

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Year 2 Spend
Name of Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	23 October 2023
Report Director:	Chief Officer- Growth and Investment
Portfolio:	Growth and Investment
Ward Relevance:	All Wards
Prior Consultation:	Internal consultation with Leadership Team, Finance, Corporate Performance and Risk and Equalities, UKPSF Local Partnership Group.
Contact Officer:	Helen Nightingale – Major Projects and Economic Development Manager
Public or Private:	Public
Report Subject to Call-In:	No
Report En-Bloc:	No
Forward Plan:	Yes
Corporate Priorities:	This report relates to the following priorities: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O) Corporate Strategy 2021-2024 <input type="checkbox"/> This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but
Summary:	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations for the further allocation of Year 2 and a small portion of year 3 UKSPF spend as well as amending the remit of the Local Partnership

Group in relation to grant applications as previously agreed at Council 12th July 2023.

Financial Implications:

The Council is required to provide bi-annual returns to government on the spending of UKSPF monies. If the money allocated for year 2 (2023/2024) is not spent the Council could be required to repay the money to Government.

Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:

The projects identified in the report will need to be delivered by the end of March 2024 and those identified for Year 3 UKSPF will need to be delivered by end of March 2025. By not completing the projects in time could result in the Council having to return unspent fund to Government.

Environmental Implications:

A Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as appendix 3. There is positive impact on energy usage, sustainable transport/travel, community leadership and biodiversity and habitats.

Legal Implications:

None as a direct result of this report.

Equality and Diversity:

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as Appendix 4 and it will have a positive impact on people with disabilities and women and girls.

Options:

Option 1

Agree the spend and recommendations as set out in the report

Option 2

Not agree the spend and recommendations as set out in the report

Recommendation:

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

1. the allocation of UKSPF for 2023/2024 (year 2) as set out in the report be approved;
2. the continuation of funding for the year 2 projects, community support to reduce cost of living, local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues and small business support projects for year 3 be approved;
3. delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make any other

minor changes to spend to ensure all money is spent by the end of the financial year 2023/2024

4. delegated authority be given to the UKSPF Local Partnership Group to review and make recommendations to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve grant applications for the community support to reduce the cost of living, local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues and business support and start up grant funds
5. A supplementary capital budget of £172,800 as detailed in the report to be added to the capital programme be approved
6. A supplementary revenue budget of £293,200 as detailed in the report be approved; and
7. A supplementary income budget of (£293,200) to offset revenue expenditure as detailed in the report be approved.

Reasons for Recommendation:

To enable the Borough Council to use the funding provided by Government to deliver levelling up schemes which also deliver the aims of the Council's Corporate Strategy.

Cabinet- 23 October 2023

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Year 2 Spend

Public Report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment

Recommendation

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2. the continuation of funding for the year 2 projects, community support to reduce cost of living, local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues and small business support projects for year 3 be approved;
3. delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make any other minor changes to spend to ensure all money is spend by the end of the financial year 2023/2024;
4. delegated authority be given to the UKSPF Local Partnership Group to review and make recommendations to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve grant applications for the community support to reduce the cost of living, local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues and business support and start up grant funds;
5. A supplementary capital budget of £172,800 as detailed in the report to be added to the capital programme be approved.;
6. A supplementary revenue budget of £293,200 as detailed in the report be approved; and
7. A supplementary income budget of (£293,200) to offset revenue expenditure as detailed in the report be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As part of Government’s central mission to level up the whole of the UK, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was introduced across a three year period of 2022-2025. The majority of this report sets out projects the Council will undertake throughout 2023 and 2024 using £741,000 allocated for the second year of the overall three-year fund. The Council has already agreed £275,000 spend of year 2 revenue funds and this report details the spend for the remaining £318,200 revenue and £172,800 capital funds.

There are also projects identified in 2023/24 that could run in to 2024/25 (year 3) to maximise their effectiveness as their aim is to support local communities and businesses. It is also recommended that this spend is approved subject to the Council being in receipt of Year 3 (2024/25) funds from government.

In addition to specific projects being identified, it is also being requested that the previously approved Local Partnership Group, as required by Government as the community link between the Council and Community, have delegated powers to make recommendations to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve grants applications for specific funds (approved by Council 12th July 2023) in order to streamline the process and meet the spend targets set by Government.

The table below shows an over view of the current projects including already approved schemes, schemes which are to be approved as detailed in this report and £1,647,281 which is still to be committed:

UKSPF Year 1 (2022/2023) – Approved November 2022			
Project	Revenue Amount	Capital Amount	Total
Festival Lights Phase 1 (replacement lighting)		£43,000	
Public Realm Improvements Bicentenary of the game of Rugby	£30,500	£45,000	
Athletics Lighting		£50,000	
Footfall Monitoring for the Town Centre		£38,400	
Market Stalls and Equipment		£31,000	
Bandstand works		£44,780	
White Goods Appliances		£63,000	
Management/Admin 4%		£14,820	
Warwickshire Wide Business Support Review	£10,000		
Year 1 Total	£40,500	£330,500	£370,500
UKSPF Year 2 (2023/24)			
Project	Revenue Amount	Capital Amount	Total
<u>Previously Approved Projects:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct grants for businesses ▪ Community support to reduce the cost of living grants; ▪ Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues grants; and Interim small business support	£275,000		
St. Andrew's Garden (Trinity Garden Churchyard) improvements		£40,300	
Newbold Quarry accessibility Improvements		£50,840	
Caldecott Park Accessibility Improvements		£30,000	
Albert Street Hoarding		£36,400	
Christmas Brick Tour	£25,000		
Town Centre Public Realm Improvements	£113,550	£15,260	
Small Business Support	£125,010		

Management/Admin 4%	£29,640		
Year 2 Total	£568,200	£172,800	£741,000
UKSPF Year 3 (2024/25)			
Project	Revenue Amount	Capital Amount	Total
Community support to reduce the cost-of-living grant fund	£50,000	N/A	
Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues grant fund	£50,000	N/A	
Small Business Support	£194,140	N/A	
STILL TO BE COMMITTED			£1,647,281
Year 3 Total	£294,140	£0	£294,140
Grand Total			£3,052,921

The projects listed meet objectives within the four Corporate Strategy Outcomes, Climate, Economy, Health and Communities and Organisation. These objectives include:

Climate

- Reduce resident's and business' impact on the environment and help them adapt to the consequences of climate change;
- Promote and encourage green and sustainable businesses within the borough; and
- Link places together with good quality green infrastructure and improve biodiversity across the borough.

Economy

- Promote Rugby as a place to do business;
- Encourage and support sustainable economic growth, consistent with our social and environmental priorities;
- Help business thrive and provide jobs for our residents; and
- Develop and promote our town centre as a place to live socialise and work.

Health and Communities

- Support residents to lead active lives, with high quality, accessible green space and recreational facilities;
- Make sure that our communities are safe; and
- Make sure that residents are proud of their community and their borough.

