

<b>Committee:</b> Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee	<b>Date:</b> 14 September 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Chairs Update	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
	<b>For Information</b>

### **Click It Local Update**

On 3 March 2022 Essex County Council gave Brentwood Borough Council a grant of £15,000 to extend Brentwood's Click It Local contract for an additional six months until September 2022. At the PRED meeting on 9 March, it was agreed that a Click It Local update would be provided to members on the platform's performance during this extension period.

On 20 March Click It Local announced that it had ceased trading with immediate effect. The contract extension had not been signed by this date and no further Council monies were transferred to Click It Local.

On 22 March, Essex County Council agreed that Brentwood Borough Council could keep the £15,000 grant to use on other projects. To date £5,000 of this funding has been allocated to support the onboarding of Brentwood businesses onto the Essex+ platform, a new high street loyalty pilot scheme supported by ECC that will be launching in autumn 2022. The remaining £10,000 remains in the Economic Development budget.

### **UKSPF Update**

Local authorities had a deadline of 1 August to submit their UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) investment plans. PRED members were sent an update on the plan on 2 August, as per the minuted action at the July PRED meeting.

After consultation with a wide range of community stakeholders as per the UKSPF guidance, the council has prioritised the following interventions in its UKSPF investment plan:

- **E1:** Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs
- **E6:** Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
- **E10:** Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together
- **E23:** Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks

We expect to receive our first tranche of UKSPF funding in October. Between October 2022 and 31 March 2025, we have divided funding amongst the interventions as follows:

- **E1:** £300k
- **E6:** £300k
- **E10:** £300k
- **E23:** £100k

Please note that of our £1m UKSPF allocation, we only have a certain amount to draw down each year:

<b>Funding Profile:</b>				
<b>Funding Sources</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Total</b>
UKSPF Allocation	£51,262	£102,524	£846,214	£1,000,000

The UKSPF investment plan did not require a detailed list of projects. Officers are working with a team of consultants (paid for out of a £20k UKSPF top-up for consultancy) to develop a project framework to deliver on our chosen interventions.

Members will be sent more information when the call for projects is open.