

## 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 [YES]

**Items 1.1.7, 1.1.8 and 1.1.9 - Cllr Tina Bhartwas has provided funding for Khalsa FA, Letchworth Garden Shed and North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum from her HCC Locality Budget but not for these projects. She did not vote on these grants.**

**Items 1.1.9 and 1.1.13 - Cllr Ian Albert has previously funded North Herts Minority Ethnic Forum and Triangle Community Garden from his HCC Locality Budget but not for these projects, he did not vote on their applications.**

**Item 1.1.10 - Cllr Alistair Willoughby declared that he had been involved in helping to set up a North Herts Pride and did not vote on their 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 **£5,421** to BEEE CREATIVE towards the delivery of their Dance Re:Ignite 4.0 programme.

1.1.2 **£6,750** to CREATIVE CHEFS towards building a website.

1.1.3 **£6,000** to FC COMETS funding towards a mower that is suitable for the grounds in the autumn/winter months. ***On condition that three relevant quotes and robust safeguarding policy is received.***

1.1.4 **£8,000** to GROUNDWORK EAST towards Green Aiders project to help deal with the waiting list for their Green Aiders service, and to enable more households to access the service.

1.1.5 **£5,000** to HERTS MUSICAL MEMORIES funding to support the delivery of weekly singing sessions for elderly individuals with dementia.

1.1.6 **£12,225** to HITCHIN YOUTH ALLOTMENT to expand the project, to offer more opportunities to schools and community groups to take part in their activities. ***On condition of three relevant quotes having been received.***

1.1.7 **£6,100** to KHALSA YOUTH FOOTBALL ACADEMY funds for the hire costs of halls and drum displays for their futsal sessions and mini festivals.

1.1.8 **£5,500** to LETCHWORTH GARDEN SHED funding towards a tech recycling project. ***On condition of three relevant quotes having been received.***

1.1.9 **£19,134** to NORTH HERTS MINORITY ETHNIC FORUM towards Community Projects and Revitalise. ***On condition of three relevant quotes having been received.***

1.1.10 **£5,232** NORTH HERTS PRIDE towards hosting a charity gala.

1.1.11 **£6,589** ROYSTON SWIMMING CLUB towards swim meet costs and upgrading equipment.

1.1.12 **£8,119** STAND BY ME towards technology for group sessions. ***On condition of three relevant quotes having been received.***

1.1.13 **£20,000** TRIANGLE COMMUNITY GARDEN towards biodiversity, making plots more accessible and providing a kitchen area at the Triangle Community Garden

1.1.14 **£7,087** WALK THE WALK towards volunteer capacity building. ***On condition of three relevant quotes having been received.***

## **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:**

***10 October 2024***

## **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

4.1 The **District Wide Community Facilities Capital & Revenue Grants Panel** meetings held on 3 and 4 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 3 October and 4 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 3 and 4 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 1.1.1-1.1.14.

8.2.1 With regards to the application in 1.1.3, funds to be released on condition of receipt of robust and adopted safeguarding policies.

8.2.2 With regards to the applications in 1.1.6, 1.1.8, 1.1.9 and 1.1.12-1.1.14, 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. For the Creative Chefs project, whilst there is a market for groups for parents/ carers and young children, the educational aspect means that it is not considered to be a subsidy. Support for the Green Aiders project is a subsidy as an alternative would be to use a commercial gardening service. Groundworks East (along with all the grant applicants) have confirmed that if their project is a subsidy, then MFA can be applied. This is because their total subsidy funding will fall below the required threshold.

## 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 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 The 14 grant applications in this delegated decision total **£121,157**. If the grants are awarded as outlined in 1.1.1-1.114, the remaining balance will be **£88,843**.
- 10.5 At the meeting held on 3 October 2024, a grant application for North Herts & Stevenage CVS was heard for **£14,622**. This recommendation is recorded in a separate delegated decision to be approved by the Leader of the Council due to the Executive Member for Community Partnerships having a registerable disclosed interest in NH&SCVS.
- 10.6 At the meeting to be held on 18 October, there are five grant applications to be heard that total **£74,221**.
- 10.7 If applications at all meetings are recommended, the amount recommended 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. Multiple projects recommended for funding in this report are planned to have positive impacts on climate and environment. For example, projects include refurbishing IT equipment so that it can be re-used and encouraging engagement with growing food and the natural environment.

## **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](#)

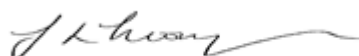
## **17. APPENDICES**

- 17.1 See website links above.

## **NOTIFICATION DATE**

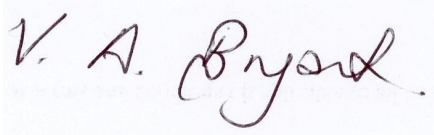
**11 October 2024**

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



Date: 9.10.24

Signature of Executive Member for Community and Partnerships

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "V. A. Byard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

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