Organisation

- Maintain robust systems of governance that ensure fairness, accountability and transparency.

If the recommendations and projects as set out above are not agreed, there is a risk that the £741,000 UKSPF monies are not spent by 31st March 2024 and any unspent funds are returned to government.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1. In April 2022 the Government announced a new fund to support its levelling up agenda. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a three year fund to replace the monies which previously came from the European Union such as the European Social Fund (ESF) and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

1.2. The UKSPF is centred around three investment priorities Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.

Community and Place

- Improvements to town centres and highstreets
- Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
- Funding for local sports facilities
- Community measures to reduce the cost of living

Supporting Local Business

- Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail
- Business Support measures to drive employment growth
- R&D grants to support the development of innovative products and services

People and Skills

- Employment support for inactive people
- Support for local areas to fund local skills needs
- Green skills courses
- Support and help people in employment who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses

1.3. The original amounts of funding available to Rugby announced in April 2022 were:

Year 1 22/23	£457,938
Year 2 23/24	£824,289
Year 3 24/25	£1,770,694

1.4. The Council was required to submit an Investment Plan and Expenditure Profile for the three year period between 2022 and 2025 to Government August 2022 to secure the funding and it was agreed at the Council of the 19th July 2022 the split of the yearly funds across the three investment priorities, Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.

1.5. Prior to the submission of the Investment Plan the Government altered the allocation of funds pushing the majority of the overall amount into year 3 as follows:

Year 1 22/23	£370,500
Year 2 23/24	£741,000
Year 3 24/25	£1,941,421

1.6. The proportional split as agreed by July 2022 Council was then applied to the revised figures and incorporated into the Investment Plan to Government prior

to the submission on 1st August 2022. The approved Investment Plan and accompanying Expenditure Profile is attached as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.

- 1.7. The Government approved the submitted Investment Plan and Expenditure profile in February 2023 enabling Year 1 funds to be released to the Council.
- 1.8. In November 2022 and February 2023 Council agreed the projects to spend Year 1 funds on in line with the Investment Plan and Expenditure Profile.
- 1.9. In July 2023 Council also agreed the projects to spend £275,000 of the overall £741,000 for UKSPF Year 2 as well as agree to the formation of Local Partnership Group.
- 1.10. It is a requirement of the funding that the Government is provided with regular reports on how the funds are spent and it is also required that the fund to be spent within the allocated year.

2. Year 2 Spend (2023-2024)

- 2.1. The funding allocated for Year 2 is £741,000, £172,800 of which is for capital projects whilst the remaining £568,200 is for revenue based projects. Government stipulates that within 2023/24 at least 13% of the fund is to be spent on capital projects and the Council is above that threshold at 23%. Of the £568,200 expected to be spent on revenue projects, £275,000 of the fund has already been allocated and approved for year 2 as per the July 2023 Council report. This leaves £318,200 for revenue and £172,800 yet to be spent. The proposed projects, needing approval are detailed below. The revenue cost also includes the 4% admin charge which is to allow Councils to administer the fund.
- 2.2. The Investment Plan (Appendix 1) identifies a number of projects for year 2 and these projects have been worked up in consultation with the Local Partnership Group, Chief Officers, the Town Centre Regeneration Working Group and Warwickshire County Council (WCC).
- 2.3. This report details the projects as a result of recent consultation as outlined above.

Priority 1 Community and Place

St Andrew's Gardens (Trinity Gardens Churchyard) Improvements (£40,300)

- 2.4. The UKSPF Investment Priority E3 seeks to create and improve local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces, whilst Investment Priority E5 seeks to design and manage the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime.

- 2.5. In 2021 Rugby Borough Council carried out a survey of residents asking women and girls about how safe they felt and specific incidences of violence and harassment against them in Rugby. We had 670 responses. There was not a requirement to provide a location of incidents, but it was an optional question. There were 7 responses that specified the intervention area as a place where incidences of violence or harassment occurred and 27 more general responses that these incidences occurred in the Town Centre.
- 2.6. Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LOSA) data collated by analysts at Warwickshire County Council. This data looks at geographical areas known as LOSA. Rugby Town Centre is LOSA E01031173. The data shows it is the 3rd highest LOSA in Warwickshire for reported ASB, and the 3rd highest LOSA in Warwickshire for VAWG related offences.
- 2.7. Interventions are being carried out through Safer Streets 4 Funding, however using UK Shared Prosperity Funds to improve the green space at St Andrew's Gardens (Trinity Gardens Churchyard) and reduce antisocial behaviour by:
- Planting improvements and defensive planting where needed;
 - Making the area a destination or a place to visit with information boards and contemplation areas;
 - Increasing sight lines with pruning of existing planting; and
 - Insertion of seating to reduce the need to sit on existing headstones to name a few interventions.

Newbold Quarry Accessibility Improvements (£50,840)

- 2.8. The UKSPF Investment Priority E3 seeks to create and improve local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces, whilst Investment Priority E5 seeks to design and manage the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime.
- 2.9. There are current risks of a health and safety nature at Newbold Quarry as it is a disused quarry lake such as drowning as well as risks from the natural elements including the raise in water levels and landslides. The site is also subject to a lot of antisocial behaviour and work has been ongoing with community wardens, councillors and Warwickshire Police on reducing this. Such anti-social behaviour includes swimming, unauthorised fishing, vandalism and this in turn discourages the use of the are by local residents.
- 2.10. It is proposed that works are undertaken to reduce the current health and safety risks as well as the antisocial behaviour by creating a safe and attractive place to visit. Works to be undertaken include:
- Tarmac footpaths in places
 - Remediation of bank erosion which is resulting in footpath subsidence
 - Replacement and insertion of additional hand rails as protection from water
 - Replacement of wooden sleeper steps
 - Remediation of existing footways to make it accessible for all

- 2.11. By undertaking the above works to increase accessibility and thereby additional footfall there becomes an element of natural surveillance which deters antisocial behaviour.

Caldecott Park Accessibility Improvements (£30,000)

- 2.12. Investment Priority E3 seeks to create and improve local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces whilst Investment Priority E5 seeks to design and manage the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'
- 2.13. Caldecott Park in the past has been closed at dusk to reduce the level of antisocial behaviour occurring in the park and more recently the smaller, pedestrian entrances to the park are being left open to enable accessibility to the park throughout the year. However the southern most entrance on to Park Road is closed to reduce the risk of vehicles entering the park, which gives the perception that the park is closed.
- 2.14. It is proposed the existing iron gates are removed and replaced with iron gates that have a built-in pedestrian entrance, enabling the larger gates to be closed to vehicles but the integrated gate remaining open to pedestrians.
- 2.15. It is envisaged this would improve the accessibility to the park at all times, reducing the occurrence of antisocial behaviour.

