



Council 25th July 2024

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF): UPDATE AND INVESTMENT PRIORITY E14 – FEASIBILITY STUDIES

Report of Director of Place and Economy

Report Author and Contact Details

Amanda Brown, Economic Development Manager
01629 761250: amanda.brown@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Wards Affected

All Wards

Report Summary

The report updates Members on UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) delivery and considers the decision of the UKSPF Partnership Board meeting held on 20th June 2024, in relation to the allocation in the Investment Plan against Investment Priority E14: Feasibility Studies. The revised approach has been agreed with partners in order to meet the spend and output requirements before 31st March 2025.

The report also seeks approval to re-allocate external funding from the Council's revenue budget to its capital programme to facilitate the above.

Recommendations

1. That the update on the Derbyshire Dales UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme is noted, with progress to date and delivery risks received and agreed.
2. That the ongoing recruitment challenges impacting the delivery of the programme, as reported to Members on 13 July 2023 and updated in this report, are noted
3. That in accordance with the decisions of the UKSPF Partnership Board meeting held 20th June 2024, amendments to the Investment Plan are approved as follows:
 - i. the extension to contract for Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services (£105,000) as set out in section 3.1 of the report.
 - ii. the re-allocation of £64,500 (included within the £105,000) revenue funding to capital funding from E14.
 - iii. the allocation of up to £60,000 funding to deliver a Pilot Ashbourne Business Improvement District (BID) feasibility study and development as set out in section 3.2 and 7.3 of the report.
4. That Council approves the transfer of £64,500 in 2024/25 from the revenue budget for Economic Development Feasibility Studies to the Capital Programme

Project Number 675 (Community Resilience Grant), funded by grants from UKSPF and REPF.

5. That following completion of the tender process for the Ashbourne BID any residual funding (from the £60,000 allocation) is administered by the District Council to delivery E14: Feasibility Studies directly.
6. That should a BID feasibility study be positive, any decision whether or not to proceed to ballot will be taken by Council taking into account initial and ongoing cost recovery.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 Rural Innovation Grant

Appendix 2 Case Studies

Appendix 3 Map of Rural Innovation Grants and Community and Resilience Grants

Background Papers

- Council 26 July 2022: UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Investment Plan Submission
- Council 2 March 2023: Capital Programme 2022/23 to 2026/27 - Appendix E Supporting Information for UKSPF and REPF
- Community and Environment Committee 13 July 2023: UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Programme Update and Delivery Approach

Consideration of report by Council or other committee

No

Council Approval Required

Yes

Exempt from Press or Public

No

UK Shared Prosperity Fund / Rural England Prosperity Fund: Update and Investment Priority E14 – Feasibility Studies

1 Background

- 1.1 Funded by Government, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) partially replaced funding previously provided by the European Union. REPF is a rural ‘top-up’ to UKSPF and the combined fund is delivered as a single programme. Derbyshire Dales has been allocated a total of £2.7m capital and revenue to be spent by 31 March 2025.
- 1.2 Derbyshire Dales District Council is the Lead Local Authority for UKSPF / REPF. As required by the Government, it therefore established a UKSPF Partnership Board to provide strategic oversight for the effective management and delivery of the programme. The Partnership Board, chaired by the Leader of the Council, is made up of local partners representing the public, private and voluntary sectors, and reflects agreed UKSPF / REPF priorities.
- 1.3 Members were updated on the position regarding the UKSPF Investment Plan and details of the REPF Addendum submission at the 2 March Council 2023 meeting.
- 1.4 As a reminder, the programme was developed following Member workshops and partner engagement and approved by the Council in 2022. It is based on clear evidence, and follows the UKSPF priorities of:
 - Communities and Place
 - Supporting Local Business
- 1.5 The programme aims to support business diversification, growth, adaptation and long-term resilience; as well as community projects which help strengthen local communities and foster local pride. Interventions include business advice and grants; support to help businesses reduce their carbon footprint; site feasibility studies; a community resilience grant fund; and town centre improvements.
- 1.6 The Derbyshire Dales UKSPF Investment Plan was approved by Government in December 2022, and funding allocation for 2022/23 was received on 27 January 2023. Approval of the REPF Addendum (top-up capital funding for 2023/24 and 2024/25) was received from Government on 6 April 2023.
- 1.7 The overall Investment Plan is on track for delivery as per the original investment plan. One full financial year of delivery has been completed.
- 1.8 The current programme budget being worked to is below. Payments up to March 2023 and part payment of the 2024/25 allocation have been received from MHCLG with all spend to be evidenced by 31st March 2025. The final payment in Spring 2025 will be against actual spend.

