

NOT CONFIDENTIAL – For public release

COUNCIL
26 JULY 2022

Report of the Director of Regeneration and Policy

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: INVESTMENT PLAN SUBMISSION

PURPOSE OF REPORT

In the context of the approved Economic Recovery Plan, Corporate Plan and Economic Plan for the Derbyshire Dales, to approve for submission the District Council's Investment Plan for the Government's *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* by the closing date of 1 August.

RECOMMENDATION

1. The *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* Investment Plan Summary is approved for submission;
2. Subject to the approval of 1 above, that a supplementary revenue estimate of £1,043,517 and a capital programme estimate of £911,235 is approved to be spent over the next three financial years and funded from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant;
3. Authority is delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Policy to make detailed changes and finalise the plan with the S151 officer for submission;
4. The procurement of resources to support plan preparation is noted;
5. The proposed options for adopting *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* governance arrangements are approved and finalised by the Director of Regeneration and Policy prior to plan submission.
6. That a supplementary revenue estimate of £20,000 for plan preparation is approved retrospectively, to be funded by government grant upon sign-off of the Investment Plan.

WARDS AFFECTED

All

STRATEGIC LINK

'Prosperity' is highlighted in the Corporate Plan 2020-24 as a District Council priority due to low local wages and high local house prices. With regard to the recommendations in this report, the District Council specifically aims to: *Support businesses to encourage productivity, growth, and higher wage jobs in rural and urban locations*; and to: *Promote investment to stimulate the economy of our market towns*.

1 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (UKSPF)

- 1.1 *UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)* is a new Government fund, intended to be the replacement for EU economic development funding. Whilst a local funding allocation (rather than a bid-led process) is very much welcomed, the level of funding available is limited. Derbyshire Dales District Council is the Lead Local Authority (accountable body) for UKSPF funding for the Derbyshire Dales. UKSPF will comprise revenue and capital funding – min. 10% capital, max. 100% capital – and will operate over three financial years (to end of March 2025.) The Derbyshire Dales allocation is £1.95m with a minimum capital spend in year 1 of 10%, year 2 - 13% and year 3 - 20%:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Derbyshire Dales	£237,227	£474,454	£1,243,071	£1,954,752

- 1.2 The focus of UKSPF is “pride in place” (Government expects to see visible, tangible results). There are three investment priorities; the first two are the focus in the Derbyshire Dales based on the investment priorities previously agreed by Members (see 2.2). The Government has made it clear that district councils are not required to fund all three investment priorities:

- **Communities and Place** – e.g. town centres, neighbourhoods
- **Supporting Local Businesses** – e.g. jobs and businesses; innovation, growth
- **People and Skills** – 2024/25 only. e.g. basic literacy and numeracy. Note that the County Council has a separate £3.76m *Multiply* allocation for people and skills. The County Council has very recently shared its Investment Plan submission to Government and linkages regarding activity involving employers will be set out where appropriate in the Dales Investment Plan.

- 1.3 To access the Fund, the District Council must submit an Investment Plan to include: proposed interventions (not detailed project proposals); measurable outputs and outcomes; state how projects/activities will be procured and delivered; and set out governance arrangements. As lead local authority for UKSPF, the District Council must put in place appropriate project assessment; contracting; programme management, monitoring and evaluation procedures.
- 1.4 The deadline for submission is 1 August 2022. Payments are expected from October 2022.

2 PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 A chronology to date:

- 29 November 2020 –Council approved a post-COVID Economic Recovery Plan and Rural Economic Position Statement, both of which referenced the forthcoming *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* (see paras 5.1 and 5.3, and ‘Ask’ 2)
- 22 April 2021 – Council considered Economic Recovery Plan progress and in particular the Community Renewal Fund (CRF), which was described in the

report as “as a pilot for a future UK Shared Prosperity Fund”. A LEADER-type locally-determined small business grant scheme was part of the District Council’s subsequent CRF bid (see paras 4.16 and 4.25)

