

## Notice of KEY Executive Decision (Special Urgency)

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| <b>Subject Heading:</b>                        | Acceptance of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Havering Allocation for 2025/2026.   |
| <b>Cabinet Member:</b>                         | Cllr Graham Williamson, Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration  |
| <b>ELT Lead:</b>                               | Neil Stubbings,<br>Strategic Director of Place   |
| <b>Report Author and contact details:</b>      | Perry Brooker<br>Tel: 01708 432 577<br>E: <a href="mailto:perry.brooker@havering.gov.uk">perry.brooker@havering.gov.uk</a>   |
| <b>Policy context:</b>                         | Havering Corporate Plan.<br>Havering Inclusive Growth Strategy 2020-2045.  |
| <b>Financial summary:</b>                      | UKSPF funding allocation to Havering will be £856,358 this allocation is divided into Capital funds (£571,807) and Revenue funds (£284,551).   |
| <b>Reason decision is Key</b>                  | Expenditure or saving (including anticipated income) of £500,000 or more   |
| <b>Date notice given of intended decision:</b> | 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2025<br><i>This is a decision pursuant to para 11 of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, made under “special urgency” with the consent of the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Board.</i> |

## Key Executive Decision

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| <b>Relevant OSC:</b>                                 | Place  |
| <b>Is it an urgent decision?</b>                     | Yes  |
| <b>Is this decision exempt from being called-in?</b> | Yes, due to Special Urgency – GLA as Managing Authority for UKSPF Funds requires proposal for spending funding allocation by Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025. |

### **The subject matter of this report deals with the following Council Objectives**

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|---|---|
| People - Supporting our residents to stay safe and well       | X |
| Place - A great place to live, work and enjoy                 | X |
| Resources - Enabling a resident-focused and resilient Council | X |

### **Part A – Report seeking decision**

#### **DETAIL OF THE DECISION REQUESTED AND RECOMMENDED ACTION**

This Executive Decision seeks authority to:

1. accept the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation to Havering of £856,358 financed by the Greater London Authority (GLA) and agree to enter into a grant funding agreement with the GLA for the execution and administration of the funds.

#### **AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH DECISION IS MADE**

Scheme 3.3.3

Powers common to all Strategic Directors

Grants 5.1 To apply for, accept and thereafter spend / allocate any grant funding connected with their directorate provided that any match funding or residual liabilities can be met from the existing budget of the directorate. For the avoidance of doubt this delegation shall allow the acceptance of any grant offered / allocated to the Council without any application.

## Key Executive Decision

### **STATEMENT OF THE REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) London boroughs allocation programme for 2025/2026 totals £30 million, which is part of the Government Levelling Up agenda to set out an ambitious plan for change. It is, focused on 5 national missions which are: ambitious, measurable, long-term objectives that provides a driving sense of purpose for the country with a specific focus to help kick-start economic growth and promote opportunities in all parts of the UK. For the 2025/2026 direct allocation initiatives will need to link into the three priority areas: Communities and Place; Support for Local Business; and People and Skills.

- Communities and Place – two themes.
  - 1) Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities.
  - 2) Thriving Places.
- Support for Local Business – one theme.
  - 3) Support for businesses, advice, support, enterprise culture and start up support.
- People and Skills – two themes.
  - 4) Employability.
  - 5) Skills.

Local Authorities have the flexibility to invest their allocation across a range of activities and interventions that support the above 5 themes. Havering's allocation will be £571,807 Capital (for Communities and Place) and £284,551 Revenue (Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, People and Skills) which totals £856,358 for 2025/2026.

The Council is required to submit to the GLA by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 an outline proposal of projects and initiatives to be funded by Havering's allocation to deliver against the UKSPF themes and sub themes for each of the investment priorities. For Communities and Places sub themes, activity related to capital funding should broadly align with high streets and places with an emphasis to demonstrate that the project benefits local high streets and place in some way, even where the activity is not directly to improve high streets and places. Indicators such as outputs and outcomes for each initiative will also need to be linked to a theme and sub-theme deliverable for monitoring and evaluation purposes.

Projects and initiatives proposals eligible for Havering's UKSPF allocation will be determined by Lead Members. The proposed projects will then be agreed and signed off by the GLA during April 2025.

A Grant Funding Agreement will need to be agreed by 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 between the Greater London Authority and the Council. This is likely to complement the previous UKSPF grant funding agreement for 2023 to 2025, and may be in the form of an extension/variation grant agreement activity to include People and Skills priority. In accordance with previous grant agreements, the s151 officer will be required to sign the quarterly claims.

Officers will ensure publicity for funded initiatives adhere to the UKSPF brand requirements.

Local Authorities are entitled to use 4% of the overall allocation for administration purposes eg: UKSPF quarterly financial claims and submissions etc. which equates to £34,254.32. This will therefore reduce Havering's revenue allocation to £250,296.68.