	Revenue	Capital	TOTAL
Town Centre Public Realm (Matlock)	0	733,000	733,000
Site Feasibility Funds	250,000	0	250,000
Community Resilience Fund	84,000	36,000	120,000
Rural Innovation Programme	402,153	54,000	456,153
Energy audit & carbon reduction support	57,970	88,235	146,205
Specialist business advice services to support established SMEs	98,103	0	98,103
Business Start-Up programme	73,291	0	73,291
Administration	78,000	0	78,000
<u>REPF - Indicative Spend Profile</u>			
Business Grants	0	523,000	523,000
Community Grants	0	90,000	90,000
Market Town Centre	0	135,737	135,737
TOTAL	1,043,517	1,659,972	2,703,489

- 1.9 Rural Innovation Grants (RIG) have a good uptake and are delivering a range of measures to businesses to improve productivity, innovation, job creation and increase sustainability and viability of our micro and SME businesses. The District Council's Business Adviser is working with a wide range of businesses to support applications and assist growth. Grant take-up is excellent with investment in building adaptation, equipment, machinery and new technologies being supported.

Appendix 1 – Detail on delivery of RIG

Appendix 2 – Case Studies

Appendix 3 – Map of RIG and Community and Resilience Grants

- 1.10 Town Centre Improvement Fund is in delivery and scheduled to meet the outputs and outcomes of the Investment Plan.
- Phase 1 works at the Matlock Western Gateway site - £268,000 – work is in progress and scheduled for completion in the Autumn.
 - Wirksworth Town Council: The Meadows Rejuvenation project - £150,000 is underway with tenders finalised for completion in the Autumn.
 - DDDC: Hall Leys Park - £450,737 – The Splash Pad consultation is due for completion and tenders to be finalised, work to commence in September. The Skate Board equipment has been dismantled and works will be completed by the end of the summer. Pathway work and signage tenders are being completed with work to be carried out in the Autumn. All works will be completed and paid for by 31st March 2025.
- 1.11 Business support, Training events and Decarbonisation is being delivered via a joint District contract with East Midlands Chamber of Commerce. The contract is progressing well with targets forecast to be achieved. Joint working with our own Derbyshire Dales Business Adviser is working well and providing a good service to businesses. Derbyshire Dales businesses are accessing

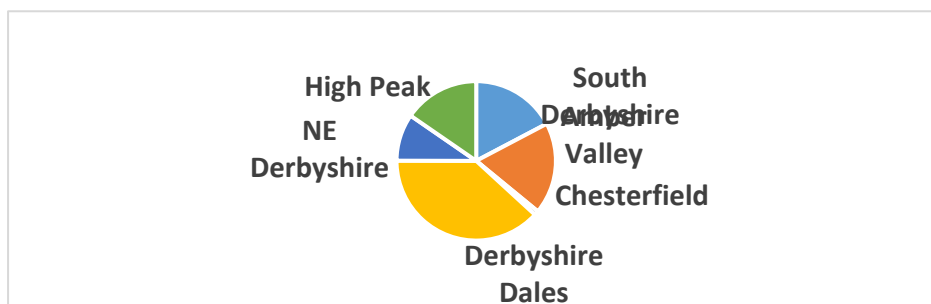
training and development opportunities, with a high take-up around social media, website, and de carbonisation being noted. Energy audits are being undertaken and where appropriate supported to access additional grant support either through UKSPF or alternative support such as Government scheme for electric vehicle infrastructure grants. As part of the delivery of decarbonisation workshops, businesses prepare an energy reduction plan to move their businesses forward.

