



Funded by
UK Government

Broxtowe Borough Council

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme The story so far...



Broxtowe
Borough
COUNCIL

Foreword

Broxtowe Borough Council is wholly committed to investing in communities and places, working with businesses and upskilling people so they can reach their full potential. Our share of central government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has enabled us to do just that: reaching communities, places, businesses and people in the most flexible and impactful way.

UKSPF represents the first time since the 1990s that central government has issued funding for locally determined economic development and community renewal. Broxtowe's Investment Plan targeted local economic and social needs, reflecting the Borough Council's in-depth understanding, broad partnerships and speed of response. Flexibility to adjust the mix of revenue and capital funding has been crucial to the Borough's delivery of a successful programme of investment in our local communities.

This report outlines how and where the Council has invested its UKSPF allocation and how these decisions will help inform and shape future support.

When allocating our UKSPF funding, we have served the whole borough while targeting local need; from Eastwood and Kimberley in the north to Beeston and Stapleford in the south, as well as those harder-to-reach areas in between.

Our focus has been on extending support across the borough while also being small yet strategic. Quite simply, we have been and continue to be committed to ensuring that no

organisation or initiative of strategic importance to the communities of Broxtowe is left behind.

By working closely with our partners and supporting those community groups whose proposals demonstrated real ability to make a difference, we are already seeing impact. Economically inactive people being provided with the skills they need to get closer to the labour market. Increasing the opportunities for Broxtowe residents to get involved in arts, culture and sport, and all the benefits of health and wellbeing. Improving the physical and social fabric of the borough so all can feel a sense of pride in place. Making our businesses feel valued and helping them to make Broxtowe their long-term home, whether they be sole traders on the high street or world-renowned and historically important brands like Raleigh.

UKSPF is the first chapter in revitalising Broxtowe and there are already some incredible success stories to tell. Our goal now is to write many more.

**Cllr Milan Radulovic MBE,
Leader of Broxtowe Borough Council**



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1. Executive Summary

1.1 Broxtowe's UKSPF programme aims to test and pilot activity across the borough to help inform future thinking on how local businesses and communities are supported.

1.2 This publication is informed by the impact indicators achieved by our commissioned projects and by feedback from grant recipients and beneficiaries.

1.3 In 2017, Broxtowe was rated 284 out of 323 Local Authorities in England in terms of 'cold spots' for social mobility of young people. UKSPF support through Futures' Transform Your Future project and the charities The Prince's Trust and Transform Training are helping young people develop the confidence and skills needed to get closer to the labour market and find meaningful employment.

1.4 There are around 6,000 businesses operating in Broxtowe. Many are SMEs (small to medium-sized enterprises) employing fewer than 250 people, with 80% classified as micro businesses employing fewer than ten staff. UKSPF support through East Midlands Chamber's Accelerator project and locally managed Business Support services offers tailored support to this vitally important driver of economic growth.

1.5 The Council has awarded over £350,000 in grant funding to SMEs, micro businesses and large businesses based in Broxtowe. Grant funding has supported shopfront improvements, marketing and digital campaigns, and energy improvements. All grants aim to help business to improve productivity, employ local people, increase profit, and improve high street businesses.

1.6 A total of 256 businesses have received business support with 128 receiving 1-2-1 support.

1.7 A total of 418 hours of workshop support has been offered to help businesses upskill in areas such as digital, decarbonisation, HR, leadership and management.

1.8 Collaboration with industry such as helping Raleigh to find a new home within the borough is helping to retain local employment.

1.9 A total of 58 community projects have been supported through UKSPF's Communities & Place strand across a broad spectrum of activities including sport, arts, heritage, and wellbeing, and tackling food poverty, debt and other cost of living challenges.

1.10 CAB's (Citizens Advice Broxtowe's) one-stop-shop for financial resilience has secured at least £3.1 million in additional income for beneficiaries in Broxtowe as a result of the Council's UKSPF funding, helping 1,203 residents to become more financially resilient.

2. Background to Broxtowe

Broxtowe is a great place to live and do business.

Broxtowe has four main towns – Beeston, Stapleford, Kimberley and Eastwood. Each has a distinct character with distinct needs when it comes to support for communities and businesses. Smaller communities in Broxtowe include Attenborough, Awsworth, Bramcote, Brinsley, Chilwell, Cossall, Greasley, Nuthall, Strelley, Trowell, Toton and Watnall.

Broxtowe offers excellent transport links with major cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester, Sheffield, Leeds and Liverpool, and via the tramline to Nottingham City. It is a maximum of 30 minutes away from East Midlands Airport, a major hub for freight operations throughout Europe and home to the only Inland Freeport in the UK. Its two enterprise zones of Beeston Business Park and the Boots site offer businesses the advantage of enhanced tax incentives and Government support.

Broxtowe also boasts a talented workforce whose skills development is supported by Nottingham University, one of the highest-ranking universities in the UK, located immediately adjacent to the southeast of the borough. Together with nearby Nottingham Trent University, the University of Derby and Nottingham College, there is a ready pool of talent.

It is no surprise that Broxtowe is the location of choice for residents, businesses and investors.



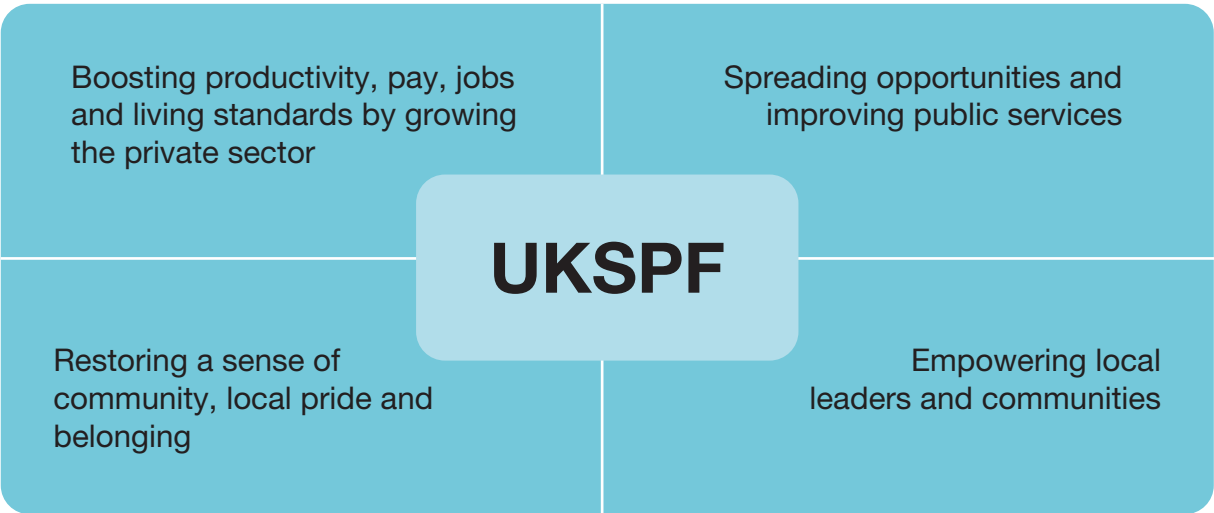
Map of Broxtowe

3. UKSPF in Broxtowe

When the UKSPF was launched by the UK Government following the UK’s exit from the EU, it signalled a new chapter. Structural Funds such as ERDF (the European Regional Development Fund) and ESF (European Social Fund) were replaced with funding direct from the UK Government to local authorities in those areas where support was most needed.

The UKSPF has a key goal: to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.

It aims to do so by delivering on the following objectives:



Broxtowe was allocated £2,584,477 of new funding for local investment in December 2022, to be spent by March 2025.

Local Programme Governance

To ensure robust and accountable governance, each year’s programme has been scrutinised and endorsed by Cabinet. To ensure effective, timely and fair decisions are made, a UKSPF Panel of Members has been established, comprising the Leader, Deputy Leader, Leader of the Opposition,

one minority party member and one other Controlling Group Member, also including the Chief Executive Officer and Deputy CEO & Section 151 Officer, who has overall responsibility for expenditure. In this way, officer recommendations for the allocation of grants and project funding are scrutinised by elected members and sound, locally relevant, democratically accountable decisions made in line with economic, social and growth priorities as laid out in Broxtowe’s Economic Development & Regeneration Growth Plan.

Based on local data, the Council selected a number of interventions (E numbers) which would help to accelerate the borough's ambitions to develop as a location of choice for businesses, investors and residents alike:

1. Business Support

- **E16:** Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wraparound support for small businesses.
- **E17:** Funding for the development and promotion of the visitor economy.
- **E19:** Supporting Made Smarter adoption.
- **E23:** Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate.
- **E24:** New, and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise.
- **E29:** Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy.

2. People & Skills

- **E33:** Employment support for economically inactive people.

What follows in this report is a selection of the projects and organisations that have been supported.

Small modifications to the Investment Plan have been made in line with changing needs, using the flexibilities UKSPF allowed, for swift and decisive action to deliver with confidence and success. Broxtowe's delivery and management mechanisms have grown stronger and are now in a powerful position to deploy future funding.

3. Communities & Place

- **E1:** Improvements to town centres and high streets.
- **E6:** Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- **E7:** Active transport.
- **E9:** Impactful volunteering and social action projects.
- **E10:** Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues.
- **E11:** Capacity building and support for local groups.
- **E13:** Community measures to reduce the cost of living.
- **E14:** Feasibility studies.

Particular projects to be completed by the end of the project include:

- A Targeted Food Sector Inward Investment Project.
- Supporting Broxtowe Local Enterprise Agency.
- Priming the Visitor Economy to capitalise on the investment at Bennerley Viaduct and the D.H. Lawrence site.
- Town Centre Locally Led promotions.
- Boosting WIFI.

Please note: The figures included throughout this report were captured at the end of September 2024. They will continue to rise until the end of the project in March 2025.

4. Business Support – setting the scene for grants and local interventions

Supporting the Local Economic Development Strategy

UKSPF in Broxtowe has been used exclusively to fund economic development at scale. It is one of the first bid free, allocated funds since the Urban Programme in the 1990s and has supported posts and projects that matter to local areas and to important clusters of businesses.

Targeted and Focussed Local Grants

Our major regeneration programmes Stapleford Town Deal and Kimberley Means Business (funded by MHCLG) include grants to local businesses. We took learning from a very successful Covid grants roll-out and created a cost effective grants 'machine' that was already placing £1.46 million into these local economies. Our UKSPF business grant programme therefore deployed seamlessly and efficiently even in Year 1, with non-funded areas like Eastwood and Beeston being priorities. UKSPF will add £369,313, taking total investment past £1.82 million. In the future, access to new policy instruments like High Street Retail Auctions could create an ever bigger impact.

Measuring Impact

Outputs and Outcomes are considered in Section 7 of this report (Progress against priorities) but if localism really matters, we need to show why. As part of our UKSPF journey we set up an economic impact project - measuring how the concentrated businesses investment in our four local towns creates and retains extra growth.

Research has included classical money multiplier methodologies M:Mx which model why concentrated business investment in one place really does matter. Placing grants in several towns' businesses sees an increase in footfall, dwell time and spend per visit. We change perceptions about place so that the businesses, communities and people within it can truly thrive and so there is an ancillary uplift in local property markets and wealth. Research has already shown our businesses are becoming better capitalised. For every £1 of grant funding, £1.5 to £2 of additional private sector investment will follow.

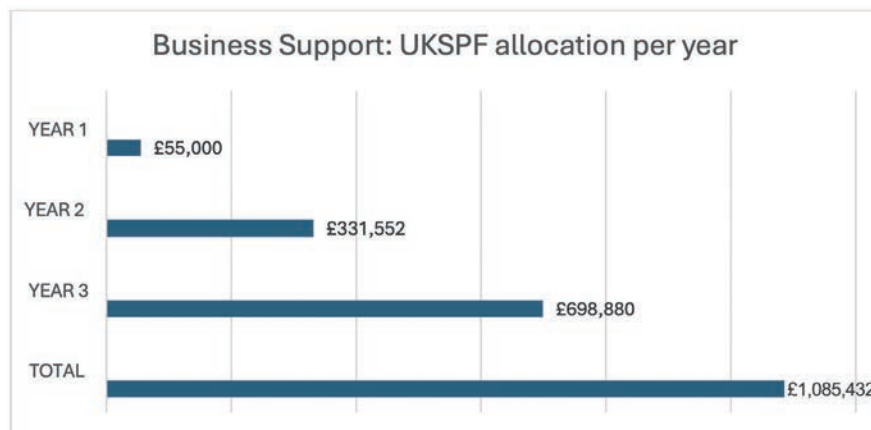
When funding is determined and distributed at local level, it creates a consolidated impact within a small locality, which is not present when the same funding is spread more widely. There is a role for both types of funding but in Broxtowe we are supporting town-led economic growth.



Before and after shots of Rowells, recipient of a £32,800 Towns Fund grant for repairs and improvements

4.1 Business Support – achievements

The Council's UKSPF Business Support provision aims to stimulate growth and innovation, as well as productivity and employment.



When commissioning projects in this area, the Council sought to address the challenges businesses reported through the [Skills Quest skills audit](#): namely, recruitment

and retention of staff, adequate premises, business advice and support, improving sustainability, training and development, and networking.

Support initiatives include the following:



Beeston Business Network and Forums

Open to local businesses, the monthly network meetings at Yellow Wood café presented the opportunity to share ideas and access local business support. The Council has also held a series of forums in each town to further respond to the needs of businesses.



Broxtowe Digital High Street

Support to help businesses implement modern forms of online trading that complement their high street presence.



B-Global

Community outreach, 1-2-1 business assessments, action planning and referral into existing finance and training programmes designed specifically for BAME (Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic) businesses.



NCVS Support for VCSE (Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations)

A range of services including capacity and capability building sessions, business diagnostics and fully funded online training courses.



Broxtowe Accelerator

A project run by East Midlands Chamber to help businesses start, sustain, grow and innovate.



Nottinghamshire CC Business Adviser Support

Free, independent and impartial advice from Nottinghamshire County Council's dedicated business support service, including on business planning & strategy, marketing and communications, and funding.



Broxtowe Grants

Grant funding for the high street, micro businesses and decarbonisation measures.



Snuggles & Kisses: Beneficiaries of a High Street and Micro Grant

4.2 Broxtowe Borough Council Grants

UKSPF support: Over £350,000

Match funding: Provided by recipient businesses Year 1: £23,550, Year 2: £86,459 and Year 3 (projected): £184,650.

Background

In order to help deliver its UKSPF priorities of investment in town centres and supporting decarbonisation, the Council elected to launch three new grant schemes targeted at the high street, micro businesses and energy efficiency.

Delivery

- **High Street Grant:** up to a maximum of £10,000 (with up to 20% match funding) towards the costs of shop and business frontage improvements including signage and disability access improvements.
- **Energy Grant:** up to a maximum of £10,000 (with up to 20% match funding) towards energy efficiency measures such as LED lighting, improved insulation and improved heating or cooling systems.
- **SME Grant:** up to a maximum of £10,000 (with up to 20% match funding) to support all sizes of business with fewer than 250 employees. The funding could be used for innovation, helping to improve and increase productivity and helping a business to bring new services / products to market, marketing and social media, upskilling, taking on an apprentice and upgrading equipment.

Impact

- **Number of businesses supported:** over 70 businesses
- **Value of grants offered:** over £350,000

“I applied for funding for a Branding and Marketing Consultant to raise awareness of my brand. They helped me set up a social media ad to showcase my Summer collection. This worked brilliantly and brought in a lot more sales than usual and alerted a lot more people to my business.”

Rebecca Witham, Owner,
Snuggles & Kisses

Examples of grant recipients



Bubble-IT: Grant funding towards rebranding and marketing

Bubble-IT received £5,000 of support in marketing and shop-front improvements.

“Following the attractive rebranding of both the company and the building with its crisp white on blue imagery Bubble IT’s LinkedIn page went red hot, with hundreds and hundreds of positive posts from both retail and commercial customers. This has led to a much clearer understanding of the business’s offering and many, many new customers. Since the grant our turnover has increased by 15 - 20% with a related uplift in profitability.”

Tariq Ahmed, Business Owner and MD, Bubble-IT



Glamour Hair and Beauty: Energy audit and energy grant

Armed with the knowledge she acquired through a business diagnostic with Chamber Business Adviser Sonny Lakhani and at the Broxtowe Energy Use Reduction Workshop, owner Tracy Wealthall applied for and was successfully awarded an energy grant of just under £4,000.

“The installation of a new Mitsubishi air conditioning cooler/heater system gives me confidence we are using a product from a world-leading manufacturer, which ensures superior energy efficiency and will result in the reduction of negative environmental impact. The double-glazed front window has been a huge benefit to improving heat retention and reducing draughts, and our new composite back door has improved heat retention and removes the penetration of damp issues. My monthly bill from E.ON has gone down by £150 since I received the grant!”

Tracy Wealthall, Owner, Glamour Hair and Beauty



4.3 Retaining Raleigh in Eastwood

Raleigh, one of the world’s oldest and best-known bike brands, has called Nottingham home since its establishment in 1887. When it was looking for new premises both in the local area and potentially further afield, the Council stepped in to help. Durban House – an historically significant nineteenth century building with ties to famed writer D.H. Lawrence – seemed the perfect fit.

Relocation, which took place in August 2024, has not only ensured Raleigh’s workforce of 46 invaluable HQ jobs remains in Eastwood but has helped to restore Durban House to its former glory and create a functional business space for many more businesses to enjoy in the future.

It is an important example of the Council working at pace to come up with a creative solution to an immediate problem and signals the start of a much longer-term partnership with Raleigh. Led by the Council, the Durban House refurbishment was completed within 12 weeks, whereas waiting for the outcome of a funding bid would have made that timescale impossible and Raleigh’s jobs would have had to go elsewhere.

“We are pleased to remain in Eastwood and deeply appreciate the ongoing support and collaboration from Broxtowe Council in facilitating this move. Raleigh’s rich heritage is deeply intertwined with the borough, making it essential for us to stay connected to our local roots. Durban House represents an exciting next step in our long-term strategy, offering a space that not only honours our storied past but also aligns with our vision for future growth as we continue to invest in our ambitious plans for the bicycle business.”

Chris Slater, Managing Director, Raleigh

4.4 Supporting Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise (VCSE) Organisations

Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service

UKSPF support: £29,500

Project

Specialist capacity building, business support and training to voluntary, community and social enterprises.

Background

The Council's project with Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service (NCVS) is providing guidance and support to local voluntary, community and social enterprise groups in Broxtowe, including the employment of a dedicated officer.

