

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

Attending: Kevin Dicks (BDC), Gary Roskell (BARN), Gary Woodman (Worcestershire LEP), Michelle Dowse (HoW College)

Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were recorded:

- Gary Woodman in relation to the following projects:
 - i) Worcestershire Careers
 - ii) Upskill Worcestershire
- Kevin Dicks in relation to the Sports Team Grant Scheme.

Notes of the Meeting

1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund task and finish group met on Tuesday 15 August 2023 to assess project proposals submitted for funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The proposals were primarily for People & Skills projects in Year 3 (2024/25).
2. The group considered a submission for a sports team grant scheme under the strategic priority Communities & Place. The project was developed to deliver against intervention E10 which currently has no projects. **The group recommends the project be approved.**
3. The group considered the project proposals for the People & Skills investment priority. The proposals were categorised based on the who they would support to ensure that the projects would respond to all challenges and opportunities and support all sections of the community. These categories were supporting young people, supporting the economically inactive and upskilling the workforce.
4. The group recommends the following projects for approval:

Project Name	Deliverer	Project Description
Careers Worcestershire (Bromsgrove)	Worcestershire County Council	Countywide project provided tailored support for young people to assist in their education choices and move NEET people closer to the jobs market. This is the continuation of an ESF funded project.
The Applications Station	The Basement Project	Support to help young people secure and sustain employment or education
Beam	Beam Up Ltd	Support for the economically inactive, particularly those at

		risk of homelessness, to move closer to the jobs market.
Engage Bromsgrove	Seetec Business Technology Centre Ltd	Support for economically inactive residents to secure employment, access training and build job skills. This is a continuation of an ESF funded project.
Upskill Worcestershire – Bromsgrove	Worcestershire County Council	Match-funded grants for training to upskill employed people or to retrain in green skills.

5. The following projects are recommended for refusal:

Project Name	Deliverer	Reason for Refusal
Young People Voices	The Bromsgrove Youth & Community Hub	Much of the project was ineligible due to the age of the participants. The deliverer proposed a bespoke intervention with no outputs or outcomes.
Community Prospects	Community Housing	This project scored well in all assessment criteria except value for money. The cost per participant was considerably higher than the benchmark figure.

6. The group recommends that any underspend on the People & Skills projects be used to either increase the size of approved projects (subject to the project deliverer's capacity) or to procure additional support services.

7. The group were informed that, following a reprofiling of the expenditure on the Volunteer It Yourself project, there is a significant underspend in the Communities & Place allocation. It is the District Council's intention to use this underspend to run a Community Infrastructure Grant programme which will deliver against multiple interventions. The group agreed that they would assess the proposal by written procedure and forward a recommendation to the board.

8. The partnership is asked to endorse the recommendations of the task & finish group.