ALLOCATED		OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES
2023-24	2024-25	
£41,000	£57,103	100 businesses supported/15 improved technology/15 new products/processes.
Energy Audits/Decarbonisation Plans £33,985	£23,985	38 Energy audits delivered, and 10 applications progressed to grant applications.

1.12 Start-Up Support – Contracted to DCC to deliver. Fully-funded 1:1 business advice is available to pre-start and businesses up to 12 months old. In addition, small grants are available for up to 50% of eligible costs (maximum grant £10,000). The scheme is progressing well and attracting a good level of interest. Seven new businesses have started since January 2024. As businesses reach the 12 months stage they are handed over to our business adviser to continue appropriate support.

UKSPF grant funding is £30,000, however other centralised start up loan support can be accessed and non-financial advice is a valuable tool to assist new start businesses to begin trading. DCC have confirmed they expect to achieve the outputs and outcomes contracted.

Total grants awarded: £56,327.59



ALLOCATED		OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES
2023-24	2024-25	
£58,633	£14,5658.00	50 entrepreneurs assisted/12 new businesses/12 jobs created/12 grants

- 1.13 Investment in resilience infrastructure that protects local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding has an allocation in the Investment Plan. Businesses directly affected by previous flooding incidents are eligible to apply to the Defra Flood Resilience Fund delivered by DCC. The UKSPF Board approved the following at their meeting on 20th June:
- Derbyshire Dales District Council Flood Resilience Fund to be opened w/c 8th July to 31st August, targeted at those businesses registered as being directly affected in previous flooding incidents 2019 – September 2023.
 - Joint working with DCC to `Top up` their Defra flood resilience scheme for businesses affected by Storm Babet – up to a maximum of 25% - £1,250 per business.
 - Delegated authority to Chair of the Executive committee and UKSPF Chair to reallocate up to £25,000 if required from RIG to E32.

ALLOCATED		OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES
2023-24	2024-25	
£6,000	£6,000	Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion – 3

2 Key Issues

UK Shared Prosperity Fund / Rural England Prosperity Fund: Re allocation of Investment Priority E14 – Feasibility Studies

- 2.1 The UKSPF Board recognised at their meeting on 20th June 2024 that unforeseen delays with development of Investment Priority E14 required revisions to the plans to meet output, outcome and budgetary targets. The UKSPF Feasibility objective for the E14 intervention is to strengthen social fabric and foster a sense of pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities. Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.
- 2.2 To meet the objectives of UKSPF, the Investment Plan focused on prioritisation of site investigations, feasibility work, master-planning and other assessments to inform the delivery of strategic development sites with a focus on sites on the edge of market towns within Derbyshire Dales. The District Council's Economic Plan (2019-2033) highlights the importance of delivering six key (mixed use) strategic sites across the district to support business expansion and to prevent local businesses relocating outside the area. These sites are located within the key A6 economic corridor in the towns of Matlock and Wirksworth, and at Ashbourne to the south. New housing on these sites is needed to provide accommodation for local employees and to ease pressure on greenfield sites in the Derbyshire Dales.

- 2.3 Feasibility funding would enable preliminary investigation work, options appraisals, site assessments, master-planning, (review of) development appraisals and investigation of potential delivery models in order to develop a pipeline of site proposals ready to access external funding support where a requirement for gap funding is identified.
- 2.4 Work has been ongoing with the Regeneration and Place Manager to progress the investment priority.
- 2.5 The first site for intervention proposed in the Investment Plan was Ashbourne Airfield. The requirement is to deliver a comprehensive feasibility/masterplan for the whole of the Ashbourne Airfield site i.e. both phases 1 and 2 as identified within the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan. This follows the opening of the new A52 link road, providing a second access to the established Airfield Industrial Estate and opening up phase 1 land.
- 2.6 The Ashbourne Airfield site falls within three ownerships. Discussions have taken place with each landowner regarding the draft specification and funding contributions towards the feasibility/master-planning exercise. Compliance with subsidy control has been required; one party has not returned their subsidy control declaration and if not received will require a subsidy control assessment to be completed.
- 2.7 Final tenders were received on Monday 20th May with a July start date for completion of the first stage of the master plan work, and the second stage to be completed by the end of November. Tendered costs are in the region of £85,000.
- 2.8 Additional feasibility work at other strategic sites has not been progressed due to difficulties in staff recruitment. This was highlighted as a risk in the report to Community and Environment Committee on 13 July 2023. Three unsuccessful recruitment attempts in this competitive market have been advertised with no successful recruitment. As a temporary solution an interim appointment has been sought but again an appointment has not yet been possible. When in place, this recruitment will enable work to develop the sites in the Local Plan to be progressed as a priority action. The time required to develop and deliver the feasibility work on these strategic sites will not however fit within the timeframe for UKSPF, and therefore alternative options for this funding have now been developed.

