

To: Councillor Ivan Henderson, Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism

From: Kirstin Foley, Economic Growth Officer

Cc: Lee Heley, Deputy Chief Executive & Corporate Director, Place and Wellbeing

Cc: Barbara Pole, Economic Growth and Enterprise Manager

Cc: David Ousby, Interim Assistant Director, Project Delivery (Head of PD Unit)

Date: 17th March 2026

Dear Councillor Henderson,

UK Shared Prosperity Funding

This report provides background information to support the proposed decision to reallocate £27,750.00 that was returned from the Communities and Place theme due to a project not being deliverable within Year 4 of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The report outlines the justification for reallocating this budget to support two projects that align with the objectives of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

Background

On 22 July 2025, the Deputy Leader of the Council; Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism approved the Communities and Place Open Call funding of £138,101.00 for UKSPF, along with allocations for the other two priorities for UKSPF, this was fully awarded, with recommendations from a panel of Tendring District Council officers on 9 July 2025 and a decision by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, Regeneration & Tourism on 22 July 2025. The highest-scoring projects received grant offer letters setting out the grant terms and conditions. All funding for the REPF was also fully allocated following the same process to the projects receiving the highest scores.

One of the grant recipients awarded funding under the Communities and Place priority for UKSPF has since returned their grant after being unable to deliver the approved project. As a result, Tendring District Council now has £27,750.00 in returned grant funding.

The returned funding of £27,750.00 was re-offered to community-led projects that were unsuccessful in the previous round of the REPF. The REPF projects were scored under the criteria that was agreed on the Cabinet Report on the 23 May 2025.

Four projects were identified because their proposals align with the Communities and Place theme and achieved the highest scores among the unsuccessful applicants.

Proposal for Reallocation

Three of the identified projects returned a completed application form. The applications were scored by a panel on the 16 March 2026. Two of the applications received the same score: The Harwich Electric Palace Trust and Manifest Theatre.

Following discussion, the panel has agreed on the following approach for allocating the funding:

- Award £10,000.00 to The Harwich Electric Palace Trust, as their application confirms that the project can still proceed and be delivered with the minimum funding of £10,000.00.
- Award the remaining £17,750.00 to Manifest Theatre, as their cost breakdown includes a contingency of £5,640.00, which would offset the £2,250.00 shortfall.

This approach ensures the remaining UKSPF funding continues to support high impact activity that strengthens local businesses, develops skills, and benefits the wider Tendring economy.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us to discuss any aspect further before granting your consent, on any of the above outlined proposals.

Kind regards,

Kirstin Foley

Economic Growth Officer
Tendring District Council

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