

Teignbridge District Council
Executive Committee
16th July 2026
Part i

Overview and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) 2025/26

Purpose of Report

To update the Members on the end of year completion and performance of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) for the 2025/26 financial year.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee RESOLVES to:

- (1) Welcome the successful delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) for the 2025/26 financial year

Financial Implications

Please see section 12.1 to 12.2 within the report.

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Legal or Governance Implications

This Report is enabled by the following legislation listed below,

The Local Government Act 2000 executive Powers
The Local Government Act 1972 (general administrative powers)
Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (general power of competence)
Subsidy Control requirements under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 and the United Kingdom Internal Market Act 2020.

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Risk Assessment

Please see section 12.6 to 12.9 within the report.

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Environmental/ Climate Change Implications

Projects delivered through the UKSPF and REPF contribute to local sustainable growth and resilience and are inferred to have a neutral to positive environmental impact. Further commentary is available in sections 12.11 to 12.13 of the report.

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Executive Member

Cllr Palethorpe
Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Assets, Economic Development, Major Projects and Communication

Appendices

Appendix 1 – UKSPF REPF 2025-26 Actual Spend, Outputs and Outcomes

Appendix 2 – UKSPF and REPF 2025-26 Project Photos

Background Papers

[UKSPF 2025-26 Full Council on Tuesday, 20th May, 2025](#). Full Council approval for the UKSPF 2025-26 Investment Plan.

[REPF 2025-26 Executive on Tuesday, 3rd June, 2025](#). Executive approval for the REPF 2025-26 Investment Plan.

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Teignbridge District Council received £424,964 of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) funding and £195,067 of Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) Funding. Both funds were subject to specific guidance which set out how funding should be allocated, along with the outputs and outcomes that were required to be achieved.
- 1.2 The 2025/26 UKSPF and REPF allocations were not distributed directly from central government, as had been the case in previous years. 2025/26 funding was allocated to Devon County Council (DCC) on behalf of the

newly established Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA), with DCC acting as the accountable body.

2 Projects

- 2.1 All projects were approved at Full Council on 20 May 2025 (UKSPF) and Executive on 3 June 2025 (REPF). The projects, set out in sections 3-10 below, were proven to be a success, supporting 229 businesses and 6 community organisations.
- 2.2 Total Expenditure for UKSPF was £405,395.36 while for REPF expenditure totalled £195,067. The small revenue underspend of £3,492.27 will be reallocated to support the continuation and expansion of Devon County Council's Employment Hub scheme in Teignbridge into 2026/27 (permissible due to a change made by Ministry for Housing, Community and Local Government (MHCLG) to continue spend and works until 30 September 2026).
- 2.3 The status on the underspend of £12,106.37 from Devon County Council's Agri-Tech program will be decided by Devon and Torbay Combined County Authority (DTCCA).

3 Town Centre Improvement Fund. Total Spend: £ 109,537.73

- 3.1 This continued the UKSPF 2022-25 Towns programme. All towns in Teignbridge were offered to enter a competitive grant bid. Three towns in Teignbridge were awarded: Buckfastleigh, Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh. The supported projects focus on strengthening the visitor economy and enhancing town centre vitality.
- 3.2 Funding has enabled the redevelopment of Culver Green Play Park in Chudleigh, the creation of a new pop-up community cinema within Buckfastleigh Town Hall, and the establishment of a ceramic skills hub at Make SW in partnership with Bovey Tracey Town Council.
- 3.3 Early indicators demonstrate strong public engagement. Chudleigh's play park, which opened towards the end of March, has welcomed nearly 2,500 visitors within its first few weeks. Buckfastleigh has recorded 58 visitors to its

cosy cinema, while Make SW has delivered 20 ceramic workshops, attracting 200 participants.

- 3.4 Now that funding has ended, all 3 projects are expected to continue acting as positive draws, supporting increased footfall, community use and economic activity within each town.

4 Violence Prevention Against Woman and Girls. Total Spend: £90,000

4.1 A continuation of 2022-25 scheme aimed at improving safety, wellbeing and support for young people across Teignbridge.

4.2 Delivery focused on youth led work, targeted interventions and school-based prevention programmes.

4.3 The programme engaged 341 people, held 159 events or/and activities and reached a total of 320 people.

4.4 This work has secured £100,000 additional funding to continue delivery of the [Let's Talk](#) Safer Families programme into 2026/27, from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The Let's Talk programme provides a series of webinar events and resources to support parents and carers in helping to keep our children and young people safe, including the development of a [Let's Talk Safer Families](#) website, and plans to extend learning and the provision across the wider peninsula.

5 South West Visitor Hub. Total Spend: £3,000

5.1 Support to the [South West Visitor Economy Hub](#) to help expand its product offering across Devon.

5.2 This included providing free access to data and insights to local tourism businesses supporting commercial growth, productivity and financial resilience.

5.3 This provided non-financial support to 16 enterprises, 4 events and reaching 500 people. With 11 businesses receiving knowledge transfer.

6 Visit South Devon. Total Spend: £10,000

- 6.1 Funding supported destination promotion activity and tourism growth across Teignbridge's market and coastal towns.
- 6.2 Targeted digital promotion strengthened the profile of Bovey Tracey, Dawlish, Dawlish Warren, Buckfastleigh and Ashburton, with refreshed itineraries, new themed routes, and growing social media reach (including Dawlish exceeding 23,000 followers). New discover Bovey Tracey platforms and a paid membership model support long term legacy, alongside ongoing business engagement and support for emerging town promotion activity.
- 6.3 The work resulted in 113 enterprises receiving non-financial support, supporting 49 events or / and activities with 21 enterprises adopting new or improved products.

7 Business Support for Clean Growth and Diversity. Total Spend: £90,000

- 7.1 Delivered by Devon Business and IP Centre, this project provided a programme of business growth support across Teignbridge.
- 7.2 Support included workshops, mentoring and specialist advice with key courses covering Women in Business, Boost Your Start Up, Advanced Business Boost and Decarbonisation Planning.
- 7.3 This programme supported 176 enterprises with non-financial assistance, helped 131 entrepreneurs become enterprise-ready, and reached a total of 4,159 people overall.
- 7.4 The absence of a linked green business grant has presented challenges in delivering decarbonisation plans for participating businesses. As a result, the scheme has been extended until June 2026 to enable completion of this element and ensure outputs and outcomes targets are met, or monies will be duly reallocated to other programmes that have proven more popular within the scope of this wider project.

8 Agri-Tech DCC Scheme. Total Spend: £47,893.63 (Allocated £60,000)

- 8.1 This project was delivered by Business Information Point (BIP) on behalf of Devon County Council. It accelerated innovation activity within Teignbridge.

- 8.2 The scheme supported farm businesses to maximise their potential through regenerative and innovative practices which promote healthy soil and reduce carbon emissions. The programme allows farmers to explore innovative opportunities and trial new technologies.
- 8.3 The scheme advised 19 farm businesses and supported 9 to adapt to the new technologies.
- 8.4 The Innovative projects included water irrigation, biodiversity and orchard management, expansion of infrastructure for goat milk, no fence collars for rare native breeds which improve biodiversity soils analysis and orchard care.
- 8.5 There was an underspend due to saving on staff costs and marketing costs. The number of hours committed by staff was lower due to availability and capacity. Marketing costs were smaller due to the most successful approaches, such as word of mouth, being low cost.
- 8.6 Feedback from clients has been positive with many expressing that the support received has already had an impact on their business, as well as enabling them to pursue bigger projects or seeking further funding opportunities in their farm business.

9 Employment Hub DCC Scheme. Total Spend: £50,000

- 9.1 Delivered by Devon County Council, based at Newton Abbot library the hub provides support and advice to individuals looking to develop skills and gain employment.
- 9.2 The service prioritises support for those facing the greatest barriers to employment.
- 9.3 By the end of the programme Teignbridge's Employment and Youth Hub had supported 86 people, including a high proportion of young people aged 16-24 (40%) people aged 50+ (26%) and individuals who were economically inactive or unemployed (both 44%) with 79% identifying as having a disability or long-term health condition. Engagement grew strongly in Quarter 4, when 36 new people accessed support, reflecting rising awareness and demand across Teignbridge.

- 9.4 The scheme supported 12 people move into employment and 4 sustaining work for at least 6 months, 26 achieving basic skills and 33 progressing into education or training. The overall performance especially in education and training demonstrates the hubs effectiveness in supporting both immediate employment outcomes and longer term progression.
- 9.5 The hub will continue in 2026/27 as part of the Devon Connect to Work model, providing triage, one to one support, employability and skills guidance and expanded outreach provision across Teignbridge.

10 Rural Economy and Community Fund. Total Spend: £195,067

- 10.1 Funded through the Rural England Prosperity Fund, this capital programme targeted Teignbridge's most rural communities by providing grants to projects that delivered new or improved rural amenities and community infrastructure.
- 10.2 Supported projects included improvements to Broadhempston Village Play Park, accessibility upgrades at Bovey Tracey Swimming Pool, footpath accessibility improvements at Parke, and a contribution towards the construction of the new Widecombe Community Hall. Resulting in a new community provision, 802 square meters of enhanced green space, 150 meters of improved footpaths and 16,500 visitors to the play park within the first quarter.
- 10.3 We are unable to record visitor numbers for 2 of these projects. This is because Bovey Tracey Swimming Pool is due to open for the season on Sunday 26 April 2026 and Widecombe Community Hall are progressing with the next phase of the project for internal fit out works.

