

Council 30 July 2024

Public Questions

Question from Susan Clarke

1.How much of the Rural Prosperity Fund money has been allocated and spent by the rural towns and parishes and who set the particular criteria for application at TDC.'

Response from Executive Member for Corporate Resources

£286,000 has been allocated to Teignbridge's town and parish councils to date.

Teignbridge District Council was allocated approximately £2.2m through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This includes approximately £650,000 from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (Rural Fund). Teignbridge's projects and grant schemes were developed in accordance with UKSPF and Rural Fund investment plans, which were approved by Full Council. In developing our investment plans, we held useful and informative discussions with local rural stakeholders. Authority to make decisions on the detail of individual funding schemes that we have brought forward was delegated to the Head of Place and Commercial Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Estates, Assets Parking & Economic Development, and the Executive Member for Homes, Communities and Human Resources.

In terms of progress with deploying the funding overall, a brief update is laid out below:

Markets and Town Centre Promotion Fund - £286,000

This fund is aimed at enhancing the attractiveness of town centres and creating opportunities to grow outdoor markets.

Following an expression of interest process, £10,670 was passed to many of the district's town council's so that they could develop feasibility studies for their priority projects.

With a total allocation of £286,000, all towns have now been invited to submit funding bids to deliver their priority projects in accordance with assessment criteria that have already been approved by the Head of Place and Commercial Services.

At the request of many of the towns, the application deadline has been extended and will close on 4 September. The funding must be spent by the end of February 2025

Green Business Grant - £1,020,000

We have successfully deployed £350,000 in support of reducing emissions and energy costs within business and community organisation premises. £220,000 of those awards was passed to organisations located in more rural parts of the district.

A third round with a total value of £730,000 has launched. The application deadline is 12 August. £450,000 of the total fund available has been earmarked for locations within Teignbridge but outside of Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton, Teignmouth and Dawlish.

Teignbridge Arts Project - £300,000

We received a total of 91 applications through the Teignbridge Arts Project worth over £600,000. At least 50 of these projects submitted have activity outside of Newton Abbot, Kingsteignton, Teignmouth and Dawlish. Application assessments are currently underway. Successful applicants will be notified within the coming weeks and will be able to commence with their projects. Projects include workshops, events and building improvements.

Violence Prevention Against Women and Girls - £244,000

We are contributing towards a multi-agency approach aimed at resulting in a measurable impact on violence rates and addressing harmful sexual behaviour and exploitation.

Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity - £144,000

Libraries Unlimited are running our Business support for clean growth and diversity project. This programme includes both online and in person training programmes which is open to residents throughout Teignbridge.

Rural Connectivity and Transport Fund - £200,000

In addition, £200,000 has been allocated towards enhancing and creating better access to services, jobs and tourism opportunities in Teignbridge's rural areas through our Rural Connectivity and Transport Fund. This scheme is due to launch in August.

All activity and spend for all the UKSPF and Rural Fund projects will be completed by the 31 March 2025. Further information of all our UKSPF and Rural Fund projects can be found on our website.

We are grateful to Town and Parish Council for anything they can do to help promote the various schemes and funding opportunities.

Question from Gilli Blick

2.

Here is a link to the LGBT+ toolkit from Devon County Council:

<https://devoncc.sharepoint.com/sites/PublicDocs/Corporate/Equality/Forms/AllItems.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FCorporate%2FEquality%2FCommunities%2FSexual%20Orientation%2FLGBT%20Toolkit%202017%20updated%202024%2Epdf&parent=>

[%2Fsites%2FPublicDocs%2FCorporate%2FEquality%2FCommunities%2FSexual%20Orientation&p=true&ga=1](#)

On page 22 of this document there is a paragraph about gender segregation of facilities which flags up a need to put in place provisions to accommodate Trans+ people, non-binary people, and others who identify as gender-variant (or similar).

I do not believe in this new gender religion, but am willing to accept that provisions should be made for those who do so believe. However will the council please confirm that such provisions are not being made at the expense of women and girls.

We make up 51% of the population and our needs to have changing room and toilet provision which are sex segregated were specifically recognised in the Equality Act 2010.

There were some issues raised in Brighton and Hove in relation to the lawfulness of the trans inclusion schools toolkit which was being used in that region.

I provide a link here to the advice given by Karon Monaghan KC in this matter which has been generously shared to assist other parts of the country:

[advice-of-karon-monaghan-kc](#)
[PDF Document · 618 KB](#)

I am seeking the assurance of Teignbridge Council that wherever changing rooms and toilets are provided by this council for the use of members of the public as well as staff or employees of the council that women and girls dignity, decency, privacy and safety will be treated as a vital component in any provision. This means, for the avoidance of doubt, the provision of single-sex facilities for women and girls which exclude any male person however he may choose to identify.

This should not be necessary as 15 years ago no-one thought that allowing men and boys to share such provision with women and girls would ever be contemplated. Sadly times have changed and the provisions for women and girls are becoming “gender neutral” which means mixed sex whilst men’s facilities continue to be for men and boys only.

Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism

The current leisure facility provisions offer separate male and female changing and toilet facilities. The forthcoming works at Broadmeadow shall retain single sex provision but will also introduce a village changing area, where cubicle-based provision will be offered in addition.

Questions from Cathy Mudge

3) Can TDC clarify how they are training and advising staff who will be using TDC recommended guide for Broadmeadow Sports Centre with Village changing rooms.

Guidance For Front Line Staff To Assist Trans People To Access Leisure Facilities.

I am particularly interested in how staff, for example The Contact Duty Manager will handle the following.

Page 2 : Chart “ an individual wanting to use toilets and changing room which is consistent with the gender in which they present”, how will this be measured and defined by the duty manager?

Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism

Training will be arranged for staff prior to the reopening of the facility.

4) Page 2: How will they decide if “clothing is within current clothing policy”?

Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism

Which clothing policy are you referring to please? We can then comment.

5)How can the duty manager confirm if someone is “indistinguishable from someone of their preferred gender” if others disagree?

Response from Executive Member for Open Spaces, Leisure, Sport, Resorts & Tourism

Individuals are entitled to participate at our facilities.

Question from Jenny Dingsdale

6)I would like to know if this council has made any effort to correct harmful policies and plans influenced by Intercom or other trans activists (such as the creation of a changing village at Broadmeadow to be more trans inclusive) and if not, why not?

Response from Executive Member for Homes & Communities

The Council does not have harmful policies