

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM: 12</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	<b>18 APRIL 2024</b>	<b>CATEGORY: DELEGATED</b>
<b>REPORT FROM:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE</b>	<b>CATEGORY: OPEN</b>
<b>MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:</b>	<b>MIKE ROYLANCE (01283 595725)</b> <a href="mailto:mike.roylance@southderbyshire.gov.uk">mike.roylance@southderbyshire.gov.uk</a>	<b>DOC:</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>SHARED PROSPERITY FUND</b>	
<b>WARD(S) AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>	<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS10</b>

## **1.0 Recommendations**

- 1.1 That Members note the progress of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in South Derbyshire at the end of Year 2.

### **Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 This report updates Members on the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan at the conclusion of Year 2 (2023/24) of the three year programme.

## **3.0 Detail**

### **Background**

- 3.1 The District Council is Lead Local Authority (LLA) for the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation to South Derbyshire, including the Rural Economic Prosperity Fund (REPF). This role includes preparation and implementation of an Investment Plan and facilitation of a local partnership group.
- 3.2 The Investment Plan for South Derbyshire was approved by Government and encompasses a package of measures, with progress on these as follows.

### **Communities and Place**

- 3.3 Refurbishment of The Delph market square is underway, including the installation of additional bollards to prevent unwanted vehicle access onto the square, resurfacing of the main square and restoration of the Town Hall steps. The majority of the works were completed by the end of Year 2 and the site has since been used for markets and events.
- 3.4 Redevelopment of the vacant derelict Bank House/Sabine's Yard site is underway to create additional free public car parking with Electric Vehicle charging points and a pocket park on Belmont Street. The majority of the work was completed by the end of Year 2 and the site is open to the public.

- 3.5 An additional Community Safety Enforcement Officer dedicated to addressing environmental crime and anti-social behaviour issues in town centres has been appointed. They have undertaken almost 200 duty of care visits to businesses, attended more than 75 Anti-Social Behaviour incidents and a similar number of shoplifting incidents, along with more than 30 incidents of criminal damage and a similar number of public disorder incidents.
- 3.6 Promotional and community activities in town centres have been supported to attract footfall and spend. Events supported have included Melbourne Festival, Heritage Open Days, Swad Live and the Swadlincote Christmas 2023 programme.
- 3.7 A community grant fund for third sector organisations, voluntary and community groups has been launched offering grants of between £2,000 and £25,000 (up to 80% of total project costs). Projects that can be supported include property improvements, energy efficiency and generation measures, green space enhancements, or arts, cultural, tourism and heritage initiatives. Grants have been implemented by Mid Mercia Citizens Advice for IT equipment and St Matthews Community Centre (Overseal) for a new kitchen, windows and doors.

### **Supporting Local Business**

- 3.8 A grant scheme for smaller businesses has been launched, open to sole traders, partnerships and limited companies. Grants of £1,000 - £50,000 (up to 80% of the total project costs) are available. Projects that can be supported include purchase of equipment, the introduction of new products/services or processes/techniques, starting or growing exports, and initiatives to increase productivity. Grants have been implemented by an engineering company in Swadlincote for new equipment and an electronics business in Church Gresley for a 3D scanner.
- 3.9 The existing Derbyshire business start-up programme was extended from January 2024 with UKSPF funding. This scheme is open to people who are starting their own business, or have set up a business in the last 12 months. It offers expert advice, together with grants of up to £10,000. The first awards in South Derbyshire have been made to two new enterprises - a vet and a marketing company.
- 3.10 East Midlands Chamber has been appointed by local authorities in Derbyshire to deliver a programme of business workshops and events under the 'Accelerator' branding. This also includes working with businesses to undertake decarbonisation audits of their activities and a carbon reduction grant scheme for smaller enterprises.

### **People and Skills**

- 3.11 'Beyond Barriers South Derbyshire' has been launched following the appointment of Groundwork Five Counties to deliver the programme. The initiative is supporting economically inactive residents further from the labour market to gain new skills, build up confidence, make connections in the local community and improve their chances of finding a job, through an employability programme moulded around individuals' needs.
- 3.12 The contract to deliver 'Jumpstart' in Year 3 is being finalised. This will provide a range of short training courses for unemployed residents who are closer to the labour market. The courses are designed to help individuals back into work or further training, with courses linked to sectors with significant vacancies, such as hospitality & catering, logistics and health & care.

