



RECORD OF OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS

TITLE:	Award of Non-Allocated Funds within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.
DECISION:	<p>Decision to award non-allocated funds, realised through efficiency savings, arising within the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme through the agreed protocol to a project that has engaged with the Programme. The proposal has been evaluated by the relevant Officer Panel and has also received political and Senior Officer approval:</p> <p><u>Award of Funds in Support of the Boston Town Centre 2024 Christmas Event - £10,000</u></p> <p>The funding will support the 2024 Boston Christmas Festival which will feature an ice rink as part of the event. This will build on last year's success and expand the festival to support the local visitor economy and increase footfall within Boston and the town centre.</p>
DECISION MADE BY:	Matthew Hogan - Assistant Director - Strategic Growth and Development
DATE DECISION MADE:	18/10/2024
REASON FOR DECISION:	<p>As part of HMG's Levelling Up Agenda and in line with the commitments made by Boston Borough in the UKSPF Prospectus and Investment Plan, we have committed to invest in high-impact projects across three core themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities and place - Supporting community groups and investment in community facilities; enhancing the cultural and heritage offer; widening the use of community buildings; initiatives to help support our town centres. • Supporting local business - Helping local businesses invest for future growth; growing the food processing, horticulture, and logistics sector; encouraging new businesses to establish; helping the local social and community enterprises to innovate and grow. • People and skills - Developing skills and employment opportunities within the fresh food, food processing and logistics sectors; creating new training hubs; supporting local residents with skills and access to employment. <p>This allocation meets the objectives that we have committed to under the Supporting Local Business Theme. With this project passing a rigorous assessment process, we are confident that it can deliver the outcomes expected from the Programme quickly and substantively. This has been the basis of the decision.</p>
DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED:	<p>These funds were allocated through the agreed protocol on the allocation of UKSPF 'underspent funds' subsequent to the closure of the last open call for funds - Procurement or closed competition. This time, the latter was chosen, and the allocation was awarded to projects that had engaged with the Fund prior to its closure for applications or projects that had been referred from other Programmes within the Council. They were appraised competitively by the relevant officer panel and consultation occurred with</p>

	<p>the relevant Portfolio Holder. The decision was then made on a delegated officer basis by the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the UKSPF Programme.</p> <p>The alternative option to awarding funds would be to not award the funding, which would bring severe reputational risk to the Council both with the public and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.</p>		
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION:	<p>This involves the disbursement of UK Shared Prosperity/Rural Prosperity Funding in Boston Borough, with the allocation of funds per project being as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Borough Council (Community Team) - £10,000 		
AUTHORITY FOR DECISION:	<p>Authority delegated to the Assistant Director (Strategic Growth and Development) by the Leader of the Council (who is also the relevant Portfolio Holder).</p>		
CONSULTATION WITH PORTFOLIO HOLDER REQUIRED:	YES	PORTFOLIO HOLDER SIGNATURE: (If consulted)	
SUPPORTING PAPERS:	<p>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus, found at the following link: https://www.boston.gov.uk/article/23066/UK-Shared-Prosperity-Fund</p>		
OFFICER/COUNCILLOR INTERESTS DECLARED:	None		
CONTACT PERSON:	<p>Saul Farrell Senior Programme Manager – UK Shared Prosperity Fund/Rural Prosperity Fund</p> <p>Charli Baty Senior Programme Officer - UK Shared Prosperity Fund/Rural Prosperity Fund</p>		<p>Telephone number: 07757 184848</p>
SIGNATURE	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;">Charli Baty</div>		Date: 18/10/2024

Notes: When the decision has been made the relevant officer should complete the report within 14 days and send it to Democratic Services for publication on the Council's website in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Regulations 2014.