



**Decision of Cabinet Member for  
Environment, Infrastructure and  
Climate Action**

9 February 2023

**Report from the Corporate Director,  
Resident Services**

**Application to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Supporting  
Local Business) for external grant funding**

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Non-Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> (If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)	Open
<b>No. of Appendices:</b>	N/A
<b>Background Papers:</b>	N/A
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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Supporting Local Business) is a grant administered by the Greater London Authority (GLA) on behalf of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities. The grant funds projects designed to create jobs and boost community cohesion by supporting local businesses through networking, collaboration, and stimulating innovation and growth.
- 1.2 Applicants are invited to submit applications against one or more of the government's eight priority programmes. Programme 6: Low Carbon aims to support decarbonisation and improve the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. In line with the UK's legally binding climate target, the programme aims to maximise existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods, and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.

- 1.3 A total of £6.9 million is available across London. The GLA intends to award grants of £500k or more to successful projects, for revenue activity only. Match funding is not a requirement for UKSPF. Successful applicants will be notified in spring 2023.
- 1.4 Brent would like to submit a joint application with Camden Council for a Sustainable Business Support programme. In order to be considered for funding, the application will need to be submitted ahead of the submission deadline on 13<sup>th</sup> February.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

That the Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Action in consultation with the Leader:

- 2.1 Approves the submission of an application for grant funding as set out in Section 4 of this report from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Supporting Local Business).

## **3.0 Grant Key Aims and Objectives**

- 3.1 To provide environmental business support and performance advice for energy, water, waste, transport, circular economy and supply chains.
- 3.2 To provide support on effective environmental management for example; peer-to-peer learning and knowledge transfer, training programmes for environmental management and business transformation.
- 3.3 To help decarbonise and reduce the environmental impact of all types of buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and associated assets.
- 3.4 To make the most effective use of the funds available under UKSPF by building a pipeline of projects in the capital that will deliver net zero.
- 3.5 To support the growth and development of new and existing low-carbon, circular economy businesses.

## **4.0 Brent's Application**

- 4.1 Brent is seeking grant funding to support a Sustainable Business Support programme in partnership with Camden. The programme will include:
- energy audits for businesses and wrap around support to help them understand the report recommendations
  - a series of sustainability workshops/ networking events
  - targeted outreach to under-represented businesses in the borough, promoting engagement with the programme offer
- 4.2 Businesses in Brent will be able to access the support listed above provided they sign up to the Brent Climate Charter, pledging to make their business more sustainable and achieve tangible carbon savings.
- 4.3 Through a joint application with Camden, it is envisaged that Brent will gain additional value through the shared learning across a wider pool of businesses. Brent will also

benefit from economies of scale in organising workshops, and the greater outreach possible by working together on communications campaigns. The total grant bid to the UKSPF including all partners will be ~£650,000.

- 4.4 Successful applicants will be notified in spring 2023 and the grant programme will run through until March 2025.

## 5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 If successful in our application, Brent will receive financial support to the indicative value of £246,000 for this programme. Expenditure is allocated as below:

Item	Cost per unit	No. of units	Total
Energy Audit and wrap around support for business	£4000	40	£160,000
Sustainability workshops/ networking events	£2800	20	£56,000
Brent-specific communications and outreach	£30,000	1	£30,000
Total	-	-	£246,000

- 5.2 There is no requirement for match funding to this grant.

## 6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 In accordance with paragraph 13 of Part 3 of the Constitution, submission of bids for additional resources from government is a decision for individual Cabinet Members in relation to their portfolio area in consultation with the Leader.
- 6.2 Subject to grant approval, the Corporate Director Resident Services has delegated authority pursuant to paragraph 9.5 of Part 3 of the Constitution and Financial Regulation 8.2.2 of Part 2 of the Constitution to enter into a grant funding arrangement. In doing so, the Corporate Director must ensure that the objectives of the grant agreement are consistent with the Council objectives and priorities in accordance with Financial Regulation 9.1.2 and must only exercise delegated powers where the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources approves entry into such arrangement.
- 6.3 The Council's power to apply for grant funding and enter into a Grant Agreement can be found under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, or under the power of general competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 6.4 Any grant funding received will be subject to certain conditions. Failure to adhere to such conditions could require the Council to refund some or all of the grant received.

## 7.0 Equality Implications

- 7.1 There are no equality implications at this stage of making the application for funding.

## 8.0 Any Other Implications (HR, Property, Environmental Sustainability - where necessary)

- 8.1 Funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (Supporting Local Business) would enable Brent to support local SMEs in their decarbonisation journey with specialist advice, workshops and networking. The project is therefore directly aligned with our commitment to tackle the Climate and Ecological Emergency.

**Report sign off:**

Peter Gadsdon  
Corporate Director Resident Services