

OFFICER DECISION RECORD (ODR2)

This form records an officer decision and is published in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

Date of Decision	27.10.2025
Decision Taker (including Job Title)	Peter Skates Director of Growth and Enterprise
Specific Delegation	This record relates to an officer decision taken under a delegation provided by the Corporate Policy Committee on 6 February 2025 whereby the Committee at minute:68 delegated authority to the Director of Growth & Enterprise manage the Cheshire East UKSPF programme, taking all necessary actions in the interests of maximising the impacts of the fund aligned to the fund parameters and local priorities, including but not limited to allocation of remaining funds to specific interventions, and reallocation of funds and movement of revenue funds to capital if required. As specified within Appendix 1 of this ODR. The Enabling Prosperity and Wellbeing in Cheshire East Fund forms part of the Enabling Communities Grants Programme which was approved by Adults, Health and Integration DLT on 23 June 2025 as specified within Appendix 2.  Appendix 1 ODR - 14052025.pdf  Appendix 2 Understanding Comm
Brief Description of Decision	Approval of a set of recommendations for E11 (UKRPF) totalling £58,242 and E9 (UKSPF) totalling £110,000 under Enabling Prosperity and Wellbeing in Cheshire East grant scheme following evaluation and scoring of applications. The recommendations below fully utilise the RPF and UKSPF allocations. Please see list of recommendations at the bottom of this document.

Reasons for the Decision and alternatives considered	Applications for E11 and E9 allocation were reviewed and scored by the panel consisting of the Community Grants Team and Cheshire East Council Officers; • Lynsey Cooper – Senior Community Development Officer, Communities and Integration • Karolina Bialek – Commissioning and Grants Officer, Communities and Integration • Julie Walker – Senior Community Development Officer, Communities and Integration • Val Burlinson – Community Development Officer, Communities and Integration • Lucie Ferneyhough – Community Development Officer, Communities and Integration • Graham Brown, CVS Cheshire East • Aoife Middlemass, CVS Cheshire East • Christopher Davies, Finance and Systems Co-ordinator, Tatton Park • Joe Crik, Gardener, Tatton Park • Stephen Kelly, Business Partner, Communications • Ellie Swindial, Community Liaison Officer, Communities and Integration • Phil Christian, Business Intelligence Manager, Business Change • Trudie Bradbury, Work Placement Officer, Communities and Integration • Jo Wise, Development and Regeneration Manager, Business Premises Development • Nicola Grogran, Estate Team Manager, Tatton Park • Sam Burnard, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, Business Change • Jason Wulburn, Clerical Assistant, Communities and Integration

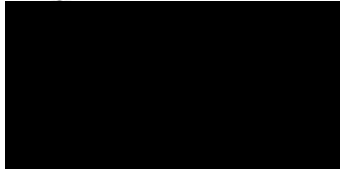
	Objectives of the Enabling Prosperity and Wellbeing Fund are – • Communities connected through an improved, accessible rural and urban transport network including active travel • Carbon reduction and green energy production • Gap in health equalities is reduced across our diverse borough through a targeted approach • Improved independence, health and wellbeing through early intervention and prevention • Everyone feels safe and secure, difference is celebrated, and abuse and exploitation not tolerated • Communities build their capacity, with support to access information, guidance and funding • Lasting solutions are delivered through strong and committed partnerships Please see supporting document relating to, funding allocation for the year of 2025/2026.  enabling-prosperity- and-wellbeing-in-ce-fi
Member consultation and interests declared	
Significant Decision	YES/NO
Legal Implications	I approve and endorse this ODR on the following basis: - It complies with the Council's constitution. - Is entered into further to the appropriate delegation. - the approval of the recommendations as noted below represents a decision that has been made on an objectively OFFICIAL reasonable basis as outlined in the reasoning set out above that complies with the Council's public law duties.

