**UKSPF Summary of Local Authority Project Proposals for Year 2 (2023/24)**

**Birmingham**

**Project 1 – £1,628,000 –** Identify & support repair, reinstatement and/or improvement of assets across town centres, high streets and Birmingham city centre that help enable residents to lead active, fulfilling lives in an attractive, engaging environment. It is anticipated this project will fund the above in areas within a '15minute city' catchment of local centres, high streets and Birmingham city centre. Supporting 'high streets' in this project is a broader goal, where establishing a vibrant and viable socio-economic infrastructure around and within a 'high street' leads to higher footfall, higher use, higher satisfaction and ultimately a sustainable, desirable centre that residents want to live near and visit. Examples include funding leisure centres, play zones, repairing community sport facilities, encouraging links between these sites and local people, creation of small-scale green infrastructure in areas where this is lacking, and provision for intelligent street and festive lighting to reduce emissions and bills. This project will also support promotional activities and events that raise the profile of Birmingham's town centres, high streets and city centre, through local organisations such as Business Improvement Districts.

**Project 2 – £440,000 -** Supporting existing and emerging local cultural and arts organisations to develop sustainable business models, with the objective that, post-Shared Prosperity Fund, these organisations can continue their work bringing culture to local communities in a robust way. The fund will be allocated following an open call for expressions of interest and project ideas. It is a bottom-up approach to supporting organisations working with and for their local communities. Where there are existing bodies, we hope this fund will help them grow; where there is nothing, we hope this fund will provide opportunity to build overt cultural engagement and make local centres better places to live. While we are not prejudicing what organisations may bid for, we anticipate interest in using vacant units and other collaborative projects where groups can co-locate and benefit from economies of scale. We anticipate funding being provided across years two and three of the programme, with project milestones being set and met prior