

**AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET**

<b>Report Title:</b>	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) - Year 3 Spend
<b>Name of Committee:</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	11 March 2024
<b>Report Director:</b>	Chief Officer- Growth and Investment
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Growth and Investment
<b>Ward Relevance:</b>	All Wards
<b>Prior Consultation:</b>	Internal consultation with Leadership Team, Finance, Corporate Performance and Risk and Equalities, UKPSF Local Partnership Group.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Helen Nightingale – Major Projects and Economic Development Manager
<b>Public or Private:</b>	Public
<b>Report Subject to Call-In:</b>	No
<b>Report En-Bloc:</b>	No
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	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 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) <a href="#">Corporate Strategy 2021-2024</a> <input type="checkbox"/> This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but
<b>Summary:</b>	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations for the allocation of a proportion of Year 3 UK Shared Prosperity Funding for 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2025.

<b>Financial Implications:</b>	The Council is required to provide bi-annual returns to government on the spending of UKSPF monies. If the money allocated for year 3 (2024/2025) is not spent by the Council or those the grant is allocated to the Council could be required to repay the money to Government. Any unfinished schemes which the Council has committed to would need to be financed by the Authority.
<b>Risk Management/Health and Safety Implications:</b>	The projects identified in the report will need to be delivered by the end of March 2025. By not completing the projects in time could result in the Council having to return unspent fund to Government and fund schemes started but not completed by March 2025.
<b>Environmental Implications:</b>	A Climate Change and Environment Impact Assessment has been completed and is attached as appendix 3. There is positive impact on energy usage, sustainable procurement, and community leadership.
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	None as a direct result of this report.
<b>Equality and Diversity:</b>	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 younger people.
<b>Options:</b>	<p><u>Option 1</u> Agree the spend and recommendations as set out in the report</p> <p><u>Option 2</u> Not agree the spend and recommendations as set out in the report</p>
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<p>IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. the allocation of UKSPF for 2024/2025 (year 3) as set out in the report be approved;</li> <li>2. 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 2024/2025;</li> </ol>

3. delegated authority is given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve recommendations of the Local Partnership Group in relation to successful borough wide business grant applications;
4. A supplementary capital budget of £200,000 be approved, as detailed in the report, and added to the capital programme, to be wholly funded by UKSPF grant.
5. A supplementary revenue budget of £560,960 be approved as detailed in the report to be wholly funded by UKSPF grant.

**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 - 11 March 2024**

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Year 3 Spend**

**Public Report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment**

**Recommendation**

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

1. the allocation of UKSPF for 2024/2025 (year 3) as set out in the report be approved.
2. 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 2024/2025.
3. delegated authority is given to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve recommendations of the Local Partnership Group in relation to successful borough wide business grant applications.
4. A supplementary capital budget of £200,000 be approved, as detailed in the report, and added to the capital programme, to be wholly funded by UKSPF grant.
5. A supplementary revenue budget of £560,960 be approved as detailed in the report to be wholly funded by UKSPF grant.

**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. This report sets out some projects the Council will undertake throughout 2024 and 2025 using some of the £1,941,420 allocated for the third and final year of the overall three-year fund. The Council has already agreed £294,140 spend of year 3 revenue funds back in October 2023. This report details the spend of £560,960 revenue and £200,000 capital funds.

A further report will be brought to Council later in 2024 providing an update to the previous years’ of UKSPF funding.

The table below shows an overview of the current projects including already approved schemes, schemes which are to be approved as detailed in this report and £886,320 capital which is still to be committed:

<b>UKSPF Year 3 (2024/25)</b>			
<b>Already committed (Council 25/10/2023)</b>	<b>Revenue Amount</b>	<b>Capital Amount</b>	<b>Total</b>
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	
<b>Total approved at Council 25/10/2023</b>	<b>£294,140</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£294,140</b>
<b>New Projects</b>			
Shopfront Improvement Scheme	£82,680	N/A	
Business and Community Hub	£54,080	£200,000	
Borough Wide Business Grants	£90,000	N/A	
People and Skills	£300,000	N/A	
Administration and Management 4%	£34,200	N/A	
<b>Total to be approved</b>	<b>£560,960</b>	<b>£200,000</b>	<b>£760,960</b>
<b>STILL TO BE COMMITTED</b>		<b>£886,320</b>	<b>£886,320</b>
<b>Year 3 Total</b>	<b>£855,100</b>	<b>£1,086,320</b>	<b>£1,941,420</b>

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;
- 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;
- Help business thrive and provide jobs for our residents; and
- Develop and promote our town centre as a place to live socialise and work.

#### 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 £1,055,110 UKSPF monies are not spent by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 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 funding for the 3 years was as follows:

Year 1 22/23	£370,500
Year 2 23/24	£741,000
Year 3 24/25	£1,941,420

- 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 in August 2022 to secure the funding. 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. The approved Investment Plan and accompanying Expenditure Profile is attached as Appendix 1 and 2 respectively.
- 1.5. The Government approved the submitted Investment Plan and Expenditure profile in February 2023 enabling Year 1 funds to be released to the Council.
- 1.6. 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.

1.7. In July 2023 and October 2023 Council agreed the projects to spend Year 2 funds of £741,000 for UKSPF as well as agreed the creation and remit of the Local Partnership Group.

1.8. 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 3 Spend (2024-2025)**

2.1. The funding allocated for Year 3 is £1,941,420, £1,086,320 of which is for capital projects whilst the remaining £855,100 is for revenue based projects. Government stipulates that within 2024/25 at least 13% of the fund is to be spent on capital projects and the Council is above that threshold at 23%.

2.2. Of the £855,100 expected to be spent on revenue projects, £294,140 of the fund has already been allocated and approved for year 3 as per the October 2023 Council report. This leaves £560,960 for revenue and £1,086,320 yet to be spent. The proposed projects to spend the remaining revenue amount and a proportion of the capital funds, needing approval are detailed below. The revenue cost also includes the 4% admin charge which is to allow Councils to administer the fund.

2.3. The Investment Plan (Appendix 1) identifies a number of projects for year 3 and these projects have been worked up in consultation with the Local Partnership Group, Chief Officers and Warwickshire County Council (WCC).

2.4. This report details the projects as a result of recent consultation as outlined above.

### **Priority 1- Community and Place**

#### **Shopfront Improvement Scheme (£82,680)**

2.5. UKSPF intervention E1 enables improvements to town centres and high streets with the objective of strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging.

2.6. A key aim of the Council's town centre regeneration programme is to improve the physical built environment and one of the ways in which the Council wishes to influence and drive these improvements is by elevating the appearance of existing shop fronts and supporting businesses to improve their existing quality. One of the 19 workstreams agreed by the Town Centre Regeneration Working Group is to produce planning documents which support town centre regeneration and the Shopfront SPD is on the work programme for 23/24.

2.7. Therefore, in support of the Shopfront SPD, which approval for consultation is sought elsewhere on the Cabinet agenda, it is proposed to use UKSPF funding to kickstart those improvements using the new guidance.

- 2.8. To ensure maximum benefit to the physical environment is felt, a targeted area of high visibility shops will be identified in the first instance in consultation with the Town Centre Regeneration Working Group. If funds are available thereon after, the scheme will be offered wider than the initial area.

