

Please note that by law this meeting can be filmed, audio-recorded, photographed or reported electronically by the use of social media by anyone attending. This does not apply to any part of the meeting that is held in private session.

Please ask for:
Alison Marston

15 July 2022

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend a special meeting of the WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL CABINET to be held on Monday 25 July 2022 at 5.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, The Campus, Welwyn Garden City, Herts, AL8 6AE.

Yours faithfully



Governance Services Manager

AGENDA
PART 1

1. APOLOGIES
2. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND PETITIONS
Up to thirty minutes will be made available for questions from members of the public on issues relating to the work of the Cabinet and to receive any petitions.
3. NOTIFICATION OF URGENT BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER ITEM 8
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS
To note declarations of Members' disclosable pecuniary interests, non-disclosable pecuniary interests and non-pecuniary interests in respect of items on the Agenda.
5. ITEM RELATING TO THE BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL

To consider the following item:-

- (a) Local Plan - Inspector's Letter and Proposed Modifications to the Plan (Forward Plan Reference FP1126) (Pages 5 - 8)

Report of the Assistant Director (Planning) on the Inspector's Letter and Proposed Modifications to the Local Plan.

6. ITEM REQUIRING KEY DECISION

To consider the following item for decision in the current Forward Plan:-

- (a) UK Shared Prosperity Fund - Welwyn Hatfield allocation (Forward Plan Reference FP1131) (Pages 9 - 14)

Report of the Chief Executive on the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKPSF).

7. APPOINTMENT OF CABINET PANELS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS 2022-23 (Pages 15 - 16)

To appoint Cabinet Panels, Committees and Boards for 2022/23.

8. SUCH OTHER BUSINESS AS, IN THE OPINION OF THE CHAIRMAN, IS OF SUFFICIENT URGENCY TO WARRANT IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Cabinet is asked to resolve:

That under Section 100(A)(2) and (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be now excluded from the meeting for Items 10 and 11 on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of confidential or exempt information as defined in Section 100(A)(3) and Paragraph 3 (private financial or business information) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act (as amended).

In resolving to exclude the public in respect of the exempt information, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

PART II

10. ITEMS OF AN EXEMPT NATURE REQUIRING KEY DECISION

To consider the following item of an exempt nature:-

- (a) Private Rented Sector Better Care Fund Grant for Exceptional Circumstances (Forward Plan Reference FP1130) (Pages 17 - 24)

Report of the Chief Executive on the Better Care Grant Funding for Exceptional Circumstances.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS OF A CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT NATURE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN

Circulation: Councillors T.Kingsbury (Chairman) N.Pace
S.Boulton (Vice-Chairman) B.Sarson
S.Kasumu F.Thomson
T.Mitchinson

Corporate Management Team
Press and Public (except Part II Items)

If you require any further information about this Agenda please contact Alison Marston, Governance Services on 01707 357444 or email – democracy@welhat.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank

Part I
Item No:
For Decision

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL CABINET – 25 JULY 2022

Recommendation from Cabinet Parking and Planning Panel on 21 July 2022:-

12. LOCAL PLAN - INSPECTOR'S LETTER AND PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS TO THE PLAN

Report of the Assistant Director (Planning) on Members received a presentation which set out the background to the Local Plan including the key stages and consultation; the Council's January 2022 Strategy and the Inspector's response; the housing requirement; performance of the January 2022 housing against the requirement(s); the additional sites required to meet the housing requirement; timetable and next steps; and, considerations.

The Inspector had advised that the Local Plan requirement of 15,200 was still appropriate. He had advised an approach based on identifying sites for the year period following adoption could be sound with a commitment to a review, to be undertaken in the context of housing need and national policy. The Inspector had advised that the plan can only move forward if the Council accepted the conclusions and carried out consultation on Main Modifications. He had asked for the supply of housing to meet the requirements for the ten years post adoption, including the residual amount not achieved between 2016-22.

Additional dwellings were required to be allocated from sites considered by the Inspector. The presentation set out options to meet the housing need while meeting the Inspectors tests.

Recommendation 1:

Consider the implication of different approaches to managing the shortfall over the remaining plan period set out in the report and the appendices.

