

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

Attending: Graeme Anderson (BDHT), Kevin Dicks (BDC), Gary Roskell (BARN), Gary Woodman (Worcestershire LEP), Stuart Laverick (How College)

### Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were recorded:

- Kevin Dicks in relation to projects to be delivered by Bromsgrove District Council
- Gary Roskell in relation to The Volunteer Centre project
- Gary Woodman in relation to the Betaden, Worcestershire Growth Hub, Support to Local Business, and Visit Worcestershire projects
- Stuart Laverick in relation to The SPARC project

### Notes of the Meeting

1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund task and finish group met on Thursday 1 December 2022 to assess the project proposals submitted for funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
2. A wide range of project proposals were received, 47 in total, covering all 3 investment priorities of Communities & Place; Supporting Local Business; and People & Skills. All projects were assessed against the following criteria:
  - How well does the project respond to the local challenges or opportunities identified in the investment plan?
  - How well does the project align to the interventions in the investment plan?
  - Does the project represent good value for money?
  - Is the project deliverable in the timescale and are the outputs and outcomes achievable?
  - Does the project proposer have sufficient capacity and capability to deliver the project?
3. As part of its submission to Government, the district council was required to allocate a proportion of the fund to each of the investment priorities. As there is a separate allocation for each investment priority, the group decided to consider each one in turn.
4. As People & Skills projects can only be funding in year 3 (2024/25) the group decided to defer decisions regarding project proposals for this investment priority until its next meeting scheduled for May 2023.
5. The group considered all projects that fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority for all 3 years. Following this process, the grant ask for the projects that the group wished to support exceeded the available funding. Officers have been asked to negotiate with the project proposers to scale down their projects and to address any overlaps between them to ensure that they can be delivered within the available budget.
6. Given the size of the task, the group decided to consider funding for projects in years 1 and 2 only (2022/23 and 2023/24). Decisions regarding funding for 2023/24 have been deferred until the next meeting of the group scheduled for May 2023.

7. Below is the list of projects that the group recommend are funded

Project Name	Deliverer	Project Description
Advice First Aiders	Citizens Advice Bureau	<p>In a number of places around the country, the local Citizens Advice Bureau has been resourced to train up Advice First Aiders. These are not fully fledged generalist advisers, who typically take up to a year to train, but instead are well established members of the local community who are trained in the basics of signposting and referring potential clients to the range of agencies and services that are on offer. These can be community activists; librarians; faith leaders; Community Centre leads even publicans. Essentially the people most like to be approached initially by someone who is struggling, or possibly the first to spot that someone may be having difficulties.</p>
Aston Fields Christmas Lights Infrastructure	Aston Fields Community Group	<p>Supply &amp; install 22 new tofco festive 1 units with 32A isolator, 6 amp fuse for existing light fitting, timeclock and RCBO to control festive illumination on pole. Also supply and install new 16A IP67 socket on side of pole to plug feature in. This power distribution unit to be fitted on 22 lighting columns around Aston Fields to enable Christmas lights to be installed this year and subsequently, every year</p>
CCTV Digital Upgrade	Bromsgrove District Council	<p>This project supports the existing Public Open Space CCTV scheme owned by BDC, that helps to make safe the local Town Centre and district shopping centres The Council has upgradws many elements from old analogue equipment to the latest digital technology. There are now only 3 locations in Bromsgrove that remain analogue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brook Rd Park, Rubery – 2 Cameras plus transmission.</li> <li>• Wythall – 5 cameras plus transmission.</li> <li>• Alvechurch -3 cameras plus transmission</li> </ul> <p>This project will be to upgrade these 3 final locations to the latest digital technology, enabling clear images, day and night to be recorded and monitored. This will reduce crime in the areas covered and</p>

		reduce the fear of crime for local residents.
CCTV Promotion	Bromsgrove District Council	<p>This project supports the existing Public Open Space CCTV scheme owned by BDC, that helps to make safe the local Town Centre and district shopping centres</p> <p>The proposal is to create a dedicated Post (CCTV Single Point of Contact) to promote the use of CCTV to reduce the fear of crime within the area.</p> <p>This post will co-ordinate sighting and installing the Council's re-deployable CCTV cameras, to combat crime, ASB and disorder as emerging issues are reported. The funding bid includes subsidised radio handsets for night-time economy venues and shops.</p>
Centres Public Realm Enhancement Programme	Bromsgrove District Council	<p>Bromsgrove High Street</p> <p>Purchase of new street furniture to include bins and benches.</p> <p>Christmas light scheme to include purchase of light, light scheme hires, installation, and storage.</p> <p>Birdbox – art scheme</p> <p>Advertisement Panel infrastructure.</p> <p>Rubery High Street</p> <p>Cleaning/repaint of street furniture, additional planters.</p>
Friendship Matters	Alvechurch Communities Together Ltd	<p>We want to deliver a project that improves outcomes for older people in our community, especially those who are, or at risk of becoming , isolated and/or lonely. We want this activity to deliver:</p> <p>Increased numbers of older people who are (or at risk of being) socially isolated, engage in meaningful and enjoyable activities which result in new friendships and sustained networks, improved resourcefulness, more confidence and thus, ultimately a better quality of life. To directly influence the quality and /or quantity of a person's relationships. Enable older people to be better connected and actively engaged within their local community.</p>
Retail Frontage & Empty Space Scheme	Bromsgrove District Council	<p>Frontage Improvement Scheme focuses on repairs and shopfront improvement works within the High Street</p> <p>Empty Space Grant assists with the costs</p>

		of work required to return a property to occupation.
Intensive Community Caseworker	Act on Energy	<p>Bromsgrove intensive community casework programme will provide holistic advice, support and intervention work with vulnerable fuel poor households who are unable to easily self-manage their own circumstances in relation to health, wellbeing, income and debt issues across Bromsgrove.</p> <p>The service will actively support 300 fuel poor vulnerable households over a two year period, reducing instances of fuel poverty through a combination of active casework, income maximisation work, energy saving measures and close partner agency working to realise cumulative and sustained positive outcomes including a particular focus on sustained behavioural change where this maybe significantly contributing to fuel poverty.</p>
Net Gain & Biodiversity in Bromsgrove Parks	Bromsgrove District Council	<p>The over aim of the project is to support opportunities of Climate change and environmental sustainability within Bio diversity within Parks and open spaces. Biodiversity is a key driver in the new developed strategy and the whole issue of climate change needs addressing so this could put green spaces at the forefront of that –the links in Biodiversity Net Gain and carbon capture potential of green spaces. This would provide a footing to enhance key actions within the climate change agenda and working with local communities, volunteers and specialists to achieve this.</p>
Betaden	Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership	<p>BetaDen is a Commercial Technology Accelerator (currently located at the Malvern Hills Science Park, in South Worcestershire). This project will build upon and expand the highly successful BetaDen delivery model, providing both North and South Worcestershire operations. The project will engage and support Worcestershire technology entrepreneurs / businesses to commercialise their technologies/innovations with a focus on the key economic sectors/industries for Worcestershire including clean tech/net zero, and creative/digital.</p>

Refurbishment of Blackwell Village Hall	Blackwell Community Hall	<p>This project is to cover 3 areas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide a new floor in 2 small rooms, within the community hall.</li> <li>2. To provide new windows in the main hall.</li> <li>3. To fully fit out the kitchen including new units, serving tops, plus all required stainless-steel equipment.</li> </ol>
Support to Local Business	Worcestershire County Council	<p>A flexible Business Support Programme offering high quality business support for businesses in all sectors with bespoke support from an approved supplier network of over 90 experts. The programme has been developed with scalability in mind which will enable lead authorities to increase or reduce the value and outputs to fit with the local objectives related to the UKSPF programme. This flexibility will also result in not only being able to provide a wide-ranging offer to all businesses, but where needed target support to specific sectors or geographies e.g. creative industries linked to the FHSF and LUF projects. Companies will be able to access support to meet their needs in relation to start up, business growth, innovation, technology, and net zero, through the provision of bespoke consultancy support from specialist advisors delivered on a 1-2-1 basis as well as facilitated peer networks, targeted workshops, and grant funding to support the business with the costs of implementing recommendations.</p>
The Strategic Growth Project	Oxford Innovation Services Ltd	<p>The Strategic Growth Project (SGP) will support 120 Bromsgrove District-based SMEs to overcome growth barriers. The project will offer local businesses a blended package of business support that incorporates specialist business diagnostics, strategic improvement planning and peer networking. Through access to specialist business advice, SMEs will be supported to achieve their growth ambitions, innovate, increase productivity and make steps towards Net Zero.</p>
The Volunteer Centre	BARN	<p>The services provided by the Volunteer Centre supports and encourages local volunteering; promotes the wellbeing benefits of volunteering; assist those who want to use volunteering to improve their</p>

		employability; supports young people to volunteer and help volunteers to contribute to their local communities. The Volunteer Centre supports the valuable and much needed work of the Voluntary and Community Sector, and many statutory sector organisations, by matchmaking the needs of the volunteer to the needs of the organisation to then deliver valuable services to the community.
Visit Worcestershire – Discover More	Worcestershire County Council	Visit Worcestershire is the destination management function for the County. The proposal is for a Restaurant Week Bromsgrove is a hive of foodie activity, with great independent restaurants thriving but with the cost-of-living crisis – everyone is struggling. Restaurant week (or Foodie Fortnight) is an opportunity to support the local eateries, while offering bespoke taster menus to local residents (and visitors). This model has worked in York and Birmingham and is a great way to showcase an area’s foodies offering and create business for restaurants at quiet times of year.
Volunteer It Yourself	Volunteer It Yourself	The Project will involve young people aged 16-24 (who are disengaged from mainstream education or training and/or unemployed or economically inactive) learning and applying vocational construction skills whilst volunteering to renovate and transform local community places and spaces that host valued services and activities. The places and spaces will include youth and community centres, grassroots sports clubs, arts and cultural venues, and green spaces such as parks and community gardens). The Project may also involve the creation of new community facilities through the repurposing and reinvigoration of empty or under-utilised places/spaces, for example in high streets and town centres.
Worcestershire Growth Hub	Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership	Worcestershire Growth Hub is an established team delivering business support including triage and diagnostic, signposting and referrals, account and strategic account management and direct professional business advice and support

		to all businesses in Worcestershire, from pre-start to larger strategic businesses. Through the meaningful engagement the team access real-time intelligence which is fed in to local and national policy. The team are also the convenors of local, regional, and national business support programmes; operating as the conduit/ one-stop shop for Worcestershire businesses looking for any public or private business support.
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8. The following project proposals have been recommended for refusal:

Project	Reason for Refusal
Enterprising Bromsgrove	Project is the delivery of Young Enterprise programmes. The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions. Delivery of predicted outputs and outcomes were also judged unlikely
Get Bromsgrove Active	Project is a scheme to encourage residents to be more active. The project was judged ineligible as none of the interventions directly relate to health and well-being outcomes.
Hagley Car Park Resurfacing	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
Hagley Dial-a-Ride Community Bus	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
Hagley Library	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
Hagley Parish Cemetery	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
Haybridge High Theatre Refurbishment	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
Mike Foster Fitness & Education Centre	The project was the installation of equipment for the use of clients and to provide training to other PT instructors. The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment

	plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
NewStarts	The project was to providing core funding for the charity. The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions. It was also judged to be poor value for money – high cost with relatively few outputs / outcomes.
Social Media / Digital Skills	The project was the delivery of social media / digital skills to business. It was rejected as there was little evidence of demand for the project and it was judged to be poor value for money due with relatively few outputs / outcomes.
St Basils Bistro	This project was rejected as it was poorly aligned with interventions. It was also judged to be poor value for money in relation to its forecast outputs / outcomes.
St Basil's Bromsgrove Pathway Worker	This project was judged ineligible as it related to homelessness prevention which is not an intervention in the UK SPF
Hagley Play Area Improvements (Teen Swing)	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
The SPARC	The project was judged ineligible as it was a skills infrastructure project which is ineligible under the rules of the UK SPF
Hagley Play Area Improvements (Zip-Wire)	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to any of the key challenges or opportunities in the investment plan and has poor alignment to the interventions.
Allotment	The project was rejected as it provides a limited response to a key challenge in the investment plan and is poorly aligned to an intervention.
Barnt Green Cricket Club	The project was rejected as it doesn't respond to a key challenge or opportunity in the investment plan and has no outcomes.
Advanced Social Media Training	The project was the delivery of advanced social media training to business. It was rejected as there was little evidence of demand for the project and was reliant on delivery of another project (also rejected). It was judged to be poor value for money due with relatively few outputs / outcomes.
Business & IP Centre	The project did respond to a key opportunity identified in the investment plan but was judged to be more limited than other proposals.



9. In addition, a number of proposers have been asked to re-submit their projects for consideration at the next meeting of the group in May 2023. The most common reason for the request to re-submit is that the proposers suggested projects with several strands and the group wish to consider them as separate projects.
  
10. The partnership is asked to approve the recommendations of the task & finish group.