Delivery

This new initiative aims to empower local organisations by offering:

- A package of capacity and capability building sessions, delivered on a one-to-one basis and in small groups in areas such as reviewing an organisation's legal structures, identifying suitable funding and improving operational service delivery.
- Fully funded access to a variety of online training courses to help participants develop the skills needed to run an organisation and skills for leaders of volunteers such as safeguarding, health and safety, volunteer management and upskilling trustees.
- The opportunity to promote volunteer opportunities through NCVS's searchable database, currently advertising a record number of volunteer opportunities and attracting each month over 120 new individuals interested in volunteering.

Impact

- Non-financial support of business advice, guidance, mentoring and training to more than 20 organisations.
- Improved governance, financial management, and operational efficiency among VCSE organisations.
- Enhanced service delivery and community engagement.
- Strengthened networks and collaborations within the VCSE sector.
- Sustainable capacity and capability improvements leading to long-term community benefits.

"We are really delighted to be working in Broxtowe borough. A strong voluntary sector is good for everyone, including the citizens they look after."

Jules Sebelin, CEO of Nottingham Community and Voluntary Service

4.5 Broxtowe Digital High Street

UKSPF support: £35,000

Match funding: £16,492

Broxtowe's Digital High Street programme is designed to help businesses implement modern forms of online trading that complement, rather than replace, their high street presence. It offers businesses one-to-one support from a Digital Adviser to help develop and implement a plan; a website and social media audit; and digital know-how events and webinars.

Businesses on the Eastwood, Beeston (including Chilwell), Kimberley and Stapleford high streets are benefiting from expert insight in implementing and developing digital systems, with the ultimate aim of attracting new footfall and retaining customers as a result.

A total of 32 High Street businesses have been supported.

“UKSPF supported us through an energy audit, which has enabled our business to understand the key areas within our physical premises that have potential to reduce our energy usage. This will now enable our business to make both a positive environmental impact and a long-term financial saving, both of which are really important in the modern business environment.”

James Taylor, Marketing & Operations, G. H. Hurt & Son

4.6 Nottinghamshire County Council Business Adviser support

UKSPF support: £20,904

Businesses at start-up stage and established businesses looking to expand or scale up are offered tailored advice including on business planning and strategy, marketing and communication and funding by business adviser Alison North from Nottinghamshire County Council. Support and access to wider expertise is also offered on sustainability, green initiatives, carbon footprint reduction, regulation and compliance, and international trade.

Enlisting the Council's support together with support from the team of business advisers at the Chamber allows the Council to scale up its provision.



Rigsby's Seasonal Foods: beneficiaries of Nottinghamshire County Council business advice and Accelerator food & drink support

“Since Alison's involvement, we have won the National 'People Choice' Award as part of the 2024 Ingenuity Competition, and our sales revenues have increased exponentially. Alison has also helped us considerably with a recent grant submission which, if successful, would help us take our business to the next level. We plan to further develop our innovative idea of reverse engineering waste bread into artisan pasta and infusing it with foraged ingredients. Joining the Vegetarian Society too will help broaden our appeal to a wider audience of customers.”

Dr James Marsh, Co-Founder & Company Owner of Rigsby's Seasonal Foods



4.7 Broxtowe Accelerator

UKSPF support: £236,000

The Council commissioned East Midlands Chamber to deliver an ambitious project that would support businesses in their digital, innovation, growth and sustainability plans.

Entitled Accelerator, the regional project offers support to businesses at every stage of their journey.

At the heart of the Accelerator project is its Business Adviser Support. A team of locally based advisers and specialists, employed by the Chamber, assess a business's diagnostics, find out what they need and help them tap into appropriate support including growth vouchers for specialised consultancy and grants.

The project's series of action planning workshops and webinars help businesses improve their skills in areas fundamental to their operations such as finance and HR and in cutting edge areas like AI. Transforming ideas into business realities is made possible for entrepreneurs and budding entrepreneurs through monthly start-up bootcamps, delivered by NBV Enterprise Solutions. Sector-specific forums such as the Chamber's East Midlands Manufacturing Network help key industries do business, and fully funded energy audits help reduce a business's energy costs and carbon footprint.

Accelerator support is further supplemented by the Council's high street, micro and energy grants.

Accelerator impact

- Number of businesses engaged: **256**
- Number of businesses receiving 1-2-1 support: **128**
- Number of businesses receiving 1-2-many support: **94**
- Number of hours of support given
 - 1-2-1 Business Support (including Consultancy): **655**
 - Workshops: **418**
- Expected number of jobs to be created or safeguarded: **35**

“Our Chamber business adviser Sonny has been a real help in guiding us through the complexities of what is required; diagnosing, action planning to secure important financial support and, starting off strategising. For a micro business, an infusion of expertise and funds can make a notable impact.”

Matteo Cossutta, Director, Aria Sustainability Ltd



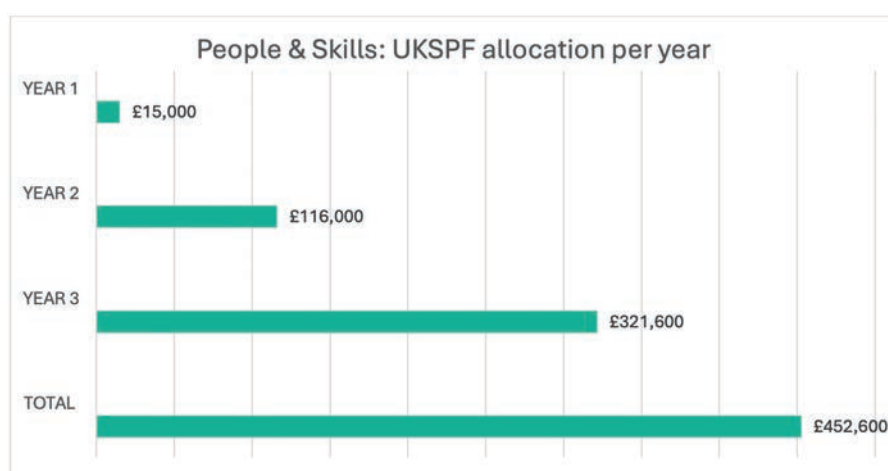
Rumbletums Café: beneficiaries of an Accelerator energy audit

“The Accelerator and Broxtowe Digital High Street projects are focusing support where most needed, including in the borough’s vital retail and manufacturing sectors. Growth vouchers have enabled businesses to make the next step in their growth journey by tapping into specialist training and consultancy support, energy audits are supporting the Council’s wider decarbonisation strategy and our practical workshops are giving small and micro businesses the opportunity to truly enhance their skills.”

Diane Beresford, Deputy Chief Executive, East Midlands Chamber

5. People & Skills – achievements

The Council's UKSPF People & Skills provision is being delivered through a range of providers. The services the Council has delivered complement the funded services commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Work and Health Unit (DWP & the Department of Health and Social Care).



The aim of these interventions is to increase pay, employment, productivity and high-quality skills training. The Council's Skills Quest work, which captured feedback via a skills audit, has provided a strong basis for commissioning some of both the People & Skills and Business Support projects.

When current employability programmes funded by ESF (European Social Fund) ended in April 2023, the Council's Employment and Skills Partnership identified the gaps in support that would need to be funded through UKSPF. These included using a combination of UKSPF and Economic Development funding to ensure continuity by retaining an Employment and Skills Partnership Co-ordinator. Critical to Broxtowe's success has been maintaining local expertise and building on delivery work built up over the last ESF framework period.

Support, whether it be improving digital skills and confidence or creating stronger links between employers and job seekers at local job fairs, is investing in the future workforce and facilitating local businesses to recruit local talent.

The Council has developed activity with local jobs clubs in the community, organising Eastwood Health and Skills Fair in June 2024 and running a stand at Stapleford Job Fair in September. Weekly drop-in sessions at Eastwood Library are now available.

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Eastwood Health and Skills Fair

Eastwood Library
20 June 2024
11am - 3pm

Come and meet healthcare, employment and skill providers. They are here to help you, the residents of Eastwood, to improve your employability, health and skill levels.

Contact Economic Development Team
Email: economic.development@broxtowe.gov.uk
Tel: 0115 517 7777

Logos: Inspire, South Nottinghamshire, Integrated Care System, Department for Work & Pensions, east midlands chamber, Broxtowe Borough Council, LEVELLING UP

5.1 Transform Your Future

A brighter future for employment in Broxtowe

UKSPF support: £150,000

Project

Employment support for economically inactive people in the top 10 most deprived areas in Broxtowe.

Background

Futures for You's Transform Your Future is a jointly commissioned service for all the districts and boroughs of Nottinghamshire (apart from Newark & Sherwood).

It unlocks the potential of people aged 16 onwards who are not in education, employment or training. Its specific focus is on those individuals who have been struggling to find work, would like to gain new qualifications or need help to improve their life skills.



The poster features the logos of the UK Government and Broxtowe Borough Council at the top. It includes a photograph of a smiling man. The text on the poster asks if the reader would like to transform their future, improve their confidence, motivation, and skills, gain new qualifications or complete short courses, and explore employment options. It mentions a free programme that can help with all of that and more. A list of services includes developing life skills, accessing learning, finding volunteering opportunities, understanding the benefits system, and learning about further support. Contact information is provided at the bottom: 08000 85 85 20, transform@futuresforyou.com, and www.futuresforyou.com.

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Broxtowe Borough Council

Would you like to **transform your future**?

Do you need help to improve your **confidence, motivation, and skills**?

Would you like to **gain new qualifications or complete short courses**, but unsure where to start?

Need help exploring **employment options**?

Our free **Transform Your Future** programme can support you with all of that and more.

Through one-to-one meetings in your local community or home, group workshops and online sessions, your adviser will help you to:

- Develop important life skills
- Access learning to complete courses and gain qualifications
- Find sustainable volunteering and employment opportunities
- Understand and access the benefits system
- Learn about further support offered by other services

08000 85 85 20 ~ transform@futuresforyou.com
www.futuresforyou.com

Delivery

Tailored support is offered to individuals to help them:

- search for jobs;
- access learning to complete courses and gain qualifications;
- gain and sustain employment for six months; and
- develop life skills such as confidence, motivation and digital skills.

It is expected that 140 people will be supported over the time of the contract.

Impact

Expected numbers of people who, after support, are:

- Reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills: **70**
- Engaging with mainstream healthcare services: **28**
- Sustaining engagement with keyworker support: **32**
- Engaged in job searching: **56**
- In employment, including self-employment, following support: **28**
- Sustaining employment for six months: **14**

"I had been bouncing from job to job for about two years and was not getting the support I needed for my depression, anxiety and PTSD, and was constantly being looked over for positions. When I met my careers adviser Paul my confidence was low. Paul helped me believe in my ability, while also working with me to figure out what I want to do as a career and finding the right courses for me. I have achieved level 1 business admin, an employability award and am now doing my level 2 business admin. Now I have direction, motivation and determination to achieve, and I feel I have a growing set of skills helping me to achieve my aspirations."

Customer K (aged 41)



5.2 Transform Training

Building emotional resilience in Broxtowe

UKSPF support: Year 2: £8,000 and Year 3: £16,000

Project

Evidence-based programmes and training to support vulnerable and disadvantaged young people including Hong Kong nationals resettling in the Broxtowe area.

Background

Every young person in Broxtowe deserves the opportunity to reach their full potential. Registered charity Transform Training lends an important helping hand to empower vulnerable and disadvantaged young people to take control of their reactions by using emotional literacy and by becoming emotionally resilient.

The charity was commissioned by the Council to deliver a 'How to work with people' pre-employment and self-development course to help people aged 16 and above to better understand themselves and the people around them, and ultimately make them better equipped for the workplace.

Delivery

The training programme prepares participants for work and gets them closer to the labour market.

A total of 40 young people are being supported with volunteering opportunities, increased employability options through the development of interpersonal skills, and familiarisation with employers' expectations.

A total of 20 are being supported with job searches, courses to improve basic skills such as English, Maths, Digital and ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages), and participation in community groups.

Impact

- Increased employability and a reported increase in confidence through the development of interpersonal skills such as communication, working with others, time management and motivation.
- Sustained participation of three months or more in community groups.
- Active job searching by economically inactive people following the support received.

“Our fun and engaging course offers a really practical approach to applying for jobs. It’s not all about what is in your CV, it is about how you sell yourself to the employer and convince them that they need you. It is great to receive positive feedback from participants and we celebrate with them when they get that all important step onto the jobs ladder.”

Sophie Perry, Head of Programmes and Curriculum, Transform Training

5.3 Start in South Nottinghamshire Portal

Your future, right here

UKSPF support: £25,000 (with a contribution of £7,220 each from Gedling Borough Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council)

Project

Helping more local people into employment, education and learning and connecting job seekers and employers.

Background

A key objective of the Council's Investment Plan is to retain businesses in the borough and create career opportunities for its residents. Together with Gedling and Rushcliffe Borough Councils, Broxtowe Borough Council determined that bringing employment and learning opportunities into one, easily accessible place would not only help to reduce unemployment and increase skills but support local businesses in filling their vacancies.



Delivery

As part of the delivery of UKSPF People & Skills interventions, the three councils have joint-commissioned the creation of a brand-new online employment and skills platform – Start in South Nottinghamshire Portal. The platform is free to access and supports residents to find job vacancies, access learning and apprenticeship opportunities, complete virtual work experience, develop their CVs and get careers advice.

Of the 6,000 businesses operating in Broxtowe, some are large organisations like IKEA, others are start-ups. The 80% who are micro businesses employing ten people or less may lack the resources to fill their vacancies within a short timeframe. The portal enables businesses to not only upload their job and work experience opportunities but raise their profile in the process. Learning providers too are supported in promoting their courses to a wider audience.

Impact

The success of the project will be measured by the number of:

- Unique visits to the portal
- Referrals to learning providers
- Job and work experience applications

“The Start in South Nottinghamshire portal is an excellent example of how local authorities in our area can effectively join forces. By working together on the launch of this new initiative, we’ve been able to put our collective resources into reaching a far wider audience and building a better product than would have been possible had we each have done so independently.”

Maria Ward, UKSPF Business, Skills and Economic Initiatives Manager, Broxtowe Borough Council





5.4 The Prince's Trust

Helping vulnerable young people to thrive

UKSPF support: £20,000

Project

Tried and tested training programmes to give vulnerable young people the practical and financial support needed to stabilise their lives, develop self-esteem and skills for work.

Background

The Prince's Trust expertise in increasing the life chances of young people and its work in engaging the hardest-to-reach individuals and those furthest away from the job market make it a natural choice to help deliver support for economically inactive people and to strengthen Broxtowe as a place where entrepreneurs thrive.

Delivery

Delivery takes place at local partner locations such as M&S Chilwell Retail Park, Boots sites and The Prince's Trust's dedicated delivery space at the University of Nottingham's Castle Meadow Campus.

Target beneficiaries for this programme are young people who are economically inactive; long-term unemployed; female; BAME; living with disabilities or mental health needs; aged 18-24; or members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Personalised support is offered by a dedicated member of The Prince's Trust team with the opportunity to take part in:

- a 12-week personal development programme designed to develop confidence and motivation (with a specific programme designed for young people with multiple barriers including disability and homelessness);
- short thematic courses that engage young people through arts, sport, community and life skills;
- employability support combining work-based skills development;
- hands-on work experience, interviews and employment opportunities with local businesses; and
- training and funding to help young people explore entrepreneurship and self-employment.

Impact

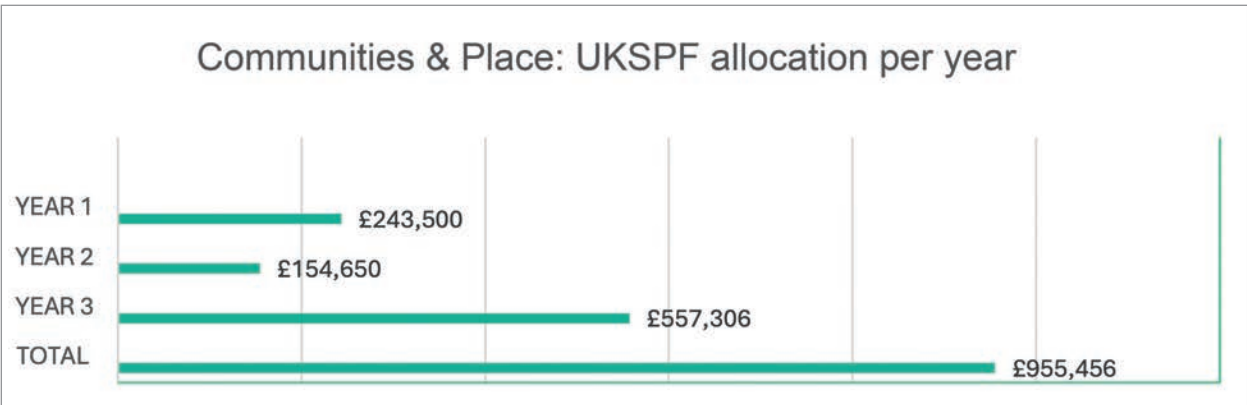
- Number of people to be engaged: **20**
- Number of young people unemployed/ economically inactive young people receiving intensive support: **10**

"We believe every young person should have the chance to succeed. Our support will enable young people who face multiple challenges to build their confidence, employability or entrepreneurial skills in order to live, learn and earn."

Clare Wheeler, Funding Manager, The Prince's Trust

6. Communities & Place – achievements

The Council’s UKSPF Communities & Place provision is being delivered through two major grants programmes, the ‘Good Ideas Fund’ in Year 1 into 2 and the Community Grant Programme in Year 3, as well as several capital and revenue projects delivered by the Council’s Economic Development and Regeneration Team, other Council teams and through partners.



Improvements to town centres and high streets

It is important that none of the borough’s four towns falls behind and that each has an opportunity to take pride in place and attract footfall.

While Stapleford Towns Deal and Kimberley Means Business focus millions of pounds of capital investment on those towns, UKSPF has supported smaller-scale town centre improvements. In Eastwood, the D.H. Lawrence Blue Line Trail is being renovated and exciting plans for virtual and enhanced reality installations will help to boost tourism and the local economy. In Beeston, relocation of the marketplace sculpture means it can be appreciated in a more relaxed location whilst freeing up market space for stalls and events. Establishment of Stapleford’s Food Fair has resulted in a commercially viable quarterly event.

Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities

Funding has supported town centre events in all four towns; Beeston Light Night in November 2023 and January 2025, Stapleford-on-Sea festival in August 2024 and Kimberley Valentines Festival in February 2025, plus a winter event in Eastwood.

Cultural events supported include Beeston Film Festival 2023, a CCities Broxtowe recipe book featuring 12 local businesses and children’s writing competition attracting 240 entries. Reaching sometimes overlooked parts of our communities, Beeston Civic Society’s Inham Nook ‘Skills Fest’ offered skateboarding and street art workshops, older residents danced with Movement for All in Brinsley and people with dementia and their carers enjoyed cultural days out with Imagine ArtsDem.

Stapleford’s History of the Fallen project is creating banners commemorating WWII soldiers, for display at the town’s Remembrance Sunday and other events.

Active transport

Cycle use sits at the heart of active transport. Residents in the vicinity of Eastwood’s Coronation Park are benefiting from RideWise’s cycle hub which not only offers cycling lessons, repairs and maintenance but helps to reduce pollution and transport poverty, and address mental health issues, isolation and inactivity.

At Beeston railway station from January – August 2024, RideWise encouraged bike use by commuters while part of the station car park was closed. Repair sessions, buddy rides and route-finding helped people get ‘cycle ready’ for their journeys.

Impactful volunteering and social action projects

Volunteers are at the heart of Broxtowe's community groups and have used UKSPF to upskill and grow their numbers, offering new community spaces and activities.

Volunteer It Yourself supported young people to refurbish a food bank and a rugby clubhouse, gaining skills and qualifications along the way. Young people have engaged in volunteering, sports and social action with the Pythian Club, Phoenix Community Organisation and Plane Tree Café in Beeston, Nottingham Forest Community Trust in Eastwood and Chayah Community Hub in Stapleford.

Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues

Investing in grassroots sports not only fosters pride in place but promotes social cohesion.

Sports clubs have been keen applicants for the Council's grants, with cricket clubs in Eastwood, Awsworth and Attenborough, football clubs in Eastwood and Beeston and Eastwood Tennis Club all benefiting from funds for new equipment or improved facilities, enabling them to retain and attract members.

Capacity building and support for local groups

Developing the capacity of groups to support and grow themselves is the focus of Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire's (RCAN) community hall project.

Broxtowe Women's Project ran skills and community-building workshops with a diverse set of groups, before bringing them together in an International Women's Day celebration event in March 2024. Nottingham Climate Assembly's 'Youth Community and Climate Action Week' in 2023 involved and inspired 35 participants and 30 volunteers towards local leadership.

Community measures to reduce the cost of living

Supporting CAB (Citizens Advice Broxtowe) to implement their innovative Financial Resilience project has had a seismic impact on people and households who are running a budget in deficit. CAB's one-stop-shop for support has secured at least £3.1 million in additional income for households in Broxtowe.

Our cost-of-living and energy-saving projects include Groundwork Five Counties' 'Green Doctor' programme, providing energy-saving advice in people's homes, plus small items including light bulbs, draft excluders and heated throws, carefully targeted to people most in need via referrals from CAB.

6.1. Eastwood Town Centre & Historic Quarter Improvements

Breathing new life into Eastwood

UKSPF support received: £180,000

Project

A substantial set of tourism and regeneration projects to upgrade Eastwood's historic quarter and town centre.

Background

The former mining town of Eastwood is best known as the birthplace of acclaimed writer D.H. Lawrence. The Council identified a series of projects to not only improve the high street but to support local tourism.



Delivery

The Council is using part of its UKSPF allocation on:

- **Renovation of the Blue Line Trail** – the existing historic trail that links sites connected with D.H. Lawrence has fallen into disrepair as a result of ongoing roadworks. The trail will be re-painted and re-vamped with new plaques and signage, including around the Breach House, the author's childhood home and inspiration for some of the scenes in his novel *Sons and Lovers*.
- **Craft Workshops** – this historic courtyard of buildings, close to the D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum, is owned by the Council and let to local businesses. In keeping with the heritage of the site, two new Victorian-style noticeboards have been installed and bee-friendly planting added.
- **Town centre and tourism improvements.** As well as proposals for painting shopfront murals and provision of grants for high street business improvements, the Council plans to increase interest in and appreciation of the town's heritage. Virtual reality and enhanced reality features are being investigated, with the dual aim of boosting the tourism and local economy.
- **Pictorial brown road signs** on major A-roads, inviting people to visit and explore Eastwood, Kimberley and Bennerley Viaduct.

Impact

- Boosting the town's economy by attracting more visitors.
- Improving residents' engagement with local heritage.
- Fostering a sense of local pride and belonging amongst local residents.

"I'm delighted that funds are enabling the refurbishment of the town's ever popular but somewhat dilapidated Blue Line Trail. Visitors still ask for a print-off of the out-of-date leaflet, and still want to walk the route. The refurbishment will enable us to showcase the trail properly, encourage more visitors to the museum and to Eastwood, and will restore confidence and pride in the town's heritage offering to local people."

Carolyn Melbourne, Museum and Collections Officer, The D.H. Lawrence Birthplace Museum



6.2 Citizens Advice Broxtowe Financial Resilience Project

Changing the outlook for households in budget deficit

UKSPF support: £3,108 in Year 1, £64,850 in Year 2 and £68,000 in Year 3.

Project

Supporting households that run a budget in deficit to move into credit, preventing them from falling into financial hardship and crisis.

Background

Whilst examples of financial resilience partnerships already exist, it was felt that their value was in improving networking opportunities for debt, welfare benefits and other advice workers rather than effectively changing the system. Based on learning from its Changing Lives project, the Council supported Citizens Advice to build its own theory of change to offer a one-stop-shop for financial resilience. It included support from the Green Doctor on saving energy costs, Futures on career development, specialist debt and housing services and the Council's own Financial Inclusion Officers.

Delivery

The project works proactively with people and households who are financially excluded at the earliest point to keep them out of crisis and increase long-term financial resilience in areas such as increasing income, reducing spending, improving budgeting, building a safety net and protecting assets.

Supporting people in this way contributes to the borough's wellbeing strategy, also reducing the need for households to seek statutory intervention.

Impact

- **1,203** people supported.
- **156** beneficiaries supported to improve their economic situation through employment.
- **81%** of project participants reported increased confidence in managing their problems, accessing help before a crisis emerges, and knowing where to go for help.
- **Over 90%** of beneficiaries self-reported an improved financial resilience measure such as being better able to budget or reducing their household bills.
- **71%** of beneficiaries reported feeling more optimistic about the future and 68% less isolated.
- **36%** reduction in the number of people in debt approaching Citizens Advice services in Broxtowe.

“This project has achieved so many gains, not least £3.1 million in additional income for beneficiaries in Broxtowe and all that means in terms of a better quality of life and participation in the economy, often in left-behind neighbourhoods.”

Neil Clurow, Impact and Evaluation Manager, Citizens Advice Central Nottinghamshire



6.3 RideWise Eastwood

Pedal power to last in Eastwood

UKSPF support: £21,759 in Year 3 following a successful project in Year 2.

Project

Weekly Saturday cycle training and 'Dr Bike' sessions at Coronation Park in Eastwood.

Background

The benefits of green transport are many. Not only does it reduce pollution and transport poverty, it helps to address mental health issues, isolation and inactivity.

Funding through Stapleford Towns Deal has enabled educational and environmental charity RideWise to remove barriers to green transport in Stapleford by successfully running a cycle hub. However, there has been no such provision in Eastwood.

Delivery

The Council commissioned RideWise to set up and deliver a new cycle hub at Eastwood's Coronation Park, with the aim of delivering the health and cost benefits that active transport provides. With its large size, ample traffic-free paths and close proximity to residential areas, the park presented the perfect location to offer cycle training, confidence sessions and 'Dr Bike' repair sessions, held every Saturday.

Generating renewed interest in bikes has led to many local residents assessing their current bikes, deciding they are no longer fit for purpose and passing them on to RideWise. Donated bikes are then either used to train Dr Bike volunteers or are restored and donated to others.

This long-term project has been successful in building awareness and interest locally and in attracting new participants to the project. It is actively improving road safety and confidence as well as helping low-income households with bike maintenance and supporting members of the local community who wish to develop useful mechanical skills.

Impact

- **112** individuals have learned to cycle
- **62** bicycles repaired by Dr Bike
- **31** hours of confidence sessions delivered
- **6** volunteers involved
- **42,500** people reached through communications and marketing.

"We're delighted to be a part of the community in Eastwood and to see so many people supporting this project – including through the donation of bikes, which are then refurbished and used to support new cyclists. Cycling gives transport independence to our communities and helps to transform lives by enabling people to access jobs, education and healthcare."

Helen Hemstock, Chief Executive, RideWise



6.4 Parky Players

Arts for all in Broxtowe

UKSPF support: £11,910

Match funding: Arts Council England 'Broxtowe Creates', Beeston Rylands Community Association and Parkinson's UK.

Project

Preparation of Bond-themed production 'Shaken Not Stirred' by a Broxtowe drama group by and for people with Parkinson's which was performed in Beeston before being taken to the Edinburgh Fringe.

Background

Giving a voice to the under-represented is important to the fabric of the Broxtowe community and is a key aim of Parky Players, a local not-for-profit community theatre group made up of people living with Parkinson's Disease and their supporters.

Delivery

The group has run a series of activities to bring performing arts to new audiences, provide skills development through front and backstage participation, and put Broxtowe on the map as a place for progressive community theatre. It collaborated with Beeston Players to maximise its reach and utilise their experience and skills within the community.

Support from UKSPF has enabled the development of the group's 'Shaken Not Stirred' work in Broxtowe which involved workshops, development of the play and its performance locally, as well as videos of the production process. Funding from Parkinson's UK enabled the group to take the performance to the Edinburgh Fringe.

