



London Borough of Enfield

Title of Report:	Expenditure of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Supporting Local Business allocation
Report to:	Cllr Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for Public Spaces, Culture and Local Economy
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Anyanwu
Directors:	Brett Leahy, Director of Planning and Growth
Report Author:	Nat Buckeridge, Partnership and Relationship Manager, Employment and Skills Service
Ward(s) affected:	All
Key Decision Number	5687
Classification:	Part I Public

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the expenditure of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), Supporting Local Business grant to enable service managers to deliver existing business support projects that would otherwise be subject to reduced delivery or non-delivery.

Recommendations

- I. Approve the expenditure of £564,704.00 against the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.
- II. Note that individual projects are subject to their own approvals ahead of implementation.
- III. Agree to delegate authority to the Director of Planning and Growth, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to approve any changes.

Background and Options

2. In April 2022, the UK Government launched (UKSPF). UKSPF is central to the Levelling Up agenda and provides funding for local authorities to deliver projects against three strands; people and skills; supporting local business and communities and place.
3. The allocation to the Council for supporting local business is £564,704. The allocation is spread evenly across F22/23, F23/24 and F24/25. However, the GLA have given approval for boroughs to spread the expenditure across any timeframe with the caveat that there can be no expenditure beyond the end of March 2025.
4. The Council will condense all its expenditure into F24/25.
5. The GLA have provided confirmation that the allocation to the London Borough of Enfield is £564,704.00. The GLA have also issued forecast outcomes and outputs which must be achieved through the expenditure of the grant:

Table 1: Outputs and outcomes set out in the grant funding agreement

Intervention	Outputs
Number of SMEs receiving non-financial support	310
Intervention	Outcomes
Number of jobs created	2
Number of jobs safeguarded	250
Number of enterprises engaged in new markets	38

6. Projects were selected by identifying existing workstreams that aligned with manifesto commitments, the recent Council Plan, their feasibility within the timescales and whether the projects had the capacity to comply

with the grant funding agreement. Projects have been approved by the Director of Planning and Growth.

7. The projects will either be delivered in-house, commissioned via a competitive tender process or directly awarded to existing local providers. The table below explains the appointment of providers for each project.
8. The borough has agreed the expenditure of the grant to be spread across the projects in the table below.

Table 2: Agreed projects to be delivered against the UKSPF Supporting Local Business grant fund.

Project Title	Description	Lead Service	Expenditure	Delivery	Process
Festival of Industries	A cultural and capacity building programme celebrating Enfield's industrial heritage.	Culture	£20k	In-house	Delivered by Journey and Places Team existing staff
Create Enfield Skills Exchange Programme	An extension of the Festival of Industries Programme beyond March 2024.	Culture	£60k	In-house	Delivered by Journey and Places Team existing staff
Angel Yard – Fore Street for All	To extend the existing programme of business support delivered by Launch It in Angel Yard.	Journey & Places	£100k	Local provider	Direct award.
Palmers Green Creative Workspace	To extend the affordable workspace in Palmers Green and developing a markets programme in Devonshire Square	Journey & Places	£25k	Local provider	Direct award
Community Improvement District	To develop key engagement and strategy for a Community Improvement District in Enfield Town.	Journey & Places	£45k	Local provider	Direct award.
Made in Enfield	To invest in the Made in Enfield gift shop in the Dugdale Arts Centre.	Culture	£30k	In-house	Delivered by existing council staff in the Culture Team
Young Producers Programme	To provide a 6-month programme of	Culture	£71k	Local provider	Provider to be appointed via competitive

	upskilling young people into becoming entrepreneurs within the creative sector.				tender process
The Business of Music Programme	A development programme to work with educational settings and provide showcasing opportunities for entrepreneurs.	Culture	£50k	Local provider	Provider to be appointed via competitive tender process
Presenting Enfield	To programme a series of cultural events with local entrepreneurs operating within the creative sector.	Culture	£50k	Local provider	Provider to be appointed via competitive tender process
BIPC Local	To create a business information centre in Edmonton Green Library, co-designed with the British Library and to follow a national hub-and-spoke model of business information and research provision.	Libraries	£118,704.00	National provider	Appointment via expression of interest. British Libraries offer hub-and-spoke business information centres and have been endorsed by GLA in the UKSPF call-out. Direct award.
Total			£564,704.00		

9. Service managers will be responsible for monitoring the performance of their projects against the grant funding agreement. All expenditure and progress on targets will be reported quarterly to the GLA, with the claims to be signed off by the Section 151 Officer at the Council. The Partnership and Relationship Manager in the Employment and Skills service is responsible for coordinating the quarterly claims.