- 2 February 2022 – Government published pre-launch guidance for the *UK Shared Prosperity Fund*
- 23 February 2022 – Community and Environment Committee resolved to develop an Investment Plan drawn from existing Council economic plans and by engagement with local partners
- 13 April 2022 – Government published *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* prospectus
- May 2022 – quotations sought and Kada Research appointed to support development of Investment Plan, and Browne Jacobson appointed to provide Subsidy Control legal advice (the Government has committed £20,000 to each Lead Local Authority to provide additional resources to support plan preparation)
- 16 June 2022 – Partner workshop held at Agricultural Business Centre, Bakewell, to inform the Investment Plan drafting and development
- 21 June 2022 – Member workshop held to consider Investment Plan priorities on the basis of partner feedback, to review a potential core package of initiatives, and to consider governance arrangements
- 5 July 2022 – draft summary of proposed interventions / activities circulated to Members and partners for comment.

2.2 At its meeting on 23 February 2022, the Community and Environment Committee resolved in relation to the *UK Shared Prosperity Fund* that:

- The Derbyshire Dales Investment Plan priorities be drawn from the approved Economic Recovery Plan 2020-2033, the Rural Economy Position Statement approved in November 2020, supported by the Economic Plan 2019-2033
- Engagement with local partners takes place to draft an Investment Plan for future consideration and agreement.

2.3 Those priorities as communicated to partners are as follows. In doing so it was noted that the low level of UKSPF funding allocated by the Government means that some valuable schemes are unlikely to achieve funding under this UKSPF round. The overall sense of limited funds, and the general thrust of prioritisation, was of help in partnership discussions.

DERBYSHIRE DALES - Top priorities (Economic Recovery Plan)

1. Regenerating brownfield and other key housing/employment sites (unlock market failure): Ashbourne Airfield, Middleton Rd/Middlepeak, Cawdor, Halldale, Riverside
2. Bakewell Road Matlock

Key themes (Rural Economy Position Statement)

- small scale manufacturing and engineering (esp. advanced and green activities) + knowledge-based and CDIs
- a dedicated fund for rural economic growth (managed in and by rural areas themselves)
- ultrafast broadband in the most isolated rural areas

- better quality visitor attractions and accommodation are needed (sold together as single easy-to-book packages).

Supporting priorities (Economic Plan 2019)

- high quality, free, 1:1 business advice service to SMEs including practical assistance to help growth companies access external grants and loans
- DE-Carbonise

2.4 Kada Research have developed an updated evidence base which identified key challenges for the Derbyshire Dales as:

- Lowest weekly pay (£418) and highest house price to wage ratio (1:8) in the sub-region
- Low and declining productivity (GVA per hour worked)
- Town centre vacancy rates above national average (Ashbourne & Matlock)
- Low broadband speeds
- Constrained labour market / visitor economy resilience / recruitment issues
- Fluvial and surface water incidences and risks

2.5 On the plus side, however, the district has low unemployment, a strong manufacturing sector, characterful towns, high quality of life, high business density, and a highly skilled population.

2.6 A business survey has been carried out via the Council's business e-newsletter to identify key issues for industry. 101 responses were received and the key findings were as follows:

