

## 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 of **North Herts Prosperity Fund (NHPF)** funding of:

1.1.1 **£17,169** to LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY COMMUNITY GROUP towards replacement of the main hall floor at Mrs Howard Memorial Hall.

#### **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:**

*2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025*

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

4.1 The Council has some unused funds which must be used by 31 March 2025. The applicant in 1.1.1 had previously submitted an application for NHPF funding, but was unsuccessful at that initial stage. It has confirmed a continuing need for this funding towards the replacement flooring and confirmed they will be able to use the funding by the hard deadline of 31 March 2025.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 There are no other reasonable alternative options proposed for this amount, as the alternative is to lose the funding (unused funds cannot be carried forward for 2025/26).

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

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Community Partnerships team. It was also previously raised with Cllrs Bryant, Daniel Allen and Thomas (and the Managing Director) on 16 December 2024 by the Service Director: Legal & Community.

6.2 Cllr Debenham has also been consulted, as Executive Member for Environment, Leisure & Green Spaces, as the funds described were originally allocated to Place for Business [original allocation report Cabinet 19 March 2024 [CLICK HERE](#)].

#### **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 North Herts Prosperity Fund initially had £210,000 to allocate to Parishes and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations.

8.2 Unspent £66,780 has been identified for use before 31 March 2025.

8.2 This delegated decision confirms that application 1.1.1 has been accepted by the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, and Service Director.

## **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 This grant has been assessed against the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

10.1. The available North Herts Prosperity Fund budget is **£66,780**.

10.2. Of the £66,780 allocated there is a prescribed Capital/Revenue split on the funding. The proportion of spend will be £43,715 capital funding and £23,065 revenue funding.

10.3 It is possible that when all applications have been taken into account that the prescribed capital / revenue split may not be met as set out in paragraph 10.2. However, 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 If the grant application in the delegated decision is awarded as outlined in 1.1.1, the remaining balance will be **£49,611**.

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.

## **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, 9<sup>th</sup> May 2023](#)

## **17. APPENDICES**

- 17.1 See website links above.

## **NOTIFICATION DATE**

**3.1.25**

**Signature of Service Director Consulted .....**



**Date: 2.12.24**

**Signature of Executive Member for Community and Partnerships**

Handwritten signature of V. A. Byrd in black ink on a light blue background.

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**