Albert Street Hoarding (£36,400)

- 2.16. Investment Priority E6 supports local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- 2.17. The Council has recently vacated its premises on Albert Street and whilst future plans are decided upon, the site requires to be secured.
- 2.18. Traditionally sites that are empty are secured by hoarding and it is proposed that a local artist is commissioned to engage with the local community to create a mural to be painted on to the hoarding that will secure Albert Street.
- 2.19. It is the intention that the mural will be painted on hoarding that can be transported to another site if needed and bring to life the local community's visions of Rugby.

Christmas Brick Tour (£25,000)

- 2.20. Investment Priority E1 seeks improvements to town centres and high streets whilst E8 seeks promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
- 2.21. Christmas 2022 the Council commissioned the Christmas Brick Tour which saw numerous Christmas shaped brick models placed around the town centre

generating additional footfall as the models were another reason to visit Rugby town centre during the pre and post-Christmas period.

- 2.22. It is proposed that the Council again commission Christmas themed brick models to place around the town centre from November 2023 to January 2024 to support the town centre as part of the Council's meanwhile use workstream as part of the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and creating another reason for visitors to visit and explore Rugby town centre in search of the models, which in turn will support local businesses by creating additional footfall.

Town Centre Public Realm Improvements (£113,550)

- 2.23. Investment Priority E1 seeks to fund improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for people with disabilities.
- 2.24. It is proposed that the following public realm improvements are taken forward to improve the town centre and make it more accessible:
- Independent retail quarter signage
 - Taxi rank shelter refurbishment
 - Traffic regulation order and traffic control for High Street, Sheep Street and Market Place
 - Lighting upgrades for the path through Chestnut Fields
 - Renewed car parking signage
 - Street furniture upgrades and improvements
- 2.25. The Town Centre Regeneration Strategy states the importance public realm plays on its future success and the above identified improvements are the start of a wider journey to really making change to the public realm in Rugby's town centre.

Priority 2 - Supporting Local Businesses

Small Business Support (£128,010)

- 2.26. Investment Priority E23 seeks to strengthen local entrepreneurial ecosystems, supporting businesses at all stages of their development from start, sustain, grow and innovate including through local networks.
- 2.27. The Business Support Review jointly commissioned by the six local authorities across Warwickshire in 2022, recommended a series of programmes targeted to provide high quality support to local businesses. This approach anticipated that Local Authorities would jointly fund the programmes as the most efficient way to achieve economies of scale and provide access to expertise which may otherwise be unaffordable at an individual local authority level.
- 2.28. Since the Council approval in July 2023 the interim funding of up to £25,000, for existing programme extensions have been agreed to provide some on-going support to start up, high growth and hospitality businesses whilst a more comprehensive set of programmes have been developed to provide support to businesses from October 2023 to March 2025.

2.29. The new programmes of business support that are proposed are:

- **Start-up** -This programme targets support to new business start-ups in their first 24 months of trading and individuals who have ambitions to start a business.
- **Growth and Resilience** -The programme is targeted at assessing companies' business resilience, growth, and productivity improvement potential and to identify any barriers or risks that could prevent the realisation of the identified potential and to create and provide a tailored package of support.
- **Manufacturing** – The programme is designed to support small to medium sized manufacturers who are facing a period of substantial change with new business opportunities in emerging markets (such as electric vehicles and green industries), new possibilities presented through industrial digitisation, alongside threats such as, the shortage of labour and materials, a more complex exporting environment and inflationary pressures (including rising energy prices) which are contributing to reduced investment and the erosion of competitiveness.
- **High Growth and Innovation** – The programme responds to the challenges identified in the 2022 Scale Up Report (Scaleup Institute) which identified that growth in the number of high growth businesses within the Warwickshire economy has stagnated falling to 37 of 41 regions in terms of the growth of the local scaleup population. Given the impact these high growth and innovative firms have on the local economy, the programme aims to identify, target, engage with and support those businesses who demonstrate high growth potential.
- **Net Zero** - The activities supported through this programme will contribute towards the creation of a green, growing, and sustainable economy through promoting business innovation and best practice measures that support businesses to identify ways to decarbonise their activities and identify greenhouse gas savings, increase energy efficiency in enterprises and reduce carbon emissions, promote the circular economy including an emphasis on 'whole place' approaches e.g., improving industrial processes, heating, lighting and energy network.
- **Tourism (Project Warwickshire)** – Tourism, hospitality and leisure businesses continue to face challenges and this programme provides advice, guidance, mentoring and training targeted at businesses in the tourism, hospitality and leisure sector.

2.30. A total of £3.3m has been allocated across all five Warwickshire boroughs and districts from UKSP year 2 and 3 funds and includes £345,000 from Warwickshire County Council's revenue funds. The other Local Authorities have either given approval or are finalising their approvals. It is anticipated that c 400 Rugby businesses will be engaged across all the programmes with a range of support to improve business competitiveness and productivity and it is estimated c 85 jobs will be created or safeguarded.

- 2.31. From Rugby Borough Council's perspective, it is proposed to allocate the following from the UKSPF as per the original investment plan agreed by Council in July 2022.

Programme	Year 2023/24	Year 2024/25
Start -Up	£18,433	£27,956
Growth and resilience	£24,578	£27,275
Manufacturing	£24,578	£37,275
High Growth and Innovation	£24,578	£37,275
Net Zero	£18,433	£27,956
Tourism	£12,289	£18,638
Project Management	£5,120	£7,766
Total	£128,009	£194,141

- 2.32. Subject to Council approval, the programmes will be ready to be launched in October 2023. Approval is also sought for year 3 of the UKSPF funding subject to confirmation of the funds by Government. There is a termination clause with one months' notice which would give the ability of the Council to mitigate any financial exposure in the event of the Government not approving 2024/25 plans or delaying approval beyond an acceptable timescale.

3. UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Partnership Group

- 3.1. At Council in July, it was agreed that a Local Partnership Group be set up and be involved in encouraging relevant groups to engage in the grant application process as well as reviewing all applications and making recommendations to Council as to which grants applications are successful in line with the UKSPF investment priority interventions outcomes.
- 3.2. The Local Partnership Group has now been set up and the process of putting together grant programmes has commenced. It is clear that to streamline the process of administering grants under the time constraints of the UKSPF that delegated powers should be given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to agree grant fund applications as recommended by the Local Partnership Group.
- 3.3. The Local Partnership Group has also recommended that the grant programmes listed below for year 2, which were previously agreed in July 2023 be also agreed for Year 3 as per the original Investment Plan which was approved by Council in July 22.
- Community support to reduce the cost of living; and
 - Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues
- 3.4. The amounts would be the same as that approved in July 2023 for year 2 of £50,000 per programme. Securing the funds for 2024/25 would enable a wider range of applicants to the grant programmes to be considered with longer term projects.

4. Financial Implications

4.1. The revenue and capital spend for each project is set out below:

UKSPF Year 2 (2023/24)			
Project	Revenue Amount	Capital Amount	Total
<u>Previously Approved Projects:</u>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct grants for businesses ▪ Community support to reduce the cost of living grants; ▪ Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues grants; and Interim small business support	£275,000		
St. Andrew's Garden (Trinity Garden Churchyard) improvements		£40,300	
Newbold Quarry accessibility Improvements		£50,840	
Caldecott Park Accessibility Improvements		£30,000	
Albert Street Hoarding		£36,400	
Christmas Brick Tour	£25,000		
Town Centre Public Realm Improvements	£113,550	£15,260	
Small Business Support	£125,010		
Management/Admin 4%	£29,640		
Year 2 Total	£568,200	£172,800	£741,000
UKSPF Year 3 (2024/25)			
Project	Revenue Amount	Capital Amount	Total
Community support to reduce the cost-of-living grant fund	£50,000	N/A	
Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues grant fund	£50,000	N/A	
Small Business Support	£194,140	N/A	
STILL TO BE COMMITTED			£1,647,281
Year 3 Total	£294,140	£0	£294,140
Grand Total			£3,052,921

4.2. This report addresses the remaining £172,800 capital funding and £318,200 revenue funding of the overall £741,000 Year 2 allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

4.3. In addition to the Year 2 UKSPF funding, it is proposed that if the Council is in receipt of funding for year 3, £294,140 of revenue is used for community and sports grant programmes (£100,000) and a second year of business support programmes (£194,1040) as proposed in the original investment plan to Government in August 2022.

5. Options Available

- 5.1. Taking the above into account, two options are proposed for consideration of Members, namely:

Option 1

Agree the spend and recommendations as set out in the report

Option 2

Not agree the spend and recommendations as set out in the report

6. Conclusion and Recommendations

- 6.1. All projects outlined in this report are in accordance with the aspirations of the UKSPF investment priorities and it is recommended that the capital and revenue spend as detailed in the report is approved.
- 6.2. It is also recommended that delegated authority is given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve the recommendations of the Local Partnership Group in relation to successful grant applications for the community support to reduce the cost of living, local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues and support for businesses and start ups grant funds.

Name of Meeting: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 23 October 2023

Subject Matter: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 2 Spend

Originating Department: Growth and Investment

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY **YES**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink
1	Investment Plan
2	Expenditure Profile

The background papers relating to reports on planning applications and which are open to public inspection under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972, consist of the planning applications, referred to in the reports, and all written responses to consultations made by the Local Planning Authority, in connection with those applications.

Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

Doc No	Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A



Rugby Borough Council

UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Investment Plan Document

Update December 2022

Purpose

Appendix 1

The purpose of document paper is to outline Rugby Borough Council's approach for delivering the Council's share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This document seeks to provide additional details on the proposals contained within the Council's UKSPF Investment Plan.

The Council will use UKSPF funding to both provide short term improvements with a lasting impact and provide schemes which leave the local economy ready for the opportunities of the future. The Council expects there to be a real multiplier effect in terms of investment from the projects selected.

Background

Rugby is one of the fastest growing boroughs in the country with the population expected to increase by c. 130,000 people over the next 10 years. It benefits from excellent road and rail connections, which drives the economy and provides a wide catchment for visitors to Rugby Town Centre, including a relatively affluent catchment for the Town Centre.

Rugby Town Centre has an attractive and plentiful built heritage, including Rugby School, and intimate streets that create a very walkable and cyclable town centre, with Caldecott Park as a high quality green space at its core.

However, like many locations, Rugby Town Centre faces structural challenges. High vacancy levels and the changing role of retail in the centre has been fuelled by changing retail behaviours, the success of Elliot's Fields Retail Park, and the long term impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Town Centre also has a weak office market with limited inward investment and more recently, the loss of established occupiers moving to other locations due to the lack of suitable alternative commercial spaces.

Whilst Rugby does have a diverse leisure offer, this is pepper-potted across the centre with limited ancillary food and beverage uses to support these activities. This therefore limits Rugby's ability to provide a compelling day to night-time draw. Rugby Market is underperforming, with the envisaged ability to do more to draw in crowds and support the town centre revitalisation through a re-imagined offer in the future.

The wards within Rugby town centre itself are of the most deprived wards in the borough and as of 2019 seven lower super outputs areas (LSOAs) are within the 30% most deprived areas in the country, an increase of two LSOA since 2015.

The Council recognised this and strongly believe that regenerating and improving the town centre environment would boost the local economy. Therefore, Rugby Borough Council bid for the Future High Street Fund as well as the Heritage Action Zone fund however these bids were unsuccessful. The Council also felt that as it is categorised as a Tier 3 Council, despite the deprivation in some of its wards, for the purposes of the Levelling Up Fund, it was unlikely to be awarded monies against Tier 1 and 2 authorities if bids were submitted.

In response to this context, Rugby Borough Council procured a design team, comprising Avison Young, Allies and Morrison and Urban Flow, to prepare a masterplan for Rugby Town Centre.

This strategic masterplan exercise, intended to culminate in a robust Regeneration Plan for the Town Centre, has established an agreed vision for the Town Centre:

"Rugby Town Centre will be first choice for Rugby residents and visitors. It will be vibrant, resilient and a community focal point; supported and characterised by a strong daytime and night-time economy, a culture of entrepreneurship, and a thriving hub of independent and non-independent

Appendix 1

businesses. We will deliver a place and a mix of uses that puts people first, celebrates Rugby's heritage and contributes positively to the lives of our community creating a prosperous and sustainable place that we can all be proud of."

The process will ultimately define a transformative level of regeneration in the centre, through identifying key development and investment opportunities supported by a delivery strategy including need for intervention, viability and delivery responsibilities.

To support the vision, a set of objectives and place principles have been developed. To date, the process has included considerable engagement with Council Officers, Council Members, major Town Centre stakeholders, local businesses and the local community.

Now adopted it is intended that the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy will provide a plan for the town centre for investors and business moving forward, with support from the Council.

Rugby Borough Council's Corporate Strategy 2021-2024 also centres around four priority outcomes with the economy 'arm' supporting the fact that the Council is ambitious and wants to see real regenerative change to benefit its residents, business and visitors:

Climate

Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. The Council has committed to being net zero by 2030 and will work with businesses, residents, and partners to improve the environmental sustainability of the Council and lead the borough through a green recovery and into a greener future.

Economy

Rugby will encourage and support sustainable economic growth, consistent with its social and environmental priorities. Rugby Borough has ambitions to promote Rugby as a place to do business and helping the borough recover from the economic impact on Covid-19, ensuring that residents have the skills they need to meet local demand, nurture and support independent shops as well as helping businesses thrive.

Health & Communities

Rugby wants to ensure that its residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected and this can be achieved by providing access to high quality green spaces and recreational facilities, high quality and affordable homes as well as working with partners to invest in services to meet local needs.

Organisation

Rugby Borough Council is committed to being a responsible, effective and efficient organisation which will continue to manage its finances well, embrace innovation and value its people, delivering high quality services.

The Council's four priority outcomes align closely with the Government's Levelling Up White Paper core objectives identified below and shows the commitment the Council has to the Borough's businesses, residents and visitors.

- boost productivity, pay, jobs, and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;

Appendix 1

- spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest;
- restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and
- empower local leaders and communities.

The Opportunity

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a 3 year programme that focuses on 3 key areas of investment priorities: Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.

Community and Place

- Improvements to town centres and highstreets
- Funding for local sports facilities
- Community measures to reduce the cost of living

Supporting Local Business

- Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail
- Business Support measures to drive employment growth
- R&D grants to support the development of innovative products and services

People and Skills

- Employment support for inactive people
- Support for local areas to fund local skills needs
- Green skills courses
- Support and help people in employment who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses

Before the first payment is made in October, the Council must submit an Investment Plan which needs to set out the high-level strategic aims that the Council wishes to address over the next 3 years. The UKSPF closely aligns with the Council's Corporate Strategy on areas such as creating a diverse and resilient economy and meeting the challenges of climate change.

Engagement

The Council has engaged in a significant round of informal consultation with key stakeholders when drawing up the Investment Plan. Borough Councillors have helped to shape the type of projects being considered. The Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council have worked together closely on the Investment Plan and will continue to work closely together on its delivery. The Council has engaged education institutions such as Rugby College to understand how our workforce can be equipped with the skills of the future. Organisations representing business such as the Chamber of Commerce and Federation of Small Business have been key to shaping the Investment Plan's approach to supporting business. The Council has also engaged with the voluntary sector.

The Challenge

Appendix 1

The Council's analysis of challenges is focused on the town centre, then the wider Borough. Rugby Town Centre's vacancy rate has been performing consistency in line with national trends, but long-term vacancies are a consistent challenge. There are concentrations of vacancies in areas of the town centre where long-term empty buildings have started to decay, which has a highly visible negative impact but also represents lost potential employment and economic activity. The town centres public realm is significantly outdated, with a specific need identified to improve pedestrian connections between the town centre and railway station, which currently gives a poor first impression to visitors and investors alike.

The loss of key anchor stores and stalled development proposals has left key sites/units empty or underdeveloped. This undermines Rugby's ability to compete with the strong competition provided by neighbouring towns. Empty units and stalled sites also undermine Rugby's efforts to transition from a retail-led town centre to a more mixed-use destination. To help meet these challenges, the Council has commissioned a new Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and market review to create a truly mixed use town centre. The new strategy will guide how the town centre develops over future decades by identifying key development sites and other interventions and crucially how they will be delivered.

Whilst Rugby's economy has performed relatively strongly it cannot stand still. Rugby has the second lowest GVA per worker in Warwickshire. Business start-up rates are below the national average and reduced further during the Covid-19 pandemic. The average size of businesses in Rugby is below the national average. Whilst many of these companies may have significant opportunities for growth they need support to grow. Rugby's lower GVA is considered to reflect that local business need greater support with new technology and may benefit from efforts to utilise Rugby's strong rail links with London. Rugby Borough Council takes a positive approach towards growth and wants to harness the benefits of this growth to create a better town centre and create more jobs for all our residents.

Investment Priorities

Appendix 1

The Investment Plan identifies the priorities for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This section provides additional detail on the main priorities and in some cases the types of projects expected to come forward but are not confirmed at this stage.

Place and Communities

The town centre is a key focus for Rugby's UKSPF allocation. The Council's overall strategy is to integrate town centre regeneration with improving local skills, with the potential to identify complementary interventions that make the benefits of this funding go further. The UKSPF is an opportunity to support projects which will complement the recently adopted Town Centre Regeneration Strategy. The Town Centre Regeneration Strategy is considering projects for the next 15 years whilst UKSPF funding will consider projects for next three years.

Place and Communities UKSPF Priorities:

- E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.
- E10 Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues to bring people together
- E13 Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.
- E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

Example Projects

The Council has a range of potential projects but the below have been identified as potential priority projects owing to their potential across the areas of Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. These projects may also form part of the projects being developed as part of the Town Centre Regeneration Strategy and Council's Corporate Strategy.

Meanwhile Uses

Delivering transformational change includes achieving the small changes that in combination can help transform a street, not just the largest regeneration sites. Meanwhile Uses provide the opportunity for the temporary occupation of vacant units by non-commercial occupiers who would otherwise be unable to afford commercial rents. The footfall helps neighbouring units e.g. coffee shops, encourage new jobs to be created as social enterprises expand and encourage landlords to invest in their vacant units. The Council would work with Rugby First (Business Improvement District) to act as a facilitator matching landlords and potential tenants.

Shopfront Improvement Scheme

A shopfront improvement scheme could provide grants to landlords who agreed to invest in their empty units and also units in need of repair. The scheme could focus on concentrations of vacancies in Rugby, with works guided by a new supplementary planning document (SPD). These works would aim to decrease vacancies, improve the general appearance of the town centre and could be combined with other interventions to maximise socio-economic benefit. Frontages schemes are an investment multiplier, with landlords, tenants, nearby shops all encouraged to invest more in their

Appendix 1

respective units and businesses. The process would be managed by the Council through an ‘open call’ process and applications assessed against a published selection criteria.

Rugby Bicentenary 2023

The Bicentenary of the game of Rugby is an opportunity to encourage residents into the town centre to celebrate their town’s history. A series of events will be held, but the Council is looking at small interventions which collectively can make a big difference to how the town centre looks and feels. This could be new lighting, restoring what we have already and making the most of our green space and public realm. The Council wants to get the basics right to create a more pleasant environment to encourage people to spend more time in the town centre, but also to improve the connections between the railway station and town centre.

Deliverable Outcomes

Some of the deliverable outcomes as identified in the spreadsheet required for E1, E10, E13 and E14 have not been completed due to the inability to obtain the correct baseline information to then base a percentage increase. However improved public perception, increased visitor numbers, job created/safeguarded, improved perception, reduction in Co2e and increase energy efficiency are all outcomes the Council wants to improve. Therefore, whilst a quantifiable figure has not been inserted into the spreadsheet, this does not imply that the Council does not have any intention of improving in all these areas.

With regards to footfall, the Council used to monitor this pre-pandemic, however there is no up to date baseline data. The Council has procured the installation of new footfall cameras which will be operational early in 2023.

Support for local businesses

Rugby’s Economy

Rugby has a significant presence within the transport & storage sector as the sector benefits from Rugby’s central location: access to the “Golden Triangle” motorway network (M6/M1/M42), A5 corridor and London’s “Magic Circle”; where local businesses and residents can reach the London within an hour via rail. The transport & storage sector overall accounts for nearly 4% of Rugby’s total GVA equating to £287m as of 2019.¹

Within transport & storage the main industry strengths come from the Warehousing & Storage and Postal and Courier Activities (Logistics). Rugby is home to many leading logistics companies such as DHL. Postal and Courier Activities (Logistics) had a location quotient² of 6.3 in 2021 indicated that the industry is over 6 times more concentrated in Rugby when compared to the national average. Warehousing & Storage had a location quotient of 4.4 in 2021 indicated that the industry is over 4 times more concentrated in Rugby when compared to the national average.

With the presence of the manufacturing technology centre and AGCO and Meggit amongst others the Manufacturing sector is also a significant sector strength in Rugby and overall accounts for over 5% of Rugby’s total GVA equating to £343m as of 2019. Rugby has a relatively large industrial concentrations

¹ ONS, GVA regional breakdown, 2022

² Location Quotient (LQ) is a way of quantifying how “concentrated” an industry is in a region compared to a larger geographic area, such as the state or nation.

Appendix 1

of various manufacturing sub industries. Manufacturing of electrical equipment has the highest LQ out of all manufacturing at 6.3 followed by manufacturing of motor vehicles at 5.7, this shows that they are over 6 and 5 times more concentrated in Rugby than the national average respectively.

Professional and business services are also considered significant strengths to Rugby these are high value high skilled industries which provide 5.7% contribution towards total GVA in 2019. Professional services alone had a location quotient of 1.3, suggesting a above national average concentration base in Rugby.

Tourism is one of the key drivers of economic growth to the South Warwickshire economy and surrounding areas. Rugby (where the sport of Rugby Football originated) has strong tourism potential that is currently not being fulfilled. Rugby's tourism / visitor economy in terms of GVA value only accounts just a little over 1% of Rugby's Total GVA as of 2019. This likely to have fallen further due to the impacts of COVID 19 on tourism in 2020.³

The visitor economy in Rugby has a fairly low LQ value of 0.5 suggesting that the concentration of the visitor economy is lower than the national average. The negative economic impact on high streets and the retail sector have only been catalysed further due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Rugby's wholesale and retail trade GVA value accounts for 3.5% of total GVA in 2019 but its overall LQ value comes in at 0.9 suggesting a lower than national average concentration.

Support for Local Business UKSPF Priorities

- E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.
- E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/ innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places.
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

Proposed approach

A host of tailored support for new and existing businesses has been operating across Rugby. The Council is assessing how this can continue and be enhanced by working with existing delivery partners. Support includes helping businesses with their cashflow, digital marketing and sales. This support can be vital for companies in their first 12 months of trading. The Council is developing a local business strategy and economic strategy which collectively will provide the overarching framework for this and be delivered through a Local Partnership Board.

Example Projects

Supporting Rugby Market

Rugby Market is at the heart of what makes Rugby a market town. As the retail market changes, Rugby Market needs to change with it. The Council has recently gone out to tender for a new operator so now is the time to provide additional support to reform the market. The market could be supported to provide high-quality, standardised stalls with a clear design theme and a new layout enabling the market to gain a greater critical mass. The market would need to provide more food

³ Lightcast, GVA, 2022

Appendix 1

and beverage, arts and craft and flowers and plants to reposition itself as a market which appeals to all ages. UKSPF funding could help support this transition.

Business Hub/Shared workspace

Shared workspace is increasingly common across the UK, especially since homeworkers have sought new places to collaborate. Such venues can provide opportunities for networking, training events and help provide low-cost meeting rooms to enable new enterprises to keep their costs down. The Rugby Business Hub would be unique as it would seek to enable Rugby to utilise its excellent rail links to London. For example, enabling Rugby businesses to host clients who have come on the train for in-person meetings in high quality office space. The Council would be looking to enter into a partnership agreement to run the business hub, from day-to-day operations to special events.

Deliverable Outcomes

Some of the deliverable outcomes as identified in the spreadsheet required for E16 and E23 have not been completed as the projects have not been formalised and so some outputs are unknown at this point in time.

People and Skills

Background

Further to the negative impact of the pandemic, those who were unemployed or fell out of unemployment are now finding it increasingly challenging to make positive moves towards employment. Within Warwickshire from March 2020 – March 2022, the area recorded a 42% increase in individuals on the claimant count. This increase from 7,830 individuals to 11,120 shows an area which is still in recovery with an inflated number of job seekers who require further support to move into employment or sustain longer term roles. For Rugby specifically, the area has seen a 38% increase which totals 580 additional individuals on the claimant count. Without sustained levels of employment support until 2024/25, there is a risk that those who are at risk of being unsupported will fall out of employment and eventually become economically inactive. To date (December 2021) the economically inactive rate for Warwickshire stands at 17.9%. With funded support ringfenced for the Community and Voluntary Sector across 2023/24, greater responsive work is required in 2024/25 to recover the drop in engagement levels and to support the wider economy in recovery.

People and Skills UKSPF Priorities:

- E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

Proposed Approach

The Council is working with providers to explore the gaps in local skills training, especially in the area of digital skills, engineering and logistics. Skills training is vital to boost productivity to improve Rugby's GVA, tackle unemployment and ensure the future success of the local economy.

Appendix 1

Rugby Council will be working with stakeholders and partners through a Local Partnership Board to deliver outcomes of the Fund having identified where the gaps are through a feasibility study.

Deliverable Outcomes

Many of the deliverable outcomes as identified in the spreadsheet required for E33 have not been completed as the projects have not been formalised and so some outputs are unknown at this point in time.