	Adrian Leslie - Lawyer Contracts & Procurement Team adrian.Leslie@cheshireeast.gov.uk 20 Oct 2025
Financial Implications	The Authority received an allocation of £3.97m for UK SPF and £0.248m for Rural SPF in 2025/26. The funds were received by the Authority in advance of spend (E762220). There was wide latitude for the Authority to decide how to utilise the funding. The funding needs to be spent by 31 March 2026. Call outs for UK SPF eligible projects resulted in a £110K allocation for the E9: Enabling Prosperity and Wellbeing project administered through the Communities team and a Cheshire East grant scheme has been established. External applications have been invited and these were reviewed and moderated by a suitably qualified panel. This resulted in the full allocation being recommended for distribution and it is this that the decision incorporates. The grants are revenue in nature and will be passported via the payments exception process. There is no financial liability for the Council arising from the distribution. The £58K allocation under the Rural SPF (E11: Capital grants for capacity and infrastructure support) is capital so the outward grants should be to cover third party capital spend. Delivery of the activity should be monitored to ensure that it is committed within 2025/26. Full distribution of the rural allocation has taken place. There will be no future liabilities or running costs falling upon the Council as a result of the third party grant distribution. It will be down to the recipients to manage any and all costs arising from the grant activity. The communities team will be able to recover additional costs incurred to administer two grant schemes. They should liaise with Finance to make the necessary arrangements for this. Aaron Lecroy, Principal Accountant, 20/10/2025

Confidential/Exempt Information	None
Background Papers	

Peter Skates, Director of Growth and Enterprise

Signed -



Dated – 27.10.2025

Appendix

Organisation	Project Description	Recommended Grant Amount To Be Funded	UKSPF/RPF Allocation
THE GRIOTS -ONE GROUP (GOG)	Y-STs's "Stepping Out" program will launch free walking groups for inactive and vulnerable women aged 55+ in Crewe and Nantwich to improve physical and mental wellbeing. The project will recruit and train 10 bilingual volunteer walk leaders and engage at least 75 participants over a year. Walks will be tailored to different abilities and held weekly at local parks, with additional one-to-one support available. Partnering with local organisations, the project will offer safe, social opportunities to reduce isolation and promote health. Progress will be tracked through surveys, with key milestones including recruitment, training, implementation, and evaluation.	£7,500	UKSPF
Just Drop In Youth Info and Advice Ltd	This project aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of children aged 8–12 living with anxiety in rural areas by delivering the 12-week Feelings Casefiles Intervention Programme, based on CBT principles and designed for children with social communication difficulties, including autism. Targeting five rural primary schools in Cheshire East, the programme will offer both group and one-to-one sessions, supported by a Project Worker and trained volunteers. Funding will enable delivery to 36 children and 12 individuals, with additional support for parents.	£9,084	UKSPF

Time Out Group (North West)	Foodie Fridays is a weekly life skills session supporting up to 12 people with learning disabilities to develop healthy eating habits, budgeting skills, and cooking confidence. Running every Friday from 10:30am–3:30pm, the sessions include theory, practical cooking, shopping trips, and visits to cafés and restaurants. Activities focus on meal planning, food safety, reducing waste, and celebrating global cuisines. Participants also engage in reading, writing, and hosting events like a Macmillan Coffee Morning. The program promotes independence, wellbeing, and healthier lifestyles, with quarterly milestones for planning, delivery, feedback, and evaluation.	£10,000	UKSPF
Macclesfield Football Club Community Sports Trust	The GULP Sports Programme aims to improve oral health and reduce sugary drink consumption among Key Stage 2 pupils in Crewe, delivered by Macclesfield FC Community Sports Trust. Over six sessions combining classroom learning and physical activity, children learn about dental care, sugar awareness, hydration, and environmental impact. Each child receives a reusable water bottle, tooth brushing pack, and take-home resources. The programme supports Cheshire East's public health goals and NHS Core20PLUS5 priorities, targeting health inequalities in deprived communities where tooth decay remains a leading cause of hospital admissions for children.	£8,000	UKSPF

Inspiring Animal Therapy CIC	The Sunflower Programme is a 9-week animal-assisted wellbeing and life skills initiative for children aged 8–12 with anxiety, autism, or social communication difficulties. Delivered in schools and community settings across Bollington, Disley, Poynton, and Macclesfield, each 1.5-hour session uses therapy animals to create a calm, engaging space for exploring topics like emotions, teamwork, friendships, and mindfulness. Small groups (max 10) ensure personalised support. The programme will reach at least 40 children, with additional sessions for parents. Backed by strong demand and positive feedback, it aims to build resilience, emotional regulation, and social connection, preventing future mental health challenges.	£9,275	UKSPF
CreweCreates CIC	Town of Festivals will deliver six inclusive, community-led celebration events across Crewe town centre, supported by a volunteer training programme based at Crewe//Makes: Artspace. The project empowers underrepresented communities (e.g. Kurdish, Polish, Chinese, East Timorese) to co-create cultural festivals through artist-led workshops and development sessions. Events will feature performances, exhibitions, and creative activities across venues including Lyceum Square, Crewe Market Hall, and Royal Arcade Park. Over 150 volunteers will be trained in event delivery and inclusive practice. Key milestones include autumn 2025 planning, rolling events through Sept 2026, and final evaluation in late 2026. The project will leave a legacy of confident volunteers, stronger community cohesion, and a	£8,000	UKSPF