Preferred Option and Reasons For Preferred Option

10. The preferred option is for the Council to accept the funding grants that have been made available in order to deliver the Council Plan objectives and ensure the continued work of the Employment and Skills Service.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

11. **Support local businesses and encourage inward investment in growing sectors which offer sustainable employment** – investment in the creative sector through a number of projects listed in table 2.
12. **Develop town centres that are vibrant, healthy and inclusive** – further investment in Palmers Green, Enfield Town and Fore Street to extend existing work improving the opportunities for Enfield residents.
13. **Enable local people to develop skills to access good quality work** – programme offering skills development through educational settings up to the age of 25 in the creative sector.

Financial Implications

1. The project will be entirely funded by GLA. There is no requirement for match-funding from Enfield Council.
2. Grant to Enfield is up to a maximum of £564,704.00 covering a three-year period from 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2025 and including the costs of starting the project. Like similar projects the ability to get qualifying clients will be critical. The grant will predominantly be used to cover the cost of contracts to be awarded, existing local providers, but some will also be required to cover the cost of council resources allocated to work on the project.
3. Payments of the funding from the GLA will be made in quarterly tranches in arrears following the initial implementation 1st quarter payment. Underspends from each quarter may be rolled forward so the overall budget is available over the full 36 months of the contract subject to performance being maintained.
4. Payment of each quarterly tranche is subject to the submission of a grant claim and performance data for the preceding period; hence the council will be collecting grant for each quarter in arrears. Enfield will therefore be providing the cashflow support for the project. This may result in a relatively small potential interest cost over the life of the project but is considered to be immaterial.

Legal Implications

5. The general power of competence in s.1 (1) of the Localism Act 2011 states that a local authority has the power to do anything that individuals generally may do provided it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to public law principles. By virtue of s.111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything (whether involving the expenditure, borrowing or lending of money or the acquisition or disposal of any property or rights) which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of its functions. The proposals in this report are in consistent with these general powers and duties of the Council.

6. The proposed projects described in paragraph 8 are each of a value which is below the threshold for the procurement exercise requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 to apply. Instead, the Council's own below-threshold procurement rules (as set out in the Contract Procedure Rules (CPR)) should be adhered to according to the value of each proposed project (noting in particular that CPR requires that for projects over £25,000 multiple quotations should be obtained and appraised, unless a Waiver of this requirement and a direct award instead can be justified).
7. Legal Services notes that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has an objective of supporting local business. Legal Services understands that each project will be awarded (whether by competitive process or a proposed & justifiable direct award) to a provider who will provide valuable services to the Council/the Council's objectives in return for payment from the Council of the fund allocation (thus, the award will have the characteristics of a contract for services under the CPR) and each such project will be subject to individual approval. If any project deviates from this service contract model/assumption and instead has the characteristics of a grant to the recipient to support its own business purposes (even if those purposes then benefit a wider cohort of business/individuals), consideration should be given to whether such grant comprises a subsidy within the meaning of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and if so the Act should must be complied with including the transparency obligations (although it is likely that the proposed numbers in paragraph are likely to fall within the minimal financial assistance exemption).
8. The Council will also have to comply with any grant terms associated with deployment of UKSPF funds (whether terms imposed by UK Government and back-to-backed by GLA as intermediary and/or additional terms imposed by GLA) including any reporting or misuse of funds 'clawback' provisions, to ensure that the Council is not exposed (i.e. required to return funds to Government/GLA without being able to recoup such funds from a service provider) and any reporting/transparency requirements, so Council officers must ensure they have appropriate monitoring systems in place.

9. Procurement Implications

10. Procurement Services note the intention of going to competitive process for some elements of the delivery plan. These must be inline with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's) and carried out in the councils e-tendering system (London Tenders Portal).
11. It is noted that some of the contracts will be 'direct award'. The CPRs allow for direct award via a Waiver for below threshold values. The waivers need to be endorsed at the Procurement Assurance Group and then approved by the Executive Director of Resources. It should be noted that all Waivers are reported annually to the General Purposes Committee, as no Value for Money test has taken place.

12. Whilst these are low value contracts, it is important that contract management is carried out to ensure that the deliverables of the grant conditions are met, and the outcomes delivered.

Equalities Implications

13. EQIA completed on 08/01/24 by Nat Buckeridge.

Public Health Implications

14. Funding to support local businesses and entrepreneurs in Enfield will provide both services and employment opportunities to the local population, providing a positive public health outcome.

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Appendices

N/A

Background Papers

N/A

#Departmental reference number, if relevant: