

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title: UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Update

Name of Committee: Council

Date of Meeting: 10 July 2024

Report Director: Chief Officer- Growth and Investment

Portfolio: Growth and Investment, Digital and Communications

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:
 Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C)
 Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E)
 Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC)
 Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O)
[Corporate Strategy 2021-2024](#)
 This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but

Summary: The purpose of this report is to provide an update on UK Shared Prosperity Fund spend to date between 1st April 2022 to 31 March 2024. The report also provides an update on already agreed projects for 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025.

Financial Implications:	If the money allocated for all years (2022-2025) is not spent by 31 st March 2025 the Council is required to repay the unspent monies back to Government. A new £21,000 project will be added to the capital programme and will be funded from underspends across the wider UKSPF scheme.
Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:	The projects identified in the report will need to be delivered by the end of March 2025. By not completing the projects on time would result in the Council having to return unspent funds to Government.
Environmental Implications:	A Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as appendix 2. There is positive impact on energy usage, sustainable procurement, biodiversity and habitats and community leadership.
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 3 and it will have a positive impact on people with disabilities, younger people and gender.
Options:	<p><u>Option 1</u> Agree to note the project progress and approve the virement as set out in the report</p> <p><u>Option 2</u> Not agree to note the project progress and not approve the virement as set out in the report</p>
Recommendation:	<p>IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the update in respect of UK Shared Prosperity Fund spend as of 31 March 2024 and the associated project progress be noted; and 2. the Pytchley Road path improvements scheme be added to the 2024/25 General Fund capital programme. This will be funded using underspends from other UKSPF capital schemes. It is therefore requested that a virement of £0.021m (as detailed in 3.3 Table 2) 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.

Council - 10 July 2024

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Update

Public Report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment

Recommendation

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

1. the update in respect of UK Shared Prosperity Fund spend as of 31 March 2024 and the associated project progress be noted; and
2. the Pytchley Road path improvements scheme be added to the 2024/25 General Fund capital programme. This will be funded using underspends from other UKSPF capital schemes. It is therefore requested that a virement of £0.021m (as detailed in 3.3 Table 2) be approved.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 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. This report provides an update on all previously approved projects including any variances as agreed by the Local Partnership Group and the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment and Chief Officer for Finance and Performance under previously approved delegated authority.
- 1.2 The Council has agreed through previous Council reports to spend £2.167m of the total £3.053m across the three years of the fund. This report provides and update on the progress of those projects, detailing current spend as of 31st March 2024.
- 1.3 The report also recommends a virement of £0.021m from UKSPF Capital underspends to fund path improvements to Pytchley Road as part of the Council's wider Park Connector scheme. The improvements required are to ensure the path is more accessible for all due to its uneven nature and inability to allow less abled users to access the Great Central Way.
- 1.4 If the projects are not complete and all remaining funds aren't spent by 31st March 2025 there is a risk that any unspent funds are returned to government.
- 1.5 A further report will be brought to Council later in the year to allocate the remaining funds detailed in Table 1.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 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).

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

2.3 The Council's UKPSF allocation for each year between 2022 and 2025 is as follows:

Year 1 22/23	£0.371m
Year 2 23/24	£0.741m
Year 3 24/25	£1.941m

2.4 The Council has agreed through previous Council reports to spend £2.167m of the total £3.053m across the three years of the fund. This report provides and update on the progress of those projects, detailing current spend as of 31st March 2024.

2.5 Table 1 below shows an overview of the spend of the UKSPF as of 31 March 2024. Further details of projects, their progress, costings and budgets are detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

2.6 As of 31st March 2024, the Council has spent £0.790m of the first and second year of the fund equating to 71%. This level of spend influences how much upfront funding for the third and final year of UKSPF is given to the Council. Therefore, based on the Council spending 71%, it is likely the Council will receive 70% (£1.359m) of the year three payment up front with the remaining 30% being able to be claimed in arrears.

Table 1: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Spend as of 31st March 2024

UKSPF Scheme Year	Budget £000	Actuals at 31/03/24 £000	Remaining Budget £000	Allocated Budget* £000	Unallocated Budget £000
1	371	363	8	8	
2	741	427	314	314	
3	1,941	0	1,941	1,055	886
Total	3,053	790	2,263	1,377	886

*Previously agreed projects by Council

2.7 The projects listed meet objectives within the four Corporate Strategy Outcomes, Climate, Economy 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;

- Link places together with good quality green infrastructure; and
- Promote and encourage green and sustainable businesses within the borough.

Economy

- Promote Rugby as a place to do business;
- Encourage and support sustainable economic growth, consistent with our social and environmental priorities;
- Nurture and support independent shops;
- Help business thrive and provide jobs for our residents;
- Make sure residents have the skills they need to meet local demand; and
- Develop and promote our town centre as a place to live socialise and work.

Health and Communities

- Make sure our communities are safe
- Support residents to lead active lives, with high quality, accessible green space and recreational facilities

Organisation

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

3. YEARS 1 AND 2 PROJECT DELIVERY

- 3.1 The funding allocated for years 1 and 2 collectively was £1.112m of which 71% has been spent, with the remaining being committed spend up until 31 March 2025.
- 3.2 Appendix 1 gives detail of each project and its progress however key highlights have been provided below.

Town Centre Improvements

- 3.3 The first UKSPF intervention (E1) for the 'Communities and Place' priority for UKSPF was '*Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs*'.
- 3.4 The Council considers this a key intervention which aligns with the aims of creating a more vibrant and better quality environment in Rugby Town Centre and therefore allocated £0.336m of Year 1 and 2 funds to improve the town centre. Projects included better festival lighting, celebrating a part of the town's heritage by commemorating the bicentenary of the game of rugby, improvements to Caldecott Park, supporting the Rugby Market, encouraging visitors through events and better monitoring of visitor numbers to the town centre through the installation of footfall cameras. Additionally, commitment to improving the public realm with the commission of a masterplan that will identify future improvement projects was also agreed.

Supporting Local Sports Facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues

- 3.5 The Council has committed to supporting UKSPF intervention E10 '*Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together*' through the replacement of halogen lightbulbs with LED lightbulbs at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre enhancing the user experience, but also reducing energy usage by 90%.
- 3.6 Last year (2023/24) the Council supported 14 sports clubs with a total of £0.043m of funding for a variety of sports such as volleyball, rugby for those less abled, girls football, fencing, bowling, triathlon, canoeing, gymnastics, swimming, athletics, cheerleading and cricket. The funding will be used for a variety of matters such as marketing to raise awareness and increase diversity across some of the sports, new equipment, facility improvements and additional tournaments. A further £0.050m will be available for 2024/25 and the Council will open up the bidding process in the summer of 2024.

Business Support

- 3.7 Support for small businesses has been a priority for government as well as the Council as European funding that was in place was coming to an end to support some programmes. In total across 2022/23 and 2023/24 the Council has spent £0.297m on projects to support businesses through the following UKSPF interventions:

E16 - Investment in open markets and improvements to the town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.

E23 - Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.

- 3.8 Following the commission of a Warwickshire wide small business support review study, six support programmes were identified as current gaps which included start-up support, growth and resilience, manufacturing, high growth and innovation, net zero and tourism through Project Warwickshire. The programmes have had approval for two years of funding across 2023/24 and 2024/25 and currently £0.148m has been spent with a further £0.194m being committed. During the period October to March 2023/24 at least 11 businesses received support with 10 jobs being safeguarded or created.
- 3.9 In addition to non-financial support through the programmes mentioned above, the Council also opened up a grants programme for town centre businesses to bid for a grant up to the value of £0.010m in 2023/24. The overall fund available was £0.130m and £0.109m has been awarded to 14 businesses. These grants will fund support such as new equipment for the business, marketing and new ventures to make the business more diverse all with the aim of bringing in additional footfall into the town centre.