Impact

- Six Edinburgh Fringe performances (where the group won the Garry Robson Memorial Award)
- Invitation from the Victoria Hotel, Beeston to give a homecoming performance of 'Shaken Not Stirred'
- Increased self confidence in what is achievable after a Parkinson's diagnosis
- Mental health benefits that come from participating in new, creative experiences
- A sense of community for both participants and audience
- Building connections with other community groups, including Beeston Players

"The positive impact of Parky Players never ceases to amaze me. Empowering those taking part, whilst enlightening and entertaining those in the audience, really does feel like what we're doing is making a difference."

Janet Shipton, Co-founder and Chair, Parky Players



6.5 Forever Stars

Impactful volunteering in support of baby loss families

UKSPF support: £9,000

Match funding: £9,000 from the charity in cash terms, volunteered support and building material donations.

Project

Monthly workshops and conversion of a downstairs room at Beeston's Serenity Centre to improve accessibility for baby loss families.

Background

There are approximately two stillbirths every week and ten miscarriages every day in Nottinghamshire. It is a deeply traumatic time for any family and the Ockenden Maternity Review of over 1,000 cases at NUH Trust, including at nearby Queen's Medical Centre, further highlights the need to offer targeted local support to baby loss families.

Forever Stars is a small, volunteer-led charity helping such families navigate their grief.

Delivery

Keepsake workshop activities including making a small trinket or piece of jewellery to hold a baby's name and be added to their memory box, is an important part of the healing process. However, limitations in the charity's Serenity Centre's set-up – with the largest room being accessible only by stairs – excludes family members with restricted mobility, particularly baby loss grandparents.

Support from the Council's UKSPF allocation has enabled Forever Stars to renovate their ground-floor workshop space. Providing the charity with the necessary finance to pay for the building work as one short-term project, ably assisted by Forever Stars volunteers, has meant minimal disruption to the centre's service users.

A collaboration with Beeston-based silversmith Ceryllyn Silver has meant the materials, tools and expertise to carry out the keepsake workshops are all sourced locally.

Impact

- Reduced isolation amongst baby loss families
- Increased confidence in baby loss mothers returning to work
- More fit-for-purpose and accessible space for workshops and private sessions

“The funding we received from Broxtowe Borough Council has given us a great opportunity to expand the workshops we can offer, including a workshop in the lead-up to Father's Day. This particular workshop helped engage with men who experience baby loss, a group of people who are often overlooked when care and support is offered.”

**Richard Daniels, Chair of Trustees,
Forever Stars**



6.6 Beeston Community Resource CIO at Middle Street

A sunny future for digital

UKSPF support: a £6,316 grant towards digital improvements.

Match funding: a £1,298 grant from East Midlands Airport Community Fund, a £615 donation from the community patrons of the Centre, and a grant of free software from Microsoft.

Project

Digital enablement for Beeston's Middle Street Resource Centre and Mindset community groups.

Background

Beeston's Middle Street Resource Centre has been proudly supporting mental health in the Broxtowe community for nine years.

Representative of the c.3,000 monthly visits to the centre, its weekly community meetings told it that visitors wanted to use its online services, browse, download and stream online content and that easy access was needed to enable volunteers to contribute to the charity's social media and website. Feedback confirmed the centre's poor digital infrastructure and Wi-Fi connectivity was a barrier, as was its lack of portable computers for the community to use and an absence of digital skills amongst volunteers.

Delivery

Being able to access UKSPF funding for Broadband and Wi-Fi provision, refurbished computers, digital camera kit and access to digital skills training has enabled the charity to significantly improve community benefit from using digital technology. Installation of solar panels and battery power inverters is helping improve energy efficiency too.

Enabling the centre's Mindset groups to make better use of technology during peer-led activities including through watching online tutorials, searching for crafting ideas and using online collaborative tools is helping to create a pool of digital champions.

Impact

- Digital enablement of the Broxtowe community.
- Improved mental health through access to digital apps around mental health and mindfulness.
- Raised awareness of the importance and value of community voices in designing and developing digital technology.
- Contribution to the borough's low carbon energy infrastructure.

"The funding enabled superfast broadband, providing robust internet connections across the Centre and our patrons are broadening their knowledge and skills through online training. Community members are engaging with the laptops, with the added benefit of green solar power in the community garden."

Colin Failes, Funding and Finance Coordinator, Middle Street Resource Centre



6.7 Eastwood Athletic Football Club – Girls' Football Project

A refreshing addition to Basil Russell Park

UKSPF support: £9,100

Match funding: £3,900 (volunteer time)

Project

Pavilion renovation and ground improvements at Nuthall's Basil Russell Park to provide a home for Eastwood Athletic

Football Club's female teams and to support increased participation in girls' football.

Background

Nuthall's Basil Russell Park provides a wonderful location for a range of sports. When Eastwood AFC took on the lease, it was with the aim of increasing female engagement in football activity and moving all female training to a safe, dedicated community venue with the involvement of parents and families at its heart.

Delivery

UKSPF support has been granted for an operational kitchen at the pavilion, including white goods, kitchen equipment, plumbing and an outdoor serving hatch and canopy. The funding will also help to maintain the grounds through investing in grounds storage and pitch equipment.

The club has already noted increased engagement at football games and it is hoped such an immediate achievement bodes well for the long term and for all other clubs that use the park. As a secondary benefit, it is hoped new patrons will be attracted, further supporting the maintenance of this important green space for a wide variety of users.

Impact

- Increased engagement from the local community.
- Attracting more girls to a healthier lifestyle and offering them an opportunity to meet friends and learn skills for life.
- Helping to retain players at the club by providing a safe, dedicated training space.
- Volunteer and employment opportunities in ground maintenance and kitchen duties.

“Our grassroots club has lots of volunteer involvement, dedication and enthusiasm. This may only be a small renovation but it will have a huge and very positive impact on the community. We're proud that Eastwood AFC is leaving such a legacy for future generations to enjoy.”

Domenica Lopinto, Club Founder, Eastwood AFC Nottinghamshire



6.8 Feeding Broxtowe

Food Bank Capacity Building and Co-ordination Project

UKSPF support: £14,000

Project

Coordination of the borough's eleven food banks.

Background

Broxtowe's food banks play a vital role in reducing the cost of living. They have been established in response to local need, some very recently, which means they are at varying stages of development. A project conceived by a local Councillor to co-ordinate and establish a peer-to-peer network was progressed by the Council's Cost of Living Group. Of particular appeal was the opportunity to share knowledge and co-ordinate coverage to support food bank volunteers and help them to meet local need.

Delivery

Hope Nottingham, a local charity with an extensive network and seasoned food bank knowledge, was chosen as the delivery partner.

Delivery focused on stronger coordination of Broxtowe-based food projects, enabling positive collaboration, listening and learning. Sharing best practice in this way has led to the development of guidance in areas such as volunteering, safeguarding, health & safety, food safety and signposting. Mapping out relevant support, not just in relation to food but in addressing the cost of living and combating isolation, has been vitally important in identifying and addressing any gaps in provision.

Impact

- Bi-monthly 'Feeding Broxtowe' meetings (three in total).
- Coordinated work with 11 food-based projects supporting over 1,200 households in the borough.
- Development of a draft Quality Assurance/Best Practice guide for food-based projects.
- Development of an educational leaflet for food suppliers/businesses to make best use of available surplus.
- Encouragement and coordination of Broxtowe based activities for Food Waste Action week, March 2025.
- Connection with and learning from existing Feeding Britain partnerships in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.
- Representation at the first Nottingham Food Summit in October 2024.

"This project will play a pivotal role in the coordination of the food projects provided in the borough by facilitating close working partnerships, sharing best practice. It will provide positive outcomes to over 1,200 residents in Broxtowe and recognise those working to support households affected by the rise in cost of living."

Phil Sudlow, Head of Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services and Chair of Broxtowe Borough Council's Cost of Living Group



6.9 RCAN (Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire) 'SAY Now' Project

Igniting community action

UKSPF support: £16,000

Match funding: £4,000 from RCAN

Project

Support to hall committees on governance, energy saving, maximising revenue and ensuring they are sustainable for the future.

Background

Funding did not previously exist for RCAN to deliver specific services to community halls in Broxtowe but, with UKSPF funding, the Council has been able to offer RCAN's Start Action Yourself (SAY Now) project to local community groups.

Delivery

RCAN is working with ten groups across the borough, from Attenborough to Brinsley and including six village, parish and community hall committees, two sports clubs and two church halls.

RCAN works separately with each committee, bringing them together through peer networks providing mutual support designed to outlast the project.

Areas of focus have included identifying funding and putting a strategy in place to support the expansion of two well utilised community facilities in Awsworth. This includes a community café at the Village Hall and a recreation room at the Football Club – a need that has been exacerbated by the closure of a local pub, reflected in increased demand upon the village hall, in this expanding village.

Impact

- Improvement of changing facilities being explored at Eastwood Town Cricket Club and Brinsley Bowls Club as well as at Awsworth Football Club.
- Support for parish halls in Trowell, Toton and Brinsley to help identify funding to improve the energy efficiency of their buildings.
- Working with committees in Greasley, Attenborough, Stapleford, Bramcote and Nuthall to help ensure they have the right governance in place and strategy, to ensure they can progress improvement projects, market their facilities and grow their hall management teams.

"It has been to a joy to work with such a dedicated and committed group of volunteers. Our cluster group meetings have been instrumental in bringing this wealth of experience and knowledge together and we look forward to recognising these volunteers' achievements at a celebration event in March as part of the annual Village Halls Week campaign."

