

Extract from the minutes of the Bromsgrove Partnership Board meeting held on 26 July 2022

(The relevant [BDC Cabinet Report](#) (for the meeting held on 27 July 2022) together with [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) were shared)

5. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Georgina Harris (GH) went through highlights of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and explained that this was a replacement for EU Structural Funds. The prospectus was issued in April this year. The allocation for the District of Bromsgrove is £2.8m and broken down over 3 years from 2022 – 2025. The aim of the fund is building pride in place and increasing life chances. It focusses on the 3 investment priorities of Community and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills. To access the allocation, there was a requirement to produce an investment plan setting out how we intend to use the funding and expected outcomes of the investments. Districts are to identify relevant areas from 41 potential interventions. Approach taken to ask partners and stakeholders for projects to be considered. Time restraints were tight because the Investment Plan must be submitted to Government by 1 August. Recent advice received was 30% could be changed without permission and funding moved around interventions.

Government required the investment plan to be endorsed by a Local Partnership Group. Instead of a separate partnership being convened for UKSPF, it had been proposed that Bromsgrove Partnership take on the role. GH referred to a briefing with Graeme Anderson and Rachel Jones, as Board Chair and Vice Chair, and Kevin Dicks. The role of the Board would be to influence and help inform how the money was spent, with the District Council Cabinet as the decision makers. Consideration on what projects would be funded did not need to be decided at this point. Government approval of the submitted investment plan was expected by October at the earliest.

Kevin Dicks asked other Board members if the split of funding between the pillars and interventions seemed right based on the collective knowledge of the community.

Questions were answered including explaining that the Lead Local Authority is required to identify a minimum percentage of capital projects each year. In Year 1 this is a minimum of 10%, Year 2 - 13% and Year 3 - 20%. Allocations are pre-defined by the Government and want to see a plan for each year. GH confirmed some projects are for the duration of 2-3 years. Councillor Karen May advised that there would be an amount required to cover admin costs. The District Council's Cabinet was due to discuss and agree the following day on 27 July. GH agreed to feedback at the next board meeting in September.

The Board AGREED to endorse the Investment Plan.

ACTION: GH to be invited to next meeting to update on UKSPF.