



FINANCE, ASSETS, INVESTMENT AND RECOVERY COMMITTEE

13 SEPTEMBER 2023

REPORT TITLE:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Update August 2023
REPORT OF:	Phil Drane, Director of Place

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides a summary of the projects and spend to date for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was launched in April 2022 and provides £2.6 billion in funding for local investment by 31 March 2025. It is the government's replacement for the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF).
- 1.2 The Fund supports the ambitions of the Levelling Up White Paper and aims to build pride in place and increase life chances across the country.
- 1.3 The council has been allocated exactly £1,000,000 through the UKSPF.
- 1.4 An annual funding profile providing a breakdown of the funding for the three financial years has been developed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) for Brentwood. The breakdown is as follows:

Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Allocation	£51,262	£102,524	£846,214

- 1.5 After consultation with a wide range of community stakeholders as per the UKSPF guidance, the council prioritised the following interventions in its UKSPF Investment Plan:

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

1.6 The council has budgeted its £1m UKSPF funding between the interventions as follows:

	Capital 22/23	Revenue 22/23	Capital 23/24	Revenue 23/24	Capital 24/25	Revenue 24/25	Totals
E1	£1,640	£13,121	£4,265	£25,263	£54,157	£189,553	£288,000
E6	£1,641	£13,122	£4,265	£25,261	£54,158	£189,552	£288,000
E10	£1,642	£13,120	£4,265	£25,262	£54,158	£189,552	£288,000
E23	£0	£4,923	£0	£9,843	£0	£81,234	£96,000
Admin (4% of UKSPF)		£2,050		£4,100		£33,850	£40,000

1.7 On 8 February 2023, members of the Policy, Resources and Economic Development (PRED) committee delegated authority to delegate authority to the Strategic Directors, in consultation with the Chair of PRED Committee (now the Finance, Assets, Investment and Recovery Committee), to distribute UKSPF funding in line with the council's submitted Investment Plan.

1.8 UKSPF can be used flexibly to support interventions via:

- a. grant to public or private organisations
- b. commissioning third party organisations
- c. procurement of service provision
- d. in-house provision

1.9 **Completed UKSPF Year 1 projects** are shown below:

Intervention	Projects	Status	Method of Award
E1 Improvements to town centres and high streets	Brentwood High Street accessibility audit	Completed	Commissioned
	Shenfield High Street accessibility audit	Completed	Commissioned
	Heritage column refurbishment	Completed	Commissioned
	Chapel ruins signage	Completed	Commissioned
	Customer perception report	Completed	Commissioned
E6 Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities	Promise Banners Coronation Art Commission	Completed	Competitive tender
	Coronation Festival	Completed	Commissioned
	Brentwood Museum pop-up display at The Baytree Centre	Completed	Commissioned
E10 Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	Festival of Sports at the Coronation Festival	Completed	Grant
E23 Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	Start-up business support scheme	Completed	Commissioned
	Make Your Market young entrepreneur event	Completed	Commissioned

1.10 **Current UKSPF Year 2 projects** are shown below:

Intervention	Projects	Status	Method of Award
E1 Improvements to town centres and high streets	Ingatestone High Street accessibility report	Completed	Commissioned
	New seating for Crown Street	In progress	Commissioned
	Other projects to be confirmed	Not yet started	
E6 Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities	Big Smile Collective - Youth Art Factory: Teaching creative and craft skills whilst supporting young people aged 11-17 to explore opportunities available to them in the local community	In progress	Grant
	Creative Hub at King George's Playing Fields: Local artist, Charlotte Robinson, will create a new	In progress	Grant

Intervention	Projects	Status	Method of Award
	hub at King George's Playing Fields to provide a unique opportunity for creative collaboration, including visual arts, music groups and young makers		
	Hutton and Shenfield Choral Society Christmas Concert: A Christmas concert at The Brentwood Centre featuring amateur and professional musicians and dancers	In progress	Grant
	Brentwood Youth Centre Refurb: Volunteer It Yourself will work with challenging young people aged 14-24, who are NEET (not in employment, education or training) or at risk of NEET, to develop new vocational trade skills by working alongside professional trades people to renovate the Brentwood Youth Centre (formerly known as The Hermit)	In progress	Grant
E10 Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	Try a Tri: Tri Sport Essex hosted a fun intro to Triathlon and Multi-sport events on 2 July, giving local residents the chance to "have a go" in a friendly and inclusive environment at The Brentwood Centre	Completed	Grant
	Wheelchair Rugby League: The Brentwood Eels will supply, field and maintain a Wheelchair Rugby League (WRL) team based at The Brentwood Centre. This will be the only WRL team to be active in Essex.	In progress	Grant
	Improved toilet facilities for disabled bowlers and visitors: Brentwood Bowling Club will upgrade its toilet facilities to provide dedicated disabled toilets and improve the standard of the current toilets	In progress	Grant
	Weekly football sessions for newly-arrived Afghan and Ukrainian refugee girls in	In progress	Grant

Intervention	Projects	Status	Method of Award
	Brentwood: Afghanistan and Central Asian Association will hold 32 weekly football sessions for up to 30 Afghan or Ukrainian girls (aged 11-16) at The Brentwood Centre and host 8 tournaments, held monthly		
E23 Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	Start-up business support scheme to be delivered in partnership with Rochford District Council	In progress	Competitive tender

