

Extract from the minutes of the Bromsgrove Partnership Board meeting held on 22 September 2022

(Presentation given by Georgina Harris, NWedR, available [here](#))

6. UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

Georgina Harris (GH) gave an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which was a replacement for EU Structural Funds. Also requested for partnership to discuss on how they could engage. The Fund is currently in year 1 and is the central pillar in the Government's Levelling Up agenda. The allocation for the District of Bromsgrove is £2.8m, broken down over 3 years from 2022 – 2025 and Bromsgrove District Council, as Lead Local Authority, tasked with developing an Investment Plan to “unlock the funding”. The Investment Plan covers 3 strategic priorities of:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

The three different priorities are a starting point to identify local challenges and opportunities. There are 41 interventions and 23 had been selected to go into Investment Plan which had been submitted on 1 August with approval expected from October onwards.

GH briefly covered project proposals submitted previously however another call for project proposals was planned as well as a webinar to provide support which would be recorded. An assessment framework in place which included a heavier weighting on deliverability for year 1 projects due to timescales. Project proposals would need to be assessed November and contracted December. Need input from the Partnership Board regarding the strategic fit and deliverability assessment and suggestions on how this could be done were made in the slide presentation. Also, looking to the Board for input if there was a need to reprofile expenditure as there was some flexibility.

Councillor Karen May thanked GH for all the work and raised her concerns that £2.8 could be diluted down to have little effect. Concerns around digital inclusion / connectivity was mentioned as well as transport concerns.

Graeme Anderson suggested a partnership task and finish group was the appropriate way forward and partners interested to contact Della McCarthy (DMc) in the first instance. It was noted that there was a need to be careful in relation to any conflicts of interest.

ACTION: Partners to contact DMc if interested in being part of the Bromsgrove UKSPF task and finish group.