

**SUBJECT:** UK Shared Prosperity Funding Allocation 25/26  
**MEETING:** CABINET  
**DATE:** 19th February 2025  
**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL

## 1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of UK Governments one-year extension to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and seek approval for the granting of investment from UKSPF for 2025/26 to projects listed in Appendix one of this report.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves the recommendations of the Monmouthshire People & Place partnership in relation to the investment of funds from the local authority's allocation for 2025/26.
- 2.2 Approves the draft local investment plan (appendix one) and projects contained within.
- 2.3 Authorises the commencement of activity as outlined in the draft local investment plan from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, ahead of the regional lead local authority (Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC) receiving an updated Memorandum of Understanding from UK Government.

## KEY ISSUES:

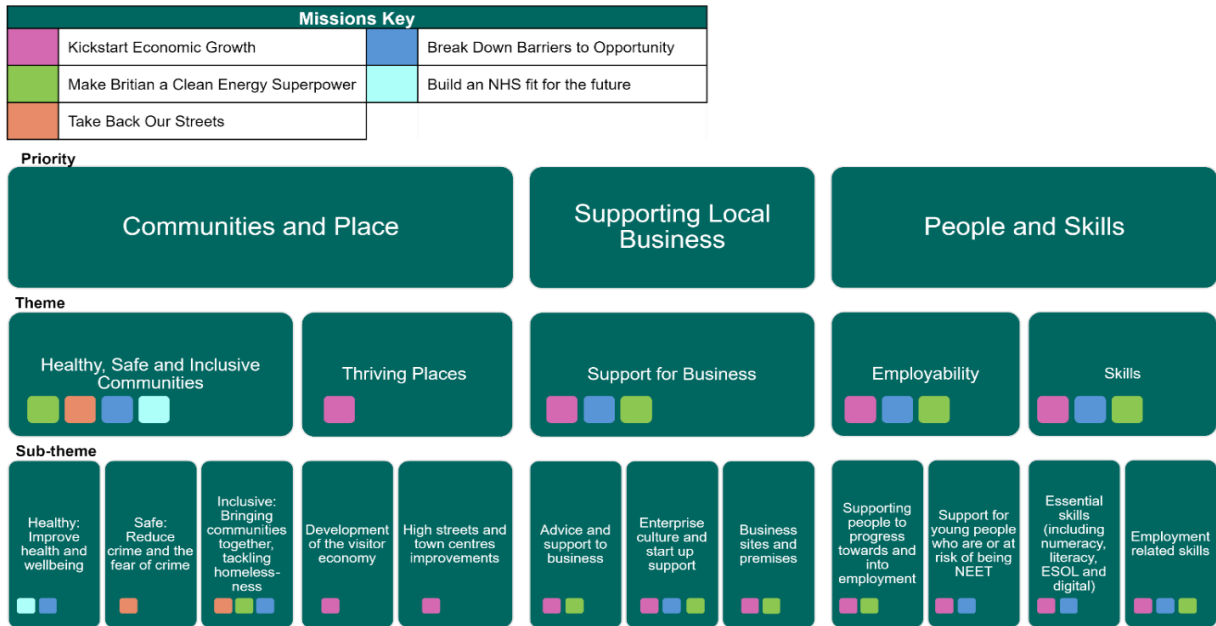
### 3.1 Initial round of funding (2023-2025)

- 3.1.1 In March 2022, [Cabinet](#) received an update on the UK Government Levelling Up White Paper which contained details of the UKSPF Pre-Launch Guidance. Approval was also given to establish a citizen focussed, Local Partnership to inform the development of a Monmouthshire Investment Plan – now termed the 'Monmouthshire People and Place Partnership' to monitor progress and performance of the local investment plan over the funding period
- 3.1.2 In July 2022 [Cabinet](#) agreed that Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC) would act as the Lead Local Authority for UKSPF for the ten Local Authorities across the South East Wales Region, with RCTCBC holding overall accountability for the funding. Cabinet also:
  - Endorsed the submission of the Regional Investment Plan by RCTCBC, which incorporated the Authority's outline local investment plan, and was submitted to UK Government on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.
  - Agreed to extend the contracts of NEET (Not in Education, Employment and Training) related staff who were currently at risk of redundancy in December 2022, due to the cessation of the European Social Fund programmes – Inspire2Achieve, Inspire2Work and Skills@Work. Staff to be funded via UKSPF until March 2025 by taking a locally delivered, regionally coordinated approach; and

- Agreed to utilise up to 4% of the funding for financing the administration of the Monmouthshire element of the Fund to establish a delivery team from within the Council's existing Monmouthshire Economy, Employment and Skills Team.
- 3.1.3 In [November 2022 Cabinet approved](#) the list of UKSPF projects in the local investment plan which contributed significantly to the strategic aims of the Council's Community and Corporate Plan, namely: Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills and Cabinet agreed to the Monmouthshire People and Place Partnership's informed decisions in the allocation of Monmouthshire's UKSPF allocation.

