

Urgent Officer Decision

13 March 2025

Part i

Purpose of Decision

To approve submission of a Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 investment plan and subsequent implementation of that Plan.

Reason for Urgency

Previously UKSPF funding has been provided directly to District Councils (SPF only), Devon County Council (Multiply only) and Torbay Council (SPF and Multiply).

Government has allocated the 2025-26 UKSPF funding to Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA), requesting that the DTCCA works with partners to distribute the funding and deliver the economic benefits.

Devon County Council (DCC) will administer UKSPF 2025-26 in consultation with District Councils in accordance with grant scheme criteria. Due to a very tight deadline of 31 March 2025 to meet approval requirements and the Pre-election Period, an urgent decision is needed, without which the Council at risk of not receiving the funds. See Milestones set out in Appendix 1.

Requesting Officer/report author

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Executive Members

Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects, Cllr David Palethorpe
Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Linda Goodman-Bradbury

Progress

- | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|
| 1 | Consultation with Executive Members and approval | |
| | a. draft submission | 5 February 2025 |
| | b. revised submission | 3 March 2025 |
| 2 | Officers consulted and approval | |
| | a. draft submission | 5 February 2025 |
| | b. revised submission | 3 March 2025 |
| 3 | Monitoring Officer Consulted (Paul Woodhead) | 5 March 2025 |
| 4 | S151 Officer Consulted (Martin Flitcroft) | 6 March 2025 |
| 5 | Placed on Web | 14 March 2025 |

1. Proposed Decision

- (1) Approve the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 investment plan as identified at Section 6 and Appendix 2 of this report for investment through Teignbridge District Council's allocation of the UKSPF 2025-26.

2. Appendices

- Appendix 1: Timeline
- Appendix 2: Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26
- Appendix 3: Devon County Council (DCC) Agri-Tech Proposal
- Appendix 4: Devon County Council (DCC) Employment Hub Proposal
- Appendix 5: Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Administration
- Appendix 6: Proposed UKSPF 2025-26 DCC and District Council allocations

3. Background

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26](#) A £900m transition scheme awarded to Combined County Authorities (where applicable).

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus 2022-25](#) Soon to complete £2.6b fund administered by District Councils (where applicable).

[UKSPF 2022-25 Full Council Approval, 26th July, 2022](#) Full Council approval for the UKSPF 2022-25 Investment Plan projects.

[Rural England Prosperity Fund Full Council Approval, 29th November, 2022](#) Full Council approval for the REPF 2023-25 Investment Plan projects.

[One Teignbridge](#) Teignbridge District Council approved strategy.

4. Introduction

- 4.1. Previously UKSPF (and linked Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023-25) has been provided directly to District Councils and the UKSPF 2025-26 is a transitional grant scheme representing a further allocation £900 million for local investment funding.
- 4.2. The funding continues to be based on 3 main themes of Communities and Place; Business Support, and; People and Skills, with a specific focus to help kickstart economic growth and promote opportunities in all parts of the UK. Delivery is from April 2025 and spend by March 2026, and must support one of 5 national missions:

Mission 1: Kickstart economic growth

Mission 2: Make Britain a clean energy superpower

Mission 3: Take back our streets

Mission 4: Break down barriers to opportunity

Mission 5: Build an NHS fit for the future

- 4.3. DTCCA has been allocated £4,166,670 (of which £721,522 is for capital and £3,445,148 is for revenue spending).
- 4.4. DCC are the Accountable Body with provisional allocations being set aside of £100k for Management and Monitoring (based on 2.5% of the maximum allowance of 4%) and £811,411 set aside for the Essential Skills programme (previously "Multiply Programme" aimed at continuation of bespoke adult numeracy programmes).
- 4.5. A provisional allocation of £424,964 has been assigned to Teignbridge District Council (TDC) (of which capital £99,036 and revenue £325,928), equating to a 10% allocation (based on the equivalent UKSPF 2022-25 district and county awards, see Appendix 3).
- 4.6. An associated Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 investment plan is being developed by DCC for DTCCA approval and submission to Government in early April 2025.

