



**EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD
Cabinet Member**

REF No: 202.24

A1 Service Area	Regeneration and Development
A2 Title	Award of funding to Friends of Brook Hollows through the Ward Enhancement Programme as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
A3 Decision Taken By	Cabinet Member
A4 Chief Officer	Please print name: Thomas Deery Please sign name: Approval via email 30/07/24
A5 Cabinet Member	Please print name: Cllr Rob Hawkins Please sign name: Approval via email 31/07/24
A6 Date of Decision	31 st July 2024

Confidentiality

A7 Is this Decision confidential by containing exempt information as described in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972?	No
A7.1 If yes, please state relevant paragraph from Schedule 12A LGA 1972.	N/A

Conflict of Interest

Are there any conflicts of interest to declare? No

(If “Yes” please contact the Chief Executive before making the Decision. A note of dispensation should be attached).



Scrutiny/Audit

A8 Which Committee should this decision be submitted to? (*Please tick as appropriate*)

Scrutiny (Value for Money Council) Committee

Scrutiny (Regeneration Development and Market Hall) Committee X

Scrutiny (Health and Wellbeing) Committee

Scrutiny (Climate Change and Environment) Committee

Audit Committee

<p>B1 What is the Decision?</p>	<p>To award a capital grant of £16,000 to Friends of Brook Hollows following the panel approval of an application to the Council's Ward Enhancement Programme, funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p>
<p>B2 What are the reasons for the Decision?</p> <p>B2 Alternative options considered and rejected?</p>	<p>The Ward Enhancement Programme (WEP) was approved by Cabinet in September 2023 and created a £1.5m funding programme, financed by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), through which communities across the Borough could access capital funding to deliver projects in their local areas that improve prosperity, heritage or tourism.</p> <p>The WEP operates on an application basis whereby local community groups and other organisations can apply for capital funding with their application being considered and reviewed by a Member panel comprised of 5 Councillors and chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Development.</p> <p>At the panel meeting on 11 July 2024, an application was approved for the delivery of a project titled: Brook Hollows Wildlife Habitat Improvements, which aims to do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To create a mosaic habitat for scrub to be offset with coppicing giving shelter from wind and predators - To create a natural platform on the edge of the island. <p>A grant award of £16,000 was approved for this project, subject to the taking of this Executive Decision by the Cabinet Member.</p>
<p>B3 What are the contributions to Corporate Priorities?</p>	<p>The delivery of the Ward Enhancement Programme primarily contributes to the priority of Creating a Prosperous East Staffordshire, Protecting our Heritage, and Standing up for our Communities.</p>
<p>B4 What are the Human Rights considerations?</p>	<p>There are no Human Rights issues arising from this decision.</p>

Financial Implications

<p>B5 What are the financial implications?</p>	<p>The main financial issues arising from this decision are as follows:</p> <p>The funding approved for this project is entirely capital and must be spent by March 2025, in line with the Government's requirements for the UKSPF.</p> <p>The funding is provided through a grant agreement and paid in advance of the project in order to finance its delivery. If the project requires any co-funding, proof of this being secured will be reviewed prior to any funding being released by the Council. The funding is released in instalments agreed with the applicant. Supplier's invoices requested with proof of payment in the form of bank statements. A site inspection is also undertaken.</p> <p>If the project/works aren't undertaken as outlined and agreed in the approved application (or any minor amendments agreed with the local authority beforehand) then there is possibility of a clawback occurring if the grant hasn't been spent in accordance with the application.</p>
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Revenue	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
N/A	-	-	-

Capital	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
UKSPF Grant for the WEP Project		£16,000	-

<p>The finance section has been approved by the following member of the Financial Management Unit:</p>	<p>Please print name: Nicola Goodacre, Service Accountant, Interim Capital Accountant</p> <p>Please sign name: Approval via email 30/07/24</p>
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Policy Framework