- 3.10 As funding has only very recently been awarded to the businesses, the impact of their projects on the town centre are unknown, however success will be measured in due course.
- 3.11 Borough wide-business support grants will be available in the summer of 2024.

Community Support

- 3.12 A total of £0.076m has been spent on UKSPF intervention E13 '*Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through the measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change*'. Within 2023/24 (Year 1), £0.063m was spent on a white goods programme that provided principally fridge/freezers, washing machines or slow cookers to 91 households (164 people) most at risk of experiencing fuel poverty.
- 3.13 A community grant scheme was also launched with two community initiatives receiving funding for a collective amount of £0.013m.
- 3.14 There was an underspend on the community grant scheme due to the number of projects submitted to the Council. The Council will be engaging further with the community to support cost of living measures.

Improving Green Spaces

- 3.15 To strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of pride, whilst also building a resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhood, the Council has committed £0.111m to UKSPF interventions:

E3 - Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.

E5 - Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.

- 3.16 St Andrew's Gardens and Newbold Quarry both have instances of antisocial behaviour attached to them as a result of their location and quality of their physical environment. Therefore, works are either procured, planned or in progress to improve the public open spaces with hard and soft landscape improvements with the aim to design out crime and improve the quality of the open space.
- 3.17 Improvements to the access to Pytchley Road Bridge from Great Central Walk are also being sought, partly using UKSPF funds that were originally allocated to improve the public realm in the town centre. However, due to the inaccessible nature of the access to Pytchley Road Bridge, immediate works are needed to ensure the route is accessible for all. This is planned for 2024/25 and is part of the Council's wider park connector scheme.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report outlines the project progress and spend of £0.790m for year 1 and 2 of UKSPF. The remaining £0.322m for years 1 and 2 is either planned or committed and is on track to be spent during 2024/25, as is those projects for year 3 that have been allocated as shown in Appendix 1.
- 4.2 This leaves £0.886m yet to be committed for 2024/2025 which will be addressed in a future report to Council.
- 4.3 Due to underspends on the following 2022/23 and 2023/24 capital schemes it is requested that budgets totalling £0.021m be vired to a new capital scheme for Pytchley Road path improvements, as detailed in 2.17. Details of the virement to be approved are included in the following table.

Table 2 – Pytchley Road Capital Spend Virement

Scheme Name	Amount of Virement £000	Reason/Comments
UKSPF Capital - Bicentenary Project	(5)	Scheme now complete- slight underspend to move to another scheme
UKSPF Capital - Bandstand Works	(1)	Scheme now complete- slight underspend to move to another scheme
UKSPF Capital - Town Centre Public Realm Improvements	(15)	This scheme is not ready to be undertaken until the masterplan has progressed further so move to another scheme
UKSPF Capital- Pytchley Road path improvements	21	To fund new scheme for access improvements linked to park connector network

5. OPTIONS AVAILABLE

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

Option 1

Agree to note the project progress and approve the virement as set out in the report

Option 2

Not agree to note the project progress and not approve the virement 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 are being carried out by Council officers to ensure the UK shared prosperity fund is spent to level up our borough.
- 6.2 Any variances are consulted on with the Local Partnership Groups before receiving approval from the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment and the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance.
- 6.3 The Council is yet to allocate the final capital funds of a value of £0.886m. The proposed spend of this remaining amount will be brought back to Council later this year.

