

## **Item 09 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update**

The attached report was considered by the Improvement & Innovation Advisory Committee on 5 December 2023. The relevant Minute extract is below.

### **Improvement & Innovation Advisory Committee (5 December 2023, Minute 26)**

The Economic Development Officer - Business Support & Town Centres presented the report, which updated the committee on the monitoring of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund. Both programmes were subject to extensive government-led monitoring, and all reports submitted by the Council had been approved with no concerns. The programme covered 15 project areas, and aimed to maximise the Economic Development Strategy work alongside it. Some projects were delivered in partnership with neighbouring authorities; members were advised that, where this was the case, all funding put forward by Sevenoaks was distributed to recipients within the district. Members heard a brief overview of the grant programmes which had been delivered.

In response to questions, members were advised that every area in the district had been allocated funding. All of the available funding had been allocated through the investment plan, as agreed by Members. The Committee viewed a video designed to raise awareness of Small Business Saturday, as part of the Town Centre Programme. Members discussed the programme, and requested that further data regarding impressions and responses to the video and similar projects be included in future updates.

Members discussed the forecast projects. They were advised that these were town council projects which would be confirmed when brought forward to the Council. Funding had been allocated for them through the Town Centre funding, but their specifics had yet to be agreed. The programme extended for 3 years; judgements regarding its continuation beyond that could not be made.

Resolved: That the report be noted.