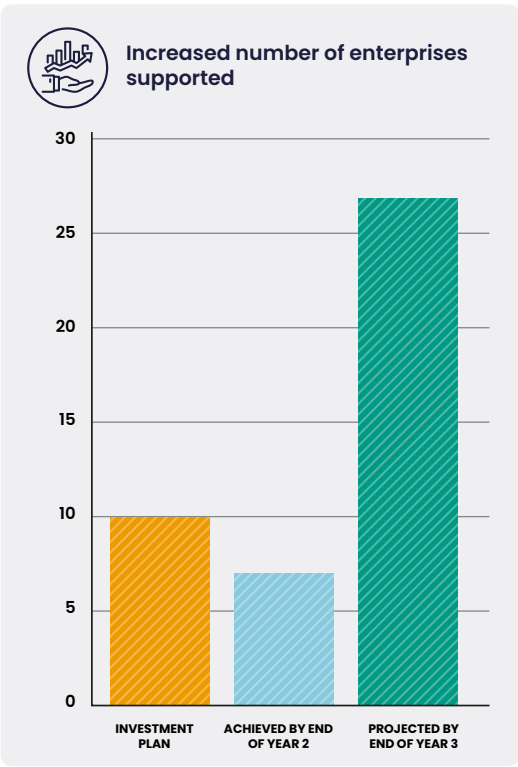
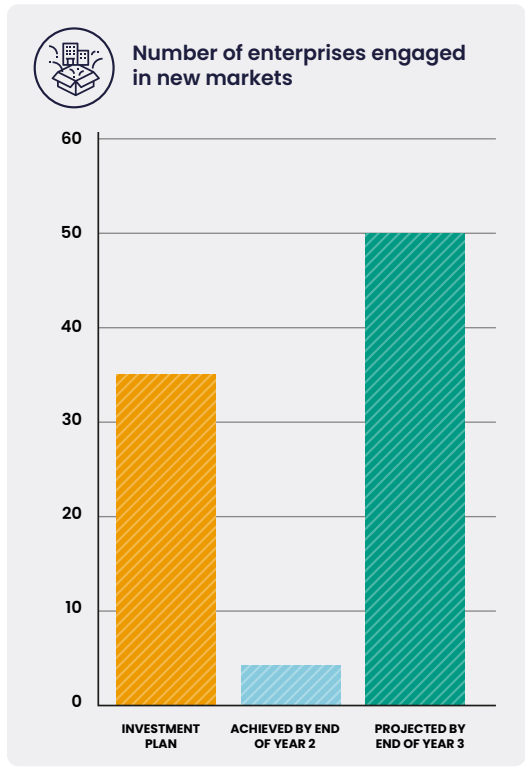
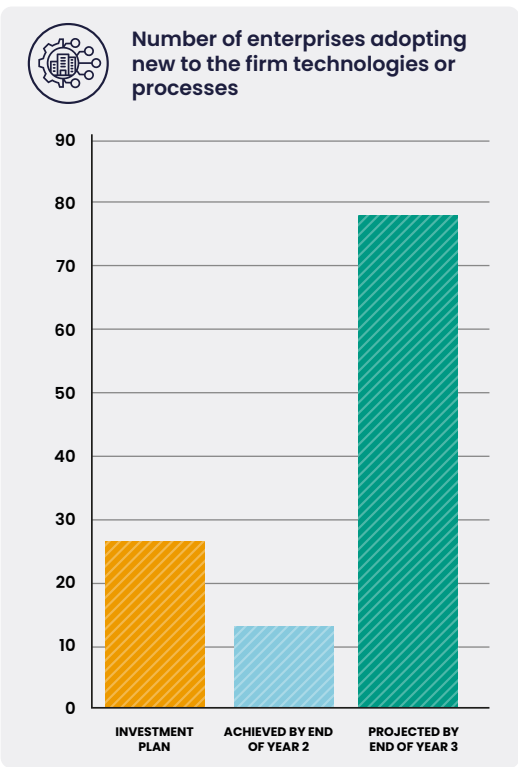
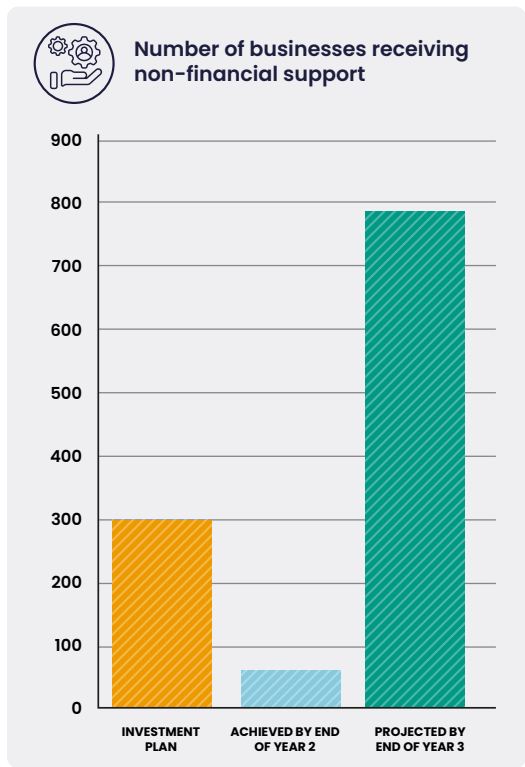
Jodi Carter-Davies, Development and Delivery Officer, Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire

7. Progress against priorities

The Council has made significant progress against the priorities it set out in its Investment Plan. As these examples illustrate, delivery is proceeding powerfully

through 2024/5 and includes progress in areas over and above what it originally set out to achieve.

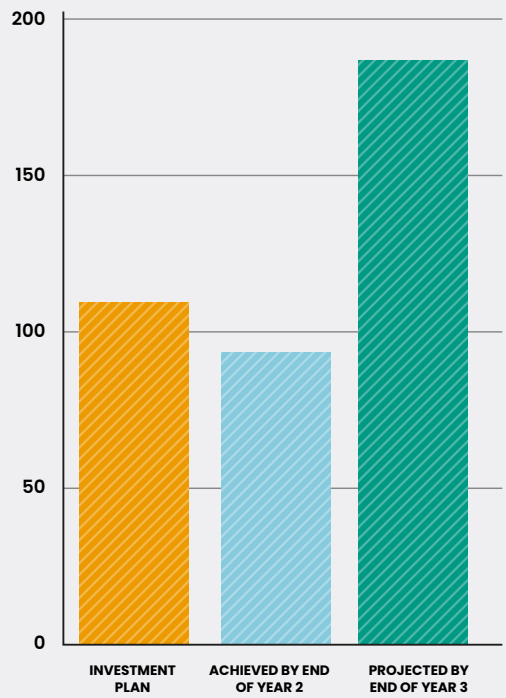
Business Support



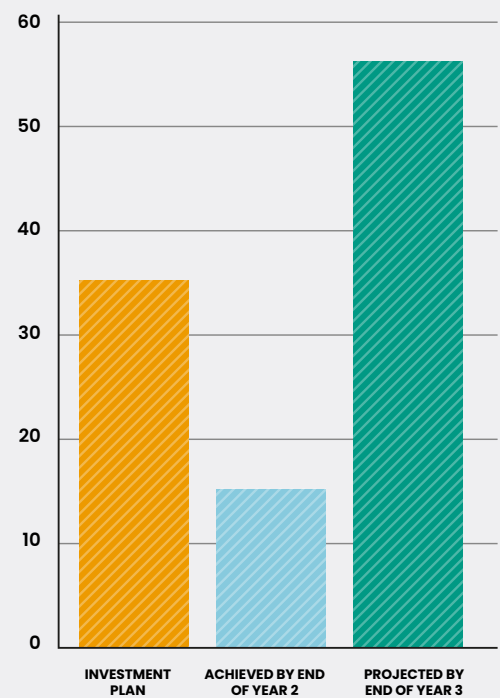
People & Skills



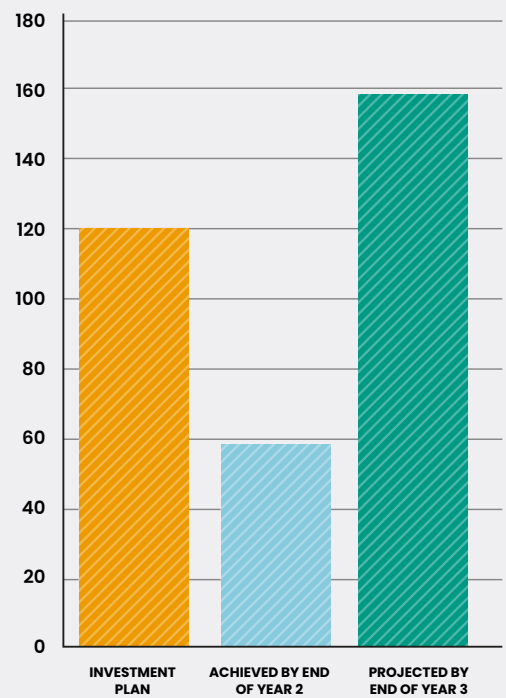
Number of people supported to engage in job-searching