## 3.2 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2025/26

- 3.2.1 The UK government's Autumn Budget announced that the UK Shared Prosperity Fund would continue at a reduced level for a transition year by providing £900 million for local authorities to invest in local growth, in advance of wider funding reforms. Individual regional and local allocations were not confirmed at this time.
- 3.2.2 The aim of the UKSPF 25/26 extension year is to provide a smooth transition from the existing UKSPF programme to a new, future funding framework. The government is committed to restoring decision making over structural funding to representatives of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and we will work closely with the devolved governments to honour this commitment.
- 3.2.3 On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024, a letter from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government confirmed the allocations for individual local authorities in Wales, and that "to protect the most deprived communities within Wales from the impact of this reduction, [they] have agreed to limit the reductions to allocations for the 20% of local authorities in Wales with the highest levels of deprivation."
- 3.2.4 The letter also confirmed that Multiply will not continue as a specific, ringfenced programme. Adult numeracy can be funded where it is a local priority, as part of our UKSPF allocation alongside the wider suite of people and skills related activities.
- 3.2.5 A new technical note was released on this date, adding the UK Government's 5 national missions, themes, and sub-themes to the existing UKSPF investment priorities (Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills)
- 3.2.6 "The Fund's mix of revenue and capital funding will ensure places deliver directly on the foremost Mission to kickstart economic growth. Alongside this, it will support the four remaining Missions"



3.2.7 The role of lead local authorities for delivery of the Fund for 2025-26 remains the same and will continue to be delivered by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTCBC). Lead local authorities will receive an area's allocation to manage, including assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day to day monitoring.

3.2.8 Lead and local authorities are not required to submit a local investment plan to UK Government with regards to plans for the extension period. These will instead be included as part of the next quarterly reporting update in April 2025.

3.2.9 UK Government have advised that they will not provide a revised Memorandum of Understanding to RCTCBC, as the regional lead, until after the start of the new financial year on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025.

### 3.3 Monmouthshire Shared Prosperity Fund Allocation for 2025/26

3.3.1 UKSPF in Monmouthshire continues to be overseen by the Monmouthshire People and Place Partnership. This is chaired by Paul Griffiths – Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Planning, and Economic Development and Strategic Director for Learning, Skills and Economy Will McLean sits on the partnership. The partnership is made up of representatives from the following organisations:

- Cardiff Capital Region/Corporate Joint Committee
- Cwmpas Digital Communities Wales
- Department of Work and Pensions
- Melin Homes
- MCC Partnerships – Link for Monmouthshire Programme Board
- MCC Regeneration

- MCC Housing, Rural Development & Strategic Partnerships
- National Resources Wales

3.3.2 On 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024 the allocation for Monmouthshire was confirmed by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government as £2,399,940. This is made up of £1,734,653 revenue funding and £665,286 capital funding. The allocation for Monmouthshire is 2.32% of the regional allocation for SE Wales (Cardiff Capital Region), and 1.14% of the total funding allocation for Wales.

3.3.3 This allocation represents a 46% decrease year-on-year when compared to the available allocation for 2024/25, presenting a significant financial challenge.

3.3.5 In the lead up to the announcement of the allocation, business cases for extension to provision were sought from within the current cohort of projects. Projects were asked to consider a variety of delivery models as part of their proposals, including a minimum viable provision offer in the event of a significant budget reduction for the authority.

3.3.6 Initial appraisals of proposals were undertaken to establish ongoing eligibility of proposals for UKSPF support, alignment with purposes set out for the fund, and the newly introduced themes and sub-themes. This process also considered the risks of cessation of each project in relation to strategic objectives, the impact of losing established teams and the associated knowledge/expertise, and the performance of projects through the original round of funding. Further review was undertaken to challenge finance and performance profiles, reducing the overall financial ask.

3.3.7 The Monmouthshire People and Place Partnership reviewed and considered the proposals for funding, including alignment to the requirements and purpose of the fund, the three UKSPF investment priorities: (Communities and Place, Supporting Local Businesses, and People and Skills), the new themes and subthemes introduced to the programme (referenced in 3.2.6), and ensuring the programme would deliver on the strategic priorities set out in the Council's Community and Corporate Plan.

3.3.8 Allocations were agreed for the proposals set out in Appendix one. £46,289 revenue funding remains unallocated to explore the viability of a transition period for the Together Works project and a future sustainable delivery model. In addition, £209,745 of capital funding remains unallocated to allow for further consideration of investment pathways by the Monmouthshire People and Place partnership. This will include potential targeted call out or small grant opportunities for commencement within 2025/26.

#### **4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):**

- 4.1 The Integrated Impact Assessment detailed in Appendix two, anticipates that the projects detailed within this report will have a positive impact on peoples' social, emotional, health and wellbeing, education, and skills. This will develop resident's resilience and improve their life chances.