**Key Executive Decision**

**OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

Refuse the UKSPF allocation to Havering – rejected as it is important to continue to invest in Havering’s Economy, Communities and Place, Local Businesses, People and Skills.

**PRE-DECISION CONSULTATION**

The UKSPF 2025/26 allocation has been consulted upon internally across Council departments with the Inclusive Growth Team, Transport and Development Planning, Communications Team, Planning and Public Protection, Communications and Engagement, Employment and Skills, Public Health, Climate and Engagement, Environment, Parks, Regeneration, Culture and Leisure Services as well as externally with the LRBID and Romford BID.

**NAME AND JOB TITLE OF STAFF MEMBER ADVISING THE DECISION-MAKER**

Name: Perry Brooker, Town Centres Manager

Designation: Inclusive Growth

Signature: *P. Brooker*

Date: 18/03/25

## **Part B - Assessment of implications and risks**

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Council has the power to accept the grant under s111 of the Local Government Act 1972 which permits the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of its functions.

The Council also has a general power of competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 to do anything an individual can do, subject to any statutory constraints on the Council's powers. None of the constraints on the Council's s.1 power are engaged by this decision.

The grant agreement and agreements for the UKSPF allocation must be reviewed and approved by the Council's Legal team. The GLA will supply these agreements by the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.

Any dealings which the Council has with the grant will need to be in compliance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the procurement Act 2023 (if applicable).

The grant agreement will set out certain terms and conditions which officers will ensure to adhere to in order to achieve full utilisation of the funding arrangements and prevent recovery of sums.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The total allocation to Havering from the GLA for the UKSPF 2025/2026 programme will be £856,358 this allocation is divided into Capital funds of £571,807 and Revenue funds of £284,551. The revenue funds will be reduced to £250,296.68 due to the Council's entitlement to claim 4% fee (£34,254.32) of the overall allocation for administration purposes of the grant.

The grant agreement when received from the GLA will stipulate when the Council will receive the grant allocation. If similar to the previous UKSPF allocation round which was from April 2022 to March 2025 it is likely the GLA will hold back 10% of the allocation until the final claim submission is received and signed off to release the final 10% payment.

Adherence to the grant agreement will be carried out by regular financial monitoring of expenditure, GLA meetings with officers throughout the overall 2025/2026 UKSPF programme. Quarterly claim form submissions will be completed by officers which will seek S151 officer sign off for adherence to the financial regulations and requirements of the GLA grant.

There is a risk that if the council does not manage and spend the UKSPF allocation in accordance with the grant agreement terms and conditions then the GLA would likely to have the authority to suspend payments, claw back funding or reduce the level of funding/allocation.

However, these risks will be mitigated by officer's experience and knowledge in relation to the delivery of a similar UKSPF programme 2022/2025 as well as having regular meetings with the GLA programme manager to ensure compliance with the grant agreement requirements.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS (AND ACCOMMODATION IMPLICATIONS WHERE RELEVANT)**

The recommendations made in this report do not appear to give rise to any identifiable HR risks or implications that would impact on either the Council or its workforce.

## **Key Executive Decision**

### **EQUALITIES AND SOCIAL INCLUSION IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have 'due regard' to:

- (i) The need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- (ii) The need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- (iii) Foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce.

An EqHIA (Equality and Health Impact Assessment) is usually carried out when a proposed or planned activity is likely to affect staff, service users, or other residents.

The Council seeks to ensure equality, inclusion, and dignity for all in all situations. In addition, the UKSPF proposals will improve the quality of life and well-being of Havering residents, improve the business environment, employment prospects and socio-economic status of residents.

### **HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

Havering council is committed to protecting and improving the health and wellbeing of its residents.

There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from the acceptance of the UKSPF funding.

Improving Health and Wellbeing is one of the UKSPF's priority sub-themes, and a number of the other sub-themes also have clear associations with health and wellbeing (including reducing crime, tackling homelessness, and efforts to increase employment). Accepting the UKSPF funding offer the opportunity to deliver projects that can generate health and wellbeing benefits for local residents, and efforts should be made to maximise these benefits in the course of project design and delivery.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

The recommendations made in this report do not give rise to any identifiable environmental or climate change implications.

**Key Executive Decision**

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| <b>BACKGROUND PAPERS</b> |
| N/A                      |

**Part C – Record of decision**

I have made this executive decision in accordance with authority delegated to me by the Leader of the Council and in compliance with the requirements of the Constitution.

**Decision**

Proposal agreed

**Details of decision maker**

Signed



Neil Stubbings  
Strategic Director of Place

Date: 27th March 2025

**Lodging this notice**

The signed decision notice must be delivered to Democratic Services, in the Town Hall.

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| <p><b>For use by Committee Administration</b></p> <p>This notice was lodged with me on _____</p> <p>Signed _____</p> |
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