1.11 UKSPF spend for Year 1 and Year 2 (to date) is summarised below:

Year 1	Revenue Spend	Revenue Carry Forward	Capital Spend	Capital Carry Forward
E1	£13,121	£0	£1,281	£359
E6	£13,122	£0	£0	£1,641
E10	£13,000	£120	£0	£1,642
E23	£4,923	£0	N/A	N/A
Administration	£2,053	£0	N/A	N/A
Total	£46,219	£120	£1,281	£3,642
Year 2 (to date)	Revenue Spend	Revenue Underspend	Capital Spend	Capital Underspend
E1	£2,376	£22,887	£0	£4,624
E6	£25,261	£0	£0	£5,906
E10	£25,262	£0	£5,000	£907
E23	£9,000 (TBC)	£843 (TBC)	N/A	N/A

1.12 Total administration fees will be reported at the end of the 2023/24 financial year.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

2.1 The emerging Creative and Cultural Vision report, which will be presented at the Housing, Health and Community Committee on 18 September, will help inform priorities for future E6 spend.

- 2.2 A workshop was held by the Brentwood Business Partnership on 22 August to bring forward ideas to improve the borough’s high streets. A number of potential E1 projects for 2023/24 have been identified, including new public realm, better wayfinding and accessibility adaptations.
- 2.3 DLUHC has stated in a UKSPF FAQ that priorities may change following investment plan sign-off. DLUHC will work with the lead local authority should any changes need to be made to the investment plan.
- 2.5 A report will be brought to the last FAIR Committee meeting of 2023/24 with an update on progress to date.

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 3.1 Lead local authorities will be asked to return any underspends at the end of each financial year.
- 3.2 The UKSPF guidance sets out that 4% of the fund can be used for administration. To ensure that projects are delivered on time and that data is collected to report back to DLUHC every quarter, we have seconded a council officer to monitor and evaluate the UKSPF scheme.

4.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Government has indicated that lead authorities must create a Local Partnership Group to provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability – taking care to avoid conflicts of interest. This will ensure that Fund investments complement other activities in the area and meets Fund and local objectives. This group is advisory and not a decision-making body.
- 4.2 The Local Partnership Group is convened every quarter by the lead local authority and in accordance with the UKSPF guidance, includes the following types of groups:

UKSPF recommended stakeholder partners	Local organisations
Representatives from the lead local authority (this may also include neighbouring authorities or constituent authorities where relevant and to maximise alignment)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leader, Brentwood Council • A representative from each political group • Officers from Brentwood Borough Council directorates, including but not limited to the Directorate of Place and Directorate of Communities and Health
Business support providers or representatives, including sectoral representatives relevant to the place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brentwood Chamber of Commerce • Brentwood Business Partnership • FSB
Voluntary, sector social enterprise and civil society organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brentwood CVS • Brentwood Arts Council • Active Brentwood

Education and skills providers - for example higher education institutions and further education colleges, adult learning providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New City College • ACL • Brentwood Attendance Partnership
Local businesses and investors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Baytree Centre • Everyone Active • Blue Serif • PERI
Local partnership boards and strategic bodies where relevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SELEP • Brentwood Access Group • Health and Wellbeing Board • Active Essex
Prominent local community & faith organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Doddinghurst Road Church • Doddinghurst Community Hub • St Peter's Church, Hutton • St Thomas' Church, Brentwood • Essex, Mind and Spirit
Employment experts and providers - for example Jobcentre Plus representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brentwood Jobcentre
Parish Council Representative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ingatestone & Fryerning Parish Council
Public health representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basildon and Brentwood Alliance
County Council Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex County Council
Member of Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP for Brentwood and Ongar

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Tim Willis, Director – Resources (Section 151 Officer)
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / tim.willis@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

- 5.1 The Fund has been allocated to cover the cost of projects that deliver local benefits. The Investment Plan has identified the council's strategic priorities for the Fund, along with expected outputs and outcomes.
- 5.2 In addition to the £1m UKSPF allocation, a further one-off allocation of £20k will be provided from DLUHC for consultancy support.
- 5.3 The Council will be able to use up to 4% of our UKSPF allocation to undertake necessary fund administration, such as project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

6.0 LEGAL/GOVERNANCE IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Claire Mayhew, Acting Joint Director – People & Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / claire.mayhew@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

- 6.1 All spend associated with the Fund must be compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and follow the Council's procedures.

7.0 EQUALITY & HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Kim Anderson, Corporate Manager - Communities, Leisure and Health

Tel & Email: 01277 312500 kim.anderson@brentwood.gov.uk

7.1 Equality implications will be considered as individual work streams are developed.

8.0 ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Name & Title: Phil Drane, Director - Place

Tel & Email 01277 312500 / phil.drane@brentwood.rochford.gov.uk

8.1 The economic implications are included within this report. The Fund provides investment for projects that help to deliver economic growth.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Laurie Edmonds
Title: Corporate Manager – Economic Development
Phone: 01277 312500
Email: laurie.edmonds@brentwood.gov.uk

APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

UK Shared Prosperity Fund guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee	8 February 2023
Community, Environment and Enforcement Committee	19 December 2022
Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee	13 July 2022