

	<b>Officer Key Decision</b>
	<b>Report to the Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods &amp; Regeneration</b>
<b>Authority to Enter into a Grant Agreement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2025/26)</b>	

<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Key or Non-Key Decision:</b>	Key
<b>Open or Part/Fully Exempt:</b> <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
<b>List of Appendices:</b>	One Appendix 1: GLA UKSPF Grant Agreement
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b> <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Jonathan Kay Head of Regeneration Tel: 020 8937 2348 Email: <a href="mailto:Jonathan.Kay@brent.gov.uk">Jonathan.Kay@brent.gov.uk</a>

## 1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report requests approval to enter into grant agreement(s) with the Greater London Authority to receive a new allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant for the financial year 2025/26.

## 2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & Regeneration

2.1 Approves the Council entering into a grant agreement with the Greater London Authority to receive UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant to a total of £1.27 million for the financial year 2025/26, to invest in communities, and support local business, people and skills.

## 3.0 Detail

### 3.1 Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

3.1.1 UK Shared Prosperity Funding for Brent will deliver a wide range of projects across the borough that will make a positive difference for local residents,

businesses and communities, and which moving forward together will contribute to meeting all of the Brent Borough Plan Strategic Priorities.

## 3.2 Background

3.2.1 Brent Council has been successful in its application to the Greater London Authority to receive a new allocation from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the financial year 2025/26, to invest in communities, and support local business, people and skills.

3.2.2 The UKSPF was the previous Government’s replacement for the European Regional Development Fund and Social Fund. It provided £2.6 billion across the UK for local investment by the end of March 2025. The UKSPF aimed to build pride in place; support high-quality skills training; support pay, employment and productivity growth; and increase life chances.

3.2.3 Earlier this year 2025, Government announced a one-year extension to UKSPF, but with reduced funding, £63m total for London (32% lower than 2024/25). London boroughs will receive a direct allocation of £30m UKSPF - £20m capital and £10m revenue, with the allocation to boroughs based on the previously agreed formula but with every authority to receive at least £0.2m and all grant to be spent by the end of 2025/26.

3.2.4 The Greater London Authority (GLA) is designated a ‘lead authority’ by the Government and administers the 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.

3.2.5 The GLA have allocated a further £30m 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 the 50:50 weighted needs and population methodology agreed for the previous UKSPF allocation by London Councils Leaders Committee. Brent’s £1.27m allocation for 2025-26 is in the table below.

Borough	Inner/Outer	Sub-regional partnership (SRP)	2025-26 grant funding (£000) (£200k floor, £20.09m Capital & £10m Revenue)			
			Capital	Revenue	Total	Total per capita £
Brent	OLB	WLA	851.1	423.5	1,274.6	3.7

3.2.6 Brent Council Chief Executive and the Lead Member have been consulted on the specific Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills proposals seeking UKSPF funding detailed in the table below.

<b>Brent UKShared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 Allocation (£1,274,580)</b>				
<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Capital (£851,063)</b>	<b>Revenue (£423,517)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Two new Masterplans - Capitol Way Valley and Honeypot Lane	Communities and Place	N/a	30,000	<b>£30,000</b>
Reggae walk and mural Harlesden	Communities and Place	70,000	N/a	<b>£70,000</b>
Energy Saving Scheme (Groundwork) Extension	Communities and Place	63,063	N/a	<b>£63,063</b>
Church End Youth Anchor (deferred from 2024/25 UKSPF)	Communities and Place	200,000	N/a	<b>£190,000</b>
Capital Improvement works to 28 High Street Harlesden (Mahogany Carnival)	Communities and Place	280,000	N/a	<b>£290,000</b>
Town Centre Health Check Study 2025	Communities and Place	N/a	30,000	<b>£30,000</b>
The Safetynet Radios initiative (Harlesden & Willesden Green)	Communities and Place	10,000	N/a	<b>£10,000</b>
The Wembley Accommodation BID Feasibility and Options Study	Communities and Place	N/a	20,000	<b>£20,000</b>
Alperton Bridge Public Art project	Communities and Place	70,000	N/a	<b>£70,000</b>
One Tree Hill Open Space Improvements to entrance	Communities and Place	20,000	N/a	<b>£20,000</b>
Parks wayfinding	Communities and Place	30,000	N/a	<b>£30,000</b>
Harlesden integrated neighbourhood team	Communities and Place	108,000	50,517	<b>£158,517</b>
Brent Business Summit/business breakfasts	Supporting Local Businesses	N/a	15,000	<b>£15,000</b>
IDM Dashboard - one year extension	Supporting Local Businesses	N/a	25,000	<b>£25,000</b>
Rebel Business School extension	Supporting Local Businesses	N/a	50,000	<b>£50,000</b>
Employment Team Proposal	People and Skills	N/a	203,000	<b>£203,000</b>
<b>The total of all projects must add up to the Capital (£851,063) and Revenue (£423,517) allocations, and a combined allocation of £1,274,580.</b>		<b>£851,063</b>	<b>£423,517</b>	<b>£1,274,580</b>