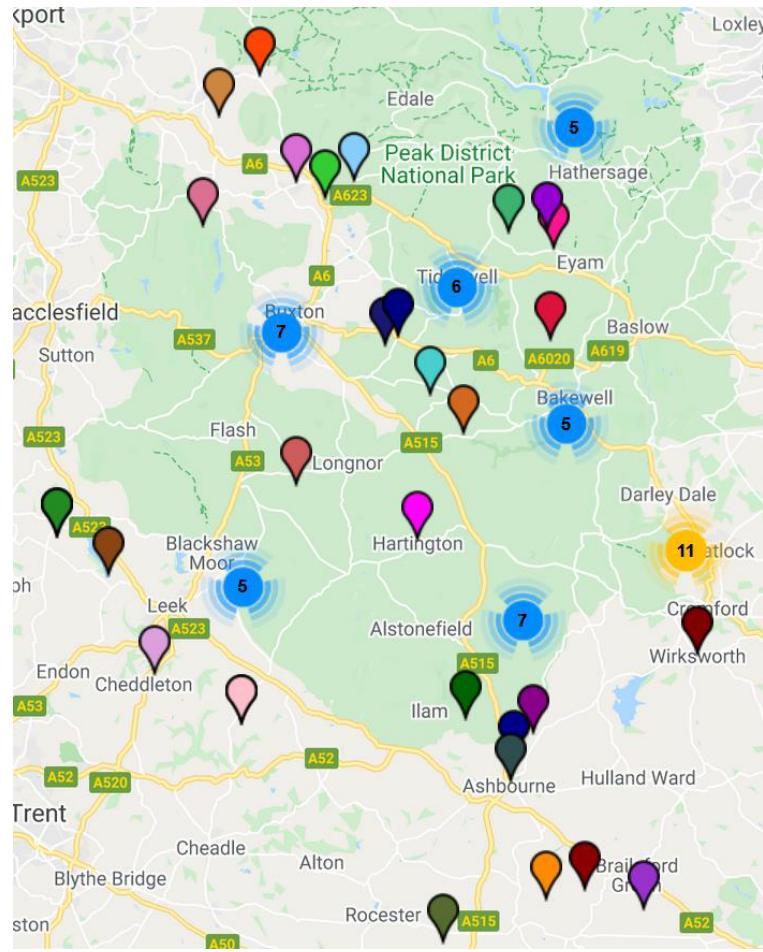
- the two main priorities for businesses over the next two years are reducing costs and increasing sales
- 92% stated that this would require further investment (mainly in the form of new equipment/technologies/seeking energy efficiencies)
- 55% believed that this investment would increase productivity and support job creation
- 40% of businesses anticipated recruiting new staff in the next 12 months
- 73% said that increased costs would be the biggest barrier to growth in the next 12 months, 30% staff recruitment and retention and 35% unsuitable premises/size
- 77% of businesses said that grant support is needed to support growth
- 32% said that advice on energy efficiency was required to support growth
- 28% said that digital advice was required to support growth.

2.7 Recent insights from the local commercial property market have the following highlights:

- High demand for industrial workspace for small and medium sized businesses (particularly for engineering/manufacturing)
- Demand mainly from existing businesses that require space for expansion close to existing location
- Limited supply of required industrial workspace (1000-2000 sq ft/small subdividable units)
- Low demand for commercial office space.

- 2.8 The partner workshop on 16 June was attended by Derbyshire County Council, Business Peak District, High Peak Borough Council, East Midlands Chamber, Peak District National Park Authority, Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire, Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Services (CVS), NFU, Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) and the University of Derby.
- 2.9 Key points to emerge from the partner workshop on 16 June included:
- Broad support for the proposed priority focus and emerging package of interventions, particularly revisiting the former LEADER approach within the plan
 - Value of cross-boundary working to minimise overheads
 - Industrial space is difficult to find
 - Businesses want quick, tailored advice and support with a local presence
 - Digital, net zero and marketing are needs common to many business sectors
 - Skills shortage in manufacturing, engineering and the visitor economy
 - Peak District experience in locally delivering successful LEADER, business advice and town centre regeneration
 - Focus on a small number of deliverable schemes.
- 2.10 Key points from the Member workshop on 21 June included:
- Support for a Peak wide approach to delivering and governing the plan
 - More information required on the bottom-up LEADER model (previous LEADER summary evaluations circulated since to all Members – see below)
 - Support for the proposed focus on manufacturing and engineering sectors under the Supporting Local Business priority
 - Different views on public realm proposals for Matlock but recognition of the Council's agreed corporate priority and commitment to support the regeneration of the town centre
 - Give further consideration to the People and Skills priority
 - Consider a community element
 - Provide more detail on the proposed interventions.
- 2.11 With regard to previous Peak LEADER programmes, as per the evaluations circulated, the benefits have been significant. Under the last programme (2014-2020), £1.6m of LEADER funding resulted in £2.1m of investment within the local economy with 69 of the 78 projects funded supporting micro-businesses. Figure 1 below shows the geographical spread of projects funded under the last programme (55% of projects in the National Park):

