

AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Report Title:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Year 3 Spend
Name of Committee:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	16 September 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, Local Partnership Group.
Contact Officer:	Helen Nightingale – Major Projects and Regeneration Manager
Public or Private:	Public
Report Subject to Call-In:	No
Report En-Bloc:	No
Forward Plan:	Yes
Corporate Priorities:	This report relates to the following priorities: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby is an environmentally sustainable place, where we work together to reduce and mitigate the effects of climate change. (C) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby has a diverse and resilient economy that benefits and enables opportunities for all residents. (E) <input type="checkbox"/> Residents live healthy, independent lives, with the most vulnerable protected. (HC) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rugby Borough Council is a responsible, effective and efficient organisation. (O) Corporate Strategy 2021-2024 <input type="checkbox"/> This report does not specifically relate to any Council priorities but
(C) Climate (E) Economy (HC) Health and Communities (O) Organisation	
Summary:	The purpose of this report is to make recommendations for the allocation of the remaining proportion of UK Shared Prosperity

Fund, and requires to be spent by 31st March 2025.

Financial Implications:

The additional capital spend of £0.055m for the Business and Community Hub and £0.750m for the Rugby College Electric Vehicle centre, as outlined in the report, will be added to the capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant. The revenue virement of £0.058m to administration and management will allow the grants to be delivered and monitored by 31/03/2025.

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 in 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 1. There is positive impact on energy usage, sustainable transport/travel, sustainable procurement 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 2 and it will have a positive impact on people with disabilities, younger people and gender.

Options:

Option 1

Agree to the spend and recommendations as set out in the report

Option 2

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

Recommendation:

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET THAT –

1. A supplementary capital budget of £0.055m for the Business and Community Hub be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant; and
2. A general fund revenue virement of £0.058m from town centre public realm improvements to cover additional

management and administration costs for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant.

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT-

3. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make any other minor changes to spend to ensure all money is spent by the end of the financial year 2024/2025;
4. A supplementary capital budget of £0.750m for the Rugby College Electric Vehicle Centre be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant; and
5. Delegated authority for the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to enter into any necessary legal or funding agreements in relation to the Rugby College Electric Vehicle Centre

**Reasons for
Recommendation:**

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

Cabinet - 16 September 2024

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Year 3 Spend

Public Report of the Chief Officer – Growth and Investment

Recommendation

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO CABINET THAT-

1. A supplementary capital budget of £0.055m for the Business and Community Hub be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant; and
2. A general fund revenue virement of £0.058m from town centre public realm improvements to cover additional management and administration costs for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant.

IT BE RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL THAT –

3. Delegated authority be given to the Chief Officer for Finance and Performance in consultation with the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to make any other minor changes to spend to ensure all money is spent by the end of the financial year 2024/2025;
4. A supplementary capital budget of £0.750m for the Rugby College Electric Vehicle Centre be approved and added to the general fund capital programme for 2024/25, to be fully funded from UKSPF grant; and
5. Delegated authority for the Chief Officer for Growth and Investment to enter into any necessary legal or funding agreements in relation to the Rugby College Electric Vehicle Centre.

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was introduced across a three-year period of 2022-2025. This report sets out projects the Council will undertake to 31 March 2025 using the remaining unallocated capital funds of £0.886m. The Council has already agreed £2.167m of the three-year fund, which totals £3.053m.
- 1.2 One capital project detailed in this report is contributing £0.750m to Rugby College, part of Warwickshire College Group, to create the Rugby Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre. The EV Centre will give a focus to the transition to a lower carbon economy for Rugby and enable local residents and businesses to access a range of training programmes, upskilling, building capacity and

enabling the whole community to achieve the aspirations of Rugby Net Zero and Rugby Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy.

- 1.3 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. It was agreed by Council 19 July 2022 the split of the yearly funds across the three investment priorities, Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. It is recommended that the remaining £0.040m of the capital funds, allocated against investment priority 'Supporting Local Business' in the Investment Plan, plus £0.015m of unspent capital from a reporting inaccuracy to Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) in Year 1 return be transferred to the Business and Community Hub scheme, increasing the budget to £0.255m. The final costings have taken into account further works to improve the entrance experience and enlargement of interview rooms to ensure they are accessible to all.
- 1.4 In addition to this, based on previous government guidance, the 4% administration and management fee has previously been calculated based on the revenue allocation only rather than the whole allocation both revenue and capital. Based on the most up to date advice from Government the 4% administration and management fee can be applied to the whole allocation so this transfer meets the terms of the fund. It is recommended that the £0.058m be used to cover the administration of the fund in year 3 and to provide additional resource to review and administer grants for businesses, sports and community groups.
- 1.5 £0.096m of capital remains unallocated. A further report will be brought for approval in October once details are finalised. Any of the UKSPF that is not spent by 31 March 2025 will need to be returned to Government.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In April 2022 the previous government announced a new fund to support its levelling up agenda between 2022 and 2025. 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 UKSPF is centred around three investment priorities Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.
- 2.3 The Council's Government Funding 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 to spend £2.167m of the total £3.053m across the three years of the fund. This report recommends further projects to allocate £0.790m of the remaining £0.886m capital funds as well as reallocate £0.058m from

underspend on previously allocated town centre public realm improvements to support the delivery, monitoring and management of grants available to Rugby communities, residents and businesses.

3 YEAR 3 PROJECTS FUNDED BY GOVERNMENT THROUGH UKSPF

3.1 The funding allocated for Year 3 is £1.941m, £1.055m of which has been allocated as per previous Council reports leaving the remaining £0.886m of capital funds to be allocated.

3.2 The below projects outline the recommended spend of £0.790m of the remaining £0.886m.

Electric Vehicle Centre – Rugby College

3.3 Warwickshire College Group (WCG) is responding to the West Midlands and Warwickshire Local Skills Improvement Plan (LSIP) and other local and national priorities, including Rugby Borough Council's Climate Change Strategy and UK Shared Prosperity Fund Implementation Plan, by establishing a green skills focus, alongside their existing construction, engineering and motor vehicle provision, at Rugby College.

3.4 To achieve this WCG has identified two projects:

- A Sustainable Construction Centre at Rugby College, funded through the Local Skills Improvement Fund in September 2024; and
- The Rugby Electric Vehicle Centre in September 2025.

3.5 WCG is confident that establishing a green and sustainable skills focus at Rugby College will have far reaching benefits for students, the local community and the broader automotive industry by:

Meeting industry demand – there is a growing demand for skilled technicians who can service and maintain EVs. Offering training programmes can help meet this demand and provide students with valuable skills sought after by employers.

Economic growth – A focus on green and sustainable technologies including EV could contribute to attracting investment and fostering innovation within the Borough.

Creating job opportunities – Warwickshire is home to many automotive companies' supply chains and by having skilled technicians in the region could attract additional investment and businesses to the area, creating further job opportunities.

Environmental impact – EV are a component of combating climate change and by training technicians in EV technology, Rugby College would contribute to the adoption and maintenance of eco-friendly transportation options.

Community engagement – By offering programmes that align with current industry trends, this demonstrates the college's response to societal needs and its commitments to providing relevant education and training. The College also hope to raise awareness amongst the local community of green and sustainable technologies through education.

Partnerships and collaboration – Partnering with EV manufacturers, automotive companies and other stakeholders that would enhance the College’s curriculum and resources.

- 3.6 WCG is seeking £0.845m to carry out a reorganisation of underutilised facilities with the objective of creating physical space within the existing college for a larger vehicle workshop including a dedicated Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre. However, it is proposed that the Council contributes £0.750m to the project, which is also being partly funded by LSIP and other means.
- 3.7 The new EV centre will, alongside the Sustainable Construction Centre, give vital focus to the transition to a lower carbon economy for Rugby. The local community, residents and businesses will be able to access a range of training programmes and upskilling, building capacity and enabling the whole community to achieve the aspirations of Rugby Net Zero and Rugby Borough Council’s Climate Change Strategy. Currently there is no such facility in Rugby to upskill local people with nearest facilities being either in Warwick, Coventry or Wolverhampton.
- 3.8 This project will also support the achievement of the objectives of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) within the “People and Skills” priority, in particular supporting interventions:
- E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.
 - E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors
- 3.9 Table 2 below forecasts the number of people who would be supported through the below interventions which is between 300-400 people in the first five years of opening.

Table 2: UKSPF intervention output forecast

Intervention	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Total
<i>E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.</i>						
Justification: Barrier to accessing training in Rugby District is the lack of available training facilities in the local area. The lack of available training courses means that potential learners are also unable to access Government funding/support for their training creating another barrier. This project will provide a high quality training facility, close to Rugby town centre, easily accessible by car (free parking available), via local bus routes and located close to Rugby train station. By opening a new facility in Rugby District, WCG will be able to offer additional courses funded through AEB, Skills Bootcamps, Free Courses for Jobs and other appropriate programmes (subject to eligibility) as well as offering short courses on a commercial basis.						
Number of people supported to participate in education	60	75	90	90	120	435
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills	50	60	75	75	100	360
<i>E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors</i>						
Justification: This project will create a facility focused on green skills and in particular supporting the transition to low carbon skills from high carbon skill areas. Currently, the motor vehicle and construction industries are still high carbon sectors. However, the transition to net zero is progressing quickly with industries increasingly changing through electrification. This project will give Rugby College the capacity to provide vital retraining for employees within traditional businesses to embrace electrification. For example, retaining technicians at local garages to maintain and repair EVs or tradespeople to install EV charging points or solar panels.						
Number of people retraining	40	50	75	75	100	340

Business and Community Hub

- 3.10 Council approved £0.254m (£0.200m capital and £0.054m revenue) of UKSPF in March 2024 for the creation of a Business and Community Hub. The £0.200m capital was for the physical reconfiguration of the Council's reception area to accommodate the Business and Community Hub, which will offer support for entrepreneurs and start-ups through early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.
- 3.11 Following Council approval, plans have been advanced to accommodate the Business and Community Hub, which is at risk of compromising services offered in our current reception area. Therefore, taking into account the needs of the Council's customers, plans now include improvements to the reception entrance doorway, changes to interview rooms making them accessible to all and enabling the utilisation of underused space to provide more room for customer/staff interactions, without which would have compromised the ability to deliver both an adequate customer service and the Business and Community Hub.
- 3.12 The revisions to the plans have resulted in an increase in the overall cost of the project and it is therefore recommended that the existing unallocated capital funds of £0.040m under the second UKSPF priority (Supporting Businesses), and £0.015m of unspent capital from a reporting inaccuracy to MHCLG in a Year 1 return is used to support the additional budgetary pressures of the previously approved Business and Community Hub scheme in line with intervention priority E24:

Funding for 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 the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.

- 3.13 The project was originally planned to be completed by September 2024, however due to the detailed design work and the need to make further changes, it is anticipated the works will be completed by the end of October with the Business and Community Hub being operational by end of November 2024.
- 3.14 The contract with the operator of the business hub is currently being finalised which will include key deliverables over the two year trial period. An update will be provided to Council, following the completion of the first year, which will set out progress on these deliverables.

4 DELIVERY, MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT OF EXISTING GRANTS

- 4.1 During the evolution of the UKSPF grant there has also been differing views given by MHCLG as to how the 4% admin fee should be accounted for. Advice given in year 1 was that the administration fee could only be calculated on the basis of the revenue allocation however this advice has now changed so it applies against the whole fund both revenue and capital. This new advice provides the opportunity for the re-allocation of funds.

- 4.2 The Council previously approved £0.114m to fund improvements to the town centre such as, street furniture upgrades, improved car park signage and works towards the traffic regulation order for High Street and Sheep Street in October 2023.
- 4.3 In December 2023 the Council commissioned a Public Realm Masterplan to review the entire public realm across Rugby Town centre with the objective of it producing improvement schemes and zones, a material and street furniture pallet, improved wayfinding and reconfiguration of some areas of public realm. The emerging work demonstrates that undertaking the initially approved schemes in October 2023 would be premature in advance of a holistic masterplan, knitting the public realm together.
- 4.4 As there are no short-term public realm projects in the pipeline that can utilise the remaining £0.058m of the originally allocated £0.114m revenue budget in time for 31 March 2025, due to the public realm masterplan being developed, it is proposed to be use £0.058m to deliver, monitor and engage in the various UKSPF grants currently available for the community, sports clubs and businesses of Rugby. Additional resources have been put in place to enable these grant to be delivered the cost of which would be covered by the administration fee of the fund.
- 4.5 Table 1 below shows an overview UKSPF budgets for 2024/25. Of the Council's total UKSPF allocation of £3.053m, £0.790m had been spent at 31/03/2024 as detailed in the July 2024 report to Council. The remaining budget for 2024/25 of £2.263m is summarised below.

Table 1: Proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2024/25 Budget

UKSPF Scheme Year	Total Budget 2024/25 £000	Allocated Budget 2024/25 £000	Unallocated Budget 2024/25 £000
1	8	8	
2	314	314	
3	1,941	1,845	96
Total	2,263	2,167	96

- 4.6 The allocated budget amount of £2.167m shown in the table above includes the schemes already approved by Cabinet and Council previously plus the capital schemes of £0.750m and £0.055m (£0.040m unallocated capital and £0.015m capital remaining from year 1 as detailed within 3.12) which are subject to approval in this report.
- 4.7 This leaves £0.096m of capital unallocated. A further report will be brought for approval of this in October once details are finalised.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 In order to ensure that the UKSPF revenue and capital grants are fully utilised by the deadline of 31/03/2025, the following approvals are requested within this report. All spend is to be funded from UKSPF grants.
- 5.2 A supplementary capital budget of £0.750m is requested within the recommendations of this report as a contribution to Rugby College for them to develop an EV centre. This is a new scheme to add to the capital programme for 2024/25. Further details are within sections 3.3-3.9.
- 5.3 A supplementary capital budget of £0.055m is requested within the recommendations of this report as an additional budget to the existing capital scheme for 2024/25 for the Business and Community hub, located within the reception area of the Town Hall. Further details are within sections 3.10-3.13.
- 5.4 Reallocation of £0.058m revenue grant is requested for 2024/25 from town centre public realm improvements, for which proposals are not yet ready to proceed, to cover additional administration and management support of the scheme, as detailed within sections 4.1-4.4.

6 Options Available

- 6.1 Taking the above into account, two options are proposed for consideration by Council, namely:

Option 1

Agree to the spend and recommendations as set out in the report

Option 2

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

7 Conclusion and Recommendations

- 7.1 All projects outlined in this report are in accordance with the aspirations of the UKSPF investment priorities and are being carried out by officers to ensure the UK shared prosperity fund is spent in Rugby to create a better place to live, do business and visit.
- 7.2 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.
- 7.3 The Council is yet to allocate the final capital funds of a value of £0.096m. The proposed spend of this remaining amount will be brought back to Council later this year.

Rugby Borough Council

Climate Change and Environmental Impact Assessment

Rugby Borough UK Shared Prosperity Fund Year 3 Spend

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.

SECTION 1: OVERVIEW

Portfolio and Service Area	Growth and Investment
Policy/Service/Change being assessed	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Year 3 Spend
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.	The UKSPF is centred around three investment priorities Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. The projects outlined have given consideration to the Council's Climate Change Strategy and Corporate Strategy whilst also benefitting the Borough's residents. This report details the spend and projects delivered to date.
Completed By	Helen Nightingale Major Projects and Economic Development Manager
Authorised By	Nicola Smith – Chief Officer for Growth and Investment
Date of Assessment	16 th August 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
Energy usage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The outcomes of this report will contribute to the creation of an Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre at Rugby College, aiding in the transition of businesses and residents to a lower carbon economy for Rugby by enabling access to training programmes for upskilling and retraining to achieve Net Zero aspirations.	N/A	N/A	Medium Term – 1-5 years
Fleet usage	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Sustainable Transport/Travel (customers and staff)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Having the ability to retrain people in Electric Vehicles within the borough, this provides vital local infrastructure for greener and more sustainable travel in the future.			Medium Term – 1-5 years
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
Community leadership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The creation of a business and community hub will also give the local community a central place to access opportunities for their businesses.	N/A	N/A	Short-Term 12 Months
Biodiversity and habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				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"/>				

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) Year 3 Spend
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	16 August 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 agree spend of unallocated funds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>The Projects are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributions towards Rugby College to construct an Electric Vehicle (EV) Centre • Allocate additional funds towards the creation of a Business and Community Hub in the Council's Reception Area • Reallocate funds from a previous project to the management and administration of our previously approved grant schemes.

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

The projects listed meet objectives within three of 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;
- Work together to further improve the Borough's connectivity and encourage greener travel; 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;
- Help business thrive and provide jobs for our residents; and
- Make sure residents have the skills they need to meet local demand.

Organisation

- Maintain robust systems of governance that ensure fairness, accountability and transparency, and
- Treat taxpayers' money with respect and ensure that our high-quality services demonstrate value for money

<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"> • Increased number of people supported to participate in education • Increased number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills • Increased number of people retraining • Increased number of businesses receiving financial and non financial support • Number of businesses receiving grants • Increased number of entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready • Increased number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity • Creation of jobs and number of jobs safeguarded
<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. This indicated more support was needed which the request for additional funds for administration will aid in.</p>

<p>(3) If you have not consulted or engaged with communities that are likely to be affected by the policy or decision, give details about when you intend to carry out consultation or provide reasons for why you feel this is not necessary.</p>			
<p><u>Stage 3 – Analysis of impact</u></p>			
<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 who currently visit the Council’s reception area. Positive – increased resource to deliver grant scheme projects will have a direct impact on the ability to assist communities with their projects which we have previously seen include access for people with SEN, and those that are less able than others.</p>	<p>GENDER Positive – increased resource to deliver grant scheme projects will have a direct impact on the ability to assist communities with their projects which we have previously seen include access for girls in to under represented sports such as football.</p>



	MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP	AGE Positive – increased resource to deliver grant scheme projects will have a direct impact on the ability to assist communities with their projects which we have previously seen include access for younger children and families not previously engaged in sport.	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>The improvement to the Council's reception area to accommodate the Business and Community Hub will facilitate better spaces for those customers considered more vulnerable.</p>		
<p>(3) If there is an adverse impact, can this be justified?</p>	<p>N/A</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.)	N/A
(5) How does the strategy/service/policy contribute to the promotion of equality? If not, what can be done?	Programmes and projects previously granted 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. Having the additional support to deliver these high impactful projects is vital for their successful administration.
(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.

<u>Stage 4 – Action Planning, Review and Monitoring</u>	
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<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"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="875 352 1120 427">Action</th> <th data-bbox="1120 352 1364 427">Lead Officer</th> <th data-bbox="1364 352 1615 427">Date for completion</th> <th data-bbox="1615 352 1865 427">Resource requirements</th> <th data-bbox="1865 352 2107 427">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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<p>(2) Review and Monitoring State how and when you will monitor policy and Action Plan</p>	<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 2nd July 2024 and will be reviewed after 31st March 2025.