3.2.7 In order to receive the new UKSPF grant funding, the Council is required to enter into a new 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 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement**

4.1 Brent Council Chief Executive and the Lead Member have been consulted on the specific Community and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills proposals seeking UKSPF funding.

#### **5.0 Financial Considerations**

5.1 This GLA UKSPF grant funding agreement has a total value of £1.27m. The funding is subject to Brent Council meeting the obligations specified in the grant agreement. The project spans one financial year 2025/26. The grant allocation is split between Capital (£851K) and Revenue (£423K).

- 5.2 There is no requirement for Brent Council to provide match funding as part of this funding agreement.
- 5.3 The GLA will provide the new UKSPF grant on the basis of Brent Council's project proposal and will measure progress against project activity milestones. Boroughs will receive 90% of funding upfront, with 10% withheld until final reporting has been submitted in April 2026. Should funding be withdrawn or withheld, Brent Council will need to find alternative funding in order for the projects to continue. Additional funding will not be awarded if obligations are exceeded.
- 5.4 The UKSPF funding requires delivery of the above projects by end of March 2026. Regular monitoring and review will be needed to meet this target. However in the event of a project not going ahead or being delivered on time, there is scope for the GLA to transfer the funding across to another project, providing it meets the conditions of the grant agreement.
- 5.5 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.
- 5.6 The Corporate Director, Finance and Resources has confirmed agreement for entry into the UKSPF grant agreement (2025/26).

## **6.0 Legal Considerations**

- 6.1 In accordance with section 9 of the table at paragraph 9.5 of Part 3 of the Constitution, submission of bids for additional resources from government and other bodies is a decision for a Corporate Director in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. Officers have confirmed in Section 3 that relevant approval and consultation was obtained.
- 6.2 The Corporate Director, Neighbourhoods & 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 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.
- 6.3 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, Neighbourhoods & 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.

6.4 The Council is required to enter into a formal grant agreement, a copy of which is at Appendix 1. Legal Services have reviewed the grant agreement and can confirm that it is legally permissible for the Council to enter into the grant agreement.

## **7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations**

7.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the “Public Sector Equality Duty”), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

(a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act

(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,

7.2 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.

7.3 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

7.4 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.

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

## **8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations**

8.1 UKSPF project funding will be expected to contribute to the Council’s environmental objectives and climate emergency strategy. The Energy Saving Scheme will fund businesses to retrofit premises to become more energy efficient and reduce carbon emissions. Supporting Local Business themed projects will help businesses take climate action.

## **9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)**

9.1 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.

## **10.0 Communication Considerations**

10.1 Any communications expenditure carried out in connection with or using UKSPF grant should be evidenced as securing value for money.

### Related document(s) for reference

Decision - Authority to Enter into a Grant Agreement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (22/02/2023)

#### **Report sign off:**

**Gerry Ansell**

Director, Inclusive Regeneration and Climate Resilience