Figure 1:



- 2.11 Since both workshops, partners and Council Members have been provided with more detailed proposals and invited to comment further.
- 2.12 Partner comments have included general support from the County Council and NFU, in particular for the proposed Peak Rural Innovation programme (based on the previous LEADER delivery model). Business Peak District commented that the proposals appear sensible. Derbyshire Dales CVS supported the inclusion of a community grant element, adding to the Better Derbyshire Dales Fund offer. Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire welcomed inclusion of the visitor economy and potential to offer specialist business support across some areas of delivery but wished to see more focus on visitor economy businesses and a contribution towards destination marketing. East Midlands Chamber proposed inclusion of a digital high street support offer, continuation of the pilot Accelerator programme and support for the core D2N2 Growth Hub (EU funded to the end June 2023). To note, costed proposals were received towards the end of June and early July for consideration from Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire, East Midlands Chamber and the Growth Hub, and from the lead partners for the De-Carbonise initiative and Vision Derbyshire Business Start-up programme.
- 2.13 Comments from three Members were received, one raising concerns regarding the level of expenditure proposed on public realm and level of focus on market

towns, and, along with another Member comment received, querying the level of grant under the community grant proposals. Other points related to the allocation and assessment of business grants and whether it was appropriate for the District Council to continue to provide business advice services.

3 PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

- 3.1 As a result of the above work, a summary plan has been prepared (see Annex 1 attached) setting out a deliverable package of UKSPF interventions based on identified priorities. It is anticipated that, in accordance with UKSPF guidance, there will be a mixed approach including in-house delivery, commissioned services and procured contracts. Members should note that potential outputs and outcomes are indicative at this stage and subject to finalisation of the plan prior to submission.
- 3.2 A summary of proposed interventions, activities and required funding is set out in Table 1 below:

UKSPF Priority	Primary UKSPF Interventions	Proposed Activity	UKSPF Allocation £
Communities & Place	E1: Improvements to town centres & high streets E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies	1.1 Town centre public realm - Matlock Western Gateway, Bakewell Road including transport hub 1.2 Site feasibility studies, site investigations and other assessments to inform the delivery of allocated strategic development sites, with a focus on sites on the edge of market towns	460,000 250,000
	E2: Funding for new or improvements to existing community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social actions projects E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for community groups	1.3 Community Resilience Fund available to local community and voluntary organisations, parish & town councils and social enterprises committed to strengthening their local community	100,000
Supporting Local Business AND People and Skills	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks E17: Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy E26: Support for growing the local social economy E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding	2.1 Peak Rural Innovation Programme providing grant assistance to small and micro businesses inc. social enterprises to assist business diversification, growth, adaptation and longer term resilience In addition to kit and equipment, grant support can also be used to buy-in bespoke training to upskill the workforce and address skills shortages	696,000

	E37: Tailored support to help people in employment not supported by mainstream provision to access training courses		
Supporting Local Business	E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy	3.1 Energy audit and carbon reduction support for Derbyshire Dales SMEs	146,205
	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, and accelerators for local enterprise	3.2 Co-ordinated business support offer providing generic and specialist business advice services to support established SMEs	155,103
	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks	3.3 Business Start-Up Programme providing free 1:1 advice and seed-corn grant support to new start businesses within the first year of trading	69,444
UKSPF Admin 4%			78,000
			£1,954,752