3 OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND APPROVED BY THE UKSPF BOARD ON 20th JUNE 2024

3.1 Community Resilience Grant Fund (CRG): Extension to contract

- 3.1.1 *Background* - Following an open tender process, Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services (DDDCVS) were awarded a contract (£210,000) to deliver UKSPF outputs and outcomes from September 2023 to March 2025. This has

been a successful programme of activity with high demand from the community. Funding has been awarded to organisations across the district and demand remains high – see map on investment site appendix 3.

3.1.2 CRG funding (UKSPF & REPF) is maximising the impact of the Investment priority of Community and Place currently delivering investment priorities E2/E9/E11/E26* with local community and voluntary organisations, parish and town councils and social enterprises to strengthen their local community and foster a local pride and a sense of belonging.

* E2 - Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding. E9 - Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places. E11 - Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. E26 - Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.

3.1.3 Grant fund objectives are to provide support to community projects which:

- maintain key rural services, facilities and community infrastructure e.g. seed-corn funding to enable new CICs to operate.
- deliver community-led projects which will boost community/volunteering capacity to tackle locally identified challenges, enhance social inclusion and resilience, support post-pandemic recovery, and help to maintain safe and healthy communities.
- take local action on climate change to help reduce carbon emissions and promote behaviour change.

Revenue costing between £5,000 and £15,000 can be supported with a grant intervention rate up to 80% (maximum grant £12,000).

Capital costings of up to £25,000 with an intervention rate of 80%

3.1.4 Contract in delivery

ALLOCATED		OUTPUTS/OUTCOMES
2023-24	2024-25	
£60,000 (C:£27,000 R £33,000)	£150,000 (C:99,000 R£51,000)	E11 - 20%/20 improved engagement numbers/ E2 - 8 grants/5 neighbourhood improvements/3 facilities supported/created/increased perception of facilities/increased numbers using facilities/E29 5 - grants/7 volunteering opportunities - 7 new volunteers/E11 - 2 grants/improvement in engagement numbers. REPF 9 grants - 5 facilities supported/ 1 community energy project/ 75 sqm green space improved/premises supported/improved perception/usage/E26 - 5 business growing the local economy.

Sixty-two organisations have registered and received an application pack. **£129,480.26** has now been allocated in grants in two funding rounds, projects are in delivery. The third round for applications closed on 17th May and fifteen applications were received for consideration. The total funding requested in the fifteen applications totalled £174,535.54. With demand far exceeding the budget, effectively the grant has closed while proposals are assessed and offered as Grant Funding Agreements. Decisions on the projects to be supported in the third round have been delayed pending clarification on any additional budget being received.

3.1.5 **Proposed Extension to Existing Contract.** The UKSPF Partnership Board has agreed to provide an additional £105,000 to include 10% management and administration costs from E14 Feasibility Studies intervention and reallocate to E14/E2/E9/E11/E26 with the following outputs/outcomes to be achieved:

- Completed feasibility studies with administrative support to develop the work – maximum of £10,000 per study minimum grant £5,000 – 10% match funding. The new feasibility work will be advertised through the channels used by DDCVS to date and targeted at incorporated bodies able to receive grant funding such as Parish Councils to develop feasibility work to enable them to apply for external funding. The CVS will work with organisations where required to develop their skills in putting together specifications and managing contracts; no specific additional support will be provided by DDDC.
- 6 additional grants delivering improved engagement numbers, new volunteering opportunities, neighbourhood improvements.

