

**Teignbridge District Council
Full Council
20 May 2025
Part i**

UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26

Purpose of Report

To approve the development and implementation of the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan, following the recently approved Urgent Officer Decision on 13 March 2025.

Recommendation(s)

The Council RESOLVES to:

- (1) To approve the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan that reflects the interventions identified at Section 3 of this report; and
- (2) Delegate authority to the Director of Place, to implement the Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan upon it being approved by Government.

Financial Implications

See paragraph 1.5, 3.10 and section 4 below.

Martin Flitcroft, Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services

Email: martin.flitcroft@teignbridge.gov.uk

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications per se arising from this report.

Paul Woodhead, Head of Legal & Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Email: Paul.Woodhead@teignbridge.gov.uk

Risk Assessment

Please see paragraph 4.5 to 4.7 below.

Louisa Brinton, Economic Development Officer – Town Centres

Email: louisa.brinton@teignbridge.gov.uk

Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

Environmental and climate change impacts are addressed in 4.8 and 4.10 below.

William Elliott, Climate Change Officer

Email: william.elliott@teignbridge.gov.uk

Report Author

Louisa Brinton, Economic Development Officer – Town Centres
Email: louisa.brinton@teignbridge.gov.uk

Executive Member

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

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment**
- Appendix 2 – Urgent Officer Decision March 2025**
- Appendix 3 – DTCCA provisional approval Teignbridge Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26**
- Appendix 4 - Urgent Officer Decision Members Briefing presentation March 2025**
- Appendix 5 – Teignbridge District Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26**
- Appendix 6 – Safer Places, Safer Spaces**
- Appendix 7 – Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity**
- Appendix 8 - South West Visitor Economy Hub Proposal**
- Appendix 9 – Visit South Devon Proposal**
- Appendix 10 – DCC Agri-Tech Proposal**
- Appendix 11 – DCC Employment Hub Proposal**
- Appendix 12 – UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 statistical report (including outcome, outputs and geographic award data)**
- Appendix 13 – Acronyms**

Background Papers

Urgent Officer Decision 13 March 2025 (see Appendix 2) Approval to submit a Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan.

DTCCA Provisional approval of the Teignbridge Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan (see Appendix 3).

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

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) Prospectus 2022-25](#) £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: prospectus - GOV.UK](#)

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

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

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Previously UKSPF 2022-25 and the associated Rural England Prosperity Fund 2023-25 has been provided directly to district councils. The UKSPF 2025-26 is being provided to the Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA). It is a transitional grant scheme, representing a further allocation of £900 million across the UK for local investment funding.
- 1.2. 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 with spend by 31 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
- 1.3. DTCCA has been allocated £4,166,670 of which £721,522 is for capital and £3,445,148 is for revenue spending.
- 1.4. Devon County Council (DCC) are the Accountable Body with provisional allocations being set aside of £100,000 for Management and Monitoring (based on c.2.5 per cent of the maximum allowance of 4 per cent administration costs) and £811,411 set aside for the Essential Skills programme, previously the "Multiply Programme", which was aimed at the continuation of bespoke adult numeracy programmes and was directly awarded to county councils.
- 1.5. A provisional allocation of **£424,964** has been assigned to Teignbridge District Council of which £99,036 is capital and £325,928 is revenue, equating to 10% of the total allocation.
- 1.6. DCC consulted with district councils to develop individual Project Proposal Investment Plans, with Teignbridge's Project Proposal being approved through an Urgent Officer Decision on 13 March 2025 (see Appendix 2), which resulted in the development of an overall Project Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan, subsequently approved by DTCCA for submission to Government (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)) due to be submitted in early April 2025 (see Appendix 3).

2. Urgent Officer Decision

- 2.1. Due to a need to confirm involvement in the DCC led projects before the end of March 2025, an Urgent Officer Decision regarding the Teignbridge Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan was made on 13 March 2025 (see Appendix 2). A briefing was provided to Members and an offer made to discuss the projects, or any potential alternatives in advance of the Council meeting (see Appendix 4).

3. Teignbridge District Council Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26

- 3.1. Central Government has provided a technical guidance note on how this funding should be spent. Projects have been prioritised in line with the funding parameters, deliverability against the 31 March 2026 spend deadline, and the Council's strategic priorities guided by the One Teignbridge Council Strategy.

- 3.2. Teignbridge Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan will deliver the following (see Appendix 5 for more details):

Safer Places, Safer Spaces (Community Safety Partnership project - £90,000 allocation)

- 3.3. Continuation of project formerly known as **‘Violence Prevention against Women and Girls’**, which was a successful project aimed at educating young people around key risks including harmful sexual behaviour, violence and exploitation. The objective of the project is to improve feelings of safety and crime prevention and make the most of existing networks where they are already in place. To be delivered by the South Devon and Dartmoor Crime Safety Partnership (see Appendix 6).

