

COUNCIL
THURSDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2026

***PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**TITLE OF REPORT: USE OR URGENCY IN RELATION TO CALL-IN FOR DECISIONS ON
AWARDING UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF) ALLOCATIONS**

REPORT OF: Director - Enterprise

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Executive Member - Enterprise

COUNCIL PRIORITY: All Priorities;, ,

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To notify Council that the urgency provisions were applied to four delegated decisions made by the Director: Enterprise (in consultation with the Executive Member for Enterprise) in relation to allocations of UKSPF funding. This was due to the need to award funding to projects that could spend the available funds by the end of September 2026. This deadline is a condition of the grant, and it is likely that the funding would have had to be returned to Government if it had not been complied with.

Allowing for potential call-in would have made it extremely difficult to meet the deadline. In accordance with the Constitution, the Chair of the Council agreed to the decision being treated as a matter of urgency. The Constitution as set out in paragraph 6.3.11 (b) (i) requires that use of this provision is reported to the next meeting of Council, together with the reasons for urgency.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Council notes the use of urgency provisions in relation to the decisions on the award of UKSPF funding attached at Appendix A.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. Urgency provisions were used to ensure that the funding was allocated and spent by the 30th September deadline.
- 3.2. This is reported to Council to comply with the requirements of the Constitution.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1. It is likely that not applying urgency provisions would have meant that the funding could not be spent in time. This was rejected as it would have meant that the funds should be returned to Government, and therefore the local community would not have been able to benefit from the funding.

5. CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT MEMBERS AND EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

- 5.1. In accordance with the constitution, the Chair of the Council agreed to the use of the urgency provisions in relation to call-in.

6. FORWARD PLAN

- 6.1 This report does not contain a recommendation on a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

7. BACKGROUND

- 7.1. At its meeting on 18th March 2025, Cabinet approved the allocation of UKPSF funds (see background funds). Government later extended the amount of time when the funds had to be spent by to the end of September.

8. RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1. Most of the UKSPF funds were allocated and spent well within the time period stipulated in the grant conditions. Unfortunately circumstances and projects can change and in late July it was identified that around £30k of UKSPF funds would not be spent in time, a total of four projects were identified as being able satisfy the grant conditions and spend the money in the tight timeframe. Officers sought to quickly identify projects that the funding could be awarded to, that met the conditions of the grant, aligned with Council priorities and could spend the funding by the necessary deadline.
- 8.2. The decision notices for the funding where urgency was applied are detailed in the Appendix A.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. Paragraph 6.3.11 b) i) of the Constitution details the process in relation to urgency and call-in.
- 9.2. It states that “a decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would, for example, seriously prejudice the Council’s or other public interests”.
- 9.3. The approval process is that “the Chair of the Council must agree both that the decision proposed is reasonable in all the circumstances and to it being treated as a matter of urgency”. Following the use of this urgency provision it must be reported to the next available Council meeting.
- 9.4. This report discharges the constitutional requirement to report instances where the urgency provisions have been engaged.
- 9.5. The monitoring officer is satisfied that there is no prejudice through the necessity to waive the opportunity for the call in period for these four decisions.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. No specific financial implications relating to the use of the urgency provision.

11. RISK IMPLICATIONS

11.1. Good Risk Management supports and enhances the decision-making process, increasing the likelihood of the Council meeting its objectives and enabling it to respond quickly and effectively to change. When taking decisions, risks and opportunities must be considered.

11.2. Applying the use of the urgency provisions was to reduce the risk of not being able to use the UKSPF funding in time.

12. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12.1. In line with the Public Sector Equality Duty, public bodies must, in the exercise of their functions, give due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

12.2. There are no equalities implications relating to this report.

13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS

13.1. The Social Value Act and “go local” requirements do not apply to this report.

14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

14.1 There are no known Environmental impacts or requirements that apply to *this report*.

15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There are no HR implications.

16. APPENDICES

16.1. Appendix A: Decision Notice UKSPF funding to Hitchin BID

16.2. Appendix B- Decision Notice UKSPF funding to Baldock Community Centre

16.3. Appendix C- Decision Notice UKSPF funding to Letchworth BID

16.4. Appendix D- Decision Notice- UKSPF funding to Royston BID

17. CONTACT OFFICERS

Ian Couper, Steve Crowley	Director - Resources, Director - Enterprise,	ian.couper@north-herts.gov.uk, steve.crowley@north-herts.gov.uk, Tel: 01462 474 243, Tel: 01462 474 211
Natasha Jindal	Governance Consultant	Natasha.jindal@north-herts.gov.uk

18. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 18.1. Cabinet report in allocation of UKSPF grant <https://democracy.north-herts.gov.uk/documents/s27824/Cabinet%20Report%20-%20UK%20Shared%20Prosperity%20Fund%202025-6%20Allocation%20and%20Delegated%20Approvals%20FINAL.pdf>