

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS DECISION NOTICE

17 October 2024

(Published 17 October 2024)

This document lists the decision taken by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development on 17 October 2024.

A decision may be implemented with immediate effect, unless it is eligible for call-in as identified below, whereupon a decision will not be implemented until five working days have elapsed.

Decision Taker	Decision	Reasons for Decision	Any Options Rejected	Declared Conflict of Interest?	Eligible for Call-In?
<p>Portfolio Holder for Economic Development</p> <p>Councillor Michael Hardware</p>	<p><u>Awarding UKSPF Funded Harlow Digital Boost Business Grants</u></p> <p>RESOLVED that the list of 22 businesses outlined in Appendix B to the report be awarded grants of up to a maximum of £2,500 for undertaking digital improvement projects for their business. The grants will be paid for in arrears on the production of appropriate invoices.</p>	<p>The Harlow Digital Boost Business Grants are funded via the UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF), utilising the remaining funds in the Business Support theme. All UKSPF funds need to be fully spent by the end of March 2025 as otherwise there is a risk that the Council will be required to pay any unspent money back to the Government.</p> <p>Awarding grants to local Harlow based businesses to undertake</p>	<p>Do not agree with the recommendations as set out in this report and not utilise the UKSPF funds to provide direct grants to local businesses. This is not a recommended way forward as it will result in poor publicity; will mean that the Council will fail to directly support over</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>Yes</p>

		<p>digital solution projects will help a range of local businesses to implement bespoke improvements that will help increase their productivity, efficiency and turn over. This ensures that the businesses become more resilient as individual businesses, support their growth and as a result help improve the local Harlow economy.</p>	<p>20 local businesses to be more competitive and support local economic growth.</p>	
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