Town Centre Improvements (Teignbridge project - £117,000 allocation, of which £100,000 capital)

- 3.4. Continuation of a project working with Town Councils across the district to develop mainly capital funded local priorities. Funding was awarded to all towns across the district, who all completed a range of successful and beneficial projects (see Appendix 4).

Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity (Teignbridge project £90,000 allocation)

- 3.5. Continuation of a successful Teignbridge project aimed at business growth and support through intelligence and resource sharing, training, 1-2-1 advice and mentoring. Training includes support for the development of green innovation, whilst advice may be directed to businesses with high carbon footprints as identified through the Heathfield Energy Project. (see Appendix 7).

[South West Visitor Economy Hub](#) (EDDC/Destination Plymouth project - £3,000 allocation)

- 3.6. A project designed as an online tool specifically for tourism businesses in Devon and Somerset to provide a wide array of data, continuously updated in real-time to aid decision making (see Appendix 8).

[Visit South Devon](#) (Visit South Devon project - £10,000 allocation)

- 3.7. A project to support Visit South Devon to grow the tourism economy through a range of marketing, events and business support activities. Complimenting SW Visitor Economy Hub work (see Appendix 9).

Agri-Tech Scheme (DCC priority project - £60,000 allocation)

- 3.8. A project to further develop the Agri-Tech sector through encouraging farm innovation, support and an events programme (see Appendix 10).

Employment Hub (DCC priority project - £50,000 allocation)

- 3.9. A project 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 (see Appendix 11).

Administration Cost

- 3.10. There is an overall allowance of 4 per cent administration costs within the UKSPF 2025-26 allocation, of which DCC are retaining c.2.5 per cent and Teignbridge will retain the residual c.1.5% of £4,964 towards Monitoring and Evaluation costs.

UKSPF 2022-25 Projects Completion

- 3.11. Appendix 4 sets out an overview of the projects delivered.
- 3.12. Appendix 12 provides a statistical report for the projects delivered through the UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 grant schemes.
- 3.13. Throughout the programme there have been several businesses, community buildings and organisations who are now saving money on energy costs whilst reducing carbon emissions. Hundreds of people have benefited from the wide range of arts projects and events, that without this funding would never have happened.
- 3.14. Spending allocation and profile for UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 below and you will note the following:
- 3.14.1. Overspends for the Teignbridge Arts Project was due to additional consultancy costs incurred through processing complex applications and Rural Transport and Connectivity due to demand.
- 3.14.2. Underspend within the Markets and Town Centre Promotion and Coordination Project was due to restrictive parameters initially imposed. Officers and Town Clerks worked collaboratively to expand the scheme parameters to achieve spend across the district (with delegated approval in place), which delayed implementation. Within Violence Protection against Women and Girls, the underspend related to a ringfenced capital allocation.

	Overall Allocation £	Spend		Spend Year 3 £	Total Spend £
		Year 1 £	Year 2 £		
UKSPF					
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	298,254.80	*303,204.80
Markets and Town Centres Promotion and Coordination Grant Scheme	286,000.00	0.00	10,670.00	168,196.08	178,866.08
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	7,959.36	15,918.72	41,707.00	65,585.08
Totals:	1,639,624.00	190,810.52	317,794.51	973,241.57	1,481,846.60
Rural England Prosperity Fund					
Rural Communities Fund (GBG)	300,000.00		0.00	367,017.43	**367,017.43
Rural Transport and Connectivity Fund	200,000.00		0.00	209,697.34	***209,697.34

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:	650,332.00	0.00	0.00	576,714.77	576,714.77
Overall Allocation	2,289,956.00			Overall Spend	2,058,561.37

- * Monies reallocated from the overall admin allocation.
- ** Reallocated budget from Rural Broadband Project (approval for project subsequently withdrawn by DEFRA).
- *** Reallocated from Rural Communities Fund underspend.

4. Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

Financial

- 4.1. Funding will be provided to the council, either to directly deliver schemes or to fund other organisations where they will be leading projects. On that basis, the Teignbridge Project Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan should be cost neutral.
- 4.2. However, there will be more work needed to convert the Teignbridge Project Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan into operational schemes that are benefitting communities and businesses. There are also monitoring requirements associated with reporting expenditure of the fund and its outcomes to the Government. There is a c.1.5 per cent administration allowance of £4,964 within the Project Proposal. However, this allocation may not fully cover all associated resource costs.
- 4.3. The initial UKSPF allocation is for approximately 76% revenue, rather than capital costs. The proposed interventions would largely represent a revenue cost but finance and government advice to date has been that conversion of revenue to capital budgets will be allowed, which is normally the case.

Equality

- 4.4. An equality impact assessment has been prepared and is included at Appendix 1. Consideration has been given to prioritising projects that will not discriminate against groups with protected characteristics and that will increase opportunities for training, development and prosperity throughout our communities.