## **Priority 2 - Local Business**

### **Business and Community Hub (£254,080)**

- 2.9. Investment Priority E24 seeks to fund new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.
- 2.10. The purpose of the hub is to provide a physical and virtual space where local businesses, residents, and delivery partners can come together as a Rugby focused community of support.
- 2.11. There will be four priority areas:
- Upskilling residents to bridge a skills gap through training programs designed to provide work experience, traineeships, digital literacy, job readiness).
  - Building a skilled and competitive workforce through a job placement service, apprenticeships, and continued education.
  - Nurturing local talent and fostering the growth of local businesses through business incubation, mentorship, access to funding start-up advice
  - Encouraging a support network of businesses and providing tailored business support services providing networking opportunities, regulatory training, business development, human resources amongst others.
- 2.12. Many of these services are provided across Warwickshire by a range of services providers, but there is often a complex process for local businesses to navigate, a lack of awareness of the support that is available, a reluctance to engage in something that does not have a local dimension and a lack of a joined-up approach at a local level by the deliverers of services and other strategic partners. Furthermore, there is a widely repeated view that Rugby lacks appropriate facilities that would accommodate the above types of activities and that this potentially skews provision of service to other parts of the County where suitable locations can be found.
- 2.13. The Business and Community hub would address these issues by encouraging local provision, where local connections can be facilitated by a dedicated and localized approach to ensure that support to our businesses and residents is optimized.
- 2.14. It is proposed that the hub would comprise four phases:



<b>Phase</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Timescales</b>	<b>Location</b>
Phase 1- Digital and initial engagement	This is commenced as soon as possible to pave the way to the physical hub	Spring/Summer 2024	Web-based
Phase 2 - Pilot physical space	A primarily public sector funded approach to test and build concept	1 year pilot	Townhall Ground Floor
Phase 3 -Interim hub	Transition to the town centre to provide a longer-term solution. The model maybe a more mixed public and private sector approach.	2-5 years	As part of a meanwhile use in the town centre
Phase 4 - Long-term	A sustainable business/community hub that is commercially led	As town centre transforms	A town centre location

2.15. Phases 1 and 2 are the subject of the rest of this paper. It is proposed that these two phases are commenced during 2024 and use UKSPF to provide the capital to refurbish an appropriate location and revenue support to provide core operating costs.

2.16. In determining a preferred location for the pilot, a number of principles were considered:

- An accessible location in the town centre;
- A space which could accommodate meeting room, bookable workspace, one to one facilities for confidential discussions and informal group/team discussions;
- Capable of being in operation by September 2024.

2.17. Although several locations were reviewed, it was felt that the best chance of success to have a pilot facility in operation was the Ground Floor of the Town Hall which includes the current reception area and space to the back of the reception which would house the new business and community hub. The proposals include refurbishment of the reception to ensure smooth working of the total area and good quality access to the proposed hub space. Some initial costing has taken place and to refurbish the relevant area including fit-out costs is estimated at £200,000. This would include purchase of furniture that could be relocated to a new facility if phase 3 progresses in due course.

2.18. From a public sector perspective, there is no one organisation capable of delivering this service including the Council which does not have the capacity

to deliver. Moreover, the longer-term hub envisages a more commercial approach so by bringing in a private sector partner at this early stage, would allow for some testing of the financial feasibility of bringing in a range of funding sources including commercial income.

2.19. The proposal involves an external company with experience with WCC, Warwickshire College and DWP so that they would operate the service for 12 months which would allow the testing of the hub concept and learning as to how best proceed on a more commercial basis. The facilities of the Hub would be provided to the external company free of charge and for the operation of the hub including the service provision identified above, there would be an agreement to pay £54,080 which would also deliver a range of the outputs contained in the UKSPF agreement with the UK Government. It has been estimated that the full operating cost of the hub for 12 months is £80,000 and provisionally, the remainder of the £80,000 would be generated by the external company from other funding sources that have been secured so that the balance of £25,920 would be utilised to support other skills programmes.

2.20. All phases would be subject to procurement and / or commercial negotiations.

### **Borough Wide Business Grants (£90,000)**

2.21. Supporting local business and more specifically, UKSPF intervention E20 which seeks to assist with research and development grants for new product, services and markets.

2.22. Following the success of the business grants for town centre businesses as part of Year 2 UKSPF, it is proposed to provide businesses across the borough of Rugby the opportunity to apply for financial support through a new grants scheme of £90,000.

2.23. The UKSPF Local Partnership Group and officers will review and make recommendations to the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to approve grant applications as they have done previous for the town centre, community and sports grants offered in 2023/2024.

### **Priority 3 – People and Skills (£300,000)**

2.24. As part of the Government's UKSPF Prospectus, funding for the third investment priority, People and Skills, was deferred until the third year (2024/25). Local Authorities were strongly urged by the UK Government to earmark expenditure on skills and employability in year 3 of the UKSPF due to the former ESF funded programmes concluding in year 2 of the UKSPF.

2.25. UKSPF intervention E33, E37 and E39 focuses on supporting economically inactive people overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive tailored support including access to basic skills.

- 2.26. The programmes offered will be focused on inclusive growth (unemployed and the economically inactive), young people, in-work progression and supporting future green careers within the borough.
- 2.27. E33 programme will provide intensive support and provide a range of barrier breaking activities to build soft skills whilst providing confidence building for local people.
- 2.28. E35 will focus on community -based projects that upskill the economically inactive/unemployed and the programmes will include:
- Skills development for the unemployed
  - Employability skills including employer expectations
  - Volunteering
  - Work experience
  - Confidence/motivation building
- 2.29. E37 will look to be delivered as a training incentive for local businesses to upskill staff internally, support employee progression and give organisations the option to further recruit over time. This approach also provides the upskilling escalator effect and supports with easing the tight labour market exhibited locally.
- 2.30. The programmes mentioned above are shown in the below table with costings to provide the support.

E33 -led by WCC	Employment support for economically inactive people	16–24-year-old Skills for your future - focused on moving closer to and into employment, education and training  25+ years old Skills for work -focused on moving closer to work	£140,000
E37 -led by WCC	Tailored support to help people into employment to address barriers to accessing education and training courses	Skills escalator fund - skills grant fund for Rugby's small/medium employers to upskill staff, allow staff to move upwards within the company and reskill to suit gaps	£80,000
E39 -led by WCC	Green skills courses targeted around	Business Future Skills - focused on supporting individuals with learning	£80,000

	ensuring skilled workforce to achieve net zero and wider environmental ambitions	leading to potential employment	
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### 3. Financial Implications

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

<b>UKSPF Year 3 (2024/25)</b>			
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<b>STILL TO BE COMMITTED</b>		<b>£886,320</b>	<b>£886,320</b>
<b>Year 3 Total</b>	<b>£855,100</b>	<b>£1,086,320</b>	<b>£1,941,420</b>

3.2. This report outlines the proposed spend of £200,000 capital funding and £560,960 revenue funding of the overall £1,941,420 Year 3 allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

3.3. This leaves £886,320 yet to be committed for 2024/2025 which will be addressed in a future report to Council in the summer. It is critical that schemes and projects are identified as quickly as possible so that the schemes can be delivered in 2024/25.

### 4. Options Available

4.1. 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

**5. Conclusion and Recommendations**

- 5.1. 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.
- 5.2. 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 2024/2025.
- 5.3. 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 borough wide business grant applications.

**Name of Meeting:** Cabinet  
**Date of Meeting:** 11 March 2024  
**Subject Matter:** UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 3 Spend  
**Originating Department:** Growth and Investment

**DO ANY BACKGROUND PAPERS APPLY**  **YES**

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Title of Document and Hyperlink</b>
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.

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Exempt information is contained in the following documents:

<b>Doc No</b>	<b>Relevant Paragraph of Schedule 12A</b>



# **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

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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.<sup>1</sup>

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 quotient<sup>2</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> ONS, GVA regional breakdown, 2022

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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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.<sup>3</sup>

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

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<sup>3</sup> Lightcast, GVA, 2022

