

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 **£18,246.00** to HOWARD GARDEN SOCIAL CENTRE towards replacement the heating system to make the building more energy efficient

1.1.2 **£16,041.33** to WALSWORTH COMMUNITY CENTRE towards air conditioning and flood defences on exterior doors.

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:

9 January 2025

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 The applicant in 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 have confirmed a need for this funding 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.

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

6.1 Consultation has taken place with the Community Partnerships team.

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 A further £66,780 has been identified to be utilised for the Fund.

- 8.3 This delegated decision confirms that application 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 has been accepted by the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships, and Service Director.
- 8.4 The grant funding to Howard Garden Social Centre will be made under the condition that payment will be released on receipt of a suitable and robust safeguarding policy. The organisation are working to update their current policy and it is expected that this will be received by the time this decision is ratified.

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 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. £17,169 has been utilised on a grant funding provided to the Letchworth Garden City Community Group in a decision made on Friday 3rd January 2025 leaving **£49,611** for the two grants outlined in this report.
- 10.4 If the grant applications contained in the delegated decision equates to **£34,289.33** is awarded as outlined in 1.1.1 and 1.1.2 the remaining balance will be **£15,321.67**
- 10.5 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.
- 10.6 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.

- 11.3 As the applications contained in this report are all for works to buildings that are owned by North Herts Council on full repairing leases to the relevant community groups / charities who operate the buildings, any risk involved in the organisation becoming insolvent is mitigated by the fact that the investment will be made to support community facilities that can be repurposed and would be fit for use by another group.

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.
- 14.2 The grant funding agreed for the Howard Garden Social Centre to replace the current heating system needs to be undertaken as a matter of urgency as the current heating is not fit for purpose and in danger of being condemned. The facility is predominantly used for social interaction for elderly people many of who suffer from social isolation which makes it imperative that they have a warm space for service users.
Although the heating system will be like for like gas boiler, the cost of installing a heating system such as ground source heat pump or electric heating would be cost prohibitive. The new hating system would enable environmental improvements compared to the existing system, in that it would increase energy efficiency and be cheaper to run.

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

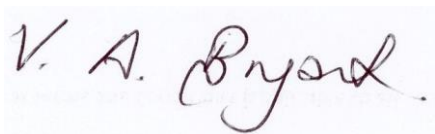
10.1.25

Signature of Service Director Consulted



Date: 09.01.25

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**