3.1.6 Members are recommended to approve the contract extension as set out above. The budget is currently revenue funding. However, given the demand for capital funding experienced, it is recommended that £64,500 is converted to capital funding subject to Government agreement.

3.1.7 The District Council's procurement team has confirmed the extension can be completed using Standing Order contract terms 28.1. and Public Contract Regulations 72 (1)(b)(i)(ii)

3.1.8 The Economic Development Team will work with Derbyshire Dales CVS to adjust the current application forms to meet the criteria for feasibility work, and for the CVS to offer successful applicants support to:

- get three quotes and appoint an appropriate consultant to deliver feasibility work
- specify feasibility studies that might include such as drawn plans, consultation, outline costs, list of permissions required, information required for further funding applications, etc.

3.1.9 It is intended that these feasibility studies may be the gateway for communities to apply for national funding streams (such as Lottery, Arts Council funding) or other sources for a project consultant to do full scheme development work, to then be in a in a position to bid for capital funding to deliver a project on the ground.

3.2 **Modelling a pilot Business Improvement District (BID) in Derbyshire Dales**

3.2.1 **Ashbourne Town Team opportunity.** Ashbourne has attracted investment of £13.4 m from central government Levelling Up funding and an additional £1.8m local match funding to deliver regeneration within the town. *Ashbourne Reborn* is led by Derbyshire Dales District Council, working with Derbyshire County Council and Ashbourne Methodist Church as key delivery partners. The

programme is progressing in collaboration with Ashbourne Town Team, Ashbourne Town Council and AshCom who brought forward project ideas, identified opportunities, and raised match-funding for the bid.

As part of the consultation with partners and the wider community, Ashbourne Town Team identified there was a missing piece of work to ensure this unique legacy regeneration is carried forward. Ashbourne Town Team, consulting with the Town Council, have therefore started the first stages in considering developing a Business Improvement District (BID).

- 3.2.2 Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are business-led partnerships created following an open ballot process in order to deliver additional services to local businesses over a defined period (normally five years). They can be a powerful tool for directly involving local businesses in local activities, and to improve the local trading environment.
- 3.2.3 A BID is a defined area in which an agreed modest levy is charged on all non-domestic ratepayers in addition to the non-domestic rates bill. A BID can only be established, and a levy charged, following approval of proposals setting out what the BID will do via a ballot of those businesses liable to pay the levy. There is no limit on what projects or services can be provided through a BID. The only requirement is that it should be something that is in addition to services provided by local authorities. Improvements may include, but are not limited to, extra safety/security, cleaning, events and environmental measures.
- 3.2.4 The Government stated in 2023 that there were 274 BIDs in England, that they contribute over £150 million into the economy each year, and are part of the Government's place making and business support agenda.
- 3.2.5 *Ashbourne Reborn* has drawn together a wide range of stakeholders and partners who are now discussing how to embed and develop the work to date. They believe the next step building on their existing plans is to explore the benefits of developing a rural Market Town BID. This would be the first of its type in Derbyshire. UKSPF funding could ensure the development process and learning from the work is shared in detail with other businesses and communities within the Derbyshire Dales.
- 3.2.6 Supported by the *Ashbourne Reborn* Programme Board, and endorsed by the UKSPF Partnership Board on 20 June 2024, Ashbourne Town Team proposes to work with an agreed contracting body to commission a feasibility study and BID development involving:
- Procurement of specialist consultancy.
 - Engagement with a sample of key businesses across retail, commercial and industrial sectors to identify existing challenges and opportunities and the initial requirements that a BID may fulfil.
 - Analysis of data to assess the economic viability of a BID.
 - Key business selection.
 - Work collaboratively to provide a business engagement plan to promote the BID proposal before, during and after the ballot period.
 - Outcome to inform stakeholders of the potential scale of a BID in relation to investment and business support.

- Estimation and evaluation of costs to the Local Authority in the short/medium and long term.
- Development of proposal to ballot stage.