Name of Meeting: Council
Date of Meeting: 10 July 2024
Subject Matter: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update
Originating Department: Growth and Investment

DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY **NO**

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Doc No	Title of Document and Hyperlink

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

Appendix 1

UKSPF Year 1 - Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31/03/24 £000	Project Progress
Festival Lights Replacement and additional festival lighting for the town centre.	38	38	Complete
Public Realm Improvements Bicentenary of the game of Rugby Town centre dressing, improvements to the William Webb Ellis statue and surrounding public realm. Rugby bicentenary banners and flags and female statue.	76	69	Complete
Athletics Lighting Replacement LED lightbulbs for the existing athletics track at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Centre using 90% less energy than conventional halogen bulbs and enhancing the experience.	50	50	Complete
Footfall Monitoring for the Town Centre Installation of four new footfall cameras in the town centre.	38	38	Ongoing. Three of the original four commissioned cameras have been installed. However there has been difficulty gaining permission from the owner of the Swan Centre to get the final camera installed.
Market Stalls and Equipment Purchase of new market stalls.	31	31	Complete
Caldecott Park Improvements Improvements and alterations to the existing bandstands at Caldecott Park	51	50	Complete. Improvement works have been undertaken to provide an electricity connection to the

Appendix 1

UKSPF Year 1 - Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31/03/24 £000	Project Progress
and Whitehall Recreation Ground. Footpath improvements.			bandstand at Whitehall Recreation Ground. Footpath works were also undertaken around the bandstand. Additional works included a new eastern entrance on Park Road linking to Chestnut Fields and Regents Place.
White Goods Appliances Provision of whitegoods to households in greatest need and who are most at risk of fuel poverty.	62	63	Complete
Warwickshire Wide Small Business Support Review A county wide study to understand the gaps in support for small businesses.	10	9	Complete and was slightly under budget when completed. The study identified six business support projects which are being funded through years 2 and 3 of the UKSPF.
Management/Admin 4% A requirement from government to ensure 4% of revenue spend is used to administer and manage the spend which contributes to staff costs.	15	15	N/A
Year 1 Total	371	363	

Appendix 1

UKPSF Year 2 – Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31 March 2024 £000	Project Progress
Direct Grants for Businesses A grant scheme for town centre businesses of a value up to £10,000.	130	109	Complete
Community Support Grants Grants available to reduce the cost of living for a value up to £5,000.	50	13	Complete – underspend will be added to the same fund that has been allocated for 2024/2025.
Sports Grants Grants available for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues for a value up to £5,000.	50	43	Complete – underspend will be added to the same fund that has been allocated for 2024/2025.
Small Business Support First year of a two year fund for six business support programmes as identified in the Warwickshire wide small business support review.	150	148	Complete for 2023/2024.
St. Andrew’s Garden (Trinity Garden Churchyard) improvements Improvements to make the area more secure through planting and landscape works.	40	4	Majority of works now complete including notice boards, lighting, path improvements, benches and tree works. Planting is outstanding and will commence in the autumn.
Newbold Quarry Accessibility Improvements To secure the public space which as a disused quarry has health and safety implications.	51	0	Works committed, however there are high water levels which is delaying works.

Appendix 1

UKPSF Year 2 – Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31 March 2024 £000	Project Progress
<p>Caldecott Park Improvements Improvements include bat hat lighting to the pathways, installation of toddler play equipment and improved paths around flowerbeds.</p>	30	12	In progress. Bat hat lighting installed.
<p>Albert Street Hoarding Securing the site with hoarding decorated with a local artist’s work.</p>	36	23	In progress. The hoarding has been put in place. A local artist has been commissioned to cover the hoarding which will be in place shortly.
<p>Christmas Brick Tour Christmas themed lego type structures in the town centre</p>	25	25	Complete
<p>Town Centre Public Realm Improvements Creation of a Town Centre Public Realm masterplan. Improvements to the public realm including new street furniture and art installations.</p>	149	20	The Public Realm Masterplan has been commissioned and is due to be complete later in 2024. Art installations are in progress.
<p>Pytchley Road Bridge Access Improvements A park connector scheme project to improve accessibility from Great Central Walk to Pytchley Road Bridge.</p>	0*	0	Planned completion by March 2025. *£0.021m budget to be allocated to this capital scheme from other capital underspends, subject to approval in this report.

