



**APPENDIX 1**

**Pro-Forma Submission for support from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

**LA Delivery - Phase 1**

*To be completed by Local Authority partners in relation to each of the following UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) themes:*

- *Green, safe and resilient communities*
- *Local cultural, arts and heritage*
- *Town Centres*

*Further details on these themes, the spend profile and outputs and outcomes expected for each of these strands can be found in the supporting documents provided.*

*Please note this pro-forma submission will be used to inform the detailed programme proposal for submission to the Combined Authority; LA's should also complete the outline delivery plan template alongside this form.*

Summary	
<b>Local Authority Area</b>	Halton
<b>Local Authority point of contact:</b> Steph Davies	
<b>Name:</b> Steph Davies	
<b>E-mail address:</b> steph.davies@halton.gov.uk	
<b>Contact number:</b> 0151 511 7960	
<b>Summary of the proposal activity under each theme:</b>	
Green, safe and resilient communities	<p>Work with a local community group to deliver environmental projects, including a food growing project in two areas, one in Widnes and Runcorn and linked with the Halton Community Shop - E9</p> <p>Offer a small number of green grants of up to £5000 to small community groups – E3/E9</p> <p>Run a consultation on local needs/interest and footfall before and after (via Community Development Team – E3/E5/E9</p> <p>Plant trees and shrubs in a range of community/school/business areas as part of the Halton Big Forest project - E3/E9</p> <p>Develop and deliver an Eco Festival in Victoria Park - E9</p> <p>Warmth For Health provision of energy and advice and grants for home energy improvements - E9</p> <p>Develop Green Corridors into Town Centres to encourage sustainable transport – E3/E5</p>



	Creation of community garden project for Runcorn Old Town - E3
Local cultural, arts and heritage	<p>~ part-fund an events management/cultural post to support existing cultural forums in the Borough, specifically Cultivate (LCEP), Visitor Economy Network (VEN), and Halton Heritage Partnership (HHP) in delivering their own events and projects – E4, E6, E9</p> <p>~ support the delivery of events, including Make-Fest (Mar 23), Eco-Fest (Aug 23, alongside LCR/ACE funding, Heritage Open Days (Sept 23, 24) alongside the DM SIF funding and events for Halton’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year– E4; to include recruiting/training new volunteers to support with event management – E9</p> <p>~ delivery of a number of small grants (6) to support local cultural organisations – E4/E6</p> <p>~ support Town Deal developments, specifically improvements to the Brindley Theatre – E4</p> <p>~ measure an increase in visitor numbers to The Brindley and other venues involved in this strand e.g. Victoria Park – E4</p>
Town Centres	<p>Supporting local business - E16 - Intervention Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses</p> <p>~ capital funding for improvements to four currently vacant market stalls to make them more attractive to new traders (outcomes: 1 local market supported and up to 4 new businesses created)</p> <p>~ revenue funding for will be used to support a number of initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better signposting to existing support and services by updating the information available on the Council’s web page with an emphasis on Town Centre retail and service businesses.</li> <li>• Messaging about support on social media channels extended and targeted at town centre businesses</li> <li>• Design of a diagnostic framework for retail and town centre businesses</li> <li>• Diagnostic offer to town centre business, then brokerage into further business support</li> <li>• Online masterclasses for town centre businesses</li> <li>• Support for town centre events (Widnes, Runcorn, Halton Lea)</li> </ul>

### The Local Need

*Please provide a short description of any challenges and opportunities that UKSPF funding will help to address (guide 200 words).*

*Please provide / detail any supporting evidence where it is useful to do so any make the case for intervention. (Evidence can be included as Annexes)*

#### **Green, Safe, Resilient Communities**

The UKSPF fund will help to deliver some key actions in the Council’s Climate Change Action Plan, drawing in local communities:



- developing the Borough's green infrastructure through the creation of a diverse forest in Halton
- encourage local groups and residents to participate in and deliver grassroots, sustainable initiatives leading to the development of a Community Climate Partnership
- Building Healthy Homes through food security and energy advice and improvements and helping to establishing a Green Growth Business Alliance to secure the local economic benefits from the transition to Net Zero
- Accelerate the up take of sustainable modes of transport into our Town Centres

#### **Local Cultural, Arts, Heritage**

There is a relatively strong and growing cultural and heritage sector in Halton who are now seeking support from Halton BC to embed and extend their work; this will be achieved through the publishing and implementation of a Halton Cultural Strategy from Jan 2023, specifically deploying some of the UKSPF budget to a support role for those delivering cultural events and through micro-grants to individual cultural organisations to kickstart projects. The principle underpinning the work is to support local creatives and to upgrade the cultural offer for Halton residents to demonstrate that Halton can develop/host a high quality cultural events programme.

#### **Town Centres**

Over recent years the retail sector has seen a significant shift from in person to online shopping as people's habits change. It's estimated that circa 20% of all sales will be made online in 2022, thus putting further pressure on retail environments. The pandemic has also had a significant impact on the town centre business; at Widnes Market, for example, footfall has dropped by circa 25% over pre-pandemic levels.

### **Links to Local Plans and current activities**

*Please provide an outline of any Local Plans and linked to existing projects, programmes and initiatives that are relevant to the activities proposed as part of this plan. If available, please provide links to existing plans / strategies.*

#### **Green, Safe, Resilient Communities**

The activities proposed all link to Halton's Climate Change Strategy and key actions contained within it: [Halton Climate Change Action Plan](#)

#### **Local Cultural, Arts, Heritage**

Priorities identified in this strand all help to deliver the actions identified in Halton's Cultural Strategy which is in the process of being finalised (Jan 2023) and is not yet a public document.

#### **Town Centres**

- Reconnecting Runcorn – The Runcorn Town Investment Plan (January 2021)
- Halton Lea Investment Plan DRAFT (April 2022)
- Halton Lea Levelling-Up bid (2022)
- Widnes Market business plan (2022- 2025) [Widnes Market Business Plan](#)

### **Proposed Activities**



*Please provide a short overview of how the funds will be used for each strand and a summary of the activities you propose to fund through UKSPF. These activities should be in accordance with guidance provided on the UKSPF, be in line with the spend profile, outputs and outcomes.*

*Please include details of match funding, critical milestones to enable delivery, contracting requirements and a short programme risk analysis in the delivery plan template provided.*

### **Green, safe and resilient communities**

The funds will be used to deliver a range of projects aimed at the creation of and improvements to local green space and the built environment, increasing opportunities around sustainable modes of transport to town centres and creating community engagement in climate change projects and encouraging the opportunities for volunteering/skills development.

We will aim to grow this pot through match funding from a number of sources:

- INEOS Energy from Waste Fund
- DEFRA Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund
- Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan
- Health Through Warmth
- NLCF Climate Action Fund

A series of Service Level Agreements will be put in place for grants to local organisations.

Tree planting and improvements to sustainable transport will be delivered through existing Council contracting arrangements.

Individual risk registers will be developed for each project to ensure outputs/outcomes are achieved and projects are delivered within budget.

### **Local cultural, arts and heritage**

The funding will be used to support the delivery of Halton's Cultural Strategy, due to be published in Jan 2023; the Strategy has been developed in consultation with local cultural stakeholders and will support two key cultural forums in Halton – Cultivate (Halton's Local Cultural Education Partnership) and Halton Heritage Partnership (HHP).

Specifically, the funding will part-fund an events management/cultural post to support existing cultural forums in the Borough in delivering an events and projects programmes, including a series of 'Fests' - Make-Fest (Mar 23), Eco-Fest (Aug 23, alongside LCR/ACE funding, Heritage Open Days (Sept 23, 24) alongside the DM SIF funding and Halton's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2024. Also to include recruiting/training new volunteers to support with event management

The delivery of a number of small grants to support local cultural organisations to kickstart/enhance their events/projects.

In terms of capital spend, the funding will complement Runcorn's Town Deal developments, specifically improvements to the Brindley Theatre

With the support of Halton BC's Community Development Team, we will set up systems to measure an increase in visitor numbers to The Brindley and other venues involved in this strand e.g. Victoria Park.

### **Town Centres**

The funding will be used to enhance existing events/facilities and deliver some new interventions:

The capital funding will be used in Year 1 to fund improvements to four vacant market stalls to make them more attractive to new traders.



Currently there are four hard-to-let stalls which are unattractive to new market traders due to the initial outlay needed prior to trading to fitout and secure the stall due to adjustments made by previous tenants. This work will include removing previous stall dividers and replacing damaged false ceilings. It will also include the provision of security stall shutters which are generally cost prohibitive for new traders.

This work will support the output 1 local market supported and outcome 2 new business's created

Revenue Funding (spend April 23 to march 25)

This funding will be used to support a number of initiatives:

- Better signposting to existing support and services by updating the information available on the Council's web page with an emphasis on Town Centre retail and service businesses.
- Messaging about support on social media channels extended and targeted at town centre business's
- Design of a diagnostic framework for retail and town centre business's
- Diagnostic support for town centre businesses, followed by brokerage support to further expertise
- Online masterclasses for town centre business's
- Support for town centre events (Widnes, Runcorn, Halton Lea)

## Outputs / Outcomes

*Please provide a summary of the anticipated outputs and outcomes that will be delivered, including timescales for their realisation. These should be taken from the guidance documents where target numbers are provided.*

### Green, safe and resilient communities

#### OUTPUTS:

Amount of public realm created or improved (m2)	700m2
Number of organisations receiving grants	8
Number of neighbourhood improvements taken	4
Amount of green space created or improved	100m2
Number of projects	8
Number of trees plants	500

#### OUTCOMES:

Increased footfall	25%
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	50%
Increased users of facilities/amenities	25%
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	70

Soft outcomes will include:



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased civic pride/ownership through 'green' improvements to specific neighbourhood areas, leading to safer and healthier communities</li> <li>• Reduced social isolation and skills development for volunteers</li> <li>• Increased knowledge and awareness of climate issues leading to individual/group action</li> </ul>	
<b>Local cultural, arts and heritage</b>	
<p>OUTPUTS:</p> <p>Number of organisations receiving grants 6</p> <p>Number of local events or activities supported 3</p> <p>Number of tourism, culture or heritage assets created or improved 1</p> <p>Number of events/participatory programmes 3</p> <p>Number of projects 3</p> <p>OUTCOMES:</p> <p>Increased visitor numbers 10%</p> <p>Number of community led creative programmes as a result of support 3</p> <p>Volunteering numbers as a result of support 30</p> <p>Soft outcomes will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased confidence in Halton to deliver high quality, large-scale cultural events</li> <li>• Skills development for volunteers</li> <li>• Increased participation in creative activities, leading to improved wellbeing</li> </ul>	
<b>Town Centres</b>	
<p>OUTPUTS:</p> <p>Number of local markets supported 1</p> <p>Number of businesses receiving non-financial support 47</p> <p>OUTCOMES:</p> <p>Jobs created 9</p> <p>Number of new businesses created 2</p> <p>Soft outcomes will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased confidence for town centre businesses</li> <li>• Increased confidence for residents in going to the town centres</li> </ul>	
<p><i>Please provide details of any additional outputs or outcomes that are expected to be delivered through delivery of the funding:</i></p> <p>See soft outcomes in each section above</p>	



## Financial plan

Please provide an overview of the spend profile for the activities outlined in the delivery plan.

Stream	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Total
	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital	Revenue	
Green, resilient and safe communities	13,923	41,290	36,540	83,463	79,406	46,438	301,059
Local cultural, arts and heritage	3,935	49,193	15,742	25,000	46,438	48,593	188,900
Town Centres	27,549	0	0	51,830	0	38,684	118,063

**Does this spend profile align with the overall yearly split provided in the detailed spend profiles?** **No**

If no, please advise which interventions this is different for, and rationale for this?

As we only have one full quarter left in year 1, we have carried some year 1 funding into years 2/3 in some cases where we know it can/can't be spent.

The capital spend on Town Centres has been brought forward from Year 3 to Year 1 in order to help facilitate the creation of new businesses sooner and moved revenue to later years to allow led in time for procurement.

**Does this spend profile align with the overall capital and revenue split provided in the detailed spend profiles?** **Yes**

If no, please advise which interventions this is different for, and rationale for this?

## Sign-off

Have all relevant colleagues with the LA been consulted on this plan?	YES
Has your plan been signed off by the LA's accountable officer for UKSPF?	YES
Has the plan been signed off through the LA governance structure? If not, please provide details of when this will be considered.	To be ratified by Exec Board Jan 23