- 3.3 Proposed activities have been costed through a combination of methods including: independent cost assessment for the public realm works (see earlier report on the agenda); costs of delivering similar schemes in the past e.g. Peak Rural Innovation Programme and; using existing delivery costs as a basis for initiatives proposed for extension.
- 3.4 As indicated in 3.1, a mixed delivery approach is anticipated and some activities require to be specified further prior to being commissioned or procured. This will take place post submission of the Investment Plan.
- 3.5 Following recent discussions with district/borough and County Council colleagues regarding the delivery of business support, officers propose to work direct with Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council to deliver the Peak Rural Innovation Programme (previously developed as a Community Renewal Fund application by the three partners). In addition, subject to finalising costs, officers are minded to support
- the delivery of energy audit and carbon reduction support via the established De-carbonise programme (led by Derby City Council), and
 - business start-up programme via the Vision Derbyshire partnership (led by Derbyshire County Council with support from district partners).

As indicated in the summary Investment Plan, delivery of other business support measures will be informed by evaluations of existing partnership initiatives, including the ERDF funded D2N2 Growth Hub and CRF funded Accelerator scheme. Discussions are ongoing at the time of drafting this report and further information received may impact on the final allocations, annual funding profiles and final detail of the plan. Any updates will be reported verbally at the meeting and delegated authority for the Director of Regeneration and Policy to finalise the plan for submission in consultation with the S151 officer is sought.

- 3.6 Continuing successful cross-boundary schemes (where they can demonstrate successful outputs and outcomes) is certainly favoured. However, it is clear that the limited UKSPF funding available is insufficient to meet the level of funding sought for some schemes and cannot be used to subsidise organisations' administration costs or posts previously funded by external sources. The draft plan has been prepared on the basis of allocating the maximum funding available to priority interventions within the funding available. Should funding become available during the implementation period e.g. through underspend within different parts of the plan, the Local Partnership Board (see below) would determine the re-allocation of these funds.
- 3.7 With regard to the proposed Peak Rural Innovation Programme, at the time of writing, formal confirmation is awaited from High Peak Borough Council regarding the inclusion of this initiative within their respective Investment Plan (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has also been part of previous LEADER programmes and may again wish to be involved). It is hoped that a response will be received before this report is considered and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting. Derbyshire County Council officers have confirmed their support in principle and are willing to provide the accountable body role for this specific programme subject to a Peak-wide approach being confirmed and adequate funding being agreed to meet costs associated with their role from within the programme allocation. Should High Peak determine not to participate in the Peak Rural Innovation Programme, Members will need to consider progressing a Derbyshire Dales-only programme. This would also have implications for proposed governance arrangements (which are considered below), and the costs of running the programme would need to be reviewed.
- 3.8 Should Defra announce a further competitive round of LEADER funding in the future, the Peak Rural Innovation Programme would provide an established mechanism ready to deliver.

4 RESOURCES AND CAPACITY

- 4.1 Match funding is not a requirement to unlock UKSPF funding. However, as indicated in Annex 1, potential match funding has been identified and will be a requirement for the proposed grant schemes.
- 4.2 With reference to Table 1 above, item 1.1 (Matlock Bakewell Road public realm / paving – north side) would be a capital scheme. The proposal forms part of a planned town centre regeneration package comprising:

- Transformation of the vacant former Market Hall into a 2-screen cinema plus retail / food and beverage unit
- Improvement of the public realm around the new cinema and along Bakewell Road to transform this key gateway into Matlock
- Re-organisation of the bus / taxi arrangements in this town centre location, enhanced cycle provision and provision of increased disabled parking
- Longer term development of a new community space at the rear of the Market Hall for use by a range of community and voluntary groups.

These individual elements are in reality all parts of one scheme to enhance the Western Gateway to the town centre. However, due to funding constraints, they are being brought forward individually, drawing on different funding streams as they become available. This means that the case for each has to be made independently, whilst in practice the benefits are overlapping and each element is strengthened by the delivery of the others. The works proposed under UKSPF are a top priority due to linking to our own Capital Programme investment and Corporate Plan, and because this visible town centre scheme was not put forward for LUF funding.