## 5. **OPTIONS APPRAISAL:**

- 5.1 The aim of the UKSPF 25/26 extension year is to provide a smooth transition from the existing UKSPF programme to a new, future funding framework. It was indicated that allocations would be adjusted to prioritise areas with the highest levels of deprivation. It was therefore anticipated that this would disadvantage Monmouthshire due to its ranking on the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD).
- 5.2 The announcement provided a very short timescale within which to determine allocations and within the context of a significantly reduced funding envelope.
- 5.3 The Monmouthshire People & Place Partnership agreed to consider initial plan development within the existing cohort to ensure business continuity and to avoid the cessation of all current activity on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
- 5.4 Extension proposals were therefore submitted via a Single Stage Business Case template, to include an individual options appraisal of delivery models and a minimum viable provision offers. Further review was undertaken to challenge finance and performance profiles, reducing the overall financial ask to enable the partnership to consider projects for investment.
- 5.5 £46,289 revenue funding remains unallocated to explore the viability of a transition period for the Together Works project. £209,745 of capital funding remains unallocated to allow for further consideration of investment pathways by the Monmouthshire People and Place partnership.

## 6. **EVALUATION CRITERIA**

- 6.1 All projects approved for UKSPF extension or 25/26 will adhere to the evaluation guidelines and reporting requirements set out by UK Government and our Lead Local Authority, Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RCTBC).
- 6.2 The Monmouthshire People and Place Partnership will continue to review and monitor the performance and financial profiles of all projects within the plan.

## 7. **REASONS:**

- 7.1 The draft local investment plan has been developed with consideration of the UKSPF prospectus and 2025/26 technical note, taking account of the fund's 3 investment priorities (Communities & Place, Supporting Local Business, People & Skills), the newly introduced themes and sub-themes, and the 5 Government missions (referenced in 3.2.6). The fund's themes align with objectives set out in Monmouthshire Community and Corporate Plan.

- 7.2 The draft plan is a mix of revenue and capital funded projects, contributing to the foremost Mission to kickstart economic growth. It will also support the four remaining Missions.
- 7.3 The draft plan sets out how activity will impact on the local priorities set out in the Community and Corporate Plan, identifying specific aims and actions at a project level.
- 7.4 There are clear synergies with a number of local Monmouthshire Strategies, for which the activity outlined in the draft plan will be a significant contributor. This includes but is not limited to:
  - Monmouthshire Economy, Employment and Skills Strategy
  - Monmouthshire Local Food Strategy
  - Monmouthshire Heritage Strategy
  - NEET Prevention Strategy
  - Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan
  - Green Infrastructure Strategy
- 7.5 An unallocated balance has been retained to allow for further consideration of investment pathways by the Monmouthshire People & Place Partnership.

## 8 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 8.1 Monmouthshire County Council’s UKSPF allocation for 2025/26 is £2,399,940. This is made up of £1,734,653 revenue funding and £665,286 capital funding. This is a 46% reduction from 2024/25.
- 8.2 UK Government permits 4% of the funding to be used for management and administration of the Fund. 20% of this will be allocated to the Lead Local Authority (RCTCBC), with the remainder (£76,798) retained by the local authority. This will be allocated to the Council’s Economy, Employment and Skills service for local management and administration.
- 8.3 The local investment profile currently includes an earmarked amount of 1.75% for regional delivery by the Cardiff Capital Region, mirroring existing arrangement. If these arrangements are not agreed for continuation, a further £41,999 revenue funding is available for local project delivery.
- 8.4 A caveat applies to £55,000 of the allocation that requires confirmation of eligibility for capitalisation. If this is not confirmed, this will be returned to the unallocated total for further consideration.
- 8.5 £46,289 revenue funding remains unallocated to explore the viability of a transition period for the Together Works project. £209,745 of capital funding remains unallocated to allow for further consideration of investment pathways by the Monmouthshire People and Place partnership.

	<b>Allocation (£)</b>	<b>Management, administration, and regional projects (£)</b>	<b>Local project delivery allocations (£)</b>	<b>Unallocated amounts (£)</b>

<b>Capital</b>	665,287	26,611	428,930	209,745
<b>Revenue</b>	1,734,654	111,385	1,576,979	46,289

Table 1: Allocation of capital and revenue funding

**9. CONSULTEES:**

- Monmouthshire People & Place Partnership
- DMT – Learning, Skills and Economy
- Strategic Leadership Team
- Cabinet

**10. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Appendix one – Local Investment Plan 2025/26
- Appendix two - Integrated Impact Assessment

**11. AUTHOR:**

Will McLean, Chief Officer Learning Skills and Economy

Lead officer

Hannah Jones, Head of Economy Employment and Skills

**12. CONTACT DETAILS:**

**Email:** [willMcLean@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:willMcLean@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01633 644582

**Email:** [hannahjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:hannahjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk)

**Tel:** 01633 748316

APPENDIX 1

# UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND

## LIP 25/26 PROJECTS LIST



“The UK government’s Autumn Budget announced a further £900 million of funding for local investment through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) by March 2026. All areas of the UK are receiving a further allocation of UKSPF - helping places take advantage of the Fund’s flexibility for delivery from April 2025.

“The fund proactively supports Mission-delivery: with a specific focus to help kickstart economic growth and promoting opportunities in all parts of the UK.”