Expenditure Profile				UKSPF Allocation Annual Expenditure				UKSPF Allocation Capital/Revenue Split (£)						
Investment Priority	Intervention	UKSPF Allocation	% of Total UKSPF Allocation	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Annual Expenditure Totals	Capital 22/23	Revenue 22/23	Capital 23/24	Revenue 23/24	Capital 24/25	Revenue 24/25	Capital/Revenue Totals
Communities & Place	E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets	£1,552,295	51%	£280,500	£342,800	£928,995	£1,552,295	£250,000	£30,500	£272,800	£70,000	£846,315	£82,680	£1,552,295
Communities & Place	E2: Community & neighbourhood infrastructure projects		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues	£180,000	6%	£80,000	£50,000	£50,000	£180,000	£80,000	£0	£0	£50,000	£0	£50,000	£180,000
Communities & Place	E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	£100,000	3%		£50,000	£50,000	£100,000	£0	£0	£0	£50,000		£50,000	£100,000
Communities & Place	E14: Relevant feasibility studies	£20,000	1%		£20,000		£20,000	£0	£0	£0	£20,000	£0	£0	£20,000
Communities & Place	E15: Digital connectivity for local community facilities		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	Total for 'On-menu' Interventions	£1,852,295	61%	£360,500	£462,800	£1,028,995	£1,852,295	£330,000	£30,500	£272,800	£190,000	£846,315	£182,680	£1,852,295
Communities & Place	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Communities & Place	C&P Bespoke Interventions Total	£0	0%	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Communities & Place	Communities & Place Interventions Total	£1,852,295	61%	£360,500	£462,800	£1,028,995	£1,852,295	£330,000	£30,500	£272,800	£190,000	£846,315	£182,680	£1,852,295
Local Business	E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector	£210,000	7%		£130,000	£80,000	£210,000	£0	£0	£50,000	£80,000	£0	£80,000	£210,000
Local Business	E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E18: Supporting Made Smarter Adoption		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E19: Investment in research & development at the local level		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E21: Development of innovation infrastructure at a local level		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E22: Enterprise infrastructure & employment / innovation sites	£250,000	8%			£250,000	£250,000					£240,000	£10,000	£250,000
Local Business	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	£342,342	11%		£148,200	£194,142	£342,342				£148,200		£194,142	£342,342
Local Business	E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E25: Bid for & host international business events & conferences		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E26: Growing the local social economy		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E27: Develop angel investor networks		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E28: Export grants to grow overseas trading etc.		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E29: Supporting decarbonisation & improving natural environment		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	E31: Support relevant feasibility studies	£10,000	0%	£10,000			£10,000		£10,000					£10,000
Local Business	E32: Investment to protect from natural hazards, flooding and coastal erosion		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	Total for 'On-menu' Interventions	£812,342	27%	£10,000	£278,200	£524,142	£812,342	£0	£10,000	£50,000	£228,200	£240,000	£284,142	£812,342
Local Business	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
Local Business	LB Bespoke Interventions Total	£0	0%	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Local Business	Local Business Interventions Total	£812,342	27%	£10,000	£278,200	£524,142	£812,342	£0	£10,000	£50,000	£228,200	£240,000	£284,142	£812,342
People & Skills	E33: Employment support for economically inactive people	£388,284	13%			£388,284	£388,284						£388,284	£388,284
People & Skills	E34: Courses including basic, life & career skills		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	E35: Enrichment & volunteering activities		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	E36: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	E39: Green skills courses		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	E41: Funding to support local digital skills		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	Total for 'On-menu' Interventions	£388,284	13%	£0	£0	£388,284	£388,284	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£388,284	£388,284
People & Skills	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
People & Skills	P&S Bespoke Interventions Total	£0	0%	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
People & Skills	People & Skills Intervention Total	£388,284	13%	£0	£0	£388,284	£388,284	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£388,284	£388,284
Allocation Totals		£3,052,921	100%	£370,500	£741,000	£1,941,421	£3,052,921	£330,000	£40,500	£322,800	£418,200	£1,086,315	£855,106	£3,052,921

Rugby Borough Council

Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment

Rugby Borough UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 2

CONTEXT

In 2019 the UK Parliament set a commitment in law to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Achieving this target will require considerable effort with public bodies, private sector organisations, the third sector and individuals working together to take action. Rugby Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2019, in doing so committed to:

- To move the Council's operations towards Carbon Neutrality by 2030.
- To establish action to tackle climate change as a key driver of all decision-making.
- To provide community leadership in reducing the impact of Climate Change.
- To take action to mitigate the impact of climate change on a Borough wide basis and beyond, through adaptation.

The Council's Corporate Strategy (2021-24) [link](#) sets ambitious outcomes in relation to Climate Change. These ambitions must now be progressed through the decisions which the Council makes.

It is therefore important that Rugby Borough Council gives due regard to climate change when making decisions. In the context of the Council's business, Climate Change includes carbon emissions, biodiversity, habitat loss and environmental destruction. When putting forward recommendations for decision, officers must assess how these recommendations are likely to influence our climate change commitments by completing the following Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment.

A copy of this Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment, including relevant data and information should be forwarded to the Deputy Executive Director.

If you require help, advice and support to complete the forms, please contact Dan Green, Deputy Executive Director.

Appendix 3

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

Portfolio and Service Area	Growth and Investment
Policy/Service/Change being assessed	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Year 2 Spend
Is this a new or existing Policy/Service/Change?	This is a new Government funding source. Council approval has been given for the general areas of spend across the next 3 years as of 19th July 2022.
If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment	None.
Ward Specific Impacts	Borough-wide.
Summary of assessment Briefly summarise the policy/service/change and potential impacts.	<p>The UKSPF is centred around three investment priorities Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. Year 2 spend is centred around funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements to town centres; • Improving local green spaces; • Designing and managing the built and landscaped environment to design out crime; • Supporting local arts, culture and creative activities; and • Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages. <p>The projects outlined have given consideration to the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Corporate Strategy whilst also benefitting the Borough's residents.</p>
Completed By	Helen Nightingale Major Projects and Economic Development Manager
Authorised By	Nicola Smith – Chief Officer for Growth and Investment
Date of Assessment	20 th September 2023

SECTION 2: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Appendix 3

Climate Change and Environmental Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner	Timescales
Energy usage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Encourage local communities to submit proposals that will assist with the cost of living including the reduction in energy usage.</p> <p>The outcomes of this report will also contribute towards the creation of a green, growing, and sustainable economy through promoting business innovation and best practice measures that support businesses to identify ways to decarbonise their activities and identify greenhouse gas savings, increase energy efficiency in enterprises and reduce carbon emissions, promote the circular economy</p>	N/A	N/A	Short term - 18 months
Fleet usage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sustainable Transport/Travel (customers and staff)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The strategy looks to improve accessibility to green spaces within the town centre as well as creating more accessible public realm, including the current traffic regulation order to make the town centre more pedestrian friendly.	N/A	N/A	Short term – 12-18 months
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Appendix 3

Community leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The formation of the Local Partnership Group and giving delegation to make recommendation enables the community to take ownership of grant funding pots to assist the local community.	N/A	N/A	
Biodiversity and habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improvements proposed to St Andrew's Gardens (Trinity Garden Churchyard) and Newbold Quarry as well as town centre public realm improvements will improve and enhance local biodiversity and habitats with additional and improved planting schemes.	N/A	N/A	Short term – up to 2 years
Adaptation/Mitigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Impact on other providers/partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Appendix 3

SECTION 3: REVIEW

Where a negative impact is identified, the proposal and/or implementation can be adapted or changed; meaning there is a need for regular review. This review may also be needed to reflect additional data and evidence for a fuller assessment (proportionate to the decision in question). Please state the agreed review timescale for the identified impacts of the policy implementation or service change.

Review date	Not required for this document – additional documents will have their own assessment.
Key points to be considered through review	N/A
Person responsible for review	N/A
Authorised by	Nicola Smith - Chief Officer for Growth and Investment.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EqIA)

Context

1. The Public Sector Equality Duty as set out under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires Rugby Borough Council when making decisions to have due regard to the following:
 - eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and other conduct prohibited by the Act,
 - advancing equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not,
 - fostering good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not, including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.
2. The characteristics protected by the Equality Act are:
 - age
 - disability
 - gender reassignment
 - marriage/civil partnership
 - pregnancy/maternity
 - race
 - religion/belief
 - sex/gender
 - sexual orientation
3. In addition to the above-protected characteristics, you should consider the crosscutting elements of the proposed policy, such as impact on social inequalities and impact on carers who look after older people or people with disabilities as part of this assessment.
4. The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) document is a tool that enables RBC to test and analyse the nature and impact of what it is currently doing or is planning to do in the future. It can be used flexibly for reviewing existing arrangements but in particular should enable identification where further consultation, engagement and data is required.
5. The questions will enable you to record your findings.
6. Where the EqIA relates to a continuing project, it must be reviewed and updated at each stage of the decision.
7. Once completed and signed off the EqIA will be published online.
8. An EqIA must accompany all **Key Decisions** and **Cabinet Reports**.
9. For further information, refer to the EqIA guidance for staff.
10. For advice and support, contact:
Aftab Razzaq
Chief Officer for Legal and Governance
aftab.razzaq@rugby.gov.uk
01788 533521

Equality Impact Assessment

Service Area	Growth and Investment
Policy/Service being assessed	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Spend Year 2
Is this a new or existing policy/service? If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment	No. Council approved the general areas of spend across the three years at Council.
EqlA Review Team – List of members	Helen Nightingale
Date of this assessment	20 September 2023
Signature of responsible officer (to be signed after the EqlA has been completed)	<i>Helen Nightingale</i>

A copy of this Equality Impact Assessment report, including relevant data and information to be forwarded to the Chief Officer for Legal and Governance.