Recommendation 2:

Agree to recommend to Cabinet and Council that the additional sites set out in Table 6 of the report (and the updated site capacity of the January 2022 Member agreed sites, Appendix A Table 1) and which offers the best opportunity for reaching a sound plan be submitted to the examination as modifications to the Local Plan, and;

Recommendation 3:

Recommend to Cabinet and Council that public consultation take place on Main Modifications to the Local Plan at the earliest opportunity once the Inspector has confirmed the content of the Main Modifications required to make the Plan sound.

If Members do not agree to recommendation 2 and 3 above

Recommendation 4:

Agree to recommend to Cabinet and Council that the additional sites set out in Table 4 of the report (and the updated site capacity of the January 2022 Member agreed sites, Appendix A Table 1) that responds to the relationship of the Full Objective Assessment of Housing Need to the Employment Strategy and the need for housing to be provided alongside new jobs.

Recommendation 5:

Members recommend to Cabinet and Full Council that public consultation take place on Main Modifications to the Local Plan at the earliest opportunity once the Inspector has confirmed the content of the Main Modifications required to make the Plan sound.

The following points were raised and discussed:

- At a recent planning appeal it was noted that a lack of a 5-year housing supply was not a reason to approve a development.
- Developments are built with the profits of the developers in mind, not the need of the local people.
- The sites selected in Welham Green effectively surround the existing village; phasing could be introduced to minimise disruption if all the sites were to come forward at the same time.
- Other authorities in Hertfordshire have withdrawn their Local Plans, some Members commented that our current plan protects the greenbelt whilst recognising the need to build. Continuing to defend that plan would keep developments out of high harm areas and deliver 8,517 homes in the first ten years of the plan. This would demonstrate the council is listening to residents, whilst acknowledging that we are not going to create a plan that pleases everyone.
- When questioned about the feasibility of going forward with the previously submitted proposal, officers confirmed that as the inspector had twice refused those numbers he is likely to find the plan unsound.
- It was noted that the population of the borough is unlikely to not continue to grow as there is continual migration from the capital to commutable areas and people are living longer. House prices will continue to increase if we do not have enough homes, there will continue to be a struggle for people to get on to the housing ladder.
- A Member commented that the plan has a higher proportion of development in Cuffley and Welham Green than Brookmans Park, despite the latter being a more sustainable location.
- Concern was expressed about the climate change implications arising from new development, particularly in the Green Belt.

Councillors asked for their thanks for officers to be put on record for all the work they have done over the many years of the Local Plan process.

RESOLVED:

- 1) (UNANIMOUS IN FAVOUR)
Panel members considered the implication of different approaches to managing the shortfall over the remaining plan period set out in the report and appendices.

- 2) (UNANIMOUS AGAINST)
Panel Members agree to recommend to Cabinet and Council that the additional sites set out in Table 6 of the report (and the updated site capacity of the January 2022 Member agreed sites, Appendix A Table 1) and which offers the best opportunity for reaching a sound plan be submitted to the examination as modifications to the Local Plan,
- 3) (NOT VOTED ON AS IT RELIED ON ACCEPTANCE OF (2) ABOVE)
Recommend to Cabinet and Council that public consultation take place on Main Modifications to the Local Plan at the earliest opportunity once the Inspector has confirmed the content of the Main Modifications required to make the Plan sound
- 4) (UNANIMOUS AGAINST)
Agree to recommend to Cabinet and Council that the additional sites set out in Table 4 of the report (and the updated site capacity of the January 2022 Member agreed sites, Appendix A Table 1) that responds to the relationship of the Full Objective Assessment of Housing Need to the Employment Strategy and the need for housing to be provided alongside new jobs
- 5) (NOT VOTED ON AS IT RELIED ON ACCEPTANCE OF (4) ABOVE)
Members recommend to Cabinet and Full Council that public consultation take place on Main Modifications to the Local Plan at the earliest opportunity once the Inspector has confirmed the content of the Main Modifications required to make the Plan sound.

It was moved by Councillor S. Thusu and seconded by Councillor C. Stanbury

- 6) (8 voting FOR, 3 voting AGAINST, 2 voting to ABSTAIN)
Agree to recommend to Cabinet and Council the proposed sites agreed and recommended by the Special Council meeting on 27 January 2022 and their updated dwelling numbers specifically as shown in table 3 of the report and Appendix A Table 1 of the report giving a total updated capacity of 12,775 with 8,517 in the first ten years.

Note: Members requested the vote for (6) above be recorded.