5. Risks

- 5.1. The key risk is timely information from Central Government and the necessary approval process for all partners involved including DTCCA, DCC and Teignbridge District Council (TDC) for the Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 investment plan and spend allocation. There is a requirement for projects to adhere to the main themes, at least one of the national missions, achievement of associated outputs and outcomes. In addition, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be implemented between DTCCA and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) this includes conditions, payment methodology confirmation and delivery partner agreement required to enable funding agreements to be put in place to achieve timely delivery.
- 5.2. DTCCA will have full financial responsibility for the Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 investment plan, with a funding agreement to be implemented with the TDC, reflecting MHCLG MOU terms and Grant Determination letter. TDC will be required to provide cumulative 6 monthly monitoring and reporting to DCC with a staged payment allocation approach (likely to be based on a 50% award basis) awaiting further detail from MHCLG.
- 5.3. The key risk is for TDC is approval, timing and resource as again this funding must be spent by 31 March 2026. Furthermore, due to the Pre-Election Period, we are unlikely to be able to commence projects until early June 2025 as set out in Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 investment plan Appendix 2.

6. Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26

- 6.1. Central Government has provided a technical guidance note on how this funding should be spent and projects have been prioritised in line with the funding parameters, strategic priorities for DTCCA, DCC and TDC (see Appendix 2 which includes One Teignbridge priorities) alongside deliverability within the 31 March 2026 deadline.
- 6.2. **TDC Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26** investment plan (see Appendix 2) will deliver the following:
 - 6.2.1. **Safer Places, Safer Spaces** (Violence Prevention against Women and Girls) (Teignbridge Community Safety Partnership project £90k) continuation of a very successful project aimed at a range of education approaches around key risks including harmful sexual behaviour, violence and exploitation to improve feelings of safety and crime prevention.
 - 6.2.2. [South West Visitor Economy Hub](#) (EDDC/Destination Plymouth project £3k) new project to support an online tool designed specifically for tourism businesses in Devon and Somerset to provide a wide array of data, continuously updated in real-time to aid decision making.
 - 6.2.3. [Visit South Devon](#) (Visit South Devon project £10k) new project allocation to support Visit South Devon grow the tourism economy through a range of marketing, events and business support activities. Complimenting SW Visitor Economy Hub work.
 - 6.2.4. **Town Centre Improvements** (TDC project £117k) continuation of a successful project working with Town Councils and partners across the district to develop mainly capital funded local priorities.
 - 6.2.5. **Agri-Tech Scheme** (DCC project £60k, see Appendix) new to TDC project designed by DCC to further develop the Agri-Tech sector across the district through encouraging farm innovation, support and an events programme.
 - 6.2.6. **Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity** (TDC project £90k) continuation of a successful project aimed at business growth and support through intelligence and resource sharing, training, 1:1 advice and mentoring with topics ranging from diversity, women in business to hard-to-reach groups. Alongside the provision of training to support green innovation and decarbonisation plans for businesses.
 - 6.2.7. **Employment Hub** (DCC £50k) new to TDC project designed by DCC to provide in-person support and information through mobile employment hubs to aid pursuance of different career options, jobs and learning opportunities for adults and young people in the district. The hubs work with partners and employers to provide individual support.

6.3. It should be noted that the current UKSPF 2022-25 grant schemes projects which will cease, are projected to receive 69% of the total UKSPF 2022-25 and associated Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2023-25 funding award of £2,189,888.70.

6.4. Spending allocation and profile for UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25:

	Overall Allocation £	Spend		Yrs3 Projected Spend £	Total Projected Spend £
		Yr1 £	Yr2 £		
UKSPF	1,639,624.00				
Green Business Grant Scheme (GBG)	600,000.00	150,271.00	205,476.79	215,953.69	571,701.48
Teignbridge Arts Project Grant Scheme (Exhibiting, Performing and Participating in Art)	300,000.00	0.00	4,950.00	303,913.44	308,863.44
Markets and Town Centres Promotion and Coordination Grant Scheme	286,000.00	0.00	10,670.00	238,194.01	248,864.01
Business Support for Clean Growth	144,000.00	0.00	0.00	144,000.00	144,000.00
Violence Protection against Women and Girls (Safer Spaces, Safer Places)	244,000.00	32,580.16	80,779.00	105,130.00	218,489.16
Admin	65,584.96	14,865.00	21,433.99	29,285.97	65,584.96
Totals:		197,716.16	323,309.78	1,036,477.11	1,557,503.05
Rural England Prosperity Fund	650,332.00				
Rural Communities Fund (GBG)	300,000.00		0.00	415,673.15	415,673.15
Rural Transport and Connectivity Fund	200,000.00		0.00	211,762.50	211,762.50
Rural Broadband (reallocated to Rural Communities Fund)	150,000.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Admin	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals:		0.00	0.00	627,435.65	627,435.65
Overall Allocation	2,289,956.00			Overall Projected Spend	2,184,938.70

6.5. There is an overall 4% available for administration costs (c.1.5% for TDC) and please see Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Administration Appendix 5 for full details and partnership split.

