

## **RECORD OF DECISION MADE UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

### **\*PART 1 – PUBLIC DOCUMENT**

**Any interest to declare/ or conflict and any dispensation granted for the Officer or Executive Member [NO]**

***Any queries must be directed to the Democratic Services Manager***

### **SERVICE DIRECTORATE: Enterprise**

#### **1. DECISION TAKEN**

To approve the allocation of £4,500 of UK Shared Prosperity (UKSPF) funding Baldock Community Centre towards the installation of air conditioning and associated works at the Community Centre.

#### **2. DECISION TAKER**

Director of Enterprise in consultation with the Executive Member for Enterprise Cllr Thomas.

#### **3. DATE DECISION TAKEN:**

18.09.26

#### **4. REASON FOR DECISION**

- 4.1 To enable the remaining UKSPF allocation to be utilised within the programme timescales to support eligible activity aligned with the Council's approved UKSPF interventions and priorities.
- 4.2 The proposed project has been assessed for eligibility, deliverability and value for money, with further detail set out in section 8.

#### **5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 The alternative option was not to allocate UKSPF funding to the proposed project. This was rejected as the project has been assessed as eligible and deliverable within the programme timescales and representing value for money.
- 5.2 Alternative levels of funding were considered through the quotations received and available UKSPF budget. The proposed award of up to £4,500 represents a contribution towards the eligible air-conditioning and associated works and has been assessed against UKSPF requirements, deliverability, value for money and available funding. Further details of the assessment are set out in section 8.

#### **6. CONSULTATION (INCLUDING THE EFFECT ON STAKEHOLDERS, PARTNERS AND THE PUBLIC)**

- 6.1 No formal public consultation is required in relation to this decision.

- 6.2 Relevant partners and potential delivery organisations have been engaged to identify activity capable of delivery within the remaining UKSPF programme timescales. Further information has been sought where required to support the assessment of proposals.
- 6.3 In accordance with the delegation approved by Cabinet, the relevant Executive Member and Director have been consulted. The S151 Officer and Legal Services have also been consulted as part of the assessment and governance process.
- 6.4 The proposed funding for Baldock Community Centre is intended to support improvements to the facilities, including air-conditioning works serving the bar area, supporting continued effective operation and financial sustainability of the Community Centre and contributing to the vitality of the local area, No significant adverse impacts on partners have been identified.

## **7. FORWARD PLAN**

- 7.1 This decision is not a key Executive decision and has therefore not been referred to in the Forward Plan.

## **8. BACKGROUND/ RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The Cabinet report at 16.1 allocated UKSPF funding to the Enterprise Directorate for Renovation of Estate and Community Buildings, as detailed in Appendix 7. Appendix 7 provides for the renewal and renovation of buildings, including community halls to enable them to function properly and maximise their benefit to the community.
- 8.2 Funding of £4,500 will contribute towards air-conditioning and supporting facilities at Baldock Community Centre. The proposal has been assessed against deliverability and value for money. Of the £22,226 remaining Economic Development UKSPF allocation, £4,500 is being allocated to Baldock Community Centre through this decision. The remaining £17,726 is being progressed against a small number of other identified projects capable of delivery within the UKSPF deadline of 30 September 2026. These proposals are being progressed separately and remain subject to the relevant governance and approval requirements.
- 8.3 Appendix 7 identifies the UKSPF investment priority as Communities and Place under the Thriving Places theme.
- 8.4 The assessment considered:
- The activity proposed and its alignment to UKSPF objectives.
  - Deliverability within the required programme timescales.
  - Project costs and value for money.
  - Subsidy control requirements, where applicable.

## **9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 At the Cabinet meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025, Cabinet approved the proposed allocation of the Council's UKSPF and delegated approval of individual grants and payments to the relevant Director, in consultation with the relevant Executive Member. This delegated report gives effect to that delegation. Relevant consideration has been given to the Subsidy Act in taking this decision and Legal Services will be instructed to assist in the drafting a grant funding agreement.

- 9.2 Due to the deadlines on spending UKSPF funding, the Chair of the Council has agreed that urgency provisions apply in relation to call-in. As per paragraph 6.3.11 b) i) of the Constitution.

## **10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 The proposed £4,500 grant to Baldock Community Centre will be funded from the Council's existing UKSPF allocation for Renovation of Estate Buildings (Appendix 7). Sufficient budget is available within relevant UKSPF allocation to meet the proposed expenditure. The remaining balance within this allocation is £17,726.
- 10.3 The proposal has been assessed with regard to cost and value for money. As the proposed decision involves providing financial assistance to external organisations, the subsidy control implications of the proposed awards have been assessed in accordance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

## **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 There is a risk that funded activity may not be delivered within the applicable UKSPF programme timescale. This risk has been mitigated by considering deliverability as part of the assessment process. Baldock Community Centre has advised that it can complete all of the proposed work by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2026.
- 11.3 There is a risk that expenditure may not meet UKSPF eligibility, procurement or subsidy control requirements. This could result in expenditure being considered not eligible. This risk has been reduced by carrying out appropriate checks prior to the award of funding, including review of supporting information, procurement evidence and completion of any required subsidy control assessment.

## **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.

## **13. SOCIAL VALUE IMPLICATIONS**

- 13.1 *The Social Value Act and "go local" policy do not apply to this decision.*

## **14. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 The proposed project involves the replacement of defunct air conditioning equipment at Baldock Community Centre. Working air conditioning will allow the safe and pleasant use of all areas of the Community Centre during times of extreme heat, and will reduce waste by extending the shelf life of perishable products by facilitating their storage at appropriate temperatures. Due to the location of the areas to benefit from the improved air conditioning, it is not possible to achieve the same effect by use of natural ventilation.

By installing more modern, efficient air conditioning than has previously been used at the Community Centre, the adverse effects of Baldock Community Centre's use of air conditioning plant will be reduced from previous levels while allowing effective, comfortable use of the building.

## 15. HUMAN RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15.1 There will be no impact.

## 16. BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 [Shared Prosperity Fund process and proposed allocation for 2025/26](#)

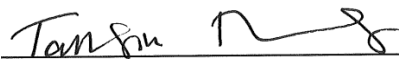
## 17. APPENDICES

None

## NOTIFICATION DATE

*Date that the decision appears in MIB – Committee, Member & Scrutiny Services can confirm this with you*

Signature of Executive Member Consulted .....



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Date .....17.09.26.....

Signature of Decision Taker .....



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**Please Note:** Due to the deadlines on spending UKSPF funding, the Chair of the Council has agreed that urgency provisions apply in relation to call-in. As per paragraph 6.3.11 b) i) of the Constitution.