

# Tonbridge & Malling UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Group

06 June 2024



# Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Notes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising
- Programme Overview Refresh
- Year 2 (2023/24) Overview
- Year 3 (2024/25) Update
- Any Other Business
- Close (proposed next meeting 14 November 2024 at 2pm)



UK Government

**LEVELLING  
— UP —**



[www.tmbc.gov.uk](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk)

# Programme Overview Refresh

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme part of the Government's Levelling Up Agenda.
- Government approved £1m T&M UKSPF Investment Plan in December 2022 covering a 3-year period up to March 2025.
- Year 1 (2022/23) – despite late notice of approval, 76% of budget spent and remaining underspend was carried into 2023/24.
- Year 2 (2023/24) – 100% of budget spent (including Year 1 underspend).
- Year 3 (2024/25) – progressing with initiatives.
- Potential extension of the UKSPF Programme (nothing set in stone yet).

# UKSPF Year 2

- Return sent into DLUHC in May 2024 covering Year 2 (2023/24) and subsequently approved.
- 100% of the **£221,099** budget spent (£104,134 Capital and £116,965 Revenue).
- Match-funding of **£259,676.34** secured from public and private sector.
- Variety of Programme Outputs (as of 31.03.24):
  - Over 1,000 young people engaged.
  - 55 organisations/businesses receiving grants.
  - 19 businesses receiving mentoring.
  - 16 socially excluded people accessing digital support.
  - 6 neighbourhood improvements undertaken.
  - 2 feasibility studies completed.
- Outputs still being monitored.



## Year 2 – Example Projects

### Green Business Grant Scheme – Round 1 (£12,000 UKSPF)

- Matched with over £130,000 of public and private funding.
- Grants of up to £5,000 available – 8 projects awarded funding. 7 completed in year, 1 completed in early 2024/25.
- Project helped to fund solar panels, heat source pumps, improved insulation, EV charging points and R&D.

# Year 2 – Example Projects

## Shopfront Improvement Grant Scheme – Round 1 (£24,422.12 UKSPF in Year 2):

- UKSPF matched with c.£40,000 public and private sector funding.
- Round 1 - Grants of up to £3,500 to improve shopfronts or for energy efficiency improvements.
- Let's Do Business Group commissioned to provide advice and support to applicants.
- 18 applicants offered a grant – 16 completed and 2 aborted.
- Helped bring 2 vacant units back into use.



# Year 2 - Example Projects

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## Living Bus Shelters (£31,212 in Year 2)

- Commissioned Clear Channel (bus shelter provider) to pilot an innovative bus shelter.
- Known as a 'bee bus shelter' or 'buzz shelter'.
- Focused in urban area with little greenery and higher levels of traffic.
- Location on Quarry Hill Parade in Tonbridge identified – double bus shelter.
- Installed in March 2024.
- Will be monitored to see how impactful.



# Year 3 (2024/25)

- Budget of £703,807 for 2024/25.
- Large number of continuation projects from the original Year 2 Programme.
- However, a number of new projects coming properly on stream. These include:
  - a) Safer Sustainable Car Parks
  - b) Carbon Descent Plans (following Year 1 funding)
  - c) Carbon Literacy Grant Programme
  - d) Volunteering and Enrichment Projects: West Kent Mind and The Oaks Specialist College
  - e) West Kent Life Skills
  - f) Green Retrofit Initiative



# Safer Sustainable Car Parks

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- Allocation of £100,000 towards the installation of LED lighting in 19 locations across the borough.
- Aims to improve perceptions of safety and reduce carbon footprint of our car parks.
- Currently out to tender.
- Scheduled for implementation in Winter 2024.





# Carbon Descent Plans

- Funding in Year 1 of the programme towards the plans.
- Allocation of £75,000 towards carbon reduction measures at our leisure centres.
- Will supplement recent funding awards from Central Government and Sports England to install heat pumps, LED lighting and additional solar panels.

# Carbon Literacy Grant Programme

- Allocation of £12,500.
- Call for applications opened up in December 2023 for community and voluntary groups and micro-businesses to access funding for Carbon Literacy Training during 2024/25.
- Take up was quite low, so further round is planned.
- For further information go to <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/carbon-literacy>





## Volunteering and Enrichment

- In partnership with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council – allocated £10,000 each.
- Following call for proposals, funding West Kent Mind Chat Room and The Oaks Specialist College to deliver volunteering opportunities mostly in retail and hospitality.

# West Kent Life Skills

- In partnership with Sevenoaks District Council – allocated £50,000 each.
- Call for proposals in February 2024.
- Funding awarded to 4 projects in May 2024 – Keep Phyt, Runway Training, KCC Adult Education and Compaid to deliver local programmes to support skills development.



# Green Retrofit Skills

- In partnership with Sevenoaks District Council and Folkestone and Hythe District Council.
- Allocation of £60,000 towards green retrofit training across a number of levels.
- Delivery by Mid Kent College as the green retrofit skills lead in the Kent and Medway Local Skills Improvement Plan.
- Scheduled to start in June 2024 following the delivery of pilot courses during March-May 2024.



# Year 2 Continuation Projects (Part 1)

- Shopfronts Grant Scheme (Round 2) – 21 projects allocated funding. 5 completed by end of May 2024.
- Green Business Grant Scheme (Round 2) – 11 projects allocated funding. 1 completed by end of May 2024.
- Community Development Grant Scheme (Round 2) – round closed on 01 May 2024, with new projects awarded funding in June 2024 for completed by end of 2024/25.
- West Kent Business Support Programme – continue with seminars, networking and mentoring opportunities - <https://westkentbusiness.com/>
- Digital Inclusion Project – to date 25 digitally excluded residents have accessed new hardware and set-up training, and work will continue during 2024/25.

# Year 2 Continuation Projects (Part 2)

- Youth Provision – Salus awarded contract to deliver diversionary activities across the borough in 2024/25.
- Mobile CCTV – funds to help move cameras to new ASB hot spots as and when required.
- Tonbridge Town Centre – with Phase 2 of the plans approved in March 2024, further work is required to take forward detailed site analysis - <https://www.tmbc.gov.uk/planning/tonbridge-town-centre-development>
- Digital Information Boards – stalled due to staffing changes within the events team, but now being progressed. Will lead to new information boards in both indoor and outdoor locations across the borough by end of 2024/25.



# **Any Other Business**

**(also opportunity to share any good news or updates!)**

# Next Meeting

- **Propose 14 November 2024 at 2pm (virtual)**