B6 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's policy framework?	Yes
B6.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	N/A
B6.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	N/A
B7 Is the Decision wholly in accordance with the Council's budget?	Yes
B7.1 If No, does it fall within the urgency provisions (Part 3 of the Constitution)?	N/A
B7.2 Has it got the appropriate approvals under those provisions?	N/A

Equalities Implications

B8 What are the Equalities implications: See EHIA
B8.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):
B8.2 Negative (Threats):
B8.3 The subject of this decision is not a policy, strategy, function or service that is new or being revised. An equality impact assessment is not required.
B8.4 [The equality impact assessment identified the following actions to be carried out:]

Risk Assessment

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications: N/A
B9.1 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits): The delivery of a WEP project is based on the opportunity to improve local prosperity, heritage and tourism in all areas across the Borough.
B9.2 Negative (Threats): The UKSPF funding must be spent by March 2025 and so any risk to project delivery, including financial risk, will be managed through the specific grant agreement.

B9 What are the Risk Assessment implications: N/A

B9.3 The risks do not need to be entered in the Risk Register. Any financial implications to mitigate against these risks are considered above.

Legal Considerations

B10 What are the Legal Considerations:

B10.1 The main legal issues arising from this decision are as follows:

Under s1 Localism Act 2011, authorities have a power of competence to do anything which an individual can do, which includes the power to grant funding to organisations.

The Grant Funding will not amount to a state subsidy under the Subsidy Control Act 2023, as the amount to be granted is less than the Minimal Financial Assistance level of £315,000.

The Terms of the funding will be incorporated into a Grant Agreement that sets out the terms for how the funding must be spent, and will contain claw-back provisions

The funding must also be delivered in line with the Government's guidance on UKSPF funding, including requirements on project promotion and marketing.

This section has been approved by the following member of the Legal Team

Please print name: Glen McCusker – Locum Solicitor and Deputy Monitoring Officer.

Please sign name: Approval via email (15/07/24)

Sustainability Implications

B11 What are the Sustainability implications: N/A

B11.1 The proposal [would/would not] result in an overall positive effect in terms of sustainability (including climate change and change adaptation measures). The positive/negative impacts are set out below (please refer to guidance notes).

B11.2 Positive (Opportunities/Benefits):

B11.3 Negative (Threats):

Health & Safety Implications

B12 What are the Health & Safety implications:
B12.1 A Risk Assessment has not been carried out and entered into Safety Media for all significant hazards and risks because there are no significant hazards or risks arising from this decision. The Council is not responsible for the delivery of this project
B12.2 [The significant hazards and risks have been identified in the Safety Media Risk Assessment numbered []. Any financial implications to mitigate against these hazards and risks are considered above.]
B12.3 [Control measures and an action plan have been identified for any significant hazards and risks identified in the risk assessment. The positive/negative impacts are set out below]
B12.3.1 Positive (Benefits)
B12.3.2 Negative (Threats)

Key Decision

B13 Is this a Key Decision? No

Note: A Key Executive Decision is one where:

1. **REVENUE** – Any contract or proposal with an annual payment or saving of more than £100,000
2. **CAPITAL** – Any capital project with a value in excess of £150,000
3. **A decision which significantly affects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards.**

B13.1 If this is a Key Decision, is this an urgent decision such that a delay caused by use of the Call-in Procedure would <u>seriously</u> prejudice the public interest?	N/A
B13.2 If yes, has the Mayor or in his/her absence the Deputy Mayor or in his/her absence the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee agreed that the decision will be exempt from Call-in?	N/A

NOTE: If this decision is subject to the Call-in Procedure it will come into force, and may then be implemented, on the expiry of 3 working days after publication – unless 10 Members of the Council call in the decision.

The questions contained in this questionnaire are not to be altered in any way. If you have any queries regarding the contents of this document, please contact Democratic Service Ext 1306/1608 or refer to Part 3 Section 6 of the Constitution.

Please send the original signed document to
democratic.services@eaststaffsbc.gov.uk

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