For 2025-26, The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) have mapped existing UKSPF interventions into Mission-led themes across the three priority areas:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills.



## COMMUNITIES & PLACE

### Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities

- Improve health & wellbeing
- Reduce crime & the fear of crime
- Bringing communities together, tackling homelessness

### Thriving Places

- Development of the visitor economy
- High streets and town centres improvements



## SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

### Support for Business

- Advice and support to business
- Enterprise culture and start up support
- Business sites and premises



## PEOPLE & SKILLS

### Employability

- Supporting people to progress towards and into employment
- Support for young people who are or at risk of being NEET

### Skills

- Essential skills (including numeracy, literacy, ESOL and digital)
- Employment related skills

## Appendix One: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monmouthshire projects for Local Investment Plan 2025/26

Investment Priority: **Communities and Place**

Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities

Sub-Themes: Improve health and wellbeing; Reduce crime and the fear of crime; Bringing communities together, tackling homelessness

Project / Description of Activity	C&C Plan <sup>1</sup>	Aims / Indicators	Project Lead	Financial Investment
<p><b>BeCommunity</b> Extend the Be Community provision, continuing to equip volunteers across Monmouthshire's civil society with the skills and knowledge needed to grow sustainable, inclusive, and thriving community projects. Be Community will continue to deliver a comprehensive training program combining face-to-face sessions, online modules, distance learning, and mentoring.</p>	A Fair place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase and support the number of people who volunteer</li> <li>• Increased number of people attending training sessions</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Revenue: £15,000
<p><b>Gwent Green Grid Partnership</b> Green infrastructure improvement projects to foster nature and climate resilience, provide impactful community engagement with under-served groups, to support community involvement in decision making for local green and blue spaces, green skills training to support volunteers and community groups for people to gain a qualification. Supports active travel capital improvement works as part of the Multi-User Route project in Caldicot.</p>	A Green Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with public sector partners across Gwent to improve the social determinants of health such as [...] access to green spaces</li> <li>• Improve walking and cycle routes and integrate these with the public transport network</li> <li>• Increase and support the number of people who volunteer</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Capital: £200,000 Revenue: £40,000
<p><b>Creative Futures</b> Creative Futures allows time and space to develop creative work and creative practice with young people. It consists of Bespoke Youth Arts sessions/Interventions, supporting delivery of a county wide youth arts initiative based on the collaborative vision of partners to 'give the young people of Monmouthshire a voice in the Creative arts'.</p>	A Fair Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a varied range of activities in a safe environment [...] for residents to] participate in a wide range of activities that contribute to health and well-being</li> <li>• Community led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes</li> <li>• Support local events/activities</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Capital: £12,830 Revenue: £85,007
<p><b>Circular Economy Project</b> Increase and nurture repair and ReUse skills through training and small-scale capital investment, and establish additional Benthgy operations. Arrange community workshops to promote and encourage repair, active travel and circular economy such as simple DIY, Use of Thermal Imaging cameras and energy efficiency measures and cycle repair and maintenance.</p>	A Green Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support communities to reuse and repair items through initiatives such as re-use shops, Benthgy and Repair Cafes</li> <li>• Number of people attending training/workshop sessions</li> <li>• Amenities created or improved</li> <li>• Increase users of facilities/amenities</li> </ul>	MCC (Place)	Capital: £20,600 Revenue: £51,940
<p><b>Tackling Poverty &amp; Inequality</b> Re-establish a County-Wide Tackling Poverty and Inequality Network and ensure that citizens have access to advice services so that people get the maximum financial support they are entitled to, including: Cost of Living Campaign, Weekly Drop-in sessions in hubs, Information Events, and a Fuel Poverty Campaign.</p>	A Fair Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with partners to reduce food insecurity</li> <li>• Ensure access to advice services so that people get the maximum financial support they are entitled to</li> <li>• Increase take-up of energy efficiency measures</li> <li>• Improved engagement numbers/people reached</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Revenue: £92,235
<p><b>Granicus – Communication &amp; Engagement</b> Oversee and resolve any issues with the 'Lets Talk Monmouthshire' platform, a single digital platform that all consultation and engagement pieces of work can be hosted so residents can see what is happening on an organisational wide basis or on a local community level.</p>	A Fair Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Citizens are able to participate in council and community decision-making and take actions which enable them to shape their own futures</li> <li>• Number of people reached / improved engagement numbers</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Capital: £10,000 Revenue: £10,000

## Appendix One: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monmouthshire projects for Local Investment Plan 2025/26

<p><b>Abergavenny LC Warm Water Recovery System</b> Adopting new energy efficient and low carbon technologies and work practices, the learning from which will be shared through our regional networks to further stimulate innovation in our sector. The pool water recovery system will make significant improvements to the procedures by; reducing water consumption for pool top up, reducing energy consumption associated with heating; reducing volume of sewage discharged.</p>	A Green Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the carbon emissions generated from the council’s properties and vehicles</li> <li>• Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support (Tonnes of CO2e)</li> <li>• Number of organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity following support</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Capital: £50,000
--	---------------	--	---------------------------------------	------------------