Appendix 1

UKPSF Year 2 – Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31 March 2024 £000	Project Progress
Management/Admin 4% A requirement from government to ensure 4% of revenue spend is used to administer and manage the spend; this contributes to staff costs.	30	30	N/A
Year 2 Total	741	427	

UKPSF Year 3 - Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31/03/2024 £000	Project Progress
Borough Wide Business Grants Grants for businesses across the borough.	90	0	Planned to start July 2024
Community Support Grants Grants available to reduce the cost of living for a value up to £5,000.	50	0	Planned to start July 2024
Sports Grants Grants available for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues for a value up to £5,000.	50	0	Planned to start July 2024
Small Business Support Second year of a two year fund for six business support programmes as identified in the Warwickshire wide small business support review.	194	0	In progress

Appendix 1

UKPSF Year 3 - Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31/03/2024 £000	Project Progress
Shopfront Improvement Scheme Encourage a better physical environment in the town centres by providing a fund to support shop front improvements in accordance with our Shop front Design SPD.	83	0	Planned following the adoption of the Shopfront Design Guide SPD.
Business and Community Hub Provide a physical and virtual space where local businesses, residents and delivery partners can come together as a Rugby focused community of support.	254	0	In progress
People and Skills Support Programmes offered for inclusive growth, young people, in-work progression and supporting future green careers within the borough.	300	0	In progress
Management/Admin 4% A requirement from government to ensure 4% of revenue spend is used to administer and manage the spend; this contributes to staff costs	34	0	N/A
Year 3 Total (Allocated)	1,055	0	

Appendix 1

UKPSF Year 3 - Project Name and Description	Budget Allocated £000	Spend as at 31/03/2024 £000	Project Progress
Still to be committed/approved	886	0	To be approved by Cabinet/Council once scheme finalised
Year 3 Overall Total	1,941	0	

Overall Summary

UKSPF Scheme Year	Budget £000	Actuals at 31/03/24 £000	Remaining Budget £000	Allocated Budget* £000	Unallocated Budget £000
1	371	363	(8)	8	
2	741	427	(314)	314	
3	1,941	0	0	1,055	886
Total	3,053	790	(322)	1,377	886

*Previously agreed projects by Council

Rugby Borough Council

Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment

Rugby Borough UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

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 2

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

Portfolio and Service Area	Growth and Investment
Policy/Service/Change being assessed	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) update
Is this a new or existing Policy/Service/Change?	This is a 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. All projects outlined in this report have previously been approved by Council and have all been subject to a Climate Change Assessment. The projects outlined have given consideration to the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Corporate Strategy whilst also benefitting the Borough's residents.</p> <p>This report details the spend and projects delivered to date.</p>
Completed By	Helen Nightingale Major Projects and Economic Development Manager
Authorised By	Nicola Smith – Chief Officer for Growth and Investment
Date of Assessment	02 July 2024

SECTION 2: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Appendix 2

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"/>	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.	N/A	N/A	Short term – 12 months
				Projects have also been approved that look to reduce energy consumption such as the replacement of halogen floodlights at Queen’s Jubilee Recreation Ground with LED floodlight bulbs.	N/A	N/A	Long term now the bulbs have been installed.
Fleet usage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sustainable Transport/Travel (customers and staff)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sustainable procurement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procurement of services in relation to the business hub and the public realm masterplan will be and have been done so with climate change strategy in mind.	N/A	N/A	Short-term 12 Months

Appendix 2

Community leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>The Local Partnership Group will have delegation to make recommendation enables the community to take ownership of grant funding pots to assist the local community.</p> <p>The creation of a business and community hub will also give the local community a central place to access opportunities for their businesses.</p>	N/A	N/A	Short-Term 12 Months
Biodiversity and habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Improvements to RBC's current green spaces with increased planting creating more habitats and biodiversity.	N/A	N/A	Long term
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 2

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) Update
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	02 July 2024
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)?	<p>The purpose of this report is to update the Council on progress of delivery of previously approved UKSPF projects, all of which have been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment.</p> <p>The report also requests a virement of capital funds to enable a further project to be approved to improve accessibility at Pytchley Road to enable Great Central Way to be accessible for those less abled.</p>

(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;
- Link places together with good quality green infrastructure; and
- Promote and encourage green and sustainable businesses within the borough.