7. Alternative Options

7.1. Due to the restrictive timelines involved there is little opportunity for wider consultation, however, the projects have been developed in line with One Teignbridge priorities, relevant Executive Members and Director Place approval, whilst being mindful of the significant administration costs attached to offering direct grant schemes (which have already been well catered for as part of the UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 awards). In addition, we are working with DCC to contribute to some of the pan Devon projects (£110k) which they will be leading on, with smaller direct allocations to support the local visitor economy (£13k) (see Appendix 2).

7.2. An alternative would be to not endorse the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 investment plan. If that course of action was followed, TDC would not receive the UKSPF funding from DTCCA, or have a sound basis for partnerships working going forward.

8. Key Decision

Approval of the support as set out.

9. Justification

The project selection which aligns with One Teignbridge goals to support a wide range of local economy projects whilst achieving the UKSPF 2025-26 missions, outputs and outcomes and the Central Government spend deadline. A further report will be presented to Council to seek approval for expenditure.

Approved

Signed: Neil Blaney **Date:** 13 March 2025

Authorising Officer: Director Place

Notes:

All authorising emails/correspondence to be filed along with this completed report by the requesting officer.

Summary of the decision to be added to Mod.gov for the website either by the report author or by Democratic Services. Please contact Democratic Services (TDC)

democraticservicestdc@teignbridge.gov.uk if needed

Appendix 1 - Timeline

Milestones	Date
DCC work with partners to create individualised UKSPF plans for 25/26	29 January 2025
DCC Employment Hubs discussion	31 January 2025
TDC Draft Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 consultation with Director Place, Executive Members for Economy, Estates and Major Projects and Neighbourhood Services	31 January 2025
TDC submission of Draft TDC Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26	5 February 2025
Update paper to be shared with DTCCA Members	26 February 2025
DCC to Support Partners to finalise for individual council sign off.	26 February 2025
DCC Agri-Tech proposal discussion	28 February 2025
TDC Final Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Consultation with Director Place, Executive Members for Economy, Estates and Major Projects and Neighbourhood Services	28 February 2025
TDC submission of In Principle TDC Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26	3 March 2025
TDC Urgent Officer Decision	14 March 2025
TDC Members' Briefing	18 March 2025
DTCCA Members Decision	19 March 2025
Pre-Election Period commences	25 March 2025
DCC finalised UKSPF Forecast Plan - developed / returned to MHCLG	Early April 2025

Appendix 2 – UKSPF 2025-26 Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal (including One Teignbridge priorities).pdf

Appendix 3 – DCC Agri-Tech Proposal

Appendix 4: DCC Employment Hub Proposal

Appendix 5 - Teignbridge District Council UKSPF 2025-26 Administration

There is an overall administration budget of 4% for the fund, of which 2.5% is being retained by DCC and TDC will allocate the remaining c.1.5% or £4,964 towards administration costs. However, based on experience of administering multiple grant schemes over the last 3 years, it would be extremely unlikely that all associated administration costs will be covered. Priority has therefore been given to the continuation of successful UKSPF 2022-25 projects which can primarily be administered by a third party, in line with One Teignbridge and Central Government UKSPF 2025-26 priorities.

Appendix 6 - Proposed allocations, including “Essential Skills” for Devon and Torbay

Geographic area	Total	Capital	Revenue	% Allocation (based on 2022-25 awards)
Devon County	£811,411		£811,481	20%
Exeter	£363,862	£84,796	£279,066	9%
Mid Devon	£275,813	£64,277	£211,536	7%
North Devon	£314,908	£73,388	£241,520	8%
South Hams	£275,348	£64,169	£211,180	7%
Teignbridge	£424,964	£99,036	£325,928	10%
Torbay	£616,339	£106,551	£509,788	15%
Torridge	£259,184	£60,401	£198,782	6%
West Devon	£259,184	£60,401	£198,782	6%
East Devon	£465,588	£108,503	£357,085	11%
Totals	£4,066,670	£721,522	£3,345,148	

* Proportions were calculated using the percentage allocations from 2022-25 programme