**Investment Priority:** **Communities and Place**

**Theme:** Thriving Places

Sub-Themes: Development of the visitor economy; High streets and town centres improvements

Project / Description of Activity	C&C Plan	Aims / Indicators	Project Lead	Financial Investment
<p><b>Destination for All</b> Bringing accessible tourism to Monmouthshire, project will be a mixture of capital and revenue grant scheme to organisations to deliver improvements to visitor experience at key attractions, destinations, and events, and provide accessibility advice.</p>	A Fair place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the tourism sector and enhance the experience for visitors to our county</li> <li>• Provide grants for physical adaptations at local cultural and heritage sites to improve accessibility</li> <li>• Develop and deliver tailored support to visitor economy businesses</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Capital: £54,000 Revenue: £76,000
<p><b>Today’s Heritage Tomorrow</b> Safeguard, preserve, and promote Monmouthshire’s heritage sites, further enhancing them with digital interpretation presence to engage visitors. An extension of exhibitions and improved interpretation in museums and heritage sites to better engage visitors.</p>	A Thriving Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the amenities, events and experiences that attract people to our towns</li> <li>• Connect visitors with new gallery experiences and a new programme of exhibitions and events (capital).</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Capital: £26,500 Revenue: £83,000
<p><b>Destination Policy Impact Assessment</b> Assessing the impact of Government policy changes on the Monmouthshire visitor economy. Manage and share destination intelligence to inform destination management strategy.</p>	A Thriving Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to support the tourism sector and enhance the experience for visitors to our county</li> <li>• Findings will help to inform future decision making and align with the Destination for All project</li> </ul>	MCC (Customer, Culture and Wellbeing)	Capital: £55,000

## Appendix One: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monmouthshire projects for Local Investment Plan 2025/26

Investment Priority: **Supporting Local Business**

Theme: Support for Business

Sub-Themes: Advice and support to business; Enterprise culture and start up support; Business sites and premises

Project / Description of Activity	C&C Plan	Aims / Indicators	Project Lead	Financial Investment
<p><b>Food Resilience Project</b> Support for local food businesses through training, networking, and investment to develop infrastructure and local supply chains from primary producers to retailer. Hosts and grows the Monmouthshire Food Partnership and strategy. Promote the adoption of sustainable and regenerative farming practices. Will offer signposting and, where appropriate, grant funding opportunities to support local food and drink businesses and entrepreneurs.</p>	A Green Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster a thriving local food economy</li> <li>• Work with key supply chain partners to increase the amount of local or UK produce available to MCC settings</li> <li>• Reduce our reliance on imported food</li> <li>• Encourage innovation and clustering in the local food sector</li> <li>• Encourage new trading relationships between local food enterprises</li> </ul>	MCC (Place)	Revenue: £87,352
<p><b>Business Monmouthshire</b> Ensure business support is targeted to meet the needs of start-ups, existing, and larger businesses, helping to connect them to wider support. Increased levels of business advice, guidance, and events. Develop use of the Evolutive CRM system to enhance engagement and communication with businesses.</p>	A Thriving Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to those exploring self-employment and business growth to enable them to progress their aspirations</li> <li>• Ensure Business support is targeted to meet the needs of existing and larger businesses</li> <li>• Contribute to effective delivery of the Monmouthshire Economy, Employment and Skills Strategy</li> </ul>	MCC (Learning, Skills, and Economy)	Revenue: £114,467
<p><b>Technology and Local Knowledge (TaLK)</b> Conduct knowledge transfer activities that link Monmouthshire farmers to Hartpury Agri-tech Centre. Business outreach to review existing technologies and potentially adopt new ones to increase competitiveness and improve productivity. Support and train farm shops, farm business diversification, and similar enterprises to reach a wider audience. Collaborating with partners, facilitate knowledge exchange to increase local understanding and adoption of sustainable and regenerative farming practices.</p>	A Green Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Hartpury University's Agri Tech Centre to support existing and new entrant farmers to review existing technologies and adopt new innovations to increase productivity and competitiveness</li> <li>• Offer networking, signposting and, where appropriate, grant funding opportunities to support rural diversification</li> </ul>	Hartpury University (Agri-Tech Centre)	Revenue: £146,381

## Appendix One: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monmouthshire projects for Local Investment Plan 2025/26

Investment Priority: **People and Skills**

Theme: Employability

Sub-Themes: Supporting people to progress towards and into employment; Support for young people who are or at risk of being NEET