For: Cllrs Hellyer, Kasumu, Michaelides, Platt, Richardson, Stanbury, Thusu and Wachuku

Against: Cllrs Musk, Shah and Weston

Abstain: Cllrs Bonfante and Quinton

The reports of the Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel meeting can be viewed in full here:

<https://democracy.welhat.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=266&MIId=1498&Ver=4>

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 6a

Part I

Main author: Geoff Sampson / Matt Pyecroft

Executive Member: Cllr Tony Kingsbury
All Wards

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
SPECIAL CABINET – 25 JULY 2022
REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

UNITED KINGDOM SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKPSF)

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was launched on 13 April 2022. It sits within the Government's Levelling Up agenda, though unlike many other funds it is not a competitive process and all areas will receive an allocation. The total value of the fund is £2.6bn, of which Welwyn Hatfield's allocation is £1,468,506. The fund will run until March 2025.
- 1.2 In order to access the fund, it requires the formation of a Local Partnership group of stakeholders and the submission of an Investment Plan which sets out the challenges the area faces, along with how the UKSPF investment will help address these.
- 1.3 Those processes are well underway and this report seeks delegated authority for the Investment Plan to be submitted in time for the deadline of 01 August 2022.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 Cabinet agrees that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Executive Member (Planning and Resources), to authorise, submit and amend any subsequent changes to the UKSPF Investment Plan.
- 2.2 Cabinet notes that the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation), in consultation with the Executive Member (Planning and Resources) will adjust the Council's budget once the UKSPF Investment Plan is approved, under his general delegated powers and in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was launched on 13 April 2022. It sits within the Government's Levelling Up agenda, though unlike many other funds it is not a competitive process and all areas will receive an allocation. The total value of the fund is £2.6bn, of which Welwyn Hatfield's allocation is £1,468,506.
- 3.2 The fund is intended to recognise that areas of deprivation often sit alongside areas of affluence, and is intended to enable local decision making. Each local authority is required to prepare and submit an investment plan in order to access the fund. However, the process is being run on quite a short timescale, with a deadline for submissions of 01 August 2022.

- 3.3 The fund can be used for three areas of investment priority, which are intended to complement Levelling Up missions, with an overarching mission of “Building pride in place and increasing life chances”:
- i. Community and Place. This seeks to foster a sense of local pride, enhance access to amenities, and build healthy and safe neighbourhoods through investment in places and the built and natural environment.
 - ii. Supporting Local Business. This seeks to create jobs and build community cohesion, promote networking and collaboration, enable business to share expertise and resources, and increase private sector investment.
 - iii. People and Skills. This seeks to reduce levels of economic activity, reduce barriers to the labour market, and improve skills to improve employment outcomes and support people into work.
- 3.4 Alongside this, a separate part of the fund called “Multiply” is provided for an adult numeracy programme, which goes to upper tier authorities. Hertfordshire’s allocation is £5.8m.
- 3.5 There is a requirement for local authorities to convene a local partnership group, as “comprehensive and balanced local partnerships will be a core component of how the Fund is administered locally” and these partnership groups should work on the investment plan with the local authority. The guidance isn’t specific about who should attend but gives examples of a range of organisations.
- 3.6 To assist swift decision making given the tight deadline, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council has formed a focussed Partnership Group, chaired by the Leader of the Council. The members of the group are Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council, Hertfordshire County Council, the University of Hertfordshire, Oaklands College, the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and the Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 3.7 The Partnership Group has met and has decided to support a number of projects for various sums of money. Examples of projects to be included are:
- Hatfield Market Place Public Realm Regeneration
 - Anniversary Gardens, Welwyn Garden City
 - Campus West, Digital Information Screens
 - Mill Green Museum, creation of classroom
 - Herts Growth Hub
 - Business Start Up Support
 - Herts Pathways to Employment programme
 - Building Better Opportunities programme
 - Inclusive Employment programme
 - Chamber of Commerce Workshops
 - Funding of Town and Parish Councils for local projects
 - Careers Events
 - Support to the CVS to run a volunteer gardening project
 - Town Centre events
- 3.8 The government has previously indicated that they would publish in July 2022, a concise set of information setting out the reporting requirements, indicator definitions, and further guidance to assist local authorities with project selection.

However at the time of writing this report, such guidance has not been made available yet.

