



London Borough of Enfield

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| Title of Report: | Expenditure of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, People and Skills 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 | KD5695 |
| 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, People and Skills to enable the Employment and Skills service to continue its existing provision from January 2024 – March 2025.

Recommendations

- I. Approve the expenditure of £1,042,560.00 against the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.
- II. Approve the signing of the Funding Agreement for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with London Local (London Borough of Redbridge Accountable Body)
- III. Note that individual projects are subject to their own approvals ahead of implementation.
- IV. 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 the UK Shared Prosperity Fund ('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 people and skills is £1,042,560.00. The allocation is spread across 15 months beginning in January 2024, with all expenditure and projects to be completed by March 2025.
4. The Employment and Skills service at the Council has, since January 2021, had access to the European Social Fund grant aimed at supporting economically inactive residents into accessing local training and employment.
5. The GLA has devolved their allocation of UKSPF, People and Skills, to sub-regional partnerships to contract and manage employment initiatives. Enfield is a member of the Local London sub-regional partnership, covering Northeast and Southeast London. The Council obtains its funding pursuant to a grant funding agreement with Local London (London Borough of Redbridge Accountable Body).
6. The expenditure of the grant must be used to meet commitments in the grant funding agreement. The commitments can be seen below.

Table 1: Output and Outcome commitments as per the grant funding agreement

| Output/Outcomes | Name | Target |
|------------------------|---|---------------|
| Output | Number of residents enrolled onto programme | 304 |
| Output | Number of residents engaged with keyworker services | 304 |
| Outcome | Number of people engaged in job-search | 82 |

| | | |
|---------|--|----|
| | following support | |
| Outcome | Number of people reporting increased employability following support | 48 |
| Outcome | Number of people in any form of employment following support | 46 |
| Outcome | Number of people in London Living Wage paid roles following support | 8 |

7. The target cohort of residents enrolled and support on the programme has been narrowed from the previous target cohort under European Social Fund. If a resident is unemployed but does not face any barriers to work, they are no longer eligible for support. A resident can only enrol onto the UKSPF-funded programme if they are an economically inactive Enfield resident, aged 16+ and with recourse to public funds. To be defined as economically inactive, a resident must face one or more of the following barriers to work:

- An ex-offender
- Childcare duties (children under statutory school age)
- Dependent caring duties
- Language barrier
- Housing barrier (temporary accommodation or rough sleeper)
- Disability (self-declared or diagnosed)
- Digital illiteracy
- Financial barrier
- Alcohol or substance misuse

8. The breakdown of the target cohort can be seen in the table below:

Table 2: Equality targets of UKSPF People and Skills

| Equality characteristic | % of all clients |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ethnic minority group | 45% |
| Residents aged 50 and above | 32% |
| Female beneficiaries | 49% |
| Disabled beneficiaries | 30% |

9. The Council has existing infrastructure in the Employment and Skills service to begin delivery against these grant funding commitments from January 2024. The outputs and outcomes will be delivered by the Employment and Skills Service, with the possibility of diverting funds to other internal services that deliver employment initiatives to economically inactive residents.

10. Both expenditure and performance will be reported into Local London on a quarterly basis, each claim will require executive sign-off provided by the Section 151 Officer. Local London will provide management of performance.
11. The profiled expenditure and proposed areas of spend can be seen in the tables below:

Table 3: Proposed breakdown of spend:

| Expenditure category | Spend |
|---|--------------|
| Staff Costs | £846,980.00 |
| Commissioning bespoke support | £100,00.00 |
| Overheads including marketing, printing, delivery site and events | £95,580.00 |

Preferred Option and Reasons For Preferred Option

12. 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

13. **An economy that works for everyone:** UKSPF funding will equip the borough to work alongside a range of local employers to offer opportunities to unemployed residents and shift them into economic activity.
14. **Thriving children and young people:** the decrease in age to allow 16-year-olds and above to enrol on the programme will allow young people to access the free employment and training support that they could not access under the European Structural Investment Fund.

Financial Implications

1. This report seeks the approval expenditure of £1,042,560.00 against the UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation. The project will be entirely funded by GLA and there is no requirement for match-funding from Enfield Council.
2. Grant to Enfield is up to a maximum of £1,042,560.00 covering from 01 Jan 2024 to 31 March 2025. The grant will predominantly be used to cover the cost of contracts to be awarded, existing local providers and council resources allocated to the project.
3. Payments of the funding from the GLA will be made in quarterly tranches in arrears based on the actual LBE costs or its delivery partners as detailed in the grant Claim submissions.

4. Payment of each quarterly tranche is subject to satisfactory 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.

Legal Implications

5. The Council has the power under section 1(1) Localism Act 2011 to do anything individuals generally may do providing it is not prohibited by legislation and subject to public law principles. In addition, under s.111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of its functions.
6. The grant funding agreement must be in a form approved by Legal Services on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance. Officers must ensure that the terms attached to the grant funding are complied with, noting and understanding in particular the obligations on the Council and the circumstances in which the grant can be withdrawn or repayment required.
7. When accepting and distributing the funding, the Council must ensure that there is no breach of the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and advice must be taken as needed. In signing up to the grant funding agreement, the Council acknowledges it has undertaken its own independent assessment of the compatibility of the project with subsidy control rules and confirms to the Lead Authority and the Secretary of State that the project is structured so that it is compliant with such rules.

When entering into any contracts in connection with this report, the Council must comply with its Contract Procedure Rules and, if relevant, the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (or, once in force, the Procurement Act 2023). In addition, the Council must ensure that it complies with minimum procedures set out in the Secretary of State's guidance published at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-procurement-8>.

Equalities Implications

8. EQIA completed on 11/01/24

Public Health Implications

9. Being in good work is better for your health than being out of work. 'Good work' is defined as having a safe and secure job with good working hours and conditions, supportive management and opportunities for training and development.

10. There is clear evidence that good work improves health and wellbeing across people's lives and protects against social exclusion. Conversely, unemployment is bad for health and wellbeing, as it is associated with an increased risk of mortality and morbidity.

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Appendices

N/A

Background Papers

N/A

#Departmental reference number, if relevant: