

Meeting of:	COMMUNITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	29 SEPTEMBER 2025
Report Title:	UNITED KINGDOM SHARED PROSPERITY FUND
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES
Responsible Officer:	JANINE NIGHTINGALE CORPORATE DIRECTOR COMMUNITIES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	This report has no effect on the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules
Executive Summary:	The purpose of this report is to update the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund. The report presents an overview of spend and delivery for the period to April 2025. The report also sets out the current position in relation to the Transition Year for United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Funding, 2025/26.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Communities, Environment and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund.

2. Background

- 2.1 The United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was established as a key part of the then UK government's Levelling Up agenda, forming part of complementary funding, including the Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund.
- 2.2 The primary aim of the fund created was to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underpinning this aim are three investment Priorities: communities and place; supporting local business and people and skills.
- 2.3 In July 2022 Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) Cabinet delegated authority to the Corporate Director Communities to submit the Bridgend County Borough Local Investment Plan to Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (RTCBC) for inclusion in the overall submission of the South East Wales Local Investment Plan to the UK Government. It was also agreed by BCBC Cabinet that RTCBC perform the role of regional lead.

- 2.4 An overview of the Bridgend County Borough Local Investment Plan proposals is set out below under a series of regional theme descriptions:

Communities and Place

Regional Theme Description*	Proposed Bridgend County delivery
Development and resilience of communities by improving facilities and access to services and supporting community-based organisations	Bridgend County Local Resilience Planning
Action to support individuals and community-based organisations to deal with the challenges of the current economic environment and cost of living crisis	
Supporting the improvement and redevelopment of town centres and community places to revitalise them.	Bridgend County Thriving Communities
Improving access to and facilities for local people and communities in sport, culture, arts and heritage.	
Supporting action to improve services and facilities for young people.	
Action to support decarbonisation, energy efficiency and green initiatives in communities and places.	Bridgend County Green Spaces Enhancement Scheme
Other activity such as feasibility studies	Bridgend County Community Future Scoping Programme

*Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework may offer an opportunity to deliver across all.

Supporting Local Business

Regional Theme Description*	Proposed Bridgend County delivery
Business premises development and improvement.	Bridgend County Centres of Enterprise
Small business support and development including finance for growth and resilience.	-Bridgend County Business Prosperity Programme -Bridgend County Local Enterprise Support Programme
Small business support for key growth sectors, research and development and innovation.	
Action to support decarbonisation, energy efficiency and green economy initiatives for businesses and social enterprises.	
Support for the growth and development of the visitor economy including businesses, facilities, and events.	- Bridgend County Tourism Events Support - Bridgend County Local Destination Management and Marketing
Other activity such as feasibility studies	Bridgend County Business Future Scoping Programme

*Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework may offer an opportunity to deliver across all.

People and Skills

Regional Theme Description*	Proposed Bridgend County delivery
Regional Employability and Skills Framework Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People in employment and key sectors • Unemployed and economically inactive people • Young people to enter employment 	-CELT**+ <i>Bridgend Inspire 2 Work / Achieve</i> -CELT + <i>Employability - Bridgend County</i> -CELT+ <i>Regional Joint Commissioning</i>
Regional joint commissioning Jointly commission FE/HE/ training providers / specific organisations to provide the following type of support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrap-around support for those at risk of disengaging from FE • Upskilling at work • Upskilling to meet skill gaps in sectors i.e., green jobs, manufacturing, creative and digital. 	

*Bridgend County Prosperity Co-Production Framework may offer an opportunity to deliver across all.

- 2.5 In March 2023 BCBC entered into a regional funding agreement for UKSPF, under decision reference CMM-ED-23-046, and delivery commenced.
- 2.6 During the 2023-2025 delivery phase of UKSPF the programme of BCBC delivery was overseen by the Economic Programme Board, which is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economic Development and Housing, with regular reports provide to Corporate Management Board (CMB) and Cabinet and Corporate Management Board (CCMB).
- 2.7 The overall spend of £20.072 million for the 2023-2025 period can be seen in **Table 1** - £15.184 million revenue and £4.889 million capital.

Table 1 – Total BCBC UKSPF spend for 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years

Final spend position reported

	2023/24		2024/25		Programme Total Spend	
	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
Core	393,934.16	2,958,435.99	4,494,573.55	8,613,344.96	4,888,507.71	11,571,780.95
Multiply		679,859.79		2,615,470.84	-	3,295,330.63
Admin		85,732.80		230,919.53	-	316,652.33
Total	393,934.16	3,724,028.58	4,494,573.55	11,459,735.33	4,888,507.71	15,183,763.91

Theme	2023/24		2024/25		Programme Total Spend	
	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue
Communities & Place	126,346.87	686,010.30	1,201,756.87	2,342,454.81	1,328,103.74	3,028,465.11
Local Business	267,587.29	284,219.01	3,292,816.68	1,015,538.77	3,560,403.97	1,299,757.78
People & Skills		1,988,206.68		5,255,351.38	-	7,243,558.06
Multiply		679,859.79		2,615,470.84	-	3,295,330.63
Admin		85,732.80		230,919.53	-	316,652.33
Total	393,934.16	3,724,028.58	4,494,573.55	11,459,735.33	4,888,507.71	15,183,763.91

- 2.8 The success of UKSPF and delivery of its outputs and outcomes for the 2023-2025 period is summarised in **Table 2** below and the full breakdown can be seen in **Appendix 1**.

Table 2 – Cumulative Outputs and Outcomes for 2023-24 and 2024-25 financial years

Total programme performance reported at completion

	Total Forecast Outputs & Outcomes	Total O&Os delivered and achieved by 31st March 25	% Achievement of Target
Communities & Place	38,541	278,687	723.09%
Local Business	540,473	1,494,684	276.55%
People & Skills	5,917	16,214	274.02%
Multiply	2,238	2,578	115.19%

2.9 A summary of UKSPF activity in relation to Wellbeing Objectives is set out below:

WBO	Information	Activity
WBO2.1.1	Invest £22m of Shared Prosperity Funding in projects in the County Borough by 2025, with third sector partners, including in people and skills, supporting local businesses, and developing communities and place (COMM).	The delivery of UKSPF funding over the 2023-2025 period is set out in Table 1 above.
WBO3.1.2	Develop a commercial property enhancement grant for all valley high streets, to make them look better and bring properties back into commercial use (COMM).	The grant fund was launched and delivered during the period 2023-2025 with the specific awards set out in Appendix 2.
WBO3.2.1	Develop funding bids for our valleys, to enhance the economy and stimulate new job opportunities (COMM).	In addition to the overall delivery of UKSPF funding within the County Borough, including the Valleys, in 2023-2025, two funding proposals were developed for considered by the Northern Valleys Initiative, operated by the Cardiff Capital Region.

2.10 A summary of each of the grant funds delivered during the 2023-2025 period is set out below:

The Business Development Grant

2.11 The Business Development Grant was set up to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Bridgend County Borough to diversify, decarbonise and grow which contributes to creating a vibrant and strong local economy. The grant covers the whole County and provides 50% of eligible capital project costs. The minimum grant is £5,000 and the maximum grant available is £25,000 (excluding VAT).

The Business Feasibility Grant

2.12 The Business Feasibility Grant was set up to support businesses to explore feasibility of longer-term options to diversify, decarbonise and grow including:

- Preparation of plans and studies, e.g. Business Plans/Feasibility Studies
- Before purchasing a piece of machinery, the study could determine the market for increased production or new product is financially viable.
- Explore using space in retail, hospitality to introduce new service / product e.g. new hotel spa
- Cost benefit analysis to introduce Green procurement

The Tourism Events Grant

2.13 The Tourism Events Grant was set up to support tourism events which:

- have strong potential to attract visitors from outside the local area, whether that is from other regions or other countries.
- have a positive impact on the local economy, such as by generating revenue for local businesses, creating jobs, or promoting the region as a tourist destination.
- have cultural significance or highlight a unique aspect of the local area's history, culture, or identity.
- have the potential to raise the profile of the county borough in a positive way

The Bridgend Community Feasibility Fund

2.14 The Bridgend Community Feasibility Fund has been set up to test the feasibility of longer-term community-led ideas. It provides communities in the Borough the opportunity to gather evidence to support locally led community project ideas. Focusing on Health, Climate and Economy they will provide the required data, knowledge and understanding with the ambition to lead to future funding bids and continue community planning. The fund covers the whole County and can provide up to 100% of required funding via a grant.

The Bridgend Valleys Placemaking Property Improvement Grant

2.15 The Bridgend Valleys Placemaking Property Improvement Grant contains two elements:

- To enhance building frontages and bring vacant commercial floor space back into beneficial use, by supporting commercial property frontage improvements, along with other external and internal works.
- To convert vacant upper-floor space into new residential accommodation above commercial units, including internal and external works to bring vacant space back into use for residential purposes.

The grant was originally set up to support the District Centres and Local Service centres in the valleys of the Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore (excluding Maesteg Town Centre). However, due to a lack of applications the area of support was broadened to a wider geographical area. The grant supports a maximum of 80% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of:

- o £30,000 for occupied properties
- o £50,000 for properties that have been vacant for more than 6 months

- 2.16 A report to Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 3 on 2 December 2024 summarised the awards made through the grant funds up to that date.
- 2.17 The grants awarded between that time and the end of 2024-2025 can be seen in **Appendix 2**.
- 2.18 A grant panel exists to oversee and make recommendations for approval for the grants outlined above. The panel includes relevant BCBC departments, e.g. finance, regeneration and enterprise.
- 2.19 Decisions relating to award of grants are made in line with the Scheme of Delegation.
- 2.20 Any required statutory consents (e.g. planning permission, SuDS Approving Body) remain the responsibility of any grant applicant for any of the grant funds.
- 2.21 Each grant has its own assessment criteria which is robust but proportionate, depending on the different level of financial assistance available. Details of these are available on the BCBC website.

3. Current situation/ proposal

- 3.1 In the Autumn Budget 2024 the United Kingdom Government announced a 'transition year' for UKSPF, to cover the 2025/26 financial year. The funding for the transition year was at a reduced level of £900 million across the UK – estimated to be a 40% reduction from the 2024-25 allocation. Ringfenced funding for adult numeracy, through the Multiply programme, was no longer available for the transition year.
- 3.2 On 20 December 2024 BCBC was notified of its UKSPF financial allocation for 2025/26 as set out below:

Wales	Total Allocation	Revenue	Capital
Bridgend	£7,750,265	£5,601,818	£2,148,447

- 3.3 The Economic Programme Board, CMB and CCMB were involved in a process to determine the use of resources in the transition year.
- 3.4 As part of the process to determine the activity to be supported all project leads were asked to complete project initiation documentation which, in outlining proposals for the transition year, enabled project leads to consider the main achievements achieved so far. Those are set out in **Table 3** below.

Table 3 – Achievements

Local Resilience Planning
1.Worked alongside partners developing relevant projects that respond directly to local community needs, with a community centre simultaneous streaming pilot project and a digital inclusion training project.
2.Developed local projects with 4 Town Councils, 7 Community Councils and 5 community groups with Action Plans, Business Plans and increased capacity for community consultation exercises.

<p>3.Co-ordinated, developed and delivered a successful Future Scoping Programme (BCP4), entitled Community Feasibility Fund.</p> <p>4.The area of programme engagement and support includes most Wards in Bridgend Borough.</p> <p>5.The number of local people engaged through various public consultation exercises: 1555</p>
Thriving Communities
<p>1.Placemaking Property Improvement Grant has received a number of applications.</p> <p>2.The Valleys strategy sets out a placemaking led approach for future regeneration to guide decision making around investment and policy with the aim of positively shaping the future of the area.</p> <p>3.A priority project identified through the Bridgend Town Centre Masterplan including the areas of Dunraven Place, the western part of Wyndham Street and Elder Street. The options appraisal aims to identify and test regeneration options in order to take forward the creation of a Café and Culture Quarter, with the objective of re-establishing the heart of Bridgend town centre.</p> <p>4.Following the completion of the Bridgend Town Centre Accessibility Options Appraisal 2023, consultants were then commissioned by BCBC to produce a Bridgend Town Centre Access Study in order to appraise the three options put forward for amending vehicular access to Bridgend town centre.</p> <p>5.The Maesteg Town Hall project has benefited from £225,000 of SPF capital monies, which contributed towards the cost of new fixtures and fittings at the recently refurbished building.</p> <p>In addition:</p> <p>1.405 young carers supported to create a network and have their voiced heard and acted upon, currently working with carer leavers, care experience children and young adults with a disability.</p> <p>2.Volunteers engaged within community opportunities and training</p> <p>3.10 large scale Community events held across Bridgend with a focus on supporting people with a lower socioeconomic status</p> <p>4.2 Community networks developed and strengthened working with 30 plus partners</p> <p>5.Community building blocks have been developed to ensure we are working towards an asset based community development approach with sustainability being at the heart of the programmes.</p>
Green Spaces Enhancement
<p>1. Significantly improved access for people in the community on Brackla Hill & Bedford Park.</p> <p>2. Reduction in anti-social behaviour due to community driven neighbourhood improvements</p> <p>3. Increasing visitor/tourist potential on local high value green spaces</p> <p>4. Increased collaboration with other departments and special groups of interest</p> <p>5. Increasing potential for future investment on heritage sites and BCBC Local Nature Reserves</p>
Future Scoping Programme
<p>1. A total of 61 Feasibility Studies have been commissioned since the Community Feasibility Fund launched in September 2023.</p> <p>2.The total number of community groups (including Town & Community Councils) supported through the Community Feasibility Fund is 60.</p> <p>3. The number of local people engaged through various public consultation exercises: 1151</p> <p>4. Since launching the Fund in September 2023, the full allocation plus an additional £114,000 was fully committed by February 2024. Total figure committed to date is £426,449</p> <p>5. The area of programme engagement includes most Wards in Bridgend Borough.</p>
Prosperity Framework
<p>1.Development, delivery and management of 12 commissioned contracts with a total value of over £1.5m, adding value to the suite of background projects across all three investment priorities.</p> <p>2.Successful mitigation of risk to the Council in relation to underspend from across the suite of backbone projects.</p> <p>3.Facilitation and oversight of 4 direct delivery projects that have enabled the Council to offset a total value of over £1.5m. This is made up of £900,993 capital and £ £643,000 revenue.</p> <p>4.Enabled the re-alignment of funds to meet additional demand within core suite of backbone projects, including Resilient Communities, Green Spaces and Centres of Enterprise.</p> <p>5.Provided a complaint and effective mechanism to enable the distribution of funds to a range of external partners.</p>
Prosperity Programme
<p>1. Maximised allocated spend</p> <p>2. Spent additional funds allocated to the project</p> <p>3. 51 individual grants have been allocated to businesses.</p> <p>4. £1,215,365 of additional private sector investment.</p> <p>5. 11 business development grants allocated to the valleys area.</p>

Business Future Scoping Programme
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximised allocated spend 2. Spent additional funds allocated to the project 3. 11 individual grants have been allocated to businesses. 4. 63 Predicted Jobs Created (Permanent Full Time) and 235 jobs safeguarded. 5. 4 Business Feasibility grants allocated to the valleys area.
Centres of Enterprise
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivered a refurbished space for traders displaced from Bridgend Market. 2. Spent additional funds allocated to the project. 3. Creation of a new container village in Porthcawl (Hillsboro South car park). 4. Procurement and appointment of consultant and contractor for the delivery of 8 new industrial units. 5. On site delivery of new industrial units in Pyle.
Local Enterprise Support Programme
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximised allocated spend 2. Business support provided to over 600 businesses across the County Borough and signposting to other key support organisations. 3. Over 100 enterprises engaged via the Social Enterprise Support Programme 4. First of its kind Social Enterprise Marketplace event hosted in Bridgend County. 5. Wellbeing Economy Strategy in development
Tourism Events Support
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximised allocated spend 2. 8 events space and heritage assets improved. 3. Newly created Beachfeast event delivered in Porthcawl attracting circa 10,000 visitors. 4. 5 Town & Community Councils supported with Christmas events. 5. 10 Tourism Events Grants awarded.
Local Destination Management and Marketing
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maximised allocated spend 2. 19,923 social media followers 3. 4 European golf journalists accommodated resulting in articles published in Leading Courses magazine, Golfers Magazine and golf.nl as part of a wider golf PR campaign. 4. Visit Bridgend web site supported. 5. New Bridgend Town Centre Heritage Trail supported.
Inspire to Work/Achieve
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support total achieved as of end of Q2 (September 2024) = 90 2. Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision, total achieved as of end of Q2 (September 2024) = 135 3. Number of people supported to access basic skills (Number of people), total achieved as of end of Q2 (September 2024) = 88 4. Number of people supported to engage in life skills (Number of people), total achieved as of end of Q2 (September 2024) = 301 5. Number of people supported to gain a qualification (Number of people), total achieved as of end of Q2 (September 2024) = 62
Employability & Multiply
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Commissioning and procurement, both internal and external of the Multiply project which has offset costs in other Directorates also many local companies have delivered training. 2. To date, 1,948 socially excluded people accessing the project and getting support to find jobs and undertake training and more to supported by 31/03/25. 3. 94 people starting employment due to support from the project which alleviates poverty to date with more to be claimed by 31/03/25. 4. 764 people have already attended a course with more to be completed by 31/03/25. 5. Events such as Jobs Fairs, Creative Jobs Focus and Wellbeing Events and use of local venues.

3.5 On 14 January 2025 CCMB were presented with a report that set out options in relation to use of the transition year funding.

3.6 It was agreed that the funding would be utilised as set out in **Table 4**.

Table 4 – Transition year funding

Project	Revenue	Capital	Total
Local Resilience Planning	£343,292	£0.00	£343,292
Thriving Communities - Comms	£101,291	£337,058.00	£438,349
Thriving Communities - SSWB	£417,600	£0.00	£417,600
Green Spaces Enhancement	£101,044	£265,646.00	£366,690
Community Future Scoping Programme	£0	£133,292.00	£133,292
Co-Production Prosperity Framework C&P	£286,664	£25,200.00	£311,864
Business Prosperity Programme	£87,615	£310,527	£398,142
Business Future Scoping Programme	£111,165	£0	£111,165
Centres of Enterprise	£0	£1,000,000	£1,000,000
Enterprise Support Programme	£175,250	£0	£175,250
Tourism & Event Support	£119,739	£51,524	£171,263
Destination Management	£42,960	£0	£42,960
Co-Production Prosperity Framework LB	£81,615	£25,200	£106,815
Inspire+	£960,520	£0	£960,520
Employability	£1,606,866	£0	£1,606,866
Co-Production Prosperity Framework P&S	£1,029,915	£0	£1,029,915
Delivery Budget Total	£5,465,536	£2,148,447	£7,613,983
RCT ADMIN	£62,002		
BCBC ADMIN	£74,280		
Total SPF	£5,601,818	£2,148,447	£7,750,265

3.7 As a result of this the current forecast for delivery of outputs and outcomes is set out in **Appendix 3**.

3.8 A summary of activity aligned to each project is summarised in **Table 5**.

Table 5 – Transition Year summary activity

Local Resilience Planning
Activity in 2025/26 would see the continuation of the current community-led resilience planning programme. Working with key partners to gather relevant intelligence on local needs and maintaining flexibility of approach to respond to those needs. Should programme be continued at only 60% of the budget, delivery of community projects will be delivered in-house and less projects will be commissioned. The offer of financial support for the activities outlined above will be minimised, however the impact of the support offered by the team is expected to continue.
Thriving Communities
The planned activity for the year 2025/26 is to continue the Placemaking Property Improvement Grant, with the aim of continuing to improve commercial centres and high streets throughout the borough. (The funding will exclude the three town centres of Bridgend, Porthcawl and Maesteg due to funding being available to fund the same activity in the town centres via the Transforming Towns Programme). A small amount of Feasibility Funding is being requested to progress and develop projects identified in the Valley Strategy to RIBA Stage 2, in order to inform future funding bids. A request has also been made to support the Grand Pavilion Re-development. If this programme was to operate at 60% of the 24/25 budget, it is still proposed to run the Placemaking Property Improvement Grant as stated above but at a slightly reduced budget than requested. The feasibility pot request would need to be smaller in order to ensure the retention of a Grade 11 dedicated Regenerations Projects Officer which is critical. The request for funding towards the Grand Pavilion re-development would be significantly less than requested above and based on 60% of the funding received this year for 'other capital projects'. In addition to continue to develop more inclusive and resilient communities by engaging population groups that are more vulnerable, connecting them into community opportunities and developing approaches and resources to maintain or enhance physical and mental wellbeing. With a focus on young carers, carer leavers, care experience children and children and adults with a disability.

<p>To support doorstep community place-based opportunities by building capacity amongst local people and community anchor organisations with a specific focus on tackling inequalities and reducing imbalances. The scale of the SSWB proposal has already been reduced by over 50% to focus on key elements of supporting an already high level of demand across social services. If the already reduced proposal was reduced further this would add more challenge to the more vulnerable in terms of community engagement and wellbeing.</p>
<p>Green Spaces Enhancement</p> <p>The UKSPF Green Space Enhancement Project 2025/26 will deliver transformative improvements to the Aberfields site, located in Nant y Moel Ogmore Valley prioritising accessibility, ecological value, and impactful community engagement. Key aspects will include Access Enhancements; Habitat Restoration & Biodiversity Improvements; Community Spaces; Staffing and Community Engagement. If only 60% of the proposed £580,000 budget were available, significant elements of the project would be scaled back or omitted. The project lead also put forward alternative proposals for consideration, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Taking forward small scale capital schemes identified via feasibility studies (b) Taking forward future phases of work at Bedford Park
<p>Future Scoping Programme</p> <p>Proposed activity for 2025/26 includes elevating the level of support to the next phase with a small capital grant for community groups and the 3rd Sector. The progression for community project ideas that were tested under the Community Feasibility Fund, is to continue the projects with a small Community Capital Grant (up to £35,000). Should delivery of the continuation of the project be capped at just 60% of the original allocation, it is proposed to cease the Community Feasibility Fund. Therefore, the reduced allocation will be utilised in full for a small Community Capital Grant, as detailed above.</p>
<p>Prosperity Framework</p> <p>The framework was created to support delivery across all 3 investment priorities, adding value to the backbone suite of projects and offering the Council a mechanism to ensure that any emerging demand, need and opportunity could be considered, thereby supporting the Council to maximise the impact of the overall SPF programme. The following are options for prioritisation: Quickstart; Collaboration with 3rd Sector partners via commissioned delivery; Pathways into Employment (SSWB Directorate); Opportunities from within the Council Capital Programme for 25/26 and others. A 40% budget cut will significantly impact the value that the Council, and importantly its strategic delivery partners, will be able to gain from the SPF programme in 25/26, also impacting its ability to take momentum into the next new programme in April 2026.</p>
<p>Prosperity Programme</p> <p>The project will look to deliver Capital Grants to the business community continuing a highly successful business grant program (51 Business Development grants allocated). However, we would not look to secure the full allocation of, £748,379 (24/25) as this has the potential to be non-deliverable due to predicted demand. For the 25/26 program we would ask to secure £500,000 Capital (not the full £748,379 from 24/25) along with extra revenue to cover 100% of 2.5 members of staff to deliver the grants programme. 60% of the 24/25 capital cost would equate to £449,027 Capital with the potential of a loss of a member of staff.</p>
<p>Business Future Scoping Programme</p> <p>The project will look to continue the delivery of the revenue Feasibility Grants to the business community. We would not look to secure the full allocation of, £185,275 (24/25) as this has the potential to be non-deliverable given the expended demand. 60% of the 24/25 grant cost would equate to £111,165 Revenue which would equate to 4 grants at the full £25k.</p>
<p>Centres of Enterprise</p> <p>The project will fund capital schemes for the business community and the corporate estate, generating income for BCBC. Dependant on the level of funding available one or several of the options outlined below could be delivered.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Village Farm East (continuation of plot B2) – The construction of 4 no. double (1,200 sq ft) Industrial Units. 2. Village Farm West (B1) – The construction of a further 8 no. (5 Single (600 sq ft) and 3 double (1,200 sq ft)) industrial units. 3. Porthcawl Seafront - We propose to take forward a number of sites for short to medium term meanwhile uses once they become available. 4. Refurbishment of a selection of units in the existing Industrial portfolio currently managed by Corporate Landlord to both extend the life of the portfolio and increase energy efficiency for tenants.

Bridgend Local Enterprise Support Programme
<p>Building on what has been achieved the last 2 years, the focus for this year will be developing a Wellbeing Economy approach which will include local procurement and circular economy. Success will be local businesses and SME's and micro businesses in Bridgend will have procured more local public sector spend. The project will support Micro to Medium size businesses based in the Bridgend County to support their strategic, longer-term sustainability, growth, diversification, and decarbonisation aligning it to other programmes. A 60% reduction would mean some project elements are not explored in as great a detail or delivered. There would be less project outputs and outcomes achieved, less officer time available and less impact on the local businesses.</p>
Tourism Events Support
<p>The proposal will build on the current events programme and support infrastructure with a clear ambition and future direction for those events that attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors to the County, support the private and third sector to develop new events and add value to existing events through an event grants program (£100k) and look at opportunities to attract major events to the County. A 60% reduction would mean some elements and not explored in as great detail along with a reduction in monies available to event organisers through a reduced grant scheme.</p>
Local Destination Management and Marketing
<p>The project will enable and support the following aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To fulfil priority actions identified in the Destination Management plan and Economic development Plan. • To increase visitor spend and proportion of staying visitor. • The continued and increasing interest in leisure activities such as water sports and outdoor Targeted marketing campaigns based on research. • Support coordinated tourism PR activity (including social media) aligned with key opportunities and activities such as golf. <p>A 60% reduction would mean some elements may not be explored in as great detail and a reduction in BCBC Tourism and events social media content.</p>
Inspire to Work/Achieve
<p>Both Inspire operations have been developed to align with the work already implemented within Bridgend County Borough Council under the Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, supporting the identification, tracking and mapping of services and outcomes for young people from education into employment. This alignment will ensure a consistent approach in supporting our young people and that Shared Prosperity Fund investment adds value to an integrated approach to achieving the aims of programme. In light of proposed cuts, delivery in the first instance would be safeguarded to ensure that those staff that engage directly with young people (Lead Workers and Youth Pathways Workers). Any cut in funding would result in ancillary support roles needing to be removed from the project.</p>
Employability & Multiply
<p>Please note: As it is assumed the Multiply funding will not be ring-fenced going forward to 25/26 but some of the good practice and staffing from Multiply would be beneficial, especially in the absence in Bridgend of Adult Community Learning, then the 100% budget requested is only using the People and Skills amount hence the delivery model would be amended to accommodate that budget.</p> <p>Proposed Activity with a full* budget would include the following (*as caveated above)</p> <p>450 Engagements – enrolment and initial assessment to identify needs and create individualised action plan. Support provided on needs basis to remove barriers to employment and/or progression and ongoing monitoring</p> <p>325 Training – quality support offered from experienced professionals providing a varied approach to enable participants to become more sustainably employable and resilient within their community.</p> <p>150 Job Outcomes</p> <p>It is currently estimated that this would be delivered by a significantly changed delivery model across 3 hubs – Bridgend, Maesteg and Porthcawl.</p> <p>Proposed Activity with 60% budget would include the following</p> <p>270 Engagements – enrolment and initial assessment to identify needs and create individualised action plan. Support provided on needs basis to remove barriers to employment and/or progression and ongoing monitoring</p> <p>195 Training – quality support offered from experienced professionals providing a varied approach to enable participants to become more sustainably employable and resilient within their community.</p> <p>100 Job Outcomes</p> <p>It is currently estimated that this would be delivered by a substantially changed delivery model from Civic Offices, without hubs. Communities for Work Plus, which currently operates from the same location as Employability and Multiply, would also relocate to Civic.</p>

- 3.9 In pulling together their proposals for the transition year project leads also set out how activity would align with the BCBC Corporate Plan. That is summarised in **Appendix 4**.
- 3.10 To support delivery in the transition year the governance and oversight arrangements for the UKSPF 2025-26 have been improved and will now include the following:
- o Establishment of a monthly operational leads working group, chaired by Finance
 - o 6 weekly Economic Programme Board meetings, chaired by the Cabinet Member Economic Development, Regeneration and Housing
 - o Quarterly update reports to CMB
 - o Quarterly update reports to CCMB
- 3.11 Financial profiling will be undertaken with each project lead and the results will be monitored on a monthly basis. In addition, a decision gateway process will be created, with key criteria agreed on a project by project basis, to determine progress and if required re-distribution of funds to other areas if under-performance is forecast.
- 3.12 BCBC's UKSPF agreement for 2025-26 has been executed as a deed under seal. A Delegated Power form was signed by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chief Officer – Legal, and Regulatory Services, HR and Corporate Policy, Chief Officer – Finance, Housing and Change and the Corporate Director – Education, Early Years and Young People prior to sealing.
- 3.13 The evaluation of UKSPF, to determine overall lessons learnt, has been commissioned by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The evaluation takes a case-study approach to assess the programme impact on 34 places across the UK, including the South East Wales Region. Wavehill are leading the evaluation in South East Wales as part of an Ipsos-led UK-wide consortium. The purpose of this evaluation is to gain a deeper understanding of local delivery and impacts, to generate robust evidence on how effective combinations of UKSPF-supported interventions within a locality work together to enhance pride in place, life chances and the other levelling up missions.
- 3.14 In South East Wales, Wavehill have prioritized the following four impact themes as a focus to the evaluation:
- Revitalising town centres and community places - changes in the perception of the town centres and communities as places to live, including changes in community pride
 - Support for community organisations - impact on increasing capacity, community engagement and reducing social isolation
 - Business grant support - focus on impact of support on business growth
 - Employability support – impact on supporting people into employment or moving individuals closer to the labour market

- 3.15 When completed, the evaluation work report will focus on:
- o Process
 - o Expenditure
 - o Outputs
 - o Outcomes
 - o Impacts
- 3.16 It is currently considered that the evaluation will be completed by December 2025.
- 3.17 It is understood that the findings of the evaluation work will be considered by MHCLG as part of their wider considerations in relation to activity post-March 2026.
- 3.18 Based on information available as part of the UK government's Spending Review, published on 11 June 2025, it appears that four new funds may be established following the current transition year, namely:
- A New Local Growth Fund – potentially for specific mayoral regions, with a possible 10-year capital settlement.
 - Investment in deprived communities – potentially for approx. 350 areas across the UK, including the 75 towns already identified in the Plan for Communities.
 - A Growth Mission Fund – a potentially small fund intended to directly support local economic growth.
 - A recyclable Mayoral growth fund – potentially to be integrated with the settlement of mayors in the North and Midlands.
- 3.19 Specifically for Wales for the three financial years beginning in April 2026 the Spending Review suggests that funding for these schemes (i.e. the new local growth fund and the investment in deprived communities) will be at the same overall level in cash terms as under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in 2025-26. In practice that means £630m for Wales (c.£210m a year).
- 3.20 However, it is important to note that at this time there are no finalised details at present on priorities or management and a lack of clarity in relation to timetables and decision making processes between now and April 2026, although it has been suggested that further information may become available at, or around, the time of the Autumn Budget, which is scheduled for 26 November 2025.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. This is an information report, therefore it is not necessary to carry out an Equality Impact assessment in the production of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 BCBC is committed to promoting sustainable development and to discharge its duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. A summary relating to the five ways of working and how they connect to the Corporate Well-being Objectives is below:

Long-term: The Bridgend Local Investment Plan was identified following discussion with key stakeholders and in relation to current understanding of the potential long-term challenges on the County Borough. Building on the process of developing and creating the Economic Strategy, the Local Development Plan (LDP) and the Wellbeing Plan for the County Borough it has been possible to set out a long-term response.

Prevention: BCBC has for many years worked closely with stakeholders and the local business community to support the local economy in a wide variety of proactive ways. As well as a continuation of BCBC's ability to react to local situations, the development of the UKSPF Local Investment Plan and the grant funds contained within it builds on strengths to plan for the future, take proactive action and support local businesses and local communities.

Integration: The work to develop and deliver the UKSPF Local Investment Plan is closely aligned with the BCBC Corporate Plan, the Local Development Plan and the Public Service Board's Well-being Plan and the Bridgend County Economic Strategy.

Collaboration: The development of the UKSPF Local Investment Plan has been steered by a BCBC officer group and will be delivered in partnership with key stakeholders.

Involvement: For the UKSPF Local Investment Plan to successfully operate it will require the involvement of senior members of local public sectors organisations, community leaders, business leaders, representatives of business sectors and trade bodies and other key stakeholders.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 The Bridgend County Local Investment Plan was developed and is being delivered to support where possible the delivery of the Bridgend Net Zero 2030 Strategy.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding or corporate parent implications arising from this report.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are currently no further financial implications other than those outlined in section 2 and section 3 above.

9. Recommendations

- 9.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to note the content of this report.

Background documents

None

Appendix 1 – United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund outputs and outcomes

Communities and Place – outputs and outcomes

Output	INITIAL TARGETS	Q4 Final	
	Forecast C&P Outputs (i.e., total expected Outputs across the life of the fund)	Total C&P Outputs achieved at programme end	
Number of commercial buildings completed or improved (Number of buildings)	5	8	160.00%
Amount of commercial space completed or improved (M2)	200	1631	815.50%
Number of rehabilitated premises (number of premises)	2	2	100.00%
Amount of rehabilitated land (M2)	0	0	0.00%
Amount of public realm created or improved (M2)	0	20	
Amount of land made wheelchair accessible/step free (M2)	16250	80450	495.08%
Number of organisations receiving grants (Number of organisations)	14	8	57.14%
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support (Number of organisations)	66	148	224.24%
Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken (Number of improvements)	17	7	41.18%
Number of amenities/facilities created or improved (Number of amenities or facilities)	16	3	18.75%
Number of local events or activities supported (Number of events/activities)	127	72	56.69%
Amount of green or blue space created or improved (M2)	17500	180398	1030.85%
Number of new or improved cycleways or footpaths (Number of cycle ways or footpaths)	12	7	58.33%
Total Length of new or improved cycleways or footpaths (KM)	25	1	4.00%
Number of trees planted (Number of trees)	3500	3600	102.86%
Number of events/participatory programmes (Number of events/participatory programmes)	1	356	35600.00%
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (Number of opportunities)	47	608	1293.62%

Number of projects successfully completed (Number of projects)	3	78	2600.00%
Number of people reached (Number of people)	500	3122	624.40%
Number of people attending training sessions (Number of people)	50	142	284.00%
Number of feasibility studies developed as a result of support (Number of studies)	10	65	650.00%
Number of households receiving support (Number of households)	0	2	
Outcome	Forecast C&P Outcomes	Total C&P Outcomes achieved at programme end	
Jobs created as a result of support (Number of full time equivalent FTE)	3	0	0.00%
Jobs safeguarded as a result of support (Number of full time equivalent FTE)	4	4	100.00%
Increased footfall (Number of People)	49	974	1987.76%
Increased visitor numbers (Number of People)	4	4450	111250.00%
Reduced vacancy rates (Number of vacant units filled)	5	3	60.00%
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility (Number of people)	2	76	3800.00%
Improved perception of facilities/amenities (Number of people)	9	128	1422.22%
Increased users of facilities/amenities (Number of Users)	5	0	0.00%
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project (Number of People)	7	10	142.86%
Increased use of cycleways or footpaths (Number of cyclists or pedestrians)	7	0	0.00%
Improved perception of safety (Number of people)	15	20	133.33%
Improved engagement numbers (Number of people)	41	1188	2897.56%
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support (Number of programmes)	22	433	1968.18%

Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of support (Number of volunteering roles created)	6	669	11150.00%
The number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (Number of projects)	9	4	44.44%
Premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support (Number of premises)	7	0	0.00%
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures (Number of households)	1	0	0.00%

Supporting Local Business – outputs and outcomes

Output	Forecast LB Outputs	Total LB Outputs at programme end	
Number of local markets created or supported (Number of markets)	25	8	32.00%
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support (Number of enterprises)	168	903	537.50%
Number of enterprises receiving grants (Number of enterprises)	29	77	265.52%
Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready (Number of entrepreneurs)	40	91	227.50%
Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved (Number of assets)	5	10	200.00%
Number of commercial buildings completed or improved (Number of buildings)	9	19	211.11%
Amount of commercial space completed or improved (M2)	7000	1815	25.93%
Number of people reached (Number of people)	0	1339	
Number of local events or activities supported (Number of events/activities)	10	12	120.00%
Number of people attending training sessions (Number of people)	10	226	2260.00%
Number of rehabilitated premises (Number of premises)	1	0	0.00%
Number of events/participatory programmes (Number of events/participatory programmes)	0	1	
Number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed (Number of units)	9	2	22.22%
Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure completed (M2)	1125	2	0.18%
Number of decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support (Number of plans)	1	15	1500.00%

Number of feasibility studies developed as a result of support (Number of studies)	10	15	150.00%
Outcome	Forecast LB Outcomes	Total LB Outcomes achieved at programme end	
Jobs created as a result of support (Number of Full time equivalent (FTE))	31	50	159.68%
Jobs safeguarded as a result of support (Number of Full time equivalent (FTE))	39	373	956.41%
Number of new enterprises created as a result of support (Number of new enterprises)	8	21	262.50%
Increased footfall (Number of people)	100	0	0.00%
Increased visitor numbers (Number of people)	5100	0	0.00%
Number of vacant units filled	0	5	
Improved perception of markets (Number of people)	100	0	0.00%
Increased number of enterprises supported (Number of enterprises)	5	65	1300.00%
Increase in visitor spending (Amount of visitor spend in £)	501000	0	0.00%
Increased amount of investment (£)	25000	1486155	5944.62%
Improved perception of attractions (Number of people)	600	0	0.00%
Premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support (Number of premises)	4	0	0.00%
Number of enterprises adopting new to the firm technologies or processes (Number of enterprises)	7	38	542.86%
Number of new to market products (Number of products)	2	17	850.00%
Estimated Carbon dioxide equivalent reductions as a result of support (Tonnes of CO2e)	0	3315	
Number of enterprises with improved productivity (Number of enterprises)	0	6	
Number of enterprises adopting new or improved products or services (Number of enterprises)	13	38	292.31%
Number of enterprises engaged in new markets (Number of enterprises)	14	26	185.71%
Number of early stage enterprises which increase their revenue following support (Number of enterprises)	5	30	600.00%
The number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies (Number of projects)	3	10	333.33%

People and Skills – outputs and outcomes

Output	Forecast P&S Outputs	Total P&S Outputs at programme end
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Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services (Number of people)	415	382	92.05%
Number of economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system (Number of people)	28	30	107.14%
Number of socially excluded people accessing support (Number of people)	90	1293	1436.67%
Number of people supported to access basic skills (Number of people)	163	283	173.62%
Number of people accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment (Number of people)	84	52	61.90%
Number of people supported to engage in job-searching (Number of people)	305	311	101.97%
Number of people receiving support to gain employment (Number of people)	108	427	395.37%
Number of people receiving support to sustain employment (Number of people)	49	208	424.49%
Number of effective engagements between keyworkers and additional services (Number of engagements)	167	197	117.96%
Number of people supported to engage in life skills (Number of people)	513	2167	422.42%
Number of people supported onto a course through provision of financial support (Number of people)	394	854	216.75%
Number of people supported to participate in education (Number of people)	47	91	193.62%
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (Number of opportunities)	56	110	196.43%
Number of people taking part in work experience programmes (Number of people)	67	59	88.06%
Number of people retraining (Number of people)	114	182	159.65%
Number of people in employment engaging with the skills system (Number of people)	100	59	59.00%
Number of people receiving support to gain a vocational licence (Number of people)	224	151	67.41%
Number of people attending training sessions (Number of people)	0	713	
Number of people supported to gain a qualification (Number of people)	1018	1151	113.06%
Outcome	Forecast P&S Outcomes	Total P&S Outcomes at programme end	

Number of economically inactive individuals engaged with benefits system following support (Number of people)	64	15	23.44%
Number of active or sustained participants in community groups as a result of support (Number of participants)	63	27	42.86%
Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF (Number of people)	149	789	529.53%
Number of people with basic skills following support (Number of people)	51	97	190.20%
Number of people in supported employment (Number of people)	10	117	1170.00%
Number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services (Number of people)	14	25	178.57%
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services (Number of people)	235	81	34.47%
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support (Number of people)	332	182	54.82%
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support (Number of people)	298	358	120.13%
Number of people in education/training following support (Number of people)	70	201	287.14%
Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision (Number of people)	100	930	930.00%
Number of people familiarised with employers expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace (Number of people)	180	451	250.56%
People gaining a qualification or completing a course following support (Number of people)	103	843	818.45%
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills (Number of people)	190	627	330.00%
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education and training (Number of individuals)	0	17	
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions (Number of people)	14	1577	11264.29%
Increased number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills (Number of people)	33	769	2330.30%

Increased number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions (Number of people)	50	385	770.00%
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Multiply – outputs and outcomes

Output	Forecast Multiply Outputs	Total Multiply Outputs at programme end	
Number of adult numeracy courses run in a local area through Multiply (Number of courses)	145	106	73.10%
Number of people participating in Multiply funded courses (Number of people)	630	962	152.70%
Number of people achieving a qualification (Number of people)	292	243	83.22%
Number of courses developed in collaboration with employers (Number of courses)	18	0	0.00%
Number of people referred from partners onto upskill courses (Number of people)	209	29	13.88%
Number of different cohorts participating in numeracy courses (Number of cohorts)	22	33	150.00%
Outcome	Forecast Multiply Outcomes	Total Multiply Outcomes at programme end	
Number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2 equivalent (Number of adults)	292	243	83.22%
Number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2 equivalent (Number of adults)	630	962	152.70%

Appendix 2 – Grant awards

Business Development Grant

Business Name	Project Summary	Grant Payment Made	Total Project Cost
Godspeed brakes Ltd	Purchase a new CNC Machine.	£25,000.00	£58,057.70
Engineering Industrial Solutions Ltd	Purchasing an industrial acoustic imaging camera designed for compressed air leak detection.	£543.33	£1,086.66
Vision Print Solutions Ltd	Purchasing Digital production print machine	£9,813.49	£19,626.98
Picton Stone Ltd	Purchase a mobile office unit and furniture to allow a more sustainable and accessible office at their Pyle site.	£5,893.00	£11,786.00
Anstee Landscapes and Tree Felling Contractors Ltd	Purchase a mobile elevated work platform (MEWP), which will allow the business to conduct tree work safer and more efficiently.	£25,000.00	£83,850.00
A- Head of The Game Enterprises	Purchasing kitchen equipment to assist with a culinary school expansion project.	£20,025.02	£40,050.04
LMG Solutions Ltd	Purchasing IT equipment, ensuring compliance with the International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR).	£6,682.24	£13,364.47
Burts The Bakers Ltd	Purchase of a labelling machine for the products.	£11,043.00	£22,086.00
Rhymney Brewery Limited	Purchase PV solar panels and battery, new artificial slate roof to incorporate solar installation, Hyper efficient water cooler, Energy saving glass washer, Energy saving Cellar Cooling and Smart Cellar	£25,000.00	£50,300.00
Bridgend Ravens Rugby Club	Purchase a digital screen.	£24,817.08	£49,634.16
YC Plastics Manufacturing Ltd	Oversheet current roof to make the premises a safer and healthier facility.	£25,000.00	£58,057.70
Pyle and Kenfig Golf Club	2 x Samsung TVs, Sliding door double fridge,	£15,334.20	£31,310.25

	Computer till system, Development of Club's website, Installation of disabled ramp, Furniture for Clubhouse lounge area.		
Armex Tech Limited	Purchasing Ajax Systems control alarm panel x 6, Ajax Systems outdoor motion detector x 30, Ajax Systems outdoor siren x 12, Kiosk Housing Unit, Vinyl Graphics, SmartSolar Battery Units & Solar Panels.	£5,184.92	£10,369.84
R W Christopher Crane Hire Ltd	Purchasing Rolling Road to Test & Certify Vehicles	£17,500.00	£35,000.00
Drainforce Ltd	Purchase Solar panels and batters to charge plant and equipment.	£24,500.00	£49,000.00
Euroschools Plus Ltd	Purchasing Melco EMT16X embroidery machine	£13,725.00	£27,450.00
Ginkgo Garden Services	Purchase equipment associated with establishing a new works depot to store plants and materials.	£25,000.00	£57,258.70
Enhanced Consultancy Ltd	Website, flooring, various medical equipment and building work at Apollo Business Village	£16,827.83	£36,983.67
Summitk2 Limited	Make the business compliant with the disability discrimination act, including purchase and installation of new turnstile, accessible doors and flooring.	£12,157.32	£29,768.24
Odyssey Pensions Ltd	Capital expenditure on property improvements, PC equipment and website re-design	£11,471.55	£22,943.09
JH Apsee & Sons	Supply and fit of new fire alarm system to warehouses	£5,175.00	£10,350.00
Engsolve Ltd	Office furniture, Laptops x 5, computer monitors x 3, Video Conferencing Camera, Nero Executive Boardroom Table.	£8,459.96	£17,114.89
Club Penybont Ltd	Provide base and ground works and electricity, water connections for Portable Female, Officials Changing	£19,744.17	£39,488.34

	Accommodation and Merchandise Shop.		
RJ Chumley Ground Maintenance	Purchase of tree shears and land clearing grab.	£24,750.00	£49,500.00
Leaping Wing Ltd.	Purchase an aerial LiDAR scanning unit, and the necessary ancillary equipment and software to enable this roll-out.	£8,805.84	£17,620.05
Comgem Limited	Purchasing additional IT equipment which will facilitate expansion and development.	£4,963.72	£9,927.43
Severnside Car Company Ltd	Purchasing Mobile phones x 2, Phone System, Laptops x 2, Desks x 3, Desk Chairs x 3, Customer Chairs x 8, Uniform, Printer	£4,510.50	£9,020.98
InfoTeam International Ltd	Apple 14 inch MacBook Pro Computers x 5, Apple 15 inch MacBook Air Computers x 5, Apple 13 inch MacBook Air Computers x 5, Office furniture:- Chairs, Desks, Various Storage, Drawers, Shelving Units, Desk Lamps	£21,740.84	£43,481.68
Waterstone Mirrors & Frames LTD	Purchase of a new UV Flatbed Printer to allow us to produce glass wall art.	£21,958.50	£43,917.00
Club Penybont Limited	Ground works re Electrical Armoured Cable to Portacabin Car Park Entrance and Main Gate Entry and Gate/Carpark Lighting	£2,159.20	£4,350.00
Tyre Boss Ltd	Hydraulic bead breaker kit, specialist attachment teletruck, Hydraulic OTR tyre press, Shipping Container and Compressor	£20,986.94	£41,973.87
Dragon Café	Purchasing a coffee machine, kitchen equipment, furniture and kitchen canopy fan.	£16,460.82	£32,921.64
Talgarth Bakery Limited	Purchasing Blast Chiller, Welsh Cake Hot Plates, Canopy Extraction	£25,000.00	£62,475.00
R & R Coles	Conversion of unused space to an additional surgical treatment room.	£20,393.56	£40,787.12

La Cocina Tapas	Purchasing of food lift and tables and full shop fit out.	£25,000.00	£50,148.96
Resolution Care Services Ltd	Office Reconfiguration for Training, Social Media & Support Service Growth and Creation of New Website and Social Media Platform	£10,942.00	£25,935.00
G & S Roberts Ltd - Steak & Stamp	Purchasing Fire Detection & Alarm System and Fire Suppression System	£5,191.50	£10,383.00
Infinite Renewables Ltd	Purchase of BestWatt 10 Mobile Wind Turbine	£25,000.00	£68,039.66
Bespoke-UK Ltd	Purchase a Falach Cube 20 Briquette Machine, the installation of more energy efficient LED warehouse lighting and the purchase of a more up to date and more efficient edge bander machine	£11,000.00	£22,000.00
Clear View Surgical Ltd	Air conditioning & Ventilation System, Specialist medical kit, Computer hardware, Electrical & Building works	£24,262.39	£48,524.77
Dollcast Limited	Purchase of Overhead Gantry Crane	£25,000.00	£50,343.35
Gemini Digital Colour Ltd	Hewlett Packard Indigo 7K Digital Printing Press.	£25,000.00	£290,000.00
The Steel Shop	Airless Paint Set, CNC Machine, Forklift, Pillar Drill and Magnetic Drilling Machine	£25,000.00	£50,028.19
SDM Glass Ltd	Complete sheet roof covering.	£23,375.00	£46,750.00
Unisan Limited	Purchase Injection moulding tools to make newly designed recycling bins to ensure the bin components can be assembled faster.	£25,000.00	£51,000.00
Edwards Steel Services Limited	Purchase CNC plasma cutting machine	£21,327.97	£218,725.00
Peter Wood & Sons Butchers Ltd	Purchasing refrigeration and freezer display equipment which will facilitate expansion and development.	£10,907.80	£21,815.59
Project Seagrass	Purchasing a GasMet GT6000 FTIR analyser that will enable field and lab-	£25,000.00	£58,551.97

	based measurements of seagrass gas balance to be made.		
Infinite Renewables Ltd	Purchase a large commercial trailer which will be fitted out with solar PV panels, control panel/power conversion and battery packs, providing a commercially viable and effective source of low carbon power for use where mains power is not available.	£23,956.88	£47,913.75
Town & Country Hotels Ltd	Construction of a Padel court	£25,000.00	£52,902.08
Production 78 Ltd	Towards the purchase of the development & installation of two AV Studios for the hosting and management of virtual & hybrid events from their new warehouse and office base in Bridgend.	£18,799.24	£37,598.48
Tollgate Engineering Services Ltd	Capital investment in new office facility in Pyle following relocation from Baglan Energy Park to ensure it is suitable for their needs and future business growth plans.	£31,063.98	£62,127.95
Sigma 3 (Kitchens) Ltd	Purchasing a new CNC drilling machine which will enable Sigma 3 Kitchens to perform a number of functions they currently rely on third parties or using a more antiquated method.	£49,999.17	£99,998.33
TOTAL		£956,452.96	£2,443,697.58

Business Feasibility Grant

Business Name	Project Summary	Grant Payment Made	Total Project Cost
Markes International Ltd	Feasibility study to identify potential partners and markets within the Middle Eastern region	£25,000.00	£33,000.00

Codel Software Ltd	Marketing feasibility study on the HR software marketing in the UK and Internationally	£13,500.00	£13,500.00
LMG Solutions Ltd	Fund the engagement of an external consultant who specialises in the targeted sectors to expand the customer base to a wider European market.	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Club Penybont Ltd	Feasibility study for the club to assess how to increase revenues streams from all and any diversified business opportunities	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Old Industries Limited	Feasibility study to explore long-term options for the business to diversify, decarbonise and grow	£10,098.00	£10,098.00
Harlequin Home Care Ltd	Feasibility study into exploring sustainable energy solutions	£19,600.00	£19,600.00
The Coach Brewing Company Limited	Feasibility study to explore various projects within the brewing and distilling business to assess their viabilities	£19,800.00	£19,800.00
IARA Ltd t/a KKSolutions	Commission a feasibility study into the market potential for bespoke wallpaper production and installation.	£6,300.00	£6,300.00
Nemein Ltd	Production of a geological and thermal modelling feasibility study to investigate the potential for geothermal power in Brynmenyn.	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Project Seagrass	Undertake feasibility study to assess the suitability of the Pendine Worm Farm Facility for the production of native oyster seed.	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
Brewery Field Ltd	Feasibility study to assess how to generate diversified alternative income through a range of measures including the	£16,200.00	£16,200.00

	creation of a new hotel development adjacent to the Club		
Corilla Plastics (Bridgend) Ltd	Feasibility study into erecting a solar panel farm on, or in the grounds of the company, to provide renewable energy instead of gas	£25,000.00	£25,000.00
TOTAL		£235,498.00	£243,498.00

Tourism Events Grant

Event / Organiser	Type of Event	Grant amount	Grant Tier	Total event cost
Between the Trees	Music Festival	£9,995	20% Tier2	£123,625
Bridgend County Show	Outdoor Show	£7,600	20% Tier2	£40,000
Porthcawl Triathlon Club	Sporting event	£2,500	50% Tier1	£5,710
Porthcawl 10K	Sporting event	£9,950	20% Tier2	£97,114
Rabbit Run	Sporting event	£5,200	20% Tier2	£26,000
Bridgend Town Council	Christmas Event	£6,450	50% Tier1	£13,000
Maesteg Town Council	Christmas Event	£4,000	50% Tier1	£55,159
Porthcawl Town Council	Christmas Event	£5,200	50% Tier1	£13,000
Ogmore Valley Community Council	Christmas Event	£3,840	50% Tier1	£8,000
Garw Valley Community Council	Christmas Event	£3,840	50% Tier1	£8,000
Welsh Guards St Davids Day Parade 2025	St Davids Day Parade	£9,995	20% Tier2 (Discretionary 33% grant awarded)	£29,826
	TOTAL	£68,570		£419,434

The Bridgend Community Feasibility Fund

Beneficiary / Recipient	Project	Grant amount
Public Service Board	The PSB Climate Change Risk Assessment - The risk assessment will provide a clear view of the PSB's resilience to the future challenges of climate change and options for further joint strategic action.	£12,000

Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) - Community Asset Transfer (CAT)	Bridgend Energy Efficiency Project - The project provided bespoke energy efficiency surveys for 39 community & sports facilities. The aim is for the surveys to provide relevant evidence needed, to secure future capital grants for environmental sustainability and a reduction in running costs.	£39,500
Porthcawl Veterans Hub	Porthcawl Veterans Hub - The Veterans Hub was supported with a feasibility study to identify self-contained accommodation to help enhance their services and community impact. Currently operating in shared accommodation, the Hub faces challenges, lacking privacy for one-to-one interactions and hindering their full potential.	£8,055
Coity Higher Community Council	Coity Higher Community Council (CHCC) are seeking a freehold asset transfer of Coity Higher & Litchard Cross Community Centre. A feasibility study was developed for the pre-construction period. The study explored the condition of the building; considered structural reconfiguration; accessibility, vehicular access and parking; mains services and costings for remedial works.	£25,319
Ogmore Valley Community Council	Caedu Park Memorial Garden - Professional landscape design and feasibility assessment was requested, to create a community wellness and memorial garden in Caedu Park, a former nursery site at Park Avenue, Ogmore Vale.	£8,944
South Cornelly Renewable Energy CIC	The CIC was established to be the vehicle used by the village to achieve its ambition of creating a "Net Zero Village". The aim of the feasibility study is to investigate how the Local Energy Market can be expanded and integrated with a proposed electrolyser producing green hydrogen, from community owned solar and wind assets, for the decarbonization of heat within the village.	£24,850
BCBC CAT / OVCC	Ogmore Valley All Weather Pitch - CAT & OVCC worked together to progress the project and required a study to look into determining the most suitable type of all-weather pitch to reflect potential demand / usage, funding constraints and the current suitability of infrastructure, e.g. changing facilities.	£9,750
Maesteg Celtic Sports Facilities Ltd	Maesteg Celtic Sports Facilities Ltd requested a study to look into options for Garth Park Pavilion: expanding changing facilities, renovating the building and bringing the facility up to date with modern sporting guidelines.	£17,420

BCBC Climate Change Response	Bedford Park Surveys & Study - This project involved developing a preparatory study to ascertain the viability of an on-site building development proposal. The proposed building or buildings will be for a remote 'work-hub' space and to accommodate volunteer tool storage and necessary facilities.	£6,870
Lads & Dads Wellbeing CIC	The CIC approached us to develop a study and a 5 year business plan. The study researched and surveyed the group's members, their capacities and capabilities, in order to help progress their current offer and work towards their goal of becoming self-sustainable with paid members of staff.	£9,825
Porthcawl Town Council	The PTC applied for feasibility study to be carried out to identify options for a new community building to accommodate the PTC and respond to local community needs.	£24,960
Tondu RFC	A feasibility study to consult and test the project of developing Pandy Park and Tondu RFC to incorporate playing fields (rugby and football) together with parking areas, public open space and the changing pavilion.	£34,840
Cornelly Outreach Group	Cornelly Outreach Group - The Cornelly Outreach Group applied for a feasibility study to create a clear direction in the form of a 5-year strategy for the group, based on information from the committee, members and service users. Their top priority is securing a suitable premises from which to run their confidential Services.	£14,960
The Contact Zone	The Contact Zone applied to the Feasibility Fund to investigate the possibility of the organisation obtaining a premises. The study will also undertake a financial assessment, produce a five-year action plan and to undertake an assessment of comparable operations in other areas in relation to services offered.	£14,960
Bridgend Town Council	Carnegie House - Bridgend Town Council are keen to explore options for the vacant Carnegie House in Bridgend as an arts and cultural centre. A feasibility study is needed to establish how it can be best put to use within the confines of the covenant and take into consideration the BCBC Town Centre Masterplan.	£27,497

BCBC/ Garw Valley Community Council	Parc Calon Lan - BCBC and the Garw valley Community Council are co-working on a study test the viability of a remote work-hub being installed at Parc Calon Lan. The work-hub will provide further potential to increase visitors to the Park and provide a warm safe space for isolated remote homeworkers.	£28,800
Westward Community Centre Committee	West Ward Community Centre - Building Improvements. The community centre committee requested a building condition survey and landscape designs and drawings. The aim is to attract future capital funding for much needed renovation work at the centre.	£12,654
Nantymoel Boys & Girls Club (The Mem)	The Nant Y Moel Boys & Girls Club (The Mem) has a state-of-the-art infrared heating system but the electricity costs are preventing this being used properly. The study requested that several renewable energy options are considered for the trustees of the centre to take forward for capital funding grants.	£15,085
Llangynwyd Rangers	The Reach team are working with Llangynwyd Rangers on developing feasibility report and masterplan to enhance community and sport provision at Llangynwyd Playing Fields, including improved playing, training and social facilities.	£24,166
The Noddfa Youth Development Project	Blaencaerau School Site - The Noddfa Youth Development Project are working with the Reach team to undertake a feasibility study that will develop options for the usage of the site at Blaencaerau school in Maesteg.	£9,988
Llynfi BMX Racing Club	Llynfi BMX Bike Tracks Park - Llynfi BMX approached the Reach team for a study that would assist the group in for a Community Asset Transfer of the former Coegnant Colliery Site. The feasibility study will include consultation with local young people, development options for the site, consideration of floodlighting, a standalone building including toilets and changing facilities, as well as costings for the acquisition and development of the site and the identification of potential capital funds to deliver the project, presented in a report that will inform future funding bids.	£9,988
St.Ceins Church	A feasibility study is needed to investigate costed options for improvements to the church building, which currently has no running water or facilities for community use and renovate an 'out of bounds' church tower.	£14,960
Rest Bay Sports Ltd	Rest Bays Sports Ltd are looking for a 5-year business plan to revise the club's priorities and work towards capital funding opportunities for renovations and pitch improvements.	£13,000

BCBC CAT Programme	Community Sports Facilities: building condition surveys x18 buildings in the Borough.	£24,723
	TOTAL	£433,114

The Bridgend Valleys Placemaking Property Improvement Grant

Premises/Company	Project Summary	Total Project Costs	Grant Committed
Station Hotel, Caerau, S&E Properties Ltd	Internal and external improvements to bring vacant ground floor commercial unit back into use on the high street. (with residential on first floor supported by BCBC Sustainable Renewable Housing team)	£90,922.00	£49,999.00
Ogmore Vale Family Dental	External and internal property improvements, safeguarding the commercial property on the high street	£58,000.00	£30,000.00
Ogmore Valley Dragons Boxing	External and internal property improvements to bring vacant commercial space into use and safeguard the commercial property on the high street.	£35,459.75	£28,367.80
Pontycymmer Rugby & Community Sports Ltd	External and internal property improvements to bring the vacant premises back into use on the high street	£57,280.00	£48,880.00
Margam Ministry Ltd	External and internal improvements to safeguard the commercial property on the high street	£15,247.20	£12,197.76
Pretty Hot & Tattooed	External and internal improvements to safeguard the commercial property on the high street	£30,000.00	£24,000.00
Talbot Community Centre	External improvements that will safeguard the commercial property on the high street	£10,000.00	£8,000.00
G&S Roberts Ltd	External and internal improvements to bring vacant commercial space into reuse, safeguarding the commercial property on the high street	£8,033.00	£6,426.40

	TOTALS	£304,941.95	£207,870.96
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Appendix 3 – United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund Outputs and Outcomes 25/26

Communities & Place Outputs	FORECAST
Amount of commercial space completed or improved	50
Amount of green or blue space created or improved	97502
Number of amenities/facilities created or improved	16
Total length of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths	2
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	28
Number of local events or activities supported	111
Number of people reached	5151
Number of people retraining	200
Number of organisations receiving grants	17
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support	95
Number of volunteering opportunities supported	203
Number of feasibility studies developed as a result of support	16

Communities & Place Outcome	FORECAST
Increased use of cycleways or foot paths	26
Number of vacant units filled	4
Increased users of facilities/amenities	816
Increased visitor numbers	1730
Premises with improved digital connectivity as a result of support	7
Jobs created as a result of support	50
Jobs safeguarded as a result of support	7
Improved engagement numbers	475
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	15
Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of support	224
The number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	18

Local Business - Outputs	FORECAST
Amount of commercial space completed or improved	3000
Number of tourism, culture or heritage assets created or improved	2
Number of enterprises receiving grants	12
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	170
Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready	35
Number of local events or activities supported	5
Number of feasibility studies developed as a result of support	6

Local Business - Outcomes	FORECAST
Increased users of facilities/amenities	40
Increased visitor numbers	1000
Increase in visitor spending	100000
Jobs created as a result of support	13
Jobs safeguarded as a result of support	57
Number of enterprises adopting new or improved products or services	3
Number of enterprises adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	3
Number of enterprises engaged in new markets	10
Improved engagement numbers	120
The number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	2

People & Skills Outputs	FORECAST
Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services	422
Number of people participating in adult numeracy provision	58
Number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2 equivalent	58
Number of people reached	1446
Number of people receiving support to gain employment	290
Number of people receiving support to sustain employment	63
Number of people retraining	53
Number of people supported to access basic skills courses	168
Number of people supported to participate in education	271
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support	5
Number of volunteering opportunities supported	17

People & Skills Outcomes	FORECAST
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	225
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	44
Number of people in education/training following support	71
Number of people with basic skills following support	171
People gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	328
Number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2 equivalent	40
Number of people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF	472
Number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of support	31

Appendix 4 – Transition year activity alignment to Corporate Plan

<p>Local Resilience Planning</p> <p>The Local Resilience Planning Programme is a funding support programme specifically for the development of community regeneration projects. The fund continues the success of the Reach programme with the aspiration of developing Bridgend's communities into thriving places to live, visit and work. The aims of the project align closely with the objectives outlined in the following plans.</p> <p>Cwm Taf Morgannwg Wellbeing Plan 2023-2028:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Healthy Local Neighbourhoods – A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where our communities are inclusive and feel cohesive and people feel safe, supported, and valued. - Sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods. <p>Bridgend Corporate Plan 2023-28:</p> <p>A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable - Help communities become more resilient, so more people will find help and support they need in their community, with the third sector.</p> <p>A County Borough with thriving valleys communities</p> <p>Deliver additional activities in community venues in the valleys, including digital activities. Improving community facilities and making them more accessible</p> <p>A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community</p> <p>Helping clubs and community groups to take control of and improve their facilities and protect them for the future. Provide new opportunities for the community to engage with us on our regeneration plans, holding workshops with key stakeholders including town councils, learners and community groups.</p> <p>A County Borough where we support people to live health and happy lives</p> <p>Resilience Planning is a community development programme, with its aims to develop community strength, resilience, and sustainability within Bridgend's 3rd Sector. Programme activities centre around community resilience to ensure future community project sustainability and growth. The programme focusses on grass root community projects and supports ideas for projects that closely align to the Corporate priorities as outlined above. This continues a proven approach to community development that works to ensure community ownership of projects and build a localised pride of place.</p> <p>The Local Resilience Planning programme seeks to address local priorities by responding through the bottom-up approach; often approached by community voluntary groups or partners who have identified a local challenge that can be proactively addressed with interventions from this programme. As locally led community development programme the community needs are ever changing so this programme remains flexible to help support in any way that it can and is needed. Working alongside a variety of partners, stakeholders, funders and relevant BCBC teams the programme maintains key relationships to support ongoing community development work, by gathering relevant information on community needs that are not being addressed by any other support mechanism. The programme positions itself in a unique way to develop individual projects that respond directly to community challenges, by researching and identifying these challenges, ensuring cross collaboration of partners it can then build pilot projects to work towards overcoming barriers and challenges.</p> <p>The programme provides support and expertise to develop and strengthen community and charitable organisations so they can reach their own aims and objectives. It does this through a variety of ways such as supporting the development of action plans, heritage plans, business plans, feasibility studies, building condition surveys, energy efficiency surveys, green space designs etc. This process of researching and supporting localised consultation exercises helps inform and shape community projects. Providing a strengthened foundation for organisations to proceed onto obtaining further external funding - to finance and realise their projects. Working alongside organisations and groups throughout; this process also ensures improved group capabilities to continue their ventures and maintain sustainability.</p>
<p>Thriving Communities</p> <p>1. Wellbeing Objective 2 : A county borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns.</p> <p>Providing revenue and capital investment to communities to support:</p> <p>Improving our town centres, making them safer and more attractive</p> <p>Attracting investment and supporting new and existing local businesses.</p>

The Placemaking Property Improvement Grants has supported commercial centres throughout the county borough, contributing to visually and economically improving the high streets of the county borough in the smaller commercial centres outside of the three main town centres.

The revenue funding has supported the development of the Bridgend Town Centre Access Scheme and Café and Cultural Quarter Feasibility Study, which will both support improvement to the town centre, and supports its growth. It also supports the funding of an officer who provides the day to day enabling of the grants, feasibility work and engagement with the public.

This project is directly linked to the delivery of WBO 2.3

2. Wellbeing Objective 3: A county borough with thriving valleys communities.

Investing in Maesteg town centre and creating more jobs in the valleys ·

Improving community facilities and making them more accessible

The Placemaking Property Improvement Grants has and will continue to support a number of properties in the valleys area of Bridgend, providing much needed investment to bring dilapidated buildings back into use. SPF has also supported investment into the redevelopment of the iconic Maesteg Town Hall, and will continue to target and work with the owners and organisations using key public and prominent buildings.

The SPF revenue funding has supported Bridgend County Borough Council to prepare a Regeneration Strategy for the upper Bridgend Valleys of Llynfi, Garw and Ogmore. The strategy sets out a placemaking led approach for future regeneration to guide decision making around investment and policy with the aim of positively shaping the future of the valleys. This will help to capture opportunities to make local communities more resilient to the challenges faced by changing patterns of services, jobs and economy. Regeneration Strategies are a key tool for supporting access to regeneration funding to further develop projects that deliver BCBC's Corporate Plan.

These projects are directly linked to the delivery of:

- WBO 3.2
- WBO 3.2
- WBO 3.5
- WBO 3.6

Wellbeing Objective 6: A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community

This project specifically supports the priority of improving the way we engage with local people, including young people, listening to their views and acting on them.

The corporate Plan specifically states that we continue to provide new opportunities for the community to engage with us on our regeneration plans across the county borough, holding workshops with key stakeholders including town councils, learners and community groups.

Multiple regeneration strategies, and engagement relating to feasibility work is being led by the officer appointed to this project.

These projects are specifically linked to the delivery of WBO 6.2

Wellbeing Objective 7: A County Borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives, by Improving attractive leisure and cultural activities.

This project will directly support the redevelopment of Porthcawl Grand Pavilion, to increase the use of the new facilities and extend social and leisure facilities, in partnership with Awen Cultural Trust. This project is specifically linked to the delivery of WBO 7.2

The Thriving Communities Project is supporting delivery of a number of BCBC Corporate Plan priorities. The groups who are supported by the project are young carers and adult carers, care experienced children, care leavers and children and adults with disabilities. The goals of the project are making a positive contribution to specific commitments under the following Corporate Plan objectives:

- A Borough where we protect our most vulnerable – particularly the commitment to support the wellbeing of unpaid carers, including young carers, to have a life beyond caring and the commitments in the corporate plan to enhance prevention and early help to prevent the escalation of need for children and adults to requiring statutory support. The project is contributing to a reduction in statutory interventions and supporting people to live well without the Council's support.
- A Borough with thriving valleys communities – supporting people to be connected into groups and wellbeing opportunities in their own communities and developing these where they do not exist.
- A Borough where we help people to meet their potential – supporting vulnerable people to achieve their potential, for example, supporting young carers to access additional support in the school environment and adult carers to remain and gain employment

- A Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of the community – the project is co-produced by the people supported and ensures that the voice of the citizen drives the activity of the service.
- A Borough where we support people to be healthy and happy – the aim of the project is to support people with additional needs and challenges to live well, without the need for statutory support.

Green Spaces Enhancement

The proposal for continued UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) support for the Green Spaces Enhancements Project in 2025/2026 aligns closely with Bridgend County Borough Council's (BCBC) Corporate Plan for 2023-2028, reinforcing several key objectives:

- Investing in Parks and Green Spaces

BCBC's Corporate Plan emphasises the importance of enhancing parks and green spaces to support tourism and community well-being in the valleys. The Green Spaces Enhancements Project directly contributes to this goal by improving the quality and accessibility of local parks, supporting direct community engagement, and promoting environmental sustainability.

-Supporting Decarbonisation and Environmental Sustainability

The Local Authority is committed to achieving a carbon-neutral status by 2030, as outlined in its Decarbonisation Strategy. Enhancing green spaces contributes to this objective by increasing carbon sequestration, promoting biodiversity, and encouraging sustainable practices within the community.

-Improving Community Facilities and Accessibility

The Corporate Plan highlights the need to improve community facilities and make them more accessible. The Green Space Enhancements Project addresses this by upgrading and improving access to local green spaces and open areas, ensuring they are welcoming and usable for all residents, thereby fostering social cohesion and community well-being.

-Promoting Physical Health and Mental Well-being

BCBC aims to increase participation in activity that champions physical and mental well-being. Enhanced green spaces provide local people with opportunities for recreation, exercise, relaxation, and a direct connection to nature contributing to vastly improved health outcomes and improved quality of life.

-Leveraging External Funding for Community Projects

The Local authority made a commitment to investing £22 million of Shared Prosperity Funding to establish projects across the County Borough by 2025, focusing on people and skills, supporting local businesses, and developing communities and places. Securing continued UKSPF funding for projects such as Green Spaces Enhancements is key to this strategy, ensuring sustained investment in community development and environmental improvement.

A proposal for continued UKSPF funding for the Green Spaces Enhancements Project in 2025/2026 is aligned with BCBC's Corporate Plan, supporting the Bridgend Council's objectives of environmental sustainability, community well-being, and economic development.

Future Scoping Programme

The Local Resilience Planning Programme is a funding support programme specifically for the development of community regeneration projects. The fund continues the success of the Reach programme with the aspiration of developing Bridgend's communities into thriving places to live, visit and work. The ambition is that the Community Capital Grant will facilitate sustainable community regeneration projects to ensure activities, assets and services continue to thrive and make a positive contribution to the lives of local communities in Bridgend. The aims of the project align closely with the objectives outlined in the following plans.

Cwm Taf Morgannwg Wellbeing Plan 2023-2028:

- Healthy Local Neighbourhoods – A Cwm Taf Morgannwg where our communities are inclusive and feel cohesive and people feel safe, supported, and valued.
- Sustainable and resilient local neighbourhoods.

Bridgend Corporate Plan 2023-28:

A County Borough where we protect our most vulnerable - Help communities become more resilient, so more people will find help and support they need in their community, with the third sector.

A County Borough with thriving valleys communities

Deliver additional activities in community venues in the valleys, including digital activities. Improving community facilities and making them more accessible

A County Borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community

Helping clubs and community groups to take control of and improve their facilities and protect them for the future. Provide new opportunities for the community to engage with us on our regeneration plans, holding workshops with key stakeholders including town councils, learners and community groups.

A County Borough where we support people to live health and happy lives

The aims of the Community Capital Grant

- Support sustainable locally led projects that make a positive difference to the communities they serve.

- Continue on from the legacy of work developed by the previous Community Feasibility Fund.

- Provide funding that look to future-proof locally owned/leased assets, i.e. Community venues, green spaces and local sport clubs.

- Encourage projects that will demonstrate value for money and offer a range of sustainable community services.

- Support projects that look to reduce their carbon footprint and look to address climate change.

- Support work that would enable new services to be provided and look to increase income generation potential.

- Meet the capital costs of projects by purchasing plant, machinery, equipment, or other assets.

- Encourage projects that help communities to cope with the rising cost of living.

- Support capital work that would enable further community and voluntary services to be provided.

- Provide match funding for larger scale capital projects and work alongside Welsh Government, National Lottery and other major funding capital grants.

Prosperity Framework

The Shared Prosperity Framework has proven itself a critical tool in the successful delivery of the SPF programme across the county borough. It has enabled the Council to adopt a co-production approach to design and delivery, ensuring adaptable and responsive delivery mechanisms by specialist organisations with targeted local/regional delivery in response to identified need throughout the programme.

Building on its proven success, it will be the mechanism to ensure the Council maximises both impact and value of the transition year, mitigating risks from underspend and delivery gaps.

For 25/26, it is again proposed that the Framework be delivered locally and will involve in-house (including where relevant, offsetting opportunities), commissioning, procurement and grant fund. It should be noted that the option to extend delivery into 25/26 has been built into a number of the framework contracts and offers a simple mechanism to ensure delivery, spend whilst limiting the end of programme revenue cost burden to the Council.

It is cross-cutting by nature, delivering across all SPF investment priorities and therefore aligning with all the Council's strategic priorities within the 'Delivering Together' Corporate Plan for 2023-28. It will enable the whole of the SPF Programme to be responsive and react to any adaptation required throughout the delivery period and therefore supports all projects deliver against the corporate priorities.

In 25/26, the framework will again support thriving valley communities, help people feel valued, heard and an integral part of their communities, living healthy and happy lives. For example, the framework is supporting:

- Community capacity and engagement work via our contract with BAVO.
- Community facilities and activities support via our contract with Awen.

Delivery will also ensure that we are able to help people meet their potential, able to take advantage of our objective of supporting fair work, jobs and thriving towns. For example:

- Quickstart Bridgend has supported over 70 paid work placements and is currently reporting a 50% job retention rate. It has supported job targets across the Council's wider People and Skills delivery, demonstrating the importance of the Framework in adding value to the backbone suite of projects.

- Skills development – activities that raise skills levels and awareness of STEM career pathways for our KS3 pupils, whilst at the same time upskilling teachers and supporting parents and carers to better understand opportunities across the region.
- Pathways – creating pathways to independence and work for some of our most vulnerable young people and adults with a care and support need or disability.

There will also be scope to ensure delivery adds value to the decarbonisation agenda.

The framework embodies the Council's five ways of working, in particular:

- supporting better and more targeted use of SPF funding,
- ensuring we work as one Council, engaging with service area leads to ensure funds add value to existing delivery, align and support cross-directorate service objectives, and
- providing the mechanism, through SPF, for the Council to work well together with our external partners. The Council has chosen to commission/procure delivery via the framework within our SPF programme, providing a direct funding opportunity for our external stakeholders, including our important 3rd Sector partners, both within the county borough and wider region and it will be important that this continues throughout 25/26, ensuring we do not lose this collaborative platform. The Council is the anchor delivery partner within the County Borough, but it is only able to achieve its ambitions with the support of our wider stakeholders and by ensuring we support and sustain capacity across our communities.

Prosperity Programme

The project fits with the ambition of the Bridgend County Economic Strategy which provides a reference framework to ensure that the requirements for business and economic growth are balanced with community wellbeing, environmental imperatives and ecological health. Consequently, the project aligns with the BCBC Corporate Plan, Bridgend County Local Development Plan, Wellbeing Plan and Net Zero Plan to create a holistic picture of the needs of the borough, including:

- Supporting business growth
- Capacity building across Bridgend County-based businesses
- Addressing skills shortages
- Stimulating high-skilled jobs in the future economy
- Shifting to a low-carbon economy
- Preserving and enhancing ecological/natural capital
- Future-proofing education
- Improving physical and digital connectivity
- Strengthening the role for the public service and the foundational economy

Without this project, and the dedicated officers, general business support and economic development activity will cease as a function in Bridgend County Borough. This will have a detrimental impact on the business community.

The project links to BCBC's wellbeing objectives, as follows:-

1. A county borough where we protect our most vulnerable
Over the course of the project, we have demonstrated support for the third sector with financial and non-financial support.
2. A county borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns
The Business Development Grant will continue to enable job creation and safeguarding of employment in the county borough by supporting businesses to innovate and stimulate growth. We will continue to engage with key delivery partners including Business Wales, Cwmpas and Careers Wales, promoting networking and collaboration. The grant will facilitate visible improvements including our town centre businesses. The grants have also allowed companies to upskill their workforce by providing capital support to purchase, for example, new machinery therefore allowing the business to reallocate their core funds for employment and training purposes.
3. A county borough with thriving valleys communities
Under the Business Development Grant scheme, we have, and will continue to support a number of companies in the valleys. The grants have helped with investment in Maesteg Town Centre and the Garw and Ogmore Valleys, helping to support local employment and growth. In light of the pandemic, this grant scheme has supported businesses to become more resilient.
4. A county borough where we help people meet their potential
By providing financial support, along with targeted workshops, we have enabled individuals, businesses and enterprises to develop, prosper and meet their potential.
5. A county borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency

The Business Development Grant will support businesses in Bridgend County Borough to diversify, decarbonise and grow. We have helped businesses move towards net zero, by supporting enterprises with investments, for example, in solar panel systems and a mobile wind turbine for the provision of off-grid renewable electricity.

6. A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community
We raise awareness of the SPF grants within the business community. This includes hard to reach groups and individuals through a variety of events, business fairs, workshops and officer engagement with tailored one-to-one support.

7. A county borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives.
The grant supports the safeguarding of existing jobs and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment through due diligence with the Applicant company. Thus, creating wellbeing in the workplace allowing people to fulfil their potential.

Business Future Scoping Programme

The project fits with the ambition of the Bridgend County Economic Strategy which provides a reference framework to ensure that the requirements for business and economic growth are balanced with community wellbeing, environmental imperatives and ecological health. Consequently, the project aligns with the BCBC corporate Plan, Bridgend County Local Development Plan, Wellbeing Plan and Net Zero Plan to create a holistic picture of the needs of the borough, including:

- Supporting business growth
- Capacity building across Bridgend County-based businesses
- Addressing skills shortages
- Stimulating high-skilled jobs in the future economy
- Shifting to a low-carbon economy
- Preserving and enhancing ecological/natural capital
- Future-proofing education
- Improving physical and digital connectivity
- Strengthening the role for the public service and the foundational economy

Without this project, general business support and economic development activity will cease as a function in Bridgend County Borough. This will have a detrimental impact on the business community.

The project links to BCBC's wellbeing objectives, as follows:-

1. A county borough where we protect our most vulnerable
Over the course of the project, we have demonstrated support for the third sector with financial and non-financial support.

2. A county borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns
The Business Feasibility Grant will continue to enable job creation and safeguarding of employment in the county borough by supporting businesses to innovate and stimulate growth. We will continue to engage with key delivery partners including Business Wales, Cwmpas and Careers Wales, promoting networking and collaboration. The grant will facilitate visible improvements including our town centre businesses. The grants have also allowed companies to upskill their workforce by providing revenue support, therefore allowing a business to reallocate their core funds for employment and training purposes.

3. A county borough with thriving valleys communities
Under the Business Feasibility Grant scheme, we have, and will continue to support a number of companies in the valleys to assess the viability of a proposed investment.

4. A county borough where we help people meet their potential
By providing financial support, along with targeted workshops, we have enabled individuals, businesses and enterprises to develop, prosper and meet their potential.

5. A county borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency
The Business Feasibility Grant will support businesses in Bridgend County Borough to diversify, decarbonise and grow. The investment provided by the grant will allow businesses to explore the viability of a potential project that will help to decrease their carbon footprint.

6. A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community
We raise awareness of the SPF grants within the business community. This includes hard to reach groups and individuals through a variety of events, business fairs, workshops and officer engagement with tailored one-to-one support.

7. A county borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives.
The grant supports the safeguarding of existing jobs and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment through due diligence with the Applicant company. Thus, creating wellbeing in the workplace allowing people to fulfil their potential.

Centres of Enterprise

The project fits with the ambition of the Bridgend County Economic Strategy which provides a reference framework to ensure that the requirements for business and economic growth are balanced with community wellbeing, environmental imperatives and ecological health. Consequently, the project aligns with the BCBC corporate Plan, Bridgend County Local Development Plan, Wellbeing Plan and Net Zero Plan to create a holistic picture of the needs of the borough, including:

- Supporting business growth
- Capacity building across Bridgend County-based businesses
- Addressing skills shortages
- Stimulating high-skilled jobs in the future economy
- Shifting to a low-carbon economy
- Preserving and enhancing ecological/natural capital
- Future-proofing education
- Improving physical and digital connectivity
- Strengthening the role for the public service and the foundational economy

The minimum operating project links to BCBC's wellbeing objectives, as follows:-

1. A county borough where we protect our most vulnerable

The refurbishment of the existing estate supports the safeguarding of existing jobs and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment, safeguarding high quality skilled jobs.

2. A county borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns

The refurbishment of the existing estate supports the safeguarding of existing jobs and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment, safeguarding high quality skilled jobs.

3. A county borough with thriving valleys communities

The refurbishment of the existing estate supports the safeguarding of existing jobs in in all three valleys and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment, enabling jobs to remain in the valleys boosting the local economy.

4. A county borough where we help people meet their potential

The refurbishment of the existing estate supports the safeguarding of existing jobs and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment. Thus, creating wellbeing in the workplace allowing people to fulfil their potential.

5. A county borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency

The refurbishment of the existing estate will not only extend the life of the units but also increase energy efficiency potential saving money on running costs (installation of PV and insulation where applicable) to the tenants / businesses and BCBC. By refurbishing estates in the valleys, this will enable local jobs to be safeguarded helping to reduce carbon

6. A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community

The refurbishment of the existing estate supports the safeguarding of existing jobs and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment. Thus, creating wellbeing in the workplace allowing people to fulfil their potential and feel valued.

7. A county borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives.

The refurbishment of the existing estate supports the safeguarding of existing jobs and enables people to work in a safe and secure working environment. Thus, creating wellbeing in the workplace allowing people to fulfil their potential.

Bridgend Local Enterprise Support Programme

The BCBC economic strategy sets out a path to a sustainable recovery that can yield economic, social, and environmental returns. It describes a Bridgend County that meets its economic potential by ensuring a highly-skilled workforce, strong connectivity infrastructure and thriving business culture, whilst creating a Bridgend County that meets the wider social needs of all its people and in a sustainable manner.

Supported the local economy by improving the way we procure our goods and services, making contracts more accessible to local and small businesses.

Attracting investment and supporting new and existing local businesses.

Without this project, and the dedicated officers, targeted support to businesses and enterprises to develop a wellbeing economy approach which will include local procurement and circular economy will cease as a function in Bridgend County Borough. This will have a detrimental impact on the business community.

The project links to BCBC's wellbeing objectives, as follows:-

1. A county borough where we protect our most vulnerable

Over the course of the project, we have demonstrated support for the third sector with non-financial support for over 600 businesses.

2. A county borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns

We will continue to engage with key delivery partners including Business Wales, Cwmpas and other intermediaries, promoting networking and collaboration. Building on what has been achieved the last 2 years, the focus for this year will be developing a Wellbeing Economy approach which will include local procurement and circular economy. Success will be local businesses and SME's and micro businesses in Bridgend will have procured more local public sector spend. This project has delivered a wide range of workshops and "hackathons" relating to topics of relevance to the social enterprise/third sector.

3. A county borough with thriving valleys communities

The project has delivered engagement events across the county borough including the valleys catchment areas. A key priority for the next phase is to implement a wellbeing economy strategy which is currently in early-stage development. Partners from across the valleys communities will be an integral part of this process.

4. A county borough where we help people meet their potential

The project will support individuals, social enterprises and community groups through all stages of their business venture. To date, over 170 people have attended programme events with many attending multiple times. This has demonstrated a clear desire for people to work more collaboratively and the recent social enterprise marketplace event has helped to increase the scope of this. The start-up strategy has identified several people exploring social entrepreneurship and social enterprise. Evident to this is that several new enterprises have been incorporated as Community Interest Companies during the course of the project.

5. A county borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency

The Social Enterprise Support Programme works to encourage enterprises move towards net zero. This has been demonstrated by hosting the recent Marketplace event which brought together buyers and sellers to encourage a more local and sustainable supply chain, thereby reducing carbon footprint.

6. A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community

A strong ambition of this project is to establish a social enterprise network that will be self sufficient and allow collaboration amongst the sector and encourage community empowerment.

7. A county borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives.

The project supports individuals to realise their ambition of running their own business, structured to suit their individual needs such as a social enterprise. Thus contributing positively to their wellbeing and allowing people to fulfil their potential.

Tourism Events Support

The BCBC economic strategy sets out a path to a sustainable recovery that can yield economic, social, and environmental returns. It describes a Bridgend County that meets its economic potential by ensuring a highly-skilled workforce, strong connectivity infrastructure and thriving business culture, whilst creating a Bridgend County that meets the wider social needs of all its people and in a sustainable manner.

BCBC recognises tourism as part of its foundational economy and is in the midst of establishing a new Destination Management Plan. The main aim of this plan is to make Bridgend Borough a place where people want to live, work and visit. The plan recognises that Events are important drivers for visitors, especially during off-season and they play an important role in flattening seasonal peaks and troughs whilst celebrating local cultures and fostering a sense of local pride.

The Covid-19 pandemic impacted the events sector significantly. Welsh Government National Events Strategy for Wales (2022-2030) continues to explore opportunities for Wales but recognises the events sector as a big part in supporting the economy to recover after the pandemic. This project will help support the national strategic objectives as well as more localised objectives within Bridgend County Borough.

Without this project, and the dedicated Events Officer, general tourism and event support activity, including ESAG and Event Health & Safety, will be detrimentally affected as this role is currently displacing BCBC's core funding.

The project links to BCBC's wellbeing objectives, as follows:-

1. A county borough where we protect our most vulnerable

The programme has enabled free to access events for all, across the county borough. The events have varied from a range of musical, sporting, cultural and agricultural.

2. A county borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns

We have supported a number of events and event spaces through capital funding within the town centres, which has increased footfall significantly. Going forward we would like to build on the success of these events to continue to increase footfall within the various town centres. The events have helped to support local businesses by increasing spend and created seasonal job opportunities.

3. A county borough with thriving valleys communities

Under the Tourism Event Support Grant, we have, and will continue to support a number of events in the valleys. We have worked collaboratively with the town and community councils to host events and would look to continue to do so. With greater lead time to promote the grant scheme, it will satisfy the appetite for such events going forward.

4. A county borough where we help people meet their potential

Events such as “Beachfest” have provided the opportunity for individuals from across the county borough and further afield to participate in activities which may have not previously been accessible to them. The grant schemes have supported a broad range of musical and sporting events which has given people the opportunity to realise their potential and encourage an active lifestyle.

5. A county borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency

Through the events that we have supported we have encouraged event organisers to use local supply chains, where possible, reducing the event’s carbon footprint. Going forward, we could look to use the small capital element of the project to enable event organisers to purchase necessary equipment rather than hiring, which in turn will make these events more sustainable and commercially viable.

6. A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community

We have undertaken visitor feedback surveys and consulted with local businesses to build on the success of the event and to help improve future events. We have ensured that all events supported have been as inclusive as possible and accessible for all. We encourage event organisers to ensure that event spaces are left in a good condition, thereby reducing negative community impact by ensuring litter picking, street cleansing etc.

7. A county borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives.

The events have offered a range of opportunities for individuals to participate in activities, which encourages both individual and family time, to explore healthy lifestyle alternatives. It also highlights the different opportunities available to people in the county borough to participate, while also attracting visitors.

Local Destination Management and Marketing

The BCBC economic strategy sets out a path to a sustainable recovery that can yield economic, social, and environmental returns. It describes a Bridgend County that meets its economic potential by ensuring a highly-skilled workforce, strong connectivity infrastructure and thriving business culture, whilst creating a Bridgend County that meets the wider social needs of all its people and in a sustainable manner.

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The Covid-19 pandemic impacted the events sector significantly. Welsh Government National Events Strategy for Wales (2022-2030) continues to explore opportunities for Wales but recognises the events sector as a big part in supporting the economy to recover after the pandemic. This project will help support the national strategic objectives as well as more localised objectives within Bridgend County Borough.

Without this project, the management of the dedicated Visit Bridgend website and social media channels would be detrimentally affected as this project funds the operation.

The project links to BCBC’s wellbeing objectives, as follows:-

1. A county borough where we protect our most vulnerable

Through the Visit Bridgend website and associated social media channels we have promoted free and affordable events that have taken place across the county borough that are accessible to all.

2. A county borough with fair work, skilled, high-quality jobs and thriving towns

Utilising the website and social media channels we have promoted and supported the local events and the high quality, independent food offering within the county borough. Building upon this success we are looking to enhance and showcase this, and other of the county borough’s attributes to contribute and support the local economy.

3. A county borough with thriving valleys communities

The Visit Bridgend website has a comprehensive list of tourism points of interest across the county borough, including the 3 valleys. It showcases the unseen assets of natural beauty, hidden away in our valleys.

4. A county borough where we help people meet their potential

The Visit Bridgend website and social media channels are a fundamental, cost effective tool to highlight the wide range of activities and promoting experiences and showcasing the area as a key destination.

5. A county borough that is responding to the climate and nature emergency

<p>By using social media channels and the Visit Bridgend website, we are encouraging responsible tourism, thereby helping the Council on its journey to carbon net zero.</p> <p>6. A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community Not only does the Visit Bridgend website and social media channels target tourists, we also engage and communicate with the local community encouraging domestic tourism. Community and local events are promote across our platforms.</p> <p>7. A county borough where we support people to live healthy and happy lives. The digital platforms showcase a range of activities across the county borough highlighting the natural assets including surf, scenery and summit.</p>
<p>Inspire to Work/Achieve</p> <p>The Inspire 2 Work / Achieve programmes provides a vital engagement and support service for young people aged 11 to 25 within the county and is central to support those children who are or could be at risk of not being in education, employment or training (NEET). The project operates under the core principles of the Welsh Government's Youth Engagement and Progression Framework, with a strong focus on early identification of young people who are not maximising their potential during statutory education.</p> <p>By engaging young people early and providing positive role models and opportunities, Youth Work helps to prevent issues such as unemployment, anti-social behaviour, or mental health struggles from escalating. By addressing and removing physical and emotional barriers, the initiative ensures that young people are 'work ready' when they leave statutory education, equipping them to transition into sustainable employment.</p> <p>The project directly supports the local authority in meeting its commitments within the Corporate Plan (Wellbeing Objectives 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7). Specifically, it contributes to increasing employment and training opportunities for young people aged 16 to 24 within the County Borough.</p> <p>A key focus of the project is targeting the most vulnerable young people through a comprehensive tracking exercise. This approach helps to build resilience and provides tailored support to enable them to reach their full potential.</p> <p>The Value of a Youth Work Approach</p> <p>A Youth Work approach is particularly effective when working with hard-to-reach young people because it prioritises relationship-building, trust, and individualised support. Youth Work trained staff focus on the needs, interests, and aspirations of each young person, creating a sense of ownership and engagement especially for those who may feel overlooked by more formal services. Many hard-to-reach young people mistrust traditional institutions or services. Our Youth Workers invest time in building genuine relationships through consistent, non-judgmental support. This approach fosters trust and encourages young people to engage with services informally.</p> <p>Unlike rigid, formal services, Youth Work is flexible and meets young people "where they are"—whether that's at a physical location like a youth centre or emotionally in terms of their readiness to engage. This adaptability helps to remove barriers to participation.</p> <p>Open-Access Centres and Comprehensive Support</p> <p>The initiative supplements staffing at open-access centres in Evergreen Hall, Brackla, Pencoed, Cynffig, and Coleg Cymunedol y Dderwen, providing safe, youth-only spaces where young people can access support in a way that suits their individual needs. Working on a voluntary engagement basis, the service not only addresses employability or educational needs but also social, emotional, and personal barriers. This comprehensive support is especially effective for young people facing complex challenges and barriers.</p> <p>Project staff also incorporate informal education methods, such as group activities, workshops, and volunteering, to make learning enjoyable and accessible. These approaches help hard-to-reach young people develop skills in a non-intimidating way.</p> <p>Focus on Volunteering and Community Engagement</p> <p>The project places a strong emphasis on volunteering opportunities, encouraging young people to engage with their communities. This fosters a sense of value, both for themselves and for others, and helps them build connections that further enhance their personal growth and development valuable members of their communities and future workforce.</p>
<p>Employability & Multiply</p> <p>Employability Bridgend supports many of the Wellbeing Objectives of the Delivering Together Corporate plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the Most Vulnerable - Employability Bridgend supports the county's most economically vulnerable people who are experiencing poverty and supports them into sustainable work Fair Work, skilled jobs and thriving towns - Employability Bridgend supports sustainable jobs and checks this via a Better Off in Work calculation, we offer over 400 different types of vocational training and support local employers to fill vacancies. <p>Specifically, our Aims under this Wellbeing Objective (WBO2.1.1 and 2.2.2) are:</p>

1. 'Help our residents get the skills they need for Work'

2. Making sure our young people find jobs, or are in education and training

So far this year (2024-25), we have achieved: 97 jobs out of a target of 105, and 396 training outcomes against a target of 306, with another quarter left to achieve outcomes. We also support people with skills and support to start their own business in the county borough.

- Thriving Valleys Communities – we have a hub in Maesteg so local residents have support on their doorstep and it is also used by other BCBC departments such as social services as well as other partners. We also have drop-in sessions throughout all 3 valleys.

- Helping people meet their potential - this is what Employability is about, and this leads to increased prosperity for local people and their families.

- Making people feel valued, heard and part of their community - people accessing our services are often suffering from anxiety, depression and lack of self-esteem and our service supports their journey so they can thrive and become proud of their achievements.

- Supporting people to be healthy and happy - progressing in an employability journey, especially that which results in a job, is a huge step to making people more satisfied with their lives and progressing.

By supporting people and getting them into training and work we divert them away from core services and decrease the pressure on budgets which is a concern raised in the corporate plan. The BCBC Economic Strategy describes a Bridgend County that meets its economic potential by ensuring a highly skilled workforce, strong connectivity infrastructure and thriving business culture, whilst creating a Bridgend County that sustainably meets the wider social needs of all its people. The assistance provided by Employability Bridgend supports residents of the county borough to build confidence, soft skills, literacy and numeracy skills, and create action plans for their own progress. This helps the local economy by having more people employed, breaking cycles of jobless households and multi-generational worklessness; local companies have appropriately skilled employees, and the workforce is future-proofed in terms of skills gaps.

Externally, Employability Bridgend also fits into the wider regional future-proofing the workforce agenda of the Cardiff City Deal Region network; the national agenda of the Welsh Government's Well-being of Future Generations Act and Young Person's Guarantee; as well as the wider intra-national priorities of the Levelling Up agenda from the UK Government.