Details of Strategy/ Service/ Policy to be analysed

<u>Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining</u>	
(1) Describe the main aims, objectives and purpose of the Strategy/Service/Policy (or decision)?	The purpose of this report is to make recommendation on Year 2 projects to spend UK Shared Prosperity Fund monies as well as give delegated authority to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve recommendations made by the Local Partnership Group on grant fund applications.

(2) How does it fit with Rugby Borough Council's Corporate priorities and your service area priorities?

The projects listed meet objectives within the four Corporate Strategy Outcomes, Climate, Economy, Health and Communities and Organisation. These objectives include:

Climate

- Reduce resident's and business' impact on the environment and help them adapt to the consequences of climate change;
- Promote and encourage green and sustainable businesses within the borough; and
- Link places together with good quality green infrastructure and improve biodiversity across the borough.

Economy

- Promote Rugby as a place to do business;
- Encourage and support sustainable economic growth, consistent with our social and environmental priorities;
- Help business thrive and provide jobs for our residents; and
- Develop and promote our town centre as a place to live socialise and work.

Health and Communities

- Support residents to lead active lives, with high quality, accessible green space and recreational facilities;
- Make sure that our communities are safe; and
- Make sure that residents are proud of their community and their borough.

Organisation

- Maintain robust systems of governance that ensure fairness, accountability and transparency.

Appendix 4

<p>(3) What are the expected outcomes you are hoping to achieve?</p>	<p>Expected outcomes from the projects identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in footfall to the green spaces identified and the town centre • Improved perception and experience of accessibility to the town centre and open spaces • Increased visitor numbers to the town centre and green spaces; • Improved perception of safety; • Increased use of footpaths and cycleways; • Reduction in neighbourhood crime; • Increase the number of community-led art and creative programmes; • Creation and safeguarding of jobs; • Increase in number of new businesses created; • Increase number of businesses engaged in new markets; and • Improved productivity of businesses.
<p>(4) Does or will the policy or decision affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customers • Employees • Wider community or groups 	<p>The decision will impact upon customers and the wider community.</p>
<p><u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u></p>	<p>As a minimum you must consider what is known about the population likely to be affected which will support your understanding of the impact of the policy, e.g. service uptake/usage, customer satisfaction surveys, staffing data, performance data, research information (national, regional and local data sources).</p>

Appendix 4

<p>(1) What does the information tell you about those groups identified?</p>	<p>Information has been gathered by Warwickshire Police in relation to anti-social behaviour in and around Newbold Quarry which identified the area in its current condition being a driver for anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>Survey results from Rugby First, Warwickshire Police and the Council between 2021 and 2023 identified that St Andrew's Gardens (Trinity Gardens Churchyard) was an area where harassment or violence occurred against women and girls. Data collected by analysts from WCC that Rugby Town Centre is the 3rd highest lower layer super output area for violent against women and girls related offences in Warwickshire.</p>
<p>(2) Have you consulted or involved those groups that are likely to be affected by the strategy/ service/policy you want to implement? If yes, what were their views and how have their views influenced your decision?</p>	<p>Consultation was undertaken in 2019 on the St Andrew's Gardens masterplan which proposed improvements to the area which influenced the current version of the masterplan.</p>
<p>(3) If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary.</p>	
<p><u>Stage 3 – Analysis of impact</u></p>	

Appendix 4

<p>(1) <u>Protected Characteristics</u> From your data and consultations is there any positive, adverse or negative impact identified for any particular group, which could amount to discrimination?</p> <p>If yes, identify the groups and how they are affected.</p>	RACE	DISABILITY	GENDER
	MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	AGE	GENDER REASSIGNMENT
	RELIGION/BELIEF	PREGNANCY MATERNITY	SEXUAL ORIENTATION
<p>(2) <u>Cross cutting themes</u> (a) Are your proposals likely to impact on social inequalities e.g. child poverty, geographically disadvantaged communities? If yes, please explain how?</p> <p>(b) Are your proposals likely to impact on a carer who looks after older people or people with disabilities? If yes, please explain how?</p>	No.		
<p>(3) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?</p>	N/A		

Appendix 4

(4) What actions are going to be taken to reduce or eliminate negative or adverse impact? (This should form part of your action plan under Stage 4.)	N/A
(5) How does the strategy/service/policy contribute to the promotion of equality? If not, what can be done?	Proposals intend to fund improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for people with disabilities.
(6) How does the strategy/service/policy promote good relations between groups? If not, what can be done?	The proposals intend to fund improvements to town centres and high streets, to promote good relations between groups.
(7) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? If yes how can they be overcome?	No.

Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review and Monitoring																														
<p>If No Further Action is required then go to – Review and Monitoring</p> <p>(1) Action Planning – Specify any changes or improvements that can be made to the service or policy to mitigate or eradicate negative or adverse impact on specific groups, including resource implications.</p>	<p>EqlA Action Plan</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="875 1171 2114 1401"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="875 1171 1120 1246">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1120 1171 1364 1246">Lead Officer</th> <th data-bbox="1364 1171 1615 1246">Date for completion</th> <th data-bbox="1615 1171 1865 1246">Resource requirements</th> <th data-bbox="1865 1171 2114 1246">Comments</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Action	Lead Officer	Date for completion	Resource requirements	Comments																				
Action	Lead Officer	Date for completion	Resource requirements	Comments																										

Appendix 4

<p>(2) Review and Monitoring State how and when you will monitor policy and Action Plan</p>	<p>After the year 2 UKSPF fund is spent, year 3 will also need to be evaluated and the success of years 1 and 2 spend will be evaluated to see if it achieved what it intended. Footfall camera installation will also enable effective monitoring of the improvements to the town centre by recording the numbers of people visiting Rugby Town Centre as well as crime statistics on reported offences in the town centre.</p>
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Please annotate your policy with the following statement:

'An Equality Impact Assessment on this policy was undertaken on 20th September 2023 and will be reviewed on 31st March 2025.