

 Brent	Officer Key Decision
	Report to the Corporate Director, Communities & Regeneration
Authority to Enter into Grant Agreement(s) for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	One Appendix 1 – GLA UKSPF Grant Agreement
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Name: Jonathan Kay Job Title: Head of Regeneration Tel: 020 8937 2348 Email: Jonathan.Kay@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report requests approval to enter into grant agreement(s) with the Greater London Authority to receive UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Corporate Director of Communities & Regeneration:

- 2.1 Approves the Council entering into grant agreement(s) with the Greater London Authority to receive UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant to a total of £3.33 million for the financial years 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent Council has been successful in its application to the Greater London Authority to receive its allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- 3.2 The UKSPF is the Government's replacement for the European Regional Development Fund and Social Fund. It provides £2.6 billion across the UK for local investment by the end of March 2025. The UKSPF aims to build pride in place; support high-quality skills training; support pay, employment and productivity growth; and increase life chances.
- 3.3 The Greater London Authority (GLA) is designated a 'lead authority' by the Government and administers the £144.44m UKSPF programme in London. GLA and London Councils have co-designed the London UKSPF investment plan to set the priorities for the fund, based on the London Recovery Board's Economic Recovery Framework, and explain the application process. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DHLUC) approved the London UKSPF investment plan on 5th December 2022.
- 3.4 The GLA will allocate £78.13m of capital and revenue grant directly to boroughs to meet three main investment priorities for the fund:
 1. Communities and Place
 2. Supporting Local Business
 3. People and Skills

Borough allocations are based on a 50:50 weighted needs and population methodology agreed at London Councils Leaders Committee. Brent's £3.33m allocation over financial years 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 is in the table below. Funding is weighted towards revenue and back-loaded towards the end of the 3-year programme. Brent Council's initial application is for £2.26m, for the £1.71m Community and Place and £0.55m Supporting Local Businesses funding allocations. Brent's £1.07m People and Skills funding allocation is only available in 2024-25, and will be subject to a subsequent application and grant agreement (or variation to the existing grant agreement).

Borough	Sub-regional partnership	LC Method: 50% Need vs 50% Popn			Annual Totals			Capital / Revenue		Investment Strand Totals		
		£m	%	£ Per capita	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Capital	Revenue	C&P	SLB	P&S
Brent	WLA	3.33	4.3%	10.16	0.48	0.57	2.28	1.15	2.18	1.71	0.55	1.07

3.5 Senior officers were updated on the UKSPF allocations process and prioritisation in August 2022. The Chief Executive, Leader and Cabinet Member were consulted on the specific Community and Place and Supporting Local Businesses proposals seeking UKSPF funding, prior to submission of Brent Council's initial application 7th October 2022, and which are detailed in the tables below.

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE PROJECTS	PROJECT EXPENDITURE			Delivery Timescales	
	CAPITAL	REVENUE	TOTAL	Start Date	End date
Harlesden High Street (nos. 97 - 103) Heritage Improvements	£100,000		£100,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2023
Harlesden Jubilee Clock Tower Restoration	£75,285		£75,285	01/04/2022	31/03/2023
Alric Avenue Community Centre		£8,172	£8,172	01/04/2022	31/03/2023
Cultural and Creative Events Programme		£140,000	£140,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2023
Brent for Business: Energy Saving Scheme	£94,205	£13,144	£107,349	01/04/2023	31/03/2024
SUFRA Community Resilience Model		£366,204	£366,204	01/04/2023	31/03/2025
SUFRA Community Garden Extension	£80,000		£80,000	01/04/2023	31/03/2024
Community Gardens Pilot	£20,000	£30,000	£50,000	01/04/2023	31/03/2024
Post-16 Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Horticultural Centre	£782,796		£782,796	01/04/2024	31/03/2025
The Total of all Projects must add up to C&P Borough Allocation £1709806	£1,152,286	£557,520	£1,709,806		