- 4.3 Item 1.2 (site feasibility studies) would assist the District Council to progress work to unlock brownfield sites for housing and employment, hence being a top priority (Corporate Plan).
- 4.4 The District Council is able to utilise 4% of its UKSPF allocation for administration of the overall UKSPF programme, once agreed (e.g. contracting, programme management, monitoring etc.), which is up to £78,190 over three years. As indicated in Table 1, an allocation to support programme administration has been included. The approach to administration will be determined once a formal response has been received from High Peak Borough Council regarding a Peak-wide approach to programme oversight, or otherwise.
- 4.5 Finance staff support will be needed to support fund management as the District Council will be the Accountable Body for UKSPF. As lead local authority, the District Council has other legal and procurement responsibilities such as third party contracting which will involve Legal input.
- 4.6 External legal advice is being obtained on Subsidy Control matters. Initial advice on the proposed interventions / activities listed in Table 1 indicates that for some there is considered no/low risk of subsidy. For others e.g. 2.1 where grants are proposed and subsidy is present, it is proposed to rely on the Minimal Financial Assistance Allowance exemption. With regard to 1.2, the advice indicates the potential for subsidy to the private landowners of development sites. Each study will need to be considered on a case by case basis to determine whether a compliant subsidy can be provided under the Minimal Financial Assistance Allowance or it is necessary to undertake an analysis of the intervention against the seven Subsidy Principles to confirm compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

5 GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIP

5.1 A partnership structure, including the MP, is required to oversee the development and delivery of the Investment Plan. This should include local business/employer bodies, the voluntary and community sector, other partners and local authorities. It is inherent in the guidance that lead local authorities must work closely with county councils to agree and commission any skills and employment activity. Partnership working across other districts is appropriate where investment packages seek to address common issues.

5.2 The proposed structure for the Derbyshire Dales UKSPF Investment Plan is:

1. UKSPF Peak Partnership Board providing strategic oversight, based on the former LEADER Local Action Group – rural-focused local group comprising business representation (including Business Peak District and a representative from the Derbyshire Dales & High Peak Manufacturing Network), local authorities, Peak District National Park, sector representatives and the VCS. As per joint working arrangements in the past, Peak District partners engaged in the workshop have agreed in principle to continue with the approach of a single governance structure for the wider Peak District area. This also makes sense from the perspective of partners operating countywide or beyond with regard to attendance at a number of local boards.

The Board would include Member representation from the partner local authorities – proposed as the Leader of the District Council - and the Derbyshire Dales MP has been asked to advise on whether she would wish to sit on the Board or be engaged in the implementation of the plan in a different way. A response is awaited at the time of writing.

2. UKSPF Peak Partnership Executive – a smaller officer working group with operational responsibility drawn from board partners.
- 5.3 As indicated in section 3.7, discussions are ongoing with High Peak Borough Council officers (noting the potential involvement of Staffordshire Moorlands too) to determine the extent of partnership working / potential shared governance across the wider Peak District. Should a single joint Peak District governance arrangement not prove possible, a Derbyshire Dales Partnership Board and Executive will be established based on a similar membership but without neighbouring district / borough councils.

6 RISK ASSESSMENT

6.1 Legal.

The Council is required to demonstrate a competitive process has been undertaken with regard to the selection of future projects to deliver Investment Plan interventions. Other than in those areas stated where a partnership approach is proposed with another authority it is proposed that activity would normally be commissioned or procured.

Grant Funding Agreements (or an agreement of a similar standing) will be required with third parties delivering projects on behalf of the Council.

External legal support has been obtained with regard to subsidy control and areas of risk have been outlined within the report.

The Legal risk has been assessed as medium.

6.2 Financial.

The Government has committed £20,000 towards plan preparation for each Lead Local Authority. However this won't be provided until after the Investment Plan has been accepted by the Government (probably October), so spend is 'at risk' until then utilising the Economic Development Reserve.

Lead Local Authorities will receive upfront payments each financial year. This will be subject to Lead Local Authorities demonstrating in the Investment Plans and subsequent performance reports that full annual payments will be spent and accounted for in-year.

