

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
[**YES, the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships declared an interest in relation to grant 1.1.1 so the decision has been passed to the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community. See Legal implications**]

Any conflict with any Member of the Panel and the bodies concerned

[**YES – Cllr Tina Bhartwas. However, she declared his interest and therefore did not take part in the voting on this application.**]

SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Legal and Community

1. DECISION TAKEN

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

1.1.1 **£14,622** to NORTH HERTS & STEVENAGE CVS towards their digital poverty project.

On condition that three relevant quotes are received.

2. DECISION TAKER

2.1 Cllr Daniel Allen, Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Service Director – Legal and Community.

3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:

9 October 2024

4. REASON FOR DECISION

4.1 The **District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel** meetings held on 3 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.

4.2 As the Executive Member for Community and Partnerships is the Council's representative on the North Herts & Stevenage CVS, she has a registerable disclosable interest and therefore cannot sign off on this decision which has been delegated to the Leader of the Council.

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 3 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 This grant application was considered by the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel on 3 October 2024.
- 8.2 This delegated decision confirms that the recommendation made by the District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel members was accepted by the Leader of the Council, and Service Director on application 1.1.1.
- 8.2.1 Funds are only to be released on condition of receipt of relevant quotes.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Under the Constitution, the Executive Member for Community & Partnerships and Service Director Legal & Community have delegated authority to make these Executive decisions under section 14.6.9(b)(ii)A 5. The Executive Member has a conflict of interest in relation to the is body, therefore the Leader can exercise such powers, as per section 14.6.16.1. This 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 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 and those that are tabled for recommendation are taken into consideration, they represent a split of £140,657.00 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. Of the £210,000 budget, **£121,157** has been awarded, leaving **£88,843** to be allocated.
- 10.5. If the grant application in this delegated decision is awarded as outlined in 1.1.1, the remaining balance will be **£74,221**.
- 10.3 At the meeting to be held on 18 October, there are five grant applications to be heard that total **£74,221**.
- 10.4 If applications at all meetings are recommended, the amount recommended / awarded will total **£210,000**.

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.

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

11.10.24



Signature of Service Director Consulted

Date: 9.10.24

Signature of the Leader



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