	sustainable model for inclusive celebration.		
The Wingate Special Children's Trust CIO	The SPARKS programme at the Wingate Centre delivers weekly sport and social activities for adults (18+) with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), promoting physical health and mental wellbeing in a safe, inclusive environment. Activities include arts & crafts, sport, Boccia, cookery, dance, and movement, supported by trained coaches and adapted facilities. Participants also access the gym, sensory room, café, and outdoor spaces. The centre fosters community, reduces isolation, and celebrates ability, with funding needed to continue this impactful work.	£7,639	UKSPF
Hope4More	This project supports young people aged 11–17 in Crewe and across Cheshire who are experiencing Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) due to mental health conditions or additional needs. Over 12 months, six themed 12-week courses (72 sessions total) will run twice weekly, supporting up to 20 participants per week. Sessions take place in a Crewe church hall with access to art and sensory rooms, and include creative activities like painting, photography, and product design,	£10,000	UKSPF

	culminating in public exhibitions. The programme helps young people build confidence, develop coping skills, and re-engage with education, supported by staff and volunteers. Funding is sought for two part-time staff to meet growing demand.		
Citizens Advice Cheshire North (CACN)	Citizens Advice plans to launch a weekly advice pop-up at Macclesfield Hospital to reach more people across Cheshire East who struggle to access traditional services. The pop-up will offer support on benefits, employment, carers' rights, debt, social care, and more to patients, visitors, and hospital staff. Located in a visible, accessible area, it will provide drop-in support with follow-up sessions available. This initiative addresses gaps in provision for non-cancer patients and working individuals, and builds on positive discussions with NHS and local leaders. The project aims to improve wellbeing, reduce crisis service reliance, and build a case for long-term investment.	£9,886	UKSPF
Her-Place Charitable Trust	The Believe programme is a specialist service supporting mums whose children are in care or at risk of being placed into care. Operating since 2017 and endorsed by Chester University, it offers intensive, personalised support through a dedicated Support Worker and trained volunteers at Community Hubs in Crewe and Winsford. Each mum receives tailored help to improve mental health, address addiction, build healthy relationships, and move towards employment and	£10,000	UKSPF

	independence. With referrals from health and social care, the programme supports 45 women annually—impacting up to 200 children—through regular mentoring, peer support, wellbeing activities, and volunteering opportunities.		
Refugees Welcome	Refugees Welcome's project supports refugee families in Cheshire East to improve access to education, housing, healthcare, and employment, promoting wellbeing, integration, and financial independence. It offers English language sessions, fosters positive community relations, and helps refugees navigate services and funding. A team of over 50 volunteers provides tailored support, including a Furnishing Service for those frequently relocated, one-off Hardship Grants, and ongoing collaboration with CVSCE for volunteer management and data compliance. With ten years of experience and strong partnerships, the project seeks 25% of its funding through this application, with the remaining 75% from donors, grants, and fundraising.	£9,996	UKSPF
Sutton Ex-Servicemen's Village Hall and Club	Sutton Ex-Servicemen's Village Hall and Club aims to achieve long-term financial stability and reduce its carbon footprint by installing solar panels to cut rising electricity costs. The Hall is a vital community space, used daily by 350 members and numerous local groups, supporting inclusive activities that improve quality of life. This visible sustainability	£10,000	RPF

