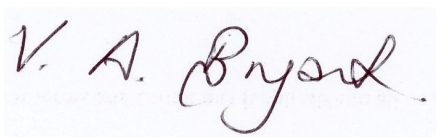
25.10.24

Signature of Service Director Consulted



Date: 21.10.24

Signature of Executive Member for Community and Partnerships



Decision Taker

Please Note: that *unless urgency provisions apply* EXECUTIVE decisions cannot be implemented until 5 clear working days have elapsed after the decision has been taken to allow for scrutiny call-in.

Call-in does not apply to NON-EXECUTIVE DECISIONS