

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND ADVISORY PANEL

MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2024

Present: Councillor M Radulovic, (Chair)
Councillor G Marshall
Councillor G Bunn
Councillor S Carr
Councillor P Owen

Officers: Mr Z Darr
Mr J Little
Ms R Sharp
Ms P Ward

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest raised. In answer to some procedural queries - Ward Members who had merely invited businesses to make applications for grant funding did not have an interest unless they were related or had an interest in any businesses themselves.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2024 were confirmed and agreed as a true record.

4. Matters Arising.

The Panel were given a brief update on some of the projects reported, since October. These included town centre initiatives and projects progressing in Eastwood.

4. UKSPF Advisory Panel Report – Business Grants

Officers reported an underspend of £30,788 which needed the Panel Members to decide how the unallocated funding should be awarded. It was suggested to either award funding to grant applicants highlighted in blue on the reserve list, which were discussed at the last meeting, or to be repurposed for existing and potentially new community projects within the UKSPF programme.

Members discussed supporting a Beeston business providing them with security shutters to avoid repeated criminal damage. Officers were asked to contact the business to ask them to apply for funding through the process for any unrecoverable costs that could not be met through their insurance in these exceptional circumstances.

Officers provided a verbal update why one applicant that had been initially allocated grant funding had failed some due diligence tests and could no longer be supported.

The list of firms highlighted in blue were considered again but there were still considerable weaknesses in most of the applications, despite officers requesting further information. On this basis mainly re-apportioning the funding was a preferred option.

It was decided to award the following businesses a reduced amount of grant funding for their schemes.

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>£ Grant Awarded</u>
Beeston Shawarma	£2,700
The Headstocks Tea Room, Brinsley	£2,000

Members expressed an interest in supporting some of the projects previously discussed including:

- A community tool store
- Pergola over Beeston Square/Band Stand
- Eastwood Community Hub
- Resurfacing pavements in squares due to tree roots breaking up groundwork
- Refurbishment of Derby Road, Stapleford shops as a variation to the High St Retail Auction;

The Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer suggested Officers provide a list of community projects, if possible, by 31 December 2024 with the remaining £25,000 for the Advisory Panel to recommend to accept from the 2024/25 Business Support Programme.

MEETING CLOSED AT 5.00 PM