

Committee: Cabinet

Date: Thursday, 19
June 2025

Title: UKSPF and REPF grant schemes

**Portfolio
Holder:** Cllr Neil Hargreaves, Portfolio Holder for Finance
and the Economy

**Report
Author:** Sarah Lewin,
Economic Development Manager

Key decision: No

Summary

1. Uttlesford has been allocated £327,146 in UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) and £244,010 in Rural England Funding (REPF) which must be spent in the financial year 2025/26.
2. The spend profile of the grant funds was presented and approved by Cabinet at the meeting of 27 March 2025, attached as Appendix A.
3. Following the above approval DEFRA announced a change to the outputs, which subsequently adjusted the criteria on which the grant can be spent against.
4. This report sets out the criteria and policies for an amended grant Scheme under REPF and two new grant schemes under UKSPF.

Recommendations

5. Cabinet is requested to approve the following grant schemes as set out in the Policies attached
 - a. The Communities Development Grant Scheme – attached as Appendix B
 - b. The Zero Carbon Business Grant – attached as Appendix C
 - c. The redirection of funding to the Waymarkers Project as set out in paragraphs 14-17

Financial Implications

6. There are no direct financial implications, but it should be noted the council will be required to repay any unspent funds.

Background Papers

7. [UKSPF REPF March Cabinet Report](#)
[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)
[Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

Impact

- 8.

Communication/Consultation	CMT and ICB
Community Safety	N/a
Equalities	N/a
Health and Safety	N/a
Human Rights/Legal Implications	Any awards of funding provided to individual businesses and organisations are issued in line with the Subsidy Regulations
Sustainability	When proposing new grant schemes, the implications of climate change and biodiversity are always considered. The proposals in this report support the councils net zero objectives
Ward-specific impacts	N/a
Workforce/Workplace	N/a

UKSPF

9. It is proposed two grant schemes are launched using the UKSPF funding, with a total grant pot of £84,400.

Community Development Grant

10. The Community Development Grant has two schemes within the one policy, and these are summarised below, the full policy is attached as Appendix B.

a) Community Initiatives

grants of up to £1,000 to develop an activity or initiative that encourages local people to come together, with the aim of reducing isolation and improving health and wellbeing.

b) Community Business Grant

grants of up to £7,500 for the creation or growth of community businesses, including pubs, cafes, transport, energy schemes, and creative spaces.

Zero-Carbon Business Grant

11. This scheme is aimed at pubs and hospitality businesses to help them reduce their energy costs and cut carbon emissions. An average hospitality outlet uses 355,000 kWh of energy which is the equivalent of 18 houses (UK Hospitality statistic) therefore a grant scheme targeting this sector would help us work towards our net zero targets.
12. This scheme has been developed following conversations with pub owners and landlords as part of the Uttlesford pubs project. Grants will be up to £10,000. Applicants can apply for up to 80% of the total project cost. Full policy attached as Appendix C.

REPF

13. In the March Cabinet report, it was advised that the Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme would continue for another year. Since the announcement of the additional year of funding DEFRA have amended the outputs of the scheme and we are no longer able to use this funding to deliver a Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme.
14. It is proposed that the funds will be redirected to a project creating new or significantly improving existing waymarking signs. £100,000 has been ear marked for this project.

The opportunities include:

- a. Town centre signage – working with the Town Councils in Dunmow and Saffron Walden looking at active travel routes from new developments on the outskirts of the towns to the town centres.

This will enable residents to discover routes into the town centres, increasing footfall and reducing reliance on car use for short journeys.

Funding will be provided to the respective town councils for the signage.
- b. Funding for parish, town and the district council for information boards about local wildlife and ecology and wayfinding signs for active travel routes to key attractions, including cultural and heritage assets.

A grant scheme will be set up to allow applications to be made for funding.
- c. Working with farm clusters providing waymarkers and information boards about local wildlife and ecology on public footpaths

15. Funding is limited and signage must be installed by the end of the financial year therefore the options with both the greatest benefit to the community coupled with the likelihood of implementation in this time frame will be prioritised.
16. The following table provides information on the proposed allocations for both the UKSPF and the REPF grant initiatives and schemes.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund £327,146	
Cultural Development	£ 49,600
Digital Inclusion	£ 47,000
Rural Business Development	£ 23,300
Community Development	£ 84,400
Zero Carbon Business	£ 100,000
Admin @4% of total allocation	£ 22,846
Total	£327,146
Rural England Prosperity Fund £244,010	
Small Grant Scheme for Business	£ 144,010
Wayfinding Signage Project	£ 100,000
Total	£244,010

Risk Analysis

17.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Funds not awarded and reclaimed by Government	1 - funding will be utilised by existing UDC work programmes	1 - minimal financial impact to the council directly, but our district would miss out on funding	Regular updates to ensure funding is being used

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.