£78,000 has been ring fenced from within the UKSPF allocation to support overall programme administration.

Where relevant, costs directly associated with the delivery of individual interventions / activities will be drawn from the funding allocations identified within Table 1 to ensure efficient delivery. Should High Peak Borough Council not include the Peak Rural Innovation Programme within its Investment Plan, the District Council would take on contracting and monitoring responsibilities (in addition to project appraisal) and the costs for delivering this programme will be reviewed accordingly. Officers will re-assess the requirements for projects delivered in partnership with other councils when final arrangements are known.

Annual UKSPF expenditure profiles are fixed by Government. In year 2 the budget remains limited with a significant increase in the available budget at year 3. This will create budgetary challenges, particularly with regard to the proposed public realm works which, if included with the Plan, will require the Council to consider cash flow support for this element of the programme until the year 3 allocation is received through the Capital Programme. The limited grant budget for year 2 of the Peak Rural Innovation Programme will also present challenges for administering this part of the plan. Discussions will take place with Government to determine the potential to utilise underspend in other districts or secure an earlier draw down of year 3 funding.

The indicative Capital / Revenue split of UKSPF funding is shown in the total column of Annex 1. As part of the expenditure is proposed as grants, it is not possible to be precise on the actual profile prior to implementation. As shown in the table below and in Annex 1, the current assessment results in £1,043,517 additional revenue expenditure and £911,235 additional capital expenditure. Approval is sought for supplementary budgets (over 3 financial years).

	Revenue Expenditure £	Capital Expenditure £	Total £
Town Centre Public Realm (Matlock)	-	460,000	460,000
Site feasibility studies	250,000	-	250,000
Community Resilience Fund	64,000	36,000	100,000
Peak Rural Innovation Programme (PRIP)	369,000	327,000	696,000
Energy audit and carbon reduction support	57,970	88,235	146,205
Specialist business advice services to support established SMEs	155,103	-	155,103
Business Start-Up Programme	69,444	-	69,444
Administration	78,000	-	78,000
Total	1,043,517	911,235	1,954,752

For the Bakewell Road element of the Investment Plan in particular, allowance has been made for: contractor's prelims, overheads and profit; professional fees; construction risk / contingencies; and inflation (with a view to minimising the potential for unforeseen cost increases) increasing the total cost of the public realm package to an estimated £460,000. This figure has therefore been included within the Draft UKSPF Investment Plan for consideration as discussed elsewhere on the agenda.

With the exception of plan preparation, spending will not take place until approval of the plan has been received from government. Therefore, the financial risk is assessed as Medium.

6.3 Climate Change.

Government guidance indicates that: *Interventions supported by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will need to take account of other local and national policies and priorities – including the government's commitment to reach Net Zero by 2050 and clean growth.*

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...*'

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.

While the details of the programme are still being finalised, each of the proposed broad interventions aligns with the above local policies. Each has been evaluated in terms of climate change benefits, impacts and adaptations – see Annex 2. The evaluation is based on the principles identified and does not

consider the delivery methods or attempt to quantify impacts.

It should also be noted that delivery of each of these interventions will have an impact on the direct emissions of the authority where activities are delivered direct through the requirement for resource (e.g. principally through energy and travel requirements).

6.4 Equality Impact Assessment.

The completed EIA is attached as Annex 3. Equalities impacts have been considered with regard to both the type of activities proposed and method of delivery. No significant equalities impacts are identified. Any improvement actions identified with regard to project delivery would be implemented at delivery stage.

7 OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

In preparing this report, the relevance of the following factors has also been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equalities, environmental, climate change, health, human rights, personnel and property.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Steve Capes, Director of Regeneration and Policy
01629 761371, email steve.capes@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Giles Dann, Policy and Economic Development Manager
Tel. 01629 761211,
Email giles.dann@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

8 ATTACHMENTS

ANNEX 1 – Summary Derbyshire Dales UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan
ANNEX 2 – Climate Change Assessment
ANNEX 3 – Equality Impact Assessment