The outcome will be a feasibility study, potentially with a formal proposal for a BID and ballot preparation completed by February 2025. A further outcome will be sharing of information to provide a blueprint across the district of the process and outcomes to enable further BIDs if desired to be developed or considered by other communities. Estimated costs are £60,000 (to be confirmed at procurement stage)

3.2.7 Delivery of a BID Feasibility Study. An agreed contracting body will issue the tender documentation and contract on behalf of Ashbourne Town Team and will be the financially accountable body for the contract. The project client team will be led by Ashbourne Town Team, with involvement from the District Council as well as appropriate partners. Feasibility funding is to include a small reasonable contribution to the contracting body for additional administration costs. Performance monitoring and assessment of the contract will be through regular performance review reports to the Economic Development Manager. The timescale proposed is:

- Tender issued early August 2024
- Tender awarded mid-October 2024
- Feasibility work completed March 2025.

3.2.8 Members should note that a successful BID would require substantial Officer input from Derbyshire Dales District Council following positive feasibility work. The District Council would be responsible for overseeing the next stage to include a ballot and, if successful, collecting BID levy income (additional payments to the Revenues and Benefits contractor would be required), budget management, potential court costs for non-payment of BID levies, and paying for software adaptations to the revenues system. Preparing costings for this future work, so that an adequate management fee is known prior to any BID being progressed, will be included in the tender specification.

3.2.9 Should the feasibility study be positive, the District Council would need to formally approve taking forward a BID at that time in order for a ballot to be held.

3.3 Impact on Investment Plan

3.31 The remaining funding for the original Feasibility Studies investment priority would be utilised for the Ashbourne Airfield Master Plan work of up to £85,000.

3.3.2 UKSPF/REPF investment allocations would therefore be as follows (in all cases subject to final confirmed costings and match funding):

Previously agreed: Ashbourne Airfield Feasibility phase 1 & phase 2	£ 85,000
Derbyshire Dales CVS extension to contract for Community Resilience Grant Fund to include feasibility work (Capital £30,000/Revenue£75,000)	£105,000
Ashbourne Business Improvement District pilot	£ 60,000
Total	£250,000

4 Consultation

- 4.1 District Council Members and wider partners were consulted prior to submission of the UKSPF Investment Plan via workshops held in June 2022. Members subsequently approved the UKSPF Investment Plan for submission at 26 July 2022 Council, and have considered updates at subsequent Council and Community and Environment Committee meetings.
- 4.2 The Leaders of the Council have been consulted on the recommendations.
- 4.3 The UKSPF Partnership Board has approved the recommendations.

5 Timetable for Implementation

- 5.1 Following decision on allocation of funding to approved projects (July 2024) projects must be contracted by 31st August at the latest.
- 5.2 Full completion and expenditure must be achieved by 18th March 2025 in order to demonstrate spend to the Government by 31st March 2025.

6 Policy Implications

- 6.1 The UKSPF investment plan is closely linked to the Council's approved Economic Recovery Plan and Economic Plan. Place shaping in the Corporate Plan 2024 states a District Council priority aim is prosperous and sustainable communities and businesses.
- 6.2 Within the Corporate Plan 2024, the following priorities are supported by the recommendations:
- Priority 2. Ensuring sites are available for housing and business use through the Local Plan.
 - Priority 3. Working with public and private stakeholders to access grant funding to bring brownfield sites back into use and to support the delivery of infrastructure.
 - Priority 4. Continue to improve the attractiveness of Dales towns and villages through targeted grant-funded redevelopment.
 - Priority 5. Maintain the business support delivery, alongside external partners, aimed specifically at achieving a high level of grant take-up.

7 Financial and Resource Implications

7.1 Delivery risks potentially impacting spend on the individual investment priority have been identified as medium.

7.2 The table below shows proposed expenditure, assuming that the recommendations made in this report are approved:

	Revenue	Capital & REPF	TOTAL
Town Centre Public Realm (Matlock)	0	868,737	868,737
Site Feasibility Funds	185,500	0	185,500
Community Resilience Fund	84,000	190,500	274,500
Rural Innovation Programme	402,153	577,000	979,153
Energy audit & carbon reduction support	57,970	88,235	146,205
Specialist business advice services to support established SMEs	98,103	0	98,103
Business Start-Up programme	73,291	0	73,291
Administration	78,000	0	78,000
TOTAL	979,017	1,724,472	2,703,489

7.3 The District Council has received payments for 2022/23 and 2023/24 and part payment for 2024/25 with the actual spend figures to be reimbursed early in 2025/26 financial year. The financial risk has been assessed as Medium.