Environmental / Climate Change Impact

- 4.5. The overall approach to recommending Teignbridge Project Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 has been to respond to national and local strategies, as well as evidence and feedback from local stakeholders and partners. The climate emergency has been a consideration of this body of work, this is reflected through the proposed interventions such as the business support programme to deliver decarbonisation plans for business and the Agri-Tech Scheme for farm innovation and diversification, to support local employment and circular economy opportunities.
- 4.6. The Green Business Grant UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 had a total allocation of £1,050,000 and three rounds of funding. It has been a very successful project but there was not as much demand for the latest round of funding and the scheme parameters had to be reviewed to allow previous applicants to reapply to achieve spend. Other funding sources may also come forward for similar schemes due to Government's drive for green initiatives.

- 4.7. The projects proposed in Section 3 of the report will have a range of impacts on the environment. Business support provided under Section 3.5 may help businesses to reduce carbon emissions in Teignbridge, whilst projects supported through the Agri-Tech scheme under Section 3.8 may result in changes to soil content and water quality, for example. Therefore, to assess this range of impacts, an environmental scoring matrix may be used to assess proposals on a project-by-project basis when sufficient detail is available and to ensure that the project contributes to environmental improvements in Teignbridge.

Risks

- 4.8. The risk to Teignbridge is minimal as the funding award is based on facilitating spend of Government monies (with any underspend being repaid). On this basis, it would present more of a missed opportunity, than a financial risk if the schemes did not come forward.
- 4.9. Any grants awarded by Teignbridge to applicants will be paid in arrears, as previously, to ensure that Teignbridge is not financially liable should projects not fully complete. The risk to applicants is that they would either not be in a position to bid for funding or would be unable to make payments in advance of reclaiming the funds from Teignbridge.
- 4.10. There is a requirement for us to comply with all Government guidance related to this fund and ensure all necessary permissions and agreements are in place between all parties in a timely manner, including all monies being spent by the end of March 2026. The risk here is that we do not meet these targets.
- 4.11. DTCCA will have full financial responsibility for the Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan, with a Funding Agreement to be implemented with Teignbridge, reflecting Government MOU terms and Grant Determination letter. Teignbridge 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 per cent award basis) and awaiting further detail from MHCLG. The risk is that we do not meet the targets.
- 4.12. However, should Members decide not to support the Teignbridge Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan and look for alternative projects, the risk there would be an impact on available resource, a reduced opportunity for project development and for successful grant applicants/partners to spend grant monies or deliver services within the 31 March 2026 deadline.

5. Alternative Options

- 5.1. Government has stated that this scheme is a 'transitional one-year fund' (to allow longer-term grant schemes to be developed), which should build on the successes and lessons learnt from the UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 funds. The restrictive timescales involved prevented wider consultation (although consultation was part of the original fund development) and the recommended approach to project selection has been based on knowledge gained to date.
- 5.2. The projects that will cease are the Green Business Grant, Rural Communities Fund and Teignbridge Arts Project, which accounted for 60 per cent of the funding award however, due to the complexity and how resource intensive it has been, it would be very difficult to replicate based on available resource and limited administration monies

available. These grant schemes also involved grant application assessment by third party consultants, with the associated costs incurred deducted from the project allocations. The consultant used for the Green Business Grant no longer operates and a new consultant would have to be found, this would prove difficult as there is little opportunity for such work locally and there was an underspend for this project.

- 5.3. Another pan Devon scheme was considered but discounted, namely, Prosper (a programme which offers up to 12 hours of free business support). Teignbridge deemed continuation of the Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity a better option as the courses are being held primarily in person across the district (in addition to online workshops), which creates a significant networking and support opportunity for those attending the in person training, along with workshops being held in various locations across the district.
- 5.4. 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, Teignbridge would not necessarily receive any or all of the UKSPF funding from DTCCA or have a sound basis for partnerships working going forward.

6. Conclusion

- 6.1. The Teignbridge Project Proposal UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan will help to benefit Teignbridge's productivity, living standards and local communities. With approval from Full Council, delegation will be put in place to deliver the interventions that have been identified at Appendix 3 to develop the Teignbridge Projects Proposal for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2025-26 Investment Plan, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Estates and Major Projects and Executive Member for Neighbourhood Services, and implement the projects accordingly.

Appendices Attached:

Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

Appendix 2 – Urgent Officer Decision 13 March 2025

Appendix 3 – DTCCA Provisional approval of the Teignbridge Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26

Appendix 4 – Urgent Officer Members Briefing presentation March 2025

Appendix 5 – Teignbridge District Projects Proposal UKSPF 2025-26

Appendix 6 – Safer Places, Safer Spaces

Appendix 7 – Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity

Appendix 8 – South-West Visitor Economy Hub

Appendix 9 – Visit South Devon Proposal

Appendix 10 – DCC Agri-Tech Proposal

Appendix 11 – DCC Employment Hub Proposal

Appendix 12 - UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 statistical report (including outcome, outputs and geographical ward data)

Appendix 13 - Acronyms