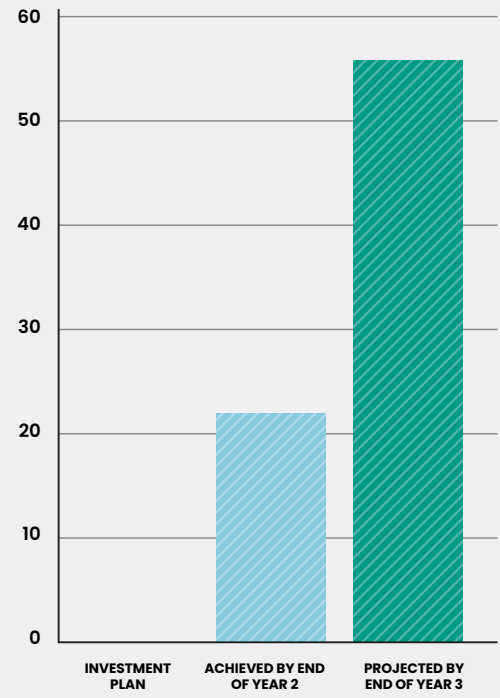
Number of people supported to engage in life skills

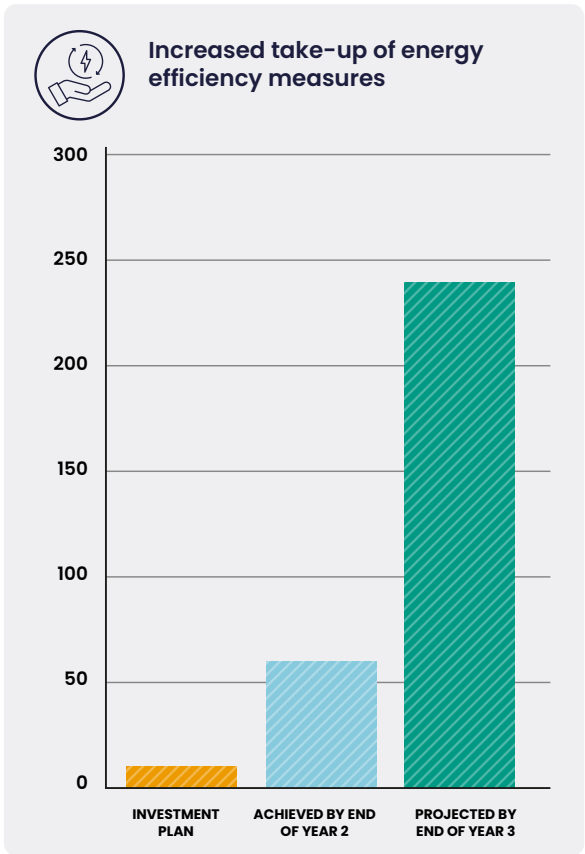
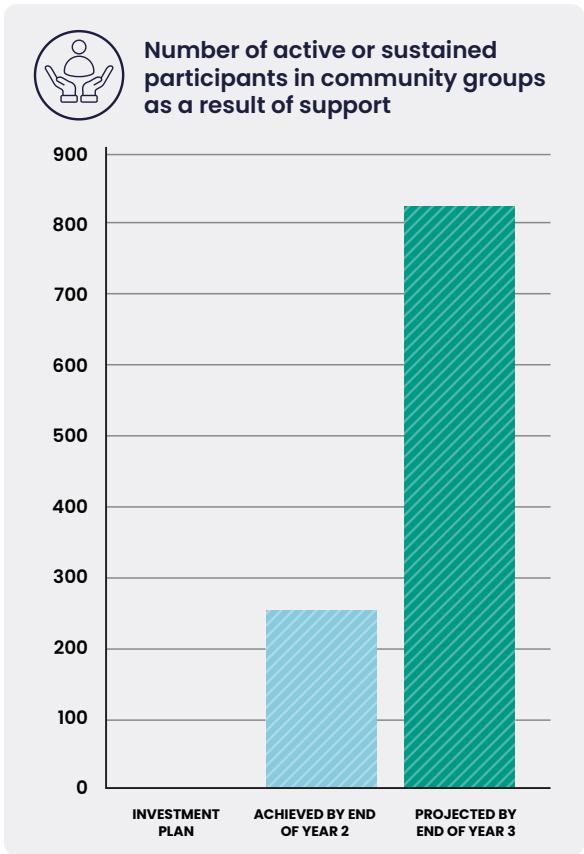
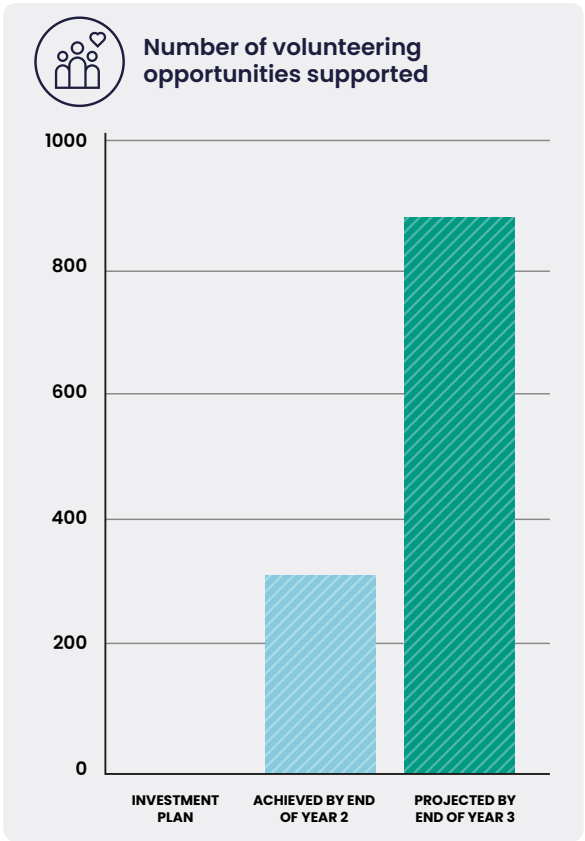
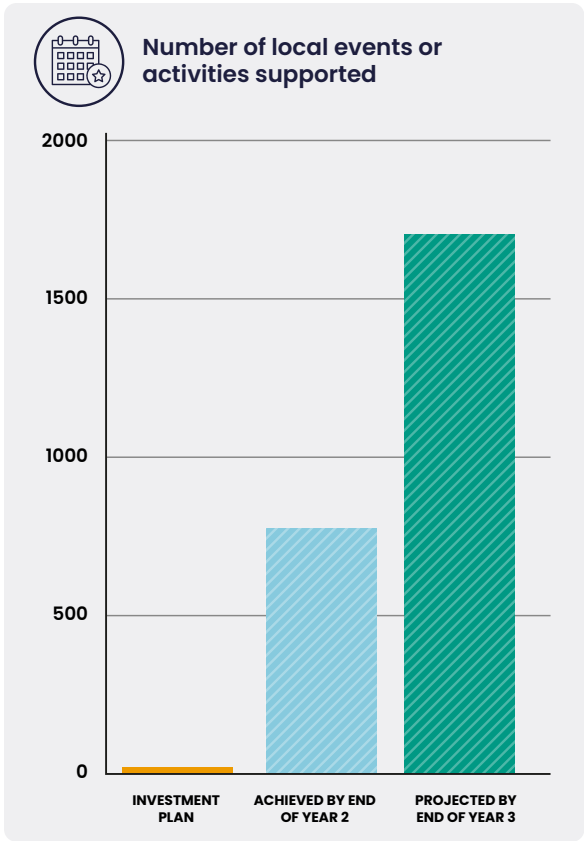


Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills



Number of volunteering opportunities supported





8. The story continues...

“It doesn’t have to be big to be strategic” is a cornerstone of the Council’s UKSPF delivery.

UKSPF may have been a comparatively modest funding allocation but it has been highly effective in piloting activity across the borough and informing future plans.

Responding at the right scale

During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was local community-based organisations, often too small to be visible at regional or county level, that offered a lifeline to Broxtowe residents. Such organisations do not always have the resource to submit multiple grant applications nor lobby for themselves. Council support through UKSPF has enabled small organisations to continue to deliver much-needed services for their local communities, to improve their facilities and attract new users and volunteers, who may sustain their groups into the future.

For local residents – including the ageing population, those with health issues, living in poverty or needing a helping hand – having services on their doorstep is truly invaluable.

Building business resilience

The Council’s Business Support interventions have concentrated on those activities a business needs to sustain and grow, whether it be better energy efficiency, greater productivity through technology and digital, or an upskilled workforce through access to training and consultancy. Our training pilots have targeted local need to support development of a capable local workforce.

The Council’s aim is to build resilient businesses that stay for the long term, equipping them with the resources they need to do so. UKSPF has been the catalyst for initiatives like the Start in South Nottinghamshire Portal but such resources will continue to be available to residents and businesses for many years to come.

Stronger together

Joining forces with our neighbouring local authorities, working closely with partners at county, regional and national level such as with Nottinghamshire County Council on business surgeries, East Midlands Chamber on tailored business support and DWP on local job fairs, presents an excellent blueprint for the future.

The establishment of the East Midlands Combined County Authority further supports the belief that we are stronger together.

Successfully investing in business and local people requires a fine-tuned blend of grant-funded projects, commissioned services, the Council’s own provision and partnership working.

We are truly making Broxtowe a great place to live and work but the work has only just begun...



Funded by
UK Government



Economic Development & Regeneration
Broxtowe Borough Council
Foster Avenue
Beeston
Nottingham
NG9 1AB

Tel: 0115 917 7777

Email: Economic.development@broxtowe.gov.uk

<https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/for-you/investing-in-our-area/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/>



The UK Shared Prosperity Fund provides £2.6 billion of Government funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting

local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>



Broxtowe
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