Project / Description of Activity	C&C Plan	Aims / Indicators	Project Lead	Financial Investment
<p><b>Connect, Engage, Listen, Transform + (CELT+)</b> A core part of Monmouthshire’s employability offer, complimenting the Communities For Work+ programme. It includes intensive support for Economically Inactive, in-work mentoring and upskilling and sector specific focus. Supports participants regardless of where they are on their employment journey. This includes supporting residents on Universal Credit into employment, or employment with more hours, reducing residents’ reliance on the benefits system.</p>	A Thriving Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide employment support advice to help people find jobs</li> <li>Improve the affordability and accessibility of adult education courses</li> <li>Enhance delivery of employability programmes and build partnership with employers and local businesses.</li> <li>Provide support to move economically inactive residents closer to the labour market.</li> <li>Number of people gaining qualifications, licenses and skills</li> </ul>	MCC (Learning, Skills, and Economy)	Revenue: £248,200
<p><b>Inspire</b> Inspire is the key to successfully achieving the actions identified in the Monmouthshire NEET Prevention Strategy. The programme seeks to engage young people from year 8 to identify, support and engage with our most at risk and vulnerable learners, so they can access and maintain education, provide valuable opportunities to develop life skills and achieve additional qualifications so that they have the best opportunities to progress successfully into education, employment and training beyond year 11.</p>	A Learning Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop more support, such as coaching and mentoring for pupils</li> <li>Develop new approaches to improving attendance focusing on early identification of need to address all barriers to school attendance</li> <li>Monitor, develop and improve the Early Identification process in Monmouthshire</li> <li>Facilitate coordination of support</li> <li>Provide a coordinated approach to support transition</li> </ul>	MCC (Learning, Skills, and Economy)	Revenue: £357,243

Investment Priority: **People and Skills**

Theme: Skills

Sub-Themes: Essential skills (including numeracy, literacy, ESOL and digital); Employment related skills

Project / Description of Activity	C&C Plan	Aims / Indicators	Project Lead	Financial Investment
<p><b>Multiply</b> The benefits of the Multiply programme vary from gaining accredited qualifications, better understanding of the curriculum for parents, upskilling in soft life skills around cooking and budgeting and a general increase in confidence with numeracy. The programme has intertwined successfully with the local authority’s employability offer. The project will build on its foundations and upskill adults within Monmouthshire who are hard to reach and where opportunities to upskill numeracy are not available elsewhere in the County.</p>	A Learning Place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the affordability and accessibility of adult education courses</li> <li>Provision of personal budgeting [...] advice</li> <li>Provide support to move economically inactive residents closer to the labour market.</li> </ul>	MCC (Learning, Skills, and Economy)	Revenue: £170,155

## Appendix One: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monmouthshire projects for Local Investment Plan 2025/26

### Unallocated Funding:

13% of the local funding remains unallocated for further consideration of investment pathways. This may include call out opportunities targeting identified areas of need or small grant opportunities for direct support, amongst other considerations. The local investment profile currently includes an earmarked amount of 1.75% for regional delivery by the Cardiff Capital Region, mirroring existing arrangements. If these arrangements are not agreed for continuation, a further £41,999 revenue funding would be available for this process. The timescales for scoping and implementing these opportunities will likely run into the new financial year. Deliverable short-term projects would therefore be required.

Capital Funding: £209,745

Revenue Funding: £46,289

---

<sup>1</sup> [Community and Corporate \(C&C\) Plan 2022-2028](#) - Objective

## Appendix Two



# Integrated Impact Assessment document (incorporating Equalities, Future Generations, Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Duty)

<p><b>Name of the Officer</b> Hannah Jones</p> <p><b>Phone no:</b> 01633 748316  <b>E-mail:</b> <a href="mailto:hannahjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk">hannahjones@monmouthshire.gov.uk</a></p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To approve the list of projects and activity for UKSPF investment for the Monmouthshire funding allocation for 2025 -2026</li> </ul>
<p><b>Name of Service area:</b> Economy, Employment and Skills</p>	<p><b>Date</b> 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025</p>

1. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	Yes: All SPF projects have been assessed against the list of themes and subthemes and provide opportunities for participation and support for all ages	None identified	

<b>Protected Characteristics</b>	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Disability	Yes: All SPF projects have been assessed against the themes and subthemes and provide opportunities for participation, support and are accessible for those with disabilities.	None identified	
Gender reassignment	Yes: All SPF projects have been assessed against the themes and subthemes and provide opportunities for participation, support and are accessible for all.	None identified	
Marriage or civil partnership	Yes: All SPF projects will ensure fairness and equity	None identified	
Pregnancy or maternity	Yes: All SPF projects for will help to address any perceived barriers that might impact on residents' participation in their community and routes into employment.	None identified	
Race	Yes: All SPF projects will to ensue equity of opportunity regardless of race	None identified	



<b>Protected Characteristics</b>	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Religion or Belief	Yes: All SPF projects will to offer opportunities that will consider peoples' religion and religious beliefs	None identified	
Sex	Yes: All SPF projects will to offer opportunities that will consider individual needs regardless of sex.	None identified	
Sexual Orientation	Yes: All SPF projects will to offer opportunities that will consider individual needs regardless of sexual orientation.	None identified	

## 2. The Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice

The Socio-economic Duty requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to reduce inequalities of outcome which result from socio-economic disadvantage when taking key decisions This duty aligns with our commitment as an authority to Social Justice.

