

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OPENNESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES REGULATIONS

2014

OFFICER DECISION WRITTEN RECORD

Reference:	OD/(to be added by Democratic Services)
Subject Matter:	Allocation of up to £150,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the employment of community advisors in 2023/24 and 2024/25 to deliver the Climate Change Strategy objectives by means of supporting community groups and town and parish councils to contribute to UKSPF environmental sustainability-related outputs and outcomes.
Date of Decision:	15 th January 2024
Exempt/Confidential information (Yes/No):	No
If Exempt/Confidential – reason why:	n/a
Name of Officer taking decision under delegated authority:	Jonathan Geall Head of Housing and Health
Source of delegated authority (constitution/express delegation/etc):	At its meeting of 18 th January 2023, Council approved the allocation of £566,000 from the UKSPF for delivery of the Climate Change Strategy. At the same meeting,

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	<p>Council approved that <i>“the award of UKSPF... funded grants and/or contracts to deliver... Climate Change Strategy objectives be delegated to the Head of Housing and Health acting in consultation with the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability”</i>.</p> <p>The council’s Climate Change Strategy 2022 – 2026 includes an objective to: <i>“Provide practical ways of encouraging sustainable options as the default position for residents and businesses notably with regard to greener travel, renewable energy, low carbon domestic heating and hot water”</i>.</p> <p>The Head of Housing and Health, acting in consultation with the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability, is now using his authority to award UKSPF contracts, in this case employment contracts, to support the delivery of the Climate Change Strategy objective quoted above and thus UKSPF outcomes.</p>
Exercise of delegated authority approved by: <i>(if different from Officer taking decision)</i>	n/a
Decision:	To allocate up to £150,000 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) monies – consisting of up to £50,000 in 2023/24 and £100,000 in 2024/25 – to fund the employment of

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	community advisors to deliver the Climate Change Strategy objectives by means of supporting community groups and town and parish councils to contribute to UKSPF environmental sustainability-related outputs and outcomes.
Reason(s) for Decision:	<p>Council has determined that pursuit of its Climate Change Strategy objectives should be a priority for use of its allocation of UKSPF monies.</p> <p>The following UKSPF outputs / outcomes accord strongly with the council's Climate Change Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • number of decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support [from the UKSPF] • amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure completed • number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed. <p>East Herts is fortunate in having a voluntary sector and numerous town and parish councils who are motivated to work with the council to reduce carbon. In order to mobilise these bodies, through discussion it has been identified that it is necessary to provide officer support with the explicit aim of supporting the drafting and delivery decarbonisation plans, which in turn will see an increase in low or zero carbon infrastructure. To this end, the decision is to use up to £150,000 of UKSPF monies to employ two officers during 2023/24 and</p>

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	<p>2024/25 to work exclusively with partners to deliver the UKSPF outcomes listed above, along with related UKSPF measures.</p> <p>The allocation of £150,000 cover all officer costs, including employer NI and pension contributions, across the two years, 2023/24 and 2024/25.</p>
Details of alternative options, if any considered and rejected:	<p>Delivery of the UKSPF outcomes by existing East Herts Council officers – NOT RECOMMENDED as the limited capacity of council officers would mean that, in all probability, the UKSPF outcomes could not be met.</p> <p>Run a competitive process to outsource the necessary community support work – NOT RECOMMENDED as this could unnecessarily delay delivery, may not ultimately provide best value and, arguably, could distance the voluntary and town/parish council sectors from the council officers already working with them.</p>
Name of Officer who has confirmed with all Members involved in taking this decision whether they have pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest:	Jonathan Geall Head of Housing and Health
Name(s) of any Member who has removed	n/a

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himself/herself from contributing to this decision because of a conflict of interest:	
Signature of Decision Maker (where decision is taken in consultation with a Member):	<i>Signature redacted</i> Jonathan Geall Head of Housing and Health
Signature of Member consulted by Decision Maker (where decision is taken in consultation with a Member):	In lieu of the signature of Cllr Tim Hoskin, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability From: Tim Hoskin <Tim.Hoskin@eastherts.gov.uk> Sent: 15 January 2024 13:20 To: Jonathan Geall <Jonathan.Geall@eastherts.gov.uk> Subject: UKSPF funding proposal Jonathan, I can confirm that having discussed with you, in your role as the Head of Housing and Health, I support the proposed use of up to £150,000 of UKSPF monies to employ two temporary officers to work with voluntary groups and town and parish councils to enable delivery of the objectives in the council's Climate Change Strategy and, more specifically, the UKSPF environmental sustainability outcomes. Supporting an acceleration of private householder investment in decarbonisation initiatives is critical to East Herts responsibilities under the Climate Change Emergency. The two temporary officers will enable a significant increase in officer contact and support for local parish and town councillor teams. It is through supporting these locally embedded teams that we believe resident engagement will increase and lead to more households to make investment decisions in their individual decarbonisation ambitions. Regards.....Tim

SIGNATURES TO BE REDACTED