3.13 The contract to deliver Mobility South Derbyshire in Year 3 is being finalised. The contractor will work with secondary schools to deliver tailored activities that will support aspirations amongst young people, targeting the more disadvantaged in order to raise their social mobility.

### **Rural Economic Prosperity Fund**

3.14 The Rural Economic Prosperity Fund provides capital grants to organisations located in the Government’s designated rural areas of South Derbyshire. Any organisation with legal status can apply for funding. This may include: local authorities; public sector organisations; higher and further education institutions; private sector companies; voluntary organisations; registered charities; and, arms-length bodies of Government.

3.15 Grants have been implemented by three businesses to purchase new equipment, including for food production (Bretby), printing (Etwall) and engineering (Barrow).

3.16 Grants have been implemented by two organisations to improve community infrastructure, including Aston & Weston Bowls Club and Barrow on Trent Village Hall.

### **4.0 Financial Implications**

4.1 South Derbyshire has been allocated £2,156,374 through the Shared Prosperity Fund over a three year period 2022/23 - 2024/25, plus £400,000 from the Rural Economic Prosperity Fund, which operates alongside the Shared Prosperity Fund during financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

	<b>Year 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	
<b>UKSPF</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Allocation</b>	£261,696	£523,392	£1,371,286	£2,156,374
<b>Actual</b>	£236,441	£367,489	£1,552,444 (est)	£2,156,374 (est)

<b>REPF</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Allocation</b>		£100,000	£300,000	£400,000
<b>Actual</b>		£35,840	£364,160 (est)	£400,000 (est)

4.2 The Government has agreed that underspend may be carried forward into Year 3 (2024/25), reflecting its delayed launch of the programme.

### **5.0 Corporate Implications**

#### **Legal Implications**

5.1 Legal support will be required to procure and contract with service providers and grant recipients, and to advise on matters such as Subsidy Control.

#### **Corporate Plan Implications**

5.2 The Shared Prosperity Fund has the potential to contribute to:

- ‘Our Environment’ which aims to keep a clean, green District for future generations – work with residents, businesses and partners to reduce their carbon footprint; and, enhance the appeal of Swadlincote town centre as a place to visit.

- ‘Our People’ which aims to work with communities and meet the future needs of the District – support and celebrate volunteering, community groups and the voluntary sector; help tackle anti-social behavior and crime through strong and proportionate action; and, support social mobility to ensure people have the opportunity to access skilled jobs, higher and further education.
- ‘Our Future’ which aims to grow our District and our skills base – support unemployed residents back into work; and, encourage and support business development and new investment in the District.

### **Risk Impact**

- 5.3 There is a risk that if the Shared Prosperity Fund projects and programmes are not delivered in accordance with the funding profile, the underspend will have to be returned to Government.

## **6.0 Community Impact**

### **Consultation**

- 6.1 Consultations have been undertaken with local partner organisations. Many of these organisations are members of the Sustainable Development Group of the South Derbyshire Partnership which has become the ‘local partnership group’ for the Shared Prosperity Fund. Preparation of the Investment Plan also drew on recently completed surveys of local companies and town centre businesses.

### **Equality and Diversity Impact**

- 6.2 Activities supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund are expected to have a range of positive equality and diversity impacts, particularly relating to enhancing employability. These will be determined through the award of grants and contracts to support activities.

### **Social Value Impact**

- 6.3 Activities supported by the Shared Prosperity Fund are expected to have a range of positive social value impacts, particularly linked to enhancing employment. These will be determined through the award of grants and contracts to support activities.

### **Environmental Sustainability**

- 6.4 Environmental sustainability considerations are a key feature of the programme, with consideration to be given to the extent to which activities contribute to the Government’s net zero and nature recovery objectives, and their impact on natural assets and nature and support for green growth.

## **7.0 Conclusions**

- 7.1 The Council has been designated as the Lead Local Authority for the co-ordination of the Shared Prosperity Fund in South Derbyshire. The Fund aims to address local priorities, building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances.

## 8.0 **Background Papers**

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus  
Rural England Prosperity Fund Prospectus