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has in respect of people suffering socio economic disadvantage.</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>

<b>Socio-economic Duty and Social Justice</b>	<p>The UK government has set out an ambitious plan for change, focused on 5 national Missions: ambitious, measurable, long-term objectives that provide a driving sense of purpose for the country. All SPF projects in this report will maintain this purpose and deliver the measures set out in the Council's Community and Corporate Plan.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
---	--	-----------------------	-----------------------

<b>How does your proposal impact on the following aspects of the Council's Welsh Language Standards:</b>	<b>Describe the positive impacts of this proposal</b>	<b>Describe the negative impacts of this proposal</b>	<b>What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts</b>
<b>Policy Making</b> Effects on the use of the Welsh language, Promoting Welsh language Treating the Welsh language, no less favourably	<p>The use of the Welsh language has been taken into consideration in delivery of all SPF projects. The promotion of Welsh language will be monitored.</p> <p>MCC SPF team will continue to ensure that all SPF projects adhere to the Council's Welsh Language Standards.</p>	<p>None identified</p>	<p>n/a</p>

<b>Operational</b> Recruitment & Training of workforce	Where new posts are required, the need to communicate through Welsh and English as part of the recruitment process and any necessary training offered as needed.	None identified	n/a
<b>Service delivery</b> Use of Welsh language in service delivery Promoting use of the language	Any advertising about the projects will promote the fact that people can deal with the Council in Welsh by phone, email, twitter, Facebook, letters, forms, website transactions etc.	None identified	n/a

**4. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal. There's no need to put something in every box if it is not relevant!

<b>Well Being Goal</b>	<b>Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.</b>	<b>What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
<b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs	The People and Skills Projects and Supporting Local Business Projects strongly supports the Prosperous Wales wellbeing goal: - People and Skills Project- CELT + provides skills and education support enabling residents to secure sustainable employment. This leads to improved labour market positions for those in employment;	There is a strategic imperative to maximise our economic growth and wealth creation capability and increase our productivity to increase the GVA for the county and the country.  The People and Place Partnership will support the SPF management team to monitor project delivery measuring impact and performance.




Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>and increased income for those who are currently seeking work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inspire supports young people to transition into education, employment or training, supporting them to overcome barriers and reach their full potential.</li> <li>- Supporting local businesses Projects – Business Monmouthshire, Food Resilience Programme and TaLK( Technology and Local Knowledge) supports local productivity, local business development alongside sector specific support.</li> </ul>	<p>Communities and Place – destination policy project within the Visitor Economy sub-theme enables the authority to understand the potential impacts of policy changes in the sector. This can inform decision making that may positively impact the economy, or mitigate negative impacts.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and can adapt to change (e.g., climate change)</p>	<p>The proposal strongly supports the <b>Resilient Wales</b> wellbeing goal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communities and Place project- Gwent Green Grid focuses on maintaining and improving biodiversity and ecosystems that support community resilience and climate change.</li> <li>- Supporting Local Business- Food Resilience Project includes workstreams focussing on the promotion of regenerative farming practices in Monmouthshire.</li> </ul>	<p>The People and Place Partnership will support the SPF management team to monitor project delivery measuring impact and performance.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximised, and health impacts are understood</p>	<p>People and Skills project – CELT + contributes towards citizens health and wellbeing at a grass roots level to improve their resilience and ability to take part in their community and work life.</p> <p>Communities &amp; Place – Gwent Green Grid aims to improve green spaces, access to which holds a positive wellbeing impact for residents.</p> <p>BeCommunity supports and promotes involvement in community volunteering, supporting physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>Destination for All supports making the destination 'accessible' for residents and visitors, whether they are here for a day or a lifetime. Enabling users to access and enjoy destinations across the county.</p>	<p>The People and Place Partnership will support the SPF management team to monitor project delivery measuring impact and performance.</p>
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe, and well connected</p>	<p>Supporting Local Businesses projects – Business Monmouthshire, Food Resilience Programme and Destination Monmouthshire improves the landscape and connectivity of Monmouthshire making it a more attractive, safe, and viable place to live and work.</p>	<p>The People and Place Partnership will support the SPF management team to monitor project delivery measuring impact and performance.</p>

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	<p>BeCommunity supports and promotes participation in civil society, bringing supportive communities together.</p> <p>Granicus – Communication and Engagement enables digital participation and involvement in engagement and decision making.</p>	
<p><b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic, and environmental wellbeing</p>	<p>Support Local Business – Business Monmouthshire works closely with priority industries to help steer the labour market towards those growing industries. Many of these industries focus on developing products that will support global health (MedTech, life science etc) or reduce greenhouse gas emissions e.g., e-mobility. TaLK and Food Resilience Project support efforts to decarbonise through technology solutions and regenerative farming practices.</p> <p>Communities and Place – Abergavenny LC Warm Water Recovery System overhauls existing procedures to produce environmental benefits, including reduced sewage discharge, decreased water requirements and reduced water heating needs. The Circular Economy projects promotes the circular economy, repair, reuse, energy efficiency, libraries of things, and repair cafes. Reducing waste and supporting communities to be more environmentally friendly.</p>	<p>The People and Place Partnership will support the SPF management team to monitor project delivery measuring impact and performance.</p>

