

Executive Report

Delegated Decisions – 27 February 2024

UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Funding 2024/25

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Emily Darlington Adults, Housing and Healthy Communities
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	Not in Council Plan
Wards affected	All wards

Executive summary

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was launched by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in 2022 and is part of the wider ‘levelling up’ agenda. The fund is also the replacement for all European structural funding programmes.

Milton Keynes City Council has been given an allocation of £3.0M, which runs across the three financial years that the programme runs for. For 2024/25 financial year, there is an allocation of £1,912,754. Milton Keynes City Council is using this funding to complement the existing regeneration programme.

1. Proposed Decisions

- 1.1 That the Council’s financial allocations of UK Shared Prosperity fund (UKSPF) for the 2024/25 financial year (attached as an **Annex** to the report), be agreed.
- 1.2 That authority be delegated to the Director Environment and Property, in consultation with the Cabinet Member to finalise the arrangements for:

- a) determining the final list of specific projects – following the call for applications process – In line with the allocations in the attached **Annex**, to be funded through the Council’s UKSPF allocation for the 2024/25 financial year; and
- b) finalising any changes required to financial allocations by investment priority as required.

2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 On 13 April 2022, government published the guidance and prospectus for the UK Shared Prosperity fund (UKSPF), the funding to replace European funding schemes for the UK. The allocation for Milton Keynes was confirmed as a total of £3,007,842 across the three financial years UKSPF will run for. The breakdown by financial year is shown in the table below.

Total allocation	22/23 allocation	23/24 allocation	24/25 allocation
£3,007,842	£365,029	£730,059	£1,912,754

- 2.2 The UK Shared Prosperity fund is part of the UK government’s Levelling Up agenda. Milton Keynes City Council intends to focus the spending of funding to complement its Regeneration programme.
- 2.3 For the 2024/25 financial year, Milton Keynes City Council will run funding competitions for projects in eligible categories to allow organisations to bid for funding in areas the Council is interested in. The attached Annex details the proposed funding allocation by investment priority. The Council also intends to fund a number of programmes of work in house from this funding. It is expected that £1,317,754 of funding will be spent in house and £595,000 will be available for either grant or procurement competitions. These competitions will be assessed by a panel made up from a range of officers.
- 2.4 Should this delegated decision be given approval, the Council expects to launch a call for projects before the start of the pre-election period (25/03/2024), recognising that funds must be spent, and projects completed by 31/03/2025. Following this competition, an officer panel will be convened in May 2024 to assess all project bids received against the criteria which will be published on the MKCC webpage.
- 2.5 This decision is to allocate funding to the workstreams detailed in the attached Annex, to allow the projects funded by UK Shared Prosperity fund to commence. As exact projects are not yet known and will be subject to assessment through an officer panel, this decision delegates authority to the Director of Environment and Property to finalise the list of projects funded through UKSPF, in line with the financial allocations in the attached **Annex**.

3. Implications of the decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	N
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	N
Communication	N	Procurement	Y
Energy Efficiency	N	Workforce	N

a) Financial implications

The Council is required to spend its UK Shared Prosperity fund in line with the Delivery Plan it has previously submitted to government with indications of the work to be undertaken, or to submit change requests as necessary. Finance colleagues have been involved in the work to date on all UKSPF spending with S151 officer sign off required with all documentation submitted to government.

By 31 March 2025, if there is any funding remaining, it must be returned to Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities as per the conditions of the grant agreement.

b) Legal implications

Legal colleagues are assisting officers working on UK Shared Prosperity funding in drafting grant agreements which mirror the Council's funding agreement with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC.)

The funding recipients will be required to enter a grant funding agreement with the Council governed by the terms of the agreement. This will ensure that the grant funding is used for the purposes for which they are awarded and that grant recipients are clear on the legal implications of accepting the grant funding.

In considering the decision to award, the Council must comply and adhere to the following:

- The subsidy control requirements (governed by the Subsidy Control Act (SCA) 2022).
- The terms of the funding agreement with DLUHC.

c) Other implications

Where the funding in this Delegated Decision is not spent in-house by the City Council, there will either be a grant funding competition exercise advertised on the Council's website or a procurement process followed to award the funding. Awards of grant funding will be subject to checks for subsidy control to ensure compliance with subsidy rules. The financial allocations by investment priorities are detailed in the **Annex**.

4. Alternatives

- 4.1 Milton Keynes City Council is required to submit reporting and investment plan documentation to DLUHC. To ensure timely delivery of projects for the 2024/25 financial year, the decision to confirm the City Council's spending priorities

needs to be taken. Were the decision to be deferred or delayed, the City Council would need to push back entering into formal grant agreements with providers, putting funding and delivery at risk in the 2024/25 financial year. The City Council must spend the funding in line with the agreement it has with DLUHC.

5. Timetable for Implementation

27 February 2024	Delegated Decision to confirm funding allocations by priority
w/c 11 March 2024*	Officers to open procurement / grant competitions ahead of pre-election period
w/c 20 May 2024*	Officer panel to review submitted bids
w/c 3 June 2024*	Decisions reviewed and agreed by Director, in liaison with the Cabinet Member
late June 2024*	Applicants informed of success of their bid
31 March 2025	Delivery of 2024/25 priorities

* expected / indicative date

List of annexes

Annex UK Shared Prosperity fund 2024/25 – financial allocations by investment priority.

List of background papers

UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus information- [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund financial allocations [UKSPF allocations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund -Interventions, Outputs and Outcomes- [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF England Outputs and Outcomes.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund additional information - [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: additional information - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf)