

Extract of Minutes from Bromsgrove Partnership Board

23 May 2024

5. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Georgina Harris (GH), for the benefit of the newer members of the Board, provided a brief overview of the background and explained that in 2022 the Government published the prospectus for the UKSPF providing details of each area's allocation, how the fund would be administered, and what the funding could be spent on. Bromsgrove District was allocated £2.8m over a 3 year period, with the largest proportion of funds in 2024/25.

GH reminded the Board that the Council had been required to produce an investment plan, centred around 3 priorities: Community and Place; Supporting Local Business; and People and Skills. Bromsgrove Partnership Board had been a consultee and agreed to take on the role of the Local Partnership Board, as per government guidance, which included assessing project proposals for strategic fit and deliverability (via a task and finish group) and making recommendations to the Council.

GH covered expenditure and performance, explaining that due to investment plans not being approved by Government until December 2022, most projects had started in Q2 of 2023/24. Although there had been an underspend, the majority of the funding was committed. As more than 80% had been spent, the Council was due to receive all of its 2024/25 allocation. The end of year report had been approved by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) with no queries and therefore payment was expected in June 2024.

GH referred to the summary report circulated which included details of outputs and outcomes delivered to date, explaining all active projects were in the process of being reviewed. GH highlighted that Act on Energy was currently the best performing project.

With regards to 2024/25 projects, 91% of the funding had been committed with £169,902 unallocated. Proposals for the remaining funding were being developed and the very tight timescales were highlighted.

Due to the tight timescales, GH suggested and it was **AGREED** that the Board delegate authority to its Task and Finish Group to make recommendations to the Council which in turn would enable the Council to provide as much time as possible for project delivery (potentially 8 months). A report of the Task and Finish Group meeting would still be provided to the Board for noting.

GH confirmed that reports to Government were every 3 months and that a project management process was in place to ensure things remained on track. GH was thanked for her steering around the different changes that had been made by the Government and the support she had provided to ensure projects could be delivered.

The verbal update provided and the summary report circulated were noted and GH was thanked for attending.