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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
<b>Communities &amp; Place</b>	<b>Total for 'On-menu' Interventions</b>	<b>£1,852,295</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>£360,500</b>	<b>£462,800</b>	<b>£1,028,995</b>	<b>£1,852,295</b>	<b>£330,000</b>	<b>£30,500</b>	<b>£272,800</b>	<b>£190,000</b>	<b>£846,315</b>	<b>£182,680</b>	<b>£1,852,295</b>
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	Insert Bespoke Intervention		0%				£0							£0
<b>Communities &amp; Place</b>	<b>C&amp;P Bespoke Interventions Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Communities &amp; Place</b>	<b>Communities &amp; Place Interventions Total</b>	<b>£1,852,295</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>£360,500</b>	<b>£462,800</b>	<b>£1,028,995</b>	<b>£1,852,295</b>	<b>£330,000</b>	<b>£30,500</b>	<b>£272,800</b>	<b>£190,000</b>	<b>£846,315</b>	<b>£182,680</b>	<b>£1,852,295</b>
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
<b>Local Business</b>	<b>Total for 'On-menu' Interventions</b>	<b>£812,342</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£278,200</b>	<b>£524,142</b>	<b>£812,342</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£50,000</b>	<b>£228,200</b>	<b>£240,000</b>	<b>£284,142</b>	<b>£812,342</b>
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
<b>Local Business</b>	<b>LB Bespoke Interventions Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>Local Business</b>	<b>Local Business Interventions Total</b>	<b>£812,342</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£278,200</b>	<b>£524,142</b>	<b>£812,342</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£50,000</b>	<b>£228,200</b>	<b>£240,000</b>	<b>£284,142</b>	<b>£812,342</b>
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
<b>People &amp; Skills</b>	<b>Total for 'On-menu' Interventions</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>£388,284</b>
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
<b>People &amp; Skills</b>	<b>P&amp;S Bespoke Interventions Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>
<b>People &amp; Skills</b>	<b>People &amp; Skills Intervention Total</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£388,284</b>	<b>£388,284</b>
<b>Allocation Totals</b>		<b>£3,052,921</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>£370,500</b>	<b>£741,000</b>	<b>£1,941,421</b>	<b>£3,052,921</b>	<b>£330,000</b>	<b>£40,500</b>	<b>£322,800</b>	<b>£418,200</b>	<b>£1,086,315</b>	<b>£855,106</b>	<b>£3,052,921</b>

# 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 Chief Executive.

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

<b>Portfolio and Service Area</b>	Growth and Investment
<b>Policy/Service/Change being assessed</b>	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Year3 Spend
<b>Is this a new or existing Policy/Service/Change?</b>	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.
<b>If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment</b>	None.
<b>Ward Specific Impacts</b>	Borough-wide.
<b>Summary of assessment</b> 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 3 spend is centred around funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improvements to shop fronts;</li> <li>• Improving local green spaces;</li> <li>• Business and Community Hub;</li> <li>• Borough Wide Business Grants; and</li> <li>• People and Skills Programmes</li> </ul> <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>
<b>Completed By</b>	Helen Nightingale Major Projects and Economic Development Manager
<b>Authorised By</b>	Nicola Smith – Chief Officer for Growth and Investment
<b>Date of Assessment</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> February 2024

## SECTION 2: IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Climate Change and Environmental Impacts	No Impact	Positive	Negative	Description of impact	Any actions or mitigation to reduce negative impacts	Action owner	Timescales
<b>Energy usage</b>	<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
<b>Fleet usage</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Sustainable Transport/Travel (customers and staff)</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Sustainable procurement</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procurement of services in relation to the business hub and people and skills will be done so with climate change strategy in mind.	N/A	N/A	Short-term 12 Months

<b>Community leadership</b>	<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
<b>Biodiversity and habitats</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Adaptation/Mitigation</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Impact on other providers/partners</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				

**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.

<b>Review date</b>	Not required for this document – additional documents will have their own assessment.
<b>Key points to be considered through review</b>	N/A
<b>Person responsible for review</b>	N/A
<b>Authorised by</b>	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](mailto:aftab.razzaq@rugby.gov.uk)  
01788 533521

