

*Note: This document was updated 01 September 2023 with Update on the UKSPF to the Bromsgrove Partnership 30-3-23*

## Extract from the minutes of the Bromsgrove Partnership Board meeting held on 30 March 2023

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update - KD provided a brief update stating that funding for Communities and Place projects in years 1 and 2 had been approved. Funding for supporting local business projects had also been approved for all 3 years of the programme. KD highlighted the strict criteria that had to be met and that unsuccessful as well as successful bidders for years 1 and 2 had been notified. He highlighted the significant amount of work Georgina Harris had done to interpret the bids to assist.

Information was to be published on North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration (NWedR) website with a link from the District Council's website.

KD stated that the sub group of the Board was due to meet in May and also highlighted: anticipated underspend; reporting to Government; and changes to the Programme made by the Government in recent days. KD to provide the written update to be circulated with the minutes.

**ACTION:** Full written update to be circulated with the minutes.

### **UPDATE ON THE UK SPF TO THE BROMSGROVE PARTNERSHIP 30 MARCH 2023**

#### **Project Selection**

Funding for Communities & Place projects in years 1 & 2 has been approved. Funding for Supporting Local Business projects has been approved of all 3 years of the programme. All applicants have been notified of the outcome. The sub-group of the board is scheduled to meet on 15/5/23 to assess Communities & Place projects for year 3. This could include the continuation of projects that have received funding in years 1 & 2. The sub-group will also consider People & Skills projects for funding in year 3.

The next step is to issue funding agreements to successful applicants. The legal team are currently working on the documentation.

#### **Governance**

To ensure transparency, details of the decision-making process will be publicly available. This information will be published on the NWedR website, together with details of the projects that will be receiving funding.

#### **Reporting to Government**

The first report to DLUHC has been submitted. This was a summary report detailing the UK SPF spend as at 28/2/23 and the forecast spend to 31/3/23. We are forecasting an underspend of £241,894.60 revenue funding at the end of the

financial year. Some of the underspend has been used for capital expenditure so we are requesting to re-profile £227,238.22 to next year.

The next report is due 2/5/23. This is an end of year report and will include the “credible plan” detailing how the underspend from year 1 will be used in year 2. The information requested for the credible plan is not too onerous (maximum 500 words) and we are confident that the spend will get back on track.

### **Changes to Programme Rules**

On 23/3/23, Government notified local authorities that the restrictions on funding People & Skills projects in year 2 has been lifted. Previously, only ESF funded projects that were delivered by the VCS and were at risk of ending were eligible for funding. We are now able to fund People & Skills projects in year 2 but currently, no funding has been allocated to this investment priority.

### **List of Funded Projects**

Communities & Place	CCTV Digital Updgrade
	Act on Energy Intensive Community Caseworker
	Friendship Matters
	Aston Fields Christmas Lights Infrastructure
	Centres Public Realm Enhancement Programme
	VIY - Volunteer It Yourself
	The Volunteer Centre
	CCTV Promotion
	Advice First Aiders
	Bromsgrove Park
	Refurbishment of Blackwell Village Hall
Support to Local Business	Support to Local Business
	Betaden
	Worcestershire Growth Hub
	Frontage Improvement & Empty Space Scheme
	Centre Events