7.4 The recommendation is, should a BID feasibility study be positive, any decision whether or not to proceed to ballot will be taken by Council taking into account initial and ongoing cost recovery. This would ensure there will be:

- No unfunded financial or staffing costs or other unfunded consequences to Derbyshire Dales District Council or its Revenues and Benefits contractor.
- The feasibility study assesses such costs and consequences and ensures they are factored into the management fee that the District Council would receive in the event of a successful BID.
- The successful contractor for the feasibility study be required to produce documentation in line with the MHCLG British BIDs guidance including a demonstration that finances are available to cover the costs of the ballot in the event that it fails.

8 Procurement Implications

8.1 The Council is required to demonstrate that a competitive process has been undertaken regarding the selection of projects to deliver UKSPF Investment Plan interventions.

8.2 The extension to Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services' contract can be progressed under Contract Standing Order contract terms 28.1. and Public Contract Regulations 72 (1)(b)(i)(ii)

8.3 Procurement of the Ashbourne Airfield Masterplan has followed a competitive tender process with the successful bidder being contracted.

- 8.4 The Ashbourne BID feasibility study and development will follow a competitive tender process to source the expertise required for delivery, through an appropriate contracting body. The contract will contain the requirement for the process and outcomes to be made available for other communities to replicate, and full consideration and evaluation of future financial implications for the District Council.

9 Legal Advice and Implications

- 9.1 As stated, the report is to consider the decision of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Board in relation to E14: Feasibility Investment in order to meet the spend and output requirements before 31st March 2025. There is an existing Grant Funding Agreement signed with Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services which covers their contract extension. A new Grant Funding Agreement will be signed with Ashbourne Town Council to cover their contract for the BID feasibility and development work.
- 9.2 The Legal risk of challenge associated with taking the recommended decisions has been assessed as low at this stage.

10 Equalities Implications

- 10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has previously been prepared for the UKSPF Investment Plan and was considered at the Council meeting of 26 July 2022. There have been no material changes to the content of the Investment Plan.

11 Climate Change and Biodiversity

- 11.1 Government guidance indicates that: Interventions supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should take account of other local and national policies and priorities – including the government’s commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050 and clean growth.
- 11.2 Derbyshire County Council’s Climate Change Strategy: Achieving Net Zero 2021-25 identifies the low carbon economy as a strategic priority and commits ‘to drive forward the transition to a zero carbon economy, through low carbon recovery and good growth, creating more and better jobs in the low carbon and clean technology sectors, increasing skill levels and fostering innovation within the county...’
- 11.3 The District Council itself has an approved Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan, which acknowledges the authority’s role in ‘facilitating emissions reductions across the District’ and identifies ways in which support could be provided to local businesses to understand and reduce their emissions.
- 11.4 The interventions within the UKSPF Investment Plan align with the above local policies. Each has been evaluated in terms of climate change benefits, impacts and adaptations, and this was considered at the Council meeting of 26 July 2022. The evaluation was based on the principles identified and does not

consider the delivery methods or attempt to quantify impacts. There have been no material changes to the content of the Investment Plan.

- 11.5 The amendments recommended to delivery E14: Feasibility Studies will have no negative impact on climate change or biodiversity.

12 Risk Management

- 12.1 The main risk to delivery of the overall investment plan is not proceeding with the recommendations of the UKSPF Board for delivery of E14: Feasibility Studies and risk losing significant external grant funding and match funding.
- 12.2 A further risk is that Ashbourne Town Team are not able to agree a partnership arrangement for a constituted body to take forward the procurement of the BID feasibility study and development.

Report Authorisation

Approvals obtained from:-

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Paul Wilson	15/07/2024
Director of Resources/ S.151 Officer (or Financial Services Manager)	Karen Henriksen	09/07/2024
Monitoring Officer (or Legal Services Manager)	Helen Mitchell	16/07/2024