

## REPORT TO THE BROMSGROVE PARTNERSHIP BY THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND TASK AND FINISH GROUP

**Attending:** Graeme Anderson - Chair (BDHT), Kevin Dicks (BDC), Gary Roskell (BARN), Gary Woodman (Worcestershire LEP), Julia Breakwell (HoW College alternate)

### Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were recorded:

- Kevin Dicks in relation to the following projects:
  - i) Centres Public Realm Enhancement Programme
  - ii) CCTV Promotion
  - iii) Bromsgrove Park Improvements
  - iv) Room for Risk
  - v) What will you do when you're in charge?
  - vi) Digital Heritage Trail
- Gary Roskell in relation to The Volunteer Centre project.
- Gary Woodman in relation to the Bromsgrove Foodie Fortnight project.

### Notes of the Meeting

1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund task and finish group met on Monday 15 May 2023 to assess project proposals submitted for funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
2. Julia Breakwell represented HoW College as Stuart Laverick has retired. In future, the college will be represented by the new principal, Michelle Dowse.
3. The group were scheduled to consider funding for Communities & Place projects in Year 3, projects that had been deferred from the previous meeting on 1/12/22, and assessment of People & Skills Projects.
4. A discussion took place regarding People & Skills projects. The district council has been in conversation with the other districts in the County who are all minded to consider opportunities for collaboration and countywide programmes to deliver economies of scale. The group deferred decisions regarding People & Skills projects until July 2023 to enable the development of proposals.
5. The group considered proposals for funding of Communities & Place projects in year 3 and make the following recommendations:

Project Name	Deliverer	Project Description
Act on Energy Caseworker	Act on Energy	Continuation of year 2 project
Centres Public Realm Enhancement Programme	Bromsgrove District Council	Continuation of year 2 project
VIY	Volunteer It Yourself	Continuation of year 2 project

The Volunteer Centre	BARN	Continuation of year 2 project
Advice First Aiders	CAB Bromsgrove & Redditch	Continuation of year 2 project
Bromsgrove Parks Improvements	Bromsgrove District Council	Continuation of year 2 project

6. The group considered projects deferred from the meeting on 1/12/23 and recommend that the following receive funding:

Project Name	Deliverer	Project Description
Room for Risk	Cultural Compact for North East Worcestershire	Grant programme for organisations to deliver arts and cultural activities in redundant spaces.
Wythall Park Capital Grant	Wythall Community Association	Two proposals for improvements to Wythall Park, focussed on park safety and improvements to the park building, were submitted. The recommendation is that a capital grant of £50,000, rather than the £71,000 ask, be awarded to fund park improvements.
Foodie Fortnight	Visit Worcestershire	Foodie Fortnight is an opportunity to support the local eateries while offering bespoke taster menus to local residents and visitors. It is a great way to showcase an area's foodies offering and create business for restaurants at quiet times of the year.

7. The following projects are recommended for refusal:

Project Name	Deliverer	Reason for Refusal
Grow Wythall Park	Wythall Community Association	Whilst the project responds to an opportunity identified in the investment plan, it has poor alignment to the interventions. The project had potential to be detrimental to the vitality of the local centre.
#Making Bromsgrove – What will you do when you're in charge	Cultural Compact for North East Worcestershire	The project was assessed as having limited impact. There were concerns as to whether the outputs / outcomes could be delivered as the proposals are still in development.

#Making Bromsgrove – Digital Heritage Trail	Cultural Compact for North East Worcestershire	The project does not respond to a key challenge or opportunity identified in the investment plan. It is not well-aligned to the intervention in that it does not provide any business support.
Natural Networks	Worcestershire County Council	Whilst the project scored well on the assessment, it scored lower than other projects which delivered against the same intervention. Lack of availability of funds means the project cannot be supported.

8. The partnership is asked to endorse the recommendations of the task & finish group.