<b>Well Being Goal</b>	<b>Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.</b>	<b>What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
<p><b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage, and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art, and recreation</p>	<p>Communities and Place projects – Today’s Heritage Tomorrow and Creative Futures creates a sense of pride and community cohesion. Promoting and encouraging people to take part in heritage, Cultural, arts and recreation activities and events.</p>	<p>The People and Place Partnership will support the SPF management team to monitor project delivery measuring impact and performance.</p>
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances</p>	<p>SPF projects support people, communities and businesses to fulfil their potential regardless of circumstances, supporting wellbeing, sustainable employment and reducing inequalities within our communities.</p> <p>Tackling Poverty and Inequality is aiming to have a county where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced. Their key priorities are to prevent people from falling into poverty, to provide targeted support for people already in poverty and to prevent the impact and effects of inequality.</p> <p>Multiply supports individuals with basic skills (numeracy), breaking down barriers to engagement, participation and progressing.</p>	<p>The People and Place Partnership will support the SPF management team to monitor project delivery measuring impact and performance.</p>

**How has your proposal embedded and prioritised the sustainable governance principles in its development?**

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>The List of projects for Monmouthshire SPF investment well-align to a long-term way of working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- By supporting households and young people into employment and helping to sustain and improve the quality of that employment, employability activity is a key part of the suite of early intervention &amp; prevention activities. This reduces the likelihood of long-term challenges resulting from deprivation, adverse childhood experiences, and unemployment.</li> </ul>	<p>None identified</p>
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>The People and Place Partnership is a range of partners that work and will continue to work collaboratively to the benefit of communities, local business, local employment, and skills opportunities at a local and regional level.</p>	<p>None identified</p>
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p>	<p>The fund reporting framework includes measures of improved perception of various items (e.g. a facility, amenity, event, project). This enables projects to gather feedback from users. Projects proactively engage with participants or end-users to improve service delivery. Cabinet and Elected members are keep informed of SPF projects through reports, case studies and visits and SPF projects events.</p>	<p>The central SPF team will continue to encourage and promote user feedback as an essential asset with project delivery, design and continuous improvement.</p>



Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<div data-bbox="100 331 315 587" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 96px; height: 160px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div data-bbox="327 308 521 611">Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</div>	<div data-bbox="533 308 1339 611">The purpose of the UK SPF funding is to empower each place to have healthy, safe and inclusive communities and thriving places.</div>	<div data-bbox="1350 308 2139 611">None identified</div>
<div data-bbox="100 635 315 906" style="border: 1px solid black; width: 96px; height: 170px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <div data-bbox="327 619 521 951">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</div>	<div data-bbox="533 619 1339 951">As part of the local engagement process all aspects of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act are embedded in our local investment plan</div>	<div data-bbox="1350 619 2139 951">None identified</div>

**5. Council has agreed the need to consider the impact its decisions has on the following important responsibilities: Corporate Parenting and Safeguarding. Are your proposals going to affect any of these responsibilities?**

	<b>Describe any positive impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>Describe any negative impacts your proposal has</b>	<b>What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?</b>
Safeguarding	<p>Internal SPF projects all follow MCC policies and procedures in relation to safeguarding.</p> <p>MCC Economy, Employment and Skills review their SAFE audit annually to ensure all projects complete and comply.</p> <p>We will ensure that all external SPF projects have safeguarding policies and procedures in place on commencement on the project.</p>	Non applicable	Non applicable
Corporate Parenting	Non applicable		

**6. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

This proposal is informed by the evidence and data in the following strategies and plans

- Monmouthshire Economy, Employment and Skills Strategy
- Monmouthshire Local Food Strategy
- Monmouthshire Heritage Strategy
- NEET Prevention Strategy
- Tackling Poverty and Inequality Action Plan
- Green Infrastructure Strategy

**7. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

*.This section should summarise the key issues arising from the evaluation. This summary must be included in the Committee report template*

It is anticipated that all SPF Projects outlined in our Local Investment Plan 2025 -26 in Communities and Place and will have a positive impact on peoples' social, emotional, health and wellbeing, education, and skills. This will develop resident's resilience and improve their life chances.

**8. ACTIONS: As a result of completing this form are there any further actions you will be undertaking? Please detail them below, if applicable.**

What are you going to do	When are you going to do it?	Who is responsible
Cabinet	19 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Will McLean – Strategic Director Learning Skills and Economy

**9. VERSION CONTROL:** The Equality and Future Generations Evaluation should be used at the earliest stage, such as informally within your service, and then further developed throughout the decision-making process. It is important to keep a record of this process to demonstrate how you have considered and built-in equality and future generations considerations wherever possible.

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Decision making stage</b>	<b>Date considered</b>	<b>Brief description of any amendments made following consideration</b>
<b>1</b>	Learning Skills and Economy DMT	3rd February 2025	
<b>2</b>	Senior Leadership Team	4 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	