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS PROJECTS	PROJECT EXPENDITURE			Delivery Timescales	
	CAPITAL	REVENUE	TOTAL	Start Date	End date
Federation of Small Business Support Programme	N/a	£169,931	£169,931	01/04/2022	31/03/2025
Business Start-Up Support Programme	N/a	£240,000	£240,000	01/04/2023	31/03/2025
Retail Consultancy Programme	N/a	£45,000	£45,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2023
Business Intelligence Data	N/a	£75,000	£75,000	01/04/2022	31/03/2025
Brent Business Expo	N/a	£24,000	£24,000	01/04/2023	31/03/2025
The Total of all Projects must add up to SLB Borough Allocation £553931	N/a	£553,931	£553,931		
	£1,152,286	£1,111,451	£2,263,737		

3.6 In order to receive grant funding, the Council is required to enter into a grant agreement a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1. It will be necessary to ensure that the Council is able to comply with the GLA grant conditions.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The GLA UKSPF grant funding agreement has a total value of £3.33m. This funding is subject to Brent meeting the obligations specified in the grant agreement. The project spans three financial years, beginning in late 2022/23 and concluding in 2024/25. The grant allocation is split between Capital (£1.15m) and Revenue (£2.18m). The capital budget for the grant has been requested as part of the budget setting process due at Full Council in February 2023.

- 4.2 There is no requirement for Brent to match funding as part of this funding agreement.
- 4.3 The GLA will provide the grant on the basis of Brent's project proposal and will measure progress against project activity milestones. Payments will be made upon completion of activities and will be withheld where milestones are not met. Should funding be withheld, Brent will need to find alternative funding in order for the projects to continue. Additional funding will not be awarded if obligations are exceeded.
- 4.4 The financial implications of individual project plans are outside of the scope of this report.
- 4.5 Existing budgets and a portion of UKSPF staffing allowances will be used to cover officer time spent working on the projects. There is an allowance of up to 4% of the grant allocation for spend on management and administrative costs. The grant agreement contains details on the spend that can be covered by the allowance.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Corporate Director, Communities & Regeneration 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 arrangements. 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.
- 5.2 As the Council will be an accountable body in respect of grant funding and in accordance with Financial Regulation 9.1.1, the Corporate Director, Communities & Regeneration must only exercise delegated powers to enter into grant funding arrangements where the Corporate Director, Finance and Resources approves entry into such arrangement. The Corporate Director, Finance and Resources has confirmed in the Financial Implications approval to entry into the grant agreement.
- 5.3 The Council is required to enter into a formal grant agreement, a copy of which is at Appendix 2. Legal Services have reviewed the grant agreement and can confirm that it is legally permissible for the Council to enter into the grant agreement.
- 5.4 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.
- 5.5 Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the local authority to do anything which is "calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the

discharge” of any of its functions. This can include entering into a grant agreement and spending money, however it is subject to the powers exercisable through other legislation, it cannot be used to authorise what is prohibited by other statutory provisions.

5.6 Section 1 of The Localism Act 2011 provides that the Council may do anything “which individuals may generally do”. This is a free-standing power of general competence which is subject to section 2 of the Act. The Council would not be able to rely on the S.1 power where a pre-existing power sets out more specific restrictions, or where a post-commencement power indicates that the power of general competence is excluded.

5.7 Any grant funding received will be subject to certain conditions such as, the grant money is to be spent on capital and revenue projects, and the projects will be delivered to programme to agreed dates. Failure to adhere to such conditions could require the Council to refund some or all of the grant received.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 The Council must in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,

pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010. This is known as the Public Sector Equality Duty.

6.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

6.3 The purpose of the duty is to enquire into whether a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic. In other words, the indirect discriminatory effects of a proposed decision. Due regard is the regard that is appropriate in all the circumstances.

6.4 UKSPF funded projects are expected to support equality, diversity and inclusion. The GLA have stated that they will ask the Council to complete an equality, diversion and inclusion action plan, after the grant agreement is signed.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 Brent senior officers were updated on the UKSPF allocations process and prioritisation in August 2022. The Chief Executive, Leader and Lead Member were consulted on the specific Community and Place and Supporting Local Businesses proposals seeking UKSPF funding, prior to submission of Brent Council's initial application of 7th October 2022.

8.0 Human Resources/Property Implications (if appropriate)

8.1 UKSPF project funding is proposed to be distributed across a number of directorates and services, who will be expected to project manage and administer their projects and provide relevant evidence of project deliverables and spend to support UKSPF grant claims.

Report sign off:

Alice Lester

Director of Regeneration, Growth & Employment