- 3.9 At the time of writing, the Investment Plan, which acts as the application for the fund, is being finalised, so Cabinet are requested to give delegated authority to the Executive Director (Finance and Transformation) and the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to sign off and submit the UKSPF Investment Plan before the deadline of 01 August.
- 3.10 It is envisaged that the investment plan would be determined by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) in around October 2022 and payment will only be made once the plan is approved.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011, confers on local authorities a general power of competence to do anything the individuals generally may do.
- 4.2 The council is a best value authority under the Local Government Act 1999 and is required to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which it exercises its functions.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council will receive £1,468,506 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The fund is profiled over three years with a minimum spend on capital each year. 4% of the fund could be used for administration purposes. As the Borough Council is the lead authority for administering the fund, the council will have a significant amount of work to do to manage the programme of projects and meeting the regular reporting requirements. It is proposed that 4% of the fund (equivalent to around £58k over the three years) will be set aside for the administration cost of managing the fund.
- 5.2 The required profile of the expenditure is:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Allocation	£178,217	£356,433	£933,856	£1,468,505
Min Capital %	10%	13%	20%	
Min Capital (£)	£17,821.70	£46,336.29	£186,771.20	£250,929.19

- 5.3 If an underspend occurs in year, authorities will be expected to provide the government with credible spending plans on how any underspend will be utilised within the following year, and the government may withhold payments of the next years allocation in the absence of a credible plan. All the fund must be spent by March 2025, and any underspends at this point would need to be repaid to the government.
- 5.4 In line with section 4.3 of the Financial Regulations, the councils Section 151 Officer may, in consultation with the Executive Member for Resources, adjust the

budget for the recording of ring-fenced grant income and the associated expenditure.

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1. The risks related to this proposal are:
- 6.2. Financial Risk. The Investment Plan requires the Council to set out the outputs and deliverables from the funding, and ongoing monitoring will take place through the life of the fund. If those outputs are not achieved, the Council may be required to pay back the funding. However, the Council and Local Enterprise Partnership have wide experience of delivering projects of these types so it is not anticipated that this will present significant risk.
- 6.3. Reputational Risk. When embarking on any projects, there is a risk that if what is delivered is not in line with expectations – whether realistic or not - the Council may suffer an impact to its reputation. To ensure that residents and others are clear as to what can be expected and what will be delivered, there will be a clear communications strategy and programme put into place before commencement.

7 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 7.1 There are no known security or terrorism implications from this report. Any work to public realm will consider the current guidance on this issue when being designed.

8 Procurement Implication(s)

- 8.1 Any procurement required from this fund will follow the Council's normal procurement processes.

9 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 9.1. The work to local amenities in both Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield is intended to enable residents to spend more time locally and thus reduce the need to travel.
- 9.2. Landscaping improvements paid for by the fund will have a positive environmental impact.
- 9.3. One of the aims of the fund is to increase economic activity, this may have a negative impact on the environment, although this will be mitigated by other government initiatives, including the Net Zero Carbon Strategy.

10 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 10.1 The work to convene the Partnership Group and draw up the Investment Plan has been undertaken by officers as part of their normal duties. Any additional resources required to deliver the approved projects will be paid for from the 4% permitted for administration.

11 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 11.1. The UKSPF is intended to build pride in place and increase life chances. Such investments will assist the health of the population and improve general wellbeing of residents.

12 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 12.1 Each of the projects delivered as a result of the UKSPF will undertake communications and engagement activities as required to engage and inform local residents and others as required.

13 Link to Corporate Priorities

13.1 This work links to Corporate Priorities (1) Our Community, (2) Our Environment, and (4) Our Economy.

14 Equality and Diversity

14.1. One of the aims of the fund and some of the proposed schemes is to encourage employment opportunities for those furthest away from the labour market. Individuals from a BAME background and those with a disability are more likely to suffer from long term unemployment and it is impacted that the fund will have a positive impact on these groups.

Name of authors Geoff Sampson / Matt Pyecroft
Title Assistant Director Regeneration and Economic Growth /
Senior Projects Officer (Planning)
Date 14 July 2022

This page is intentionally left blank

APPOINTMENT OF CABINET PANELS, COMMITTEES AND BOARDS 2022-23

(Note: Proposed new appointments are shown in green and with an asterisk *)

Cabinet Planning and Parking Panel

13 Members, Ratio 7:3:3

Conservative		Liberal Democrat	Labour
A Hellyer	C	J Quinton	K Thorpe *
S Boulton	VC	R Platt	L Musk
G Michaelides		S Bonfante	P Shah
D Richardson			
C Stanbury			
S Thusu			
F Wachuku			

This page is intentionally left blank

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank