

OFFICER DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Acting Strategic Director – Place

Service Area: Place, Communities & Enterprise

Title of Decision:

To approve the reallocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding

Decision made and reasons:

To award funding allocations from UKSPF for the following projects

Within the Communities and Place Theme, there are projects allocated that can no longer be delivered and so the following have been agreed with the Portfolio Holder for Place

Hemel Town Centre Improvements

1. *Town Centre Deep Clean*: a deep clean of the Marlowes Pedestrian area; scrubbing pavements, jet-washing street furniture, deep clean of bins and moss removal (£4,000)
2. *Electrical pop-up points*: 9 new electrical pop-up points on the Marlowes pedestrian zone to serve market traders and events. (£49,000)
3. *Town Centre Bins*: New bins for the town centre to include the Old Town, Bridge Street and Waterhouse Street (£80,000)
4. *Removal of Town Centre Screen*: Decommission and removal of the faulty town centre screen situated on the Marlowes pedestrian area (£7,500)
5. *Think Hemel Column Banners*: display of 49 banners throughout the Marlowes for a 2-year period (£20,800)
6. *Repaint of Marlowes Benches*: Repainting the colourful benches situated on the Marlowes pedestrian area (£1,500)
7. *Old Civic Centre Site Hoarding*: To place ThinkHemel branded hoarding along the Marlowes highway facing side of the Old Civic Centre site. (£8,500)
8. *ShopMobility Signs*: new town centre Shop Mobility Signs (£10,000)

Other

1. *Neighbourhood Centres and other High Streets - Public realm improvements including signage and bins* (£70,000)
2. *Water Gardens Fencing* - £10,000
3. *Dacorum Heritage Trust - Additional Storage requirements, matching grant funding through CAD* (£5,000)
4. *Neighbourhood Centre Christmas Lights 2024* (£14,000)
5. *Sunnyside Rural Trust – Flower Shield at Keens Field for Dacorum 50 Celebrations* (£13,710)

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This is a total reallocation of £294,010 reallocated from

- 1. Gypsy and Traveller Empowerment - £118,400*
- 2. Dacorum Bangladeshi Welfare Association - £100,000*
- 3. Project Breakspear - £75,610*

Within the Business Support theme, following Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors (HHBA) ending, the allocation made to HHBA could no longer be delivered and so the Portfolio Holder agreed to reallocate to DBC led business support along with an unallocated sum from the Investment Plan

- 1. DBC led business support activity (£57,500)*

This reallocation is funded from

- 1. Hemel Hempstead Business Ambassadors - £40,000*
- 2. Unallocated - £17,500*

Reason:

Dacorum Borough Council was awarded £1,763,392 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Funding falls into three themes: Communities and Place, Business Support and People and Skills. It has been confirmed that the projects being reallocated cannot be delivered within the timescale required or are funds no longer needed for the original purpose.

The Investment Plan approved by Cabinet in July 2023 delegated final allocations of grants to the Strategic Director Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder.

The Portfolio Holder Place has agreed all of the allocations set out.

Core budget is not available for these projects, and using available funding will allow for these projects to move ahead and improve the quality of lives and town centre experience for residents and visitors to Hemel Hempstead and across the borough.

Reports considered:

n/a

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Fraser Willcox, Place Project Manager
Caroline Saunders, Head of Place
Diane Southam, Assistant Director, Place Communities and Enterprise
James Doe, Director of Place
Chris Conley, Operations Manager
Tony Moore, Building Services Manager
Adrian England, Leader of Dacorum Borough Council
Hemel Hempstead BID

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Financial Comments: I concur that the £294k sums being reallocated were in the initial UK SPF Master Plan and there has been no spend since inception against these programmes.

Darren Flanagan, Accountant for People & Place

Monitoring Officer Comments:

No further comments to add to the report.

Deputy S151 Officers Comments:

No further comments to add to the report.

Implications:

Officer Signature:



Diane Southam - Acting Director Place

Date –