Economy

- Promote Rugby as a place to do business;
- Encourage and support sustainable economic growth, consistent with our social and environmental priorities;
- Nurture and support independent shops;
- Help business thrive and provide jobs for our residents;
- Make sure residents have the skills they need to meet local demand; and
- Develop and promote our town centre as a place to live socialise and work.

Health and Communities

- Make sure our communities are safe
- Support residents to lead active lives, with high quality, accessible green space and recreational facilities

Organisation

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

Appendix 3

<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"> • Improved perception and experience of accessibility to the town centre and open spaces; • Increased visitor numbers to the town centre; • Creation and safeguarding of jobs; • Supporting those most at risk of fuel poverty; • Bringing people together through local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; and • Increased accessibility to Great Central Way via Pytchley Road Bridge
<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>
<p>(1) What does the information tell you about those groups identified?</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>The town centre business community, sports clubs, WCAVA and WCC have all been engaged as part of community, business and sports grant process through the Local Partnership Group as well as drop in events. Feedback on the grants process was received and taken in to account when assessing grant applications and support was given to help those complete grant application forms.</p>

Appendix 3

<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>			
<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? If yes, identify the groups and how they are affected.</p>	<p>RACE</p>	<p>DISABILITY Positive – opportunity to access support addressing barriers to employment. Positive – Increased accessibility for those less able to Great Central Way via Pytchley Road Bridge Positive – promotion of para swimming in Rugby and funded places for a new SEN and adapted abilities cheerleading team. New equipment to enable trampolining for those less able.</p>	<p>GENDER Positive – Local Sports clubs have been funded to enable accessibility for girls in to underrepresented sports such as football.</p>

Appendix 3

	MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	AGE Positive – grants were given to sports clubs to encourage younger children to access sports such as running and swimming.	GENDER REASSIGNMENT
	RELIGION/BELIEF	PREGNANCY MATERNITY	SEXUAL ORIENTATION
<p>(2) <u>Cross cutting themes</u></p> <p>(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>	<p>Yes. The white goods programme provided fridge/freezers, washing machines or slow cookers to those at most risk of experiencing fuel poverty.</p>		
<p>(3) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?</p>	<p>N/A</p>		
<p>(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.)</p>	<p>N/A</p>		

Appendix 3

<p>(5) How does the strategy/service/policy contribute to the promotion of equality? If not, what can be done?</p>	<p>Programmes and projects granted or that are in place are helping to promote equality through the increased accessibility for girls in to underrepresented sports such as football and enabling younger children to also access sports that have no family links to the sport such as running and swimming. The sports grant programmes that have also been approved support SEN cheerleading teams, para swimming and accessibility to trampolining for the less abled.</p>
<p>(6) How does the strategy/service/policy promote good relations between groups? If not, what can be done?</p>	<p>The relationships between groups will be recognised throughout the administration of the UKSPF projects in accordance with the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy Statement.</p>
<p>(7) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? If yes how can they be overcome?</p>	<p>No.</p>

<p><u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review and Monitoring</u></p>																														
<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 1070 2119 1297"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="875 1070 1120 1145">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1120 1070 1364 1145">Lead Officer</th> <th data-bbox="1364 1070 1615 1145">Date for completion</th> <th data-bbox="1615 1070 1865 1145">Resource requirements</th> <th data-bbox="1865 1070 2119 1145">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																				
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Appendix 3

(2) Review and Monitoring
State how and when you will monitor policy
and Action Plan

After the year 3 UKSPF fund is spent, the success of years 1, 2 and 3 spend will be evaluated to see if it achieved what it intended throughout 2022-2025.

Please annotate your policy with the following statement:

'An Equality Impact Assessment on this policy was undertaken on 2nd July 2024 and will be reviewed after 31st March 2025.