	effort will also set a positive example for the wider community.		
Shavington-cum-Gresty Parish Council	This renewed Wellbeing Wednesday project builds on a successful initiative in Shavington-cum-Gresty, aimed at reducing isolation and improving physical and mental wellbeing through accessible, community-based sessions. It retains popular activities like aerobic dance and crafts, while expanding to include seated fitness, mindful movement, and resilience-focused components, especially for older adults and those recovering from illness. The programme supports independence, confidence, and connection, aligning with Cheshire East's Healthy Neighbourhoods Blueprint and NHS priorities. With proven outcomes and a prevention-focused approach, it offers a sustainable, inclusive health initiative rooted in creativity, movement, and community.	£4,388	UKSPF
MyCWA (Cheshire Without Abuse)	Step Forward to Recovery is a trauma-informed, self-paced online programme developed by My CWA with domestic abuse survivors to support emotional healing, independence, and resilience. This grant will expand access across Cheshire East, especially for survivors in low-risk cases who often face long waits or limited support. The programme includes five modules on safety, abuse awareness, parenting, behaviour change, and healthy relationships, with interactive tools and self-care resources. Survivors can access it	£6,232	UKSPF

	independently or via referrals from professionals. Outreach and training will also be provided to raise awareness and improve referral pathways. By removing barriers like location and stigma, the project offers early intervention, reduces pressure on crisis services, and promotes long-term wellbeing.		
Brookfield Allotment Association	This proposal aims to develop the Brookfield site into a community orchard and starter plot area, making allotments more accessible for residents with limited time, additional needs, or health issues. By converting overgrown plots into manageable raised beds using weed suppression methods, the project will encourage wider community participation and generate revenue to support site maintenance. A natural orchard with fruit trees and a pond will help alleviate flooding and create a welcoming space for local groups, schools, and events. The initiative aligns with Nantwich Town Council's goals to enhance wellbeing and community engagement.	£5,000	RPF
Daneside Community Theatre Trust Ltd	We plan to replace 24 outdated front-of-house lights with 8 energy-efficient, multicolour LED units to reduce running costs and improve functionality. After a thorough 3-stage evaluation, we selected Martin ELP-CL lights with 25°–50° lenses, which offer a 74% energy saving and reduced heat output. A DMX-over-Ethernet gateway (Obsidian EN12) is also needed to support the increased control channels. Total cost,	£10,000	RPF

	based on competitive quotes, is £15,898.68 (plus VAT), including lights, lenses, and gateway.		
Kettleshulme & Lyme Handley Parish Council	The Kettleshulme Play Park Improvement Project aims to revitalise the village's central play area, making it safer, more inclusive, and engaging for all ages. Following public consultation and collaboration with Cheshire East Council, the plan includes installing new, durable play and fitness equipment and upgrading surfaces for year-round use. This community-driven initiative supports physical and mental wellbeing, celebrates local spirit, and ensures the park remains a vibrant hub for recreation and connection into the future.	£10,000	RPF
Middlewich Cricket Club	Middlewich Cricket Club plans to install solar panels and a backup battery system to eliminate electricity costs and contribute surplus energy to the grid during summer. This will free up funds to expand cricket provision, including new girls and ladies teams, while supporting net zero goals. The project can be completed within a month of receiving funding.	£7,000	RPF

1st Holmes Chapel Scout Group	Holmes Chapel Scout HQ is a central community hub used more by local groups than by the Scouts themselves. Rising energy costs—over £1,000 per month last winter—have forced rent increases, despite efforts to reduce consumption by switching to LED lighting. This project will complete the LED refit and install motion sensors in low-use areas, alongside upgrading the heating system to a smart, zoned setup. Linked to the building's online booking system, the new heating will reduce waste by only warming rooms in use, helping the charity remain affordable and energy-efficient.	£7,000	RPF
Nantwich Methodist Church	The main goal of this project is to improve room flexibility and accessibility by replacing current chairs with more suitable ones. This will allow us to better serve all community members, including groups like bridge and chess clubs, who currently struggle with moving furniture. New chairs will enable the church to offer more inclusive and adaptable services.	£6,000	RPF
Disley Amalgamated Sports Club	DASC seeks funding to help install a lift from the ground floor to the first-floor Lounge Bar and Committee Room, which are currently only accessible by stairs. A stair lift is not feasible due to fire safety regulations. The lack of lift access has prevented many community groups from using the space, despite its affordable hire rate and high demand. Installing a lift would make the venue inclusive and accessible for meetings, therapy sessions, and wellbeing activities, supporting wider community use and improving access for all.	£3,242	RPF