## Equality Impact Assessment

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Growth and Investment</b>
<b>Policy/Service being assessed</b>	<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Spend Year 3</b>
<b>Is this a new or existing policy/service?  If existing policy/service please state date of last assessment</b>	No. Council approved the general areas of spend across the three years at Council.
<b>EqlA Review Team – List of members</b>	<b>Helen Nightingale</b>
<b>Date of this assessment</b>	<b>14 February 2024</b>
<b>Signature of responsible officer (to be signed after the EqlA has been completed)</b>	<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**

<b><u>Stage 1 – Scoping and Defining</u></b>	
(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 3 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?	<p>The projects listed meet objectives within the four Corporate Strategy Outcomes, Climate, Economy, Health and Communities and Organisation. These objectives include:</p> <p><u>Climate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce resident's and business' impact on the environment and help them adapt to the consequences of climate change;</li> <li>• Promote and encourage green and sustainable businesses within the borough.</li> </ul> <p><u>Economy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote Rugby as a place to do business;</li> <li>• Encourage and support sustainable economic growth, consistent with our social and environmental priorities;</li> <li>• Help business thrive and provide jobs for our residents; and</li> <li>• Develop and promote our town centre as a place to live socialise and work.</li> </ul> <p><u>Organisation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain robust systems of governance that ensure fairness, accountability and transparency.</li> </ul>

<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"> <li>• Improved perception and experience of accessibility to the town centre and open spaces;</li> <li>• Increased visitor numbers to the town centre;</li> <li>• Creation and safeguarding of jobs;</li> <li>• Increase in number of new businesses created;</li> <li>• Reduced number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support;</li> <li>• Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups (and/or) increased employability through development of interpersonal skills</li> <li>• Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)</li> <li>• Increased number of people in supported employment (and) number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services</li> <li>• Increased number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services</li> <li>• Increased number of people engaged in job searching following support</li> <li>• Increased number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support</li> <li>• Increased number of people sustaining employment for 6 months</li> <li>• Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance</li> <li>• Increased number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills</li> <li>• Increased number of people gaining a qualification following support</li> </ul>
<p>(4) Does or will the policy or decision affect:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Customers</li> <li>• Employees</li> <li>• Wider community or groups</li> </ul>	<p>The decision will impact upon customers and the wider community.</p>

<b><u>Stage 2 - Information Gathering</u></b>	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).		
(1) What does the information tell you about those groups identified?			
(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?			
(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.	Warwickshire County Council, who will be delivering some programmes of support have been in contact with DWP and the Princes Trust to identify skills gaps and barriers to employment.		
<b><u>Stage 3 – Analysis of impact</u></b>			
(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?	<b>RACE</b>	<b>DISABILITY</b> Positive – opportunity to access support addressing barriers to employment.	<b>GENDER</b>

If yes, identify the groups and how they are affected.	<b>MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP</b>	<b>AGE</b> Positive – programmes specifically aimed at younger people aged 16-24 to create opportunities for employment and addressing current barriers.	<b>GENDER REASSIGNMENT</b>
	<b>RELIGION/BELIEF</b>	<b>PREGNANCY MATERNITY</b>	<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>
<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>	Yes. The People and Skills programmes proposed are aimed at the economically inactive population of the borough, with a particular focus around those who are acutely disadvantaged to assist in addressing social inequality.		
(3) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?	N/A		
(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 programmes that helps to address social inequality.		

(6) How does the strategy/service/policy promote good relations between groups? If not, what can be done?	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.
(7) Are there any obvious barriers to accessing the service? If yes how can they be overcome?	No.

<b><u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review and Monitoring</u></b>																														
<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>EqIA Action Plan</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="875 834 2105 1062"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="875 834 1120 911">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1120 834 1364 911">Lead Officer</th> <th data-bbox="1364 834 1615 911">Date for completion</th> <th data-bbox="1615 834 1865 911">Resource requirements</th> <th data-bbox="1865 834 2105 911">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																										
(2) Review and Monitoring State how and when you will monitor policy and Action Plan	<p>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.</p>																													

Please annotate your policy with the following statement:

**‘An Equality Impact Assessment on this policy was undertaken on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and will be reviewed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.**