11 Monitoring And Evaluation

- 11.1 Teignbridge District Council reported progress and expenditure to Devon County Council on a quarterly basis, with Devon County Council acting as the accountable body and holding responsibility for monitoring, evaluation and assurance of the programme.
- 11.2 No further funding will be made available through the UKSPF and REPF programmes and to help prevent underspend, central government

introduced a provision in December 2025 allowing project delivery to continue until 30 September 2026. All projects managed by Teignbridge District Council were spent by 31 March 2026 with the majority also being fully delivered. A few projects will continue with some part funded activity until 30 June 2026, including the Business Support for Clean Growth Decarbonisation Programme, course delivery in Bovey Tracey, and two film screenings in Buckfastleigh.

- 11.3 An underspend of £3,492.27 from the Town Improvement Fund has been reallocated to the Devon County Council Employment Hub project with delivery continuing until 30 June 2026.

12 Implications, Risk Management and Climate Change Impact

Financial

- 12.1 Capital and revenue budgets were monitored throughout delivery to minimise the risk of underspend. Regular financial monitoring and forecasting enabled early identification of required alterations and reallocation of funding in line with UKSPF guidance to ensure value for money and full utilisation of the allocation within the required timescales.
- 12.2 The report shows the revenue and capital allocations from the funds and the process by which the investment decisions were made. There are no further financial implications.

Legal or Governance

- 12.3 The programme was delivered in accordance with UKSPF and REPF guidance, Teignbridge District Council's financial regulations, procurement rules and governance arrangements.
- 12.4 Appropriate grant funding agreements were put in place where necessary, setting out conditions, reporting requirements and clawback provision, where relevant.
- 12.5 Decisions relating to project approvals and funding allocations were taken under Delegated Authority by the Director of Place, in line with the Councils Scheme of Delegation.

12.6 Monitoring and evaluation requirements were met on a quarterly basis ensuring compliance with assurance, subsidy control and data protection obligations.

Risks

12.7 Key risks identified and managed during delivery included:

- Underspend risk – due to non-delivery of committed projects and/or project delays, which could result in underspend
- Delivery within the spend deadline – where projects were dependent on external partners or supply chains
- Compliance risk – relating to fund eligibility and evidence requirements
- Outputs and Outcomes - not met or delivered as agreed.
- Reputational risk – with partners and recipients, if projects incurred costs which could not subsequently be reimbursed and if allocated monies were not spent within the timescale
- Administration costs - no provision for such costs were included within the 2025-26 allocation

12.8 Overall, the projects in the approved 2025-26 investment plan were a refinement of the previous UKSPF 2022-25 and REPF 2023-25 schemes, this was due to the tight timescales involved, resource implications and selection based on confidence of delivery to reduce risk.

12.9 In addition, the risks were mitigated where possible, for example, grant schemes were run through a competitive application and scoring matrix process, signed grant funding agreements were issued, with regular project monitoring and ongoing engagement with delivery partners/successful applicants, with close working with finance colleagues and payment being made in arrears on production of a claim form and supporting evidence.

12.10 There was also a significant reduction in the number of grant schemes and number of grants issued, concentrating on higher value, impactful projects which enabled improved monitoring and liaison.

Environmental/Climate Change Impact

12.11 The programme has a generally neutral to positive environmental impact.

12.12 Projects were encouraged to support sustainable growth, inclusive economic development and efficient use of resources contributing to local resilience.

- 12.13 Responding to a low uptake in business decarbonisation plans in Section 7, engagement with businesses could be undertaken to investigate how future decarbonisation funding opportunities could help to address business priorities and therefore increase participation.

13 Conclusion

- 13.1 The delivery of the UKSPF and REPF 2025-26 programmes have been effective in supporting local priorities and strengthening communities, businesses and the local economy across Teignbridge.
- 13.2 Experience from delivering the first round of UKSPF and REPF helped ensure good project management, close financial oversight and effective partnership working, with funding directed to the highest scoring and most impactful projects.
- 13.3 Risks were identified and managed throughout delivery, enabling the programme to respond flexibly to challenges whilst maintaining momentum and meeting agreed outputs and outcomes.
- 13.4 Overall, the programme achieved full spend, with outputs achieving 346% (UKSPF) and 1,460% (REPF) and outcomes achieving 159% (UKSPF) and 942% (REPF) against predicted targets to date. These projects will continue to contribute positively to local economic growth, community resilience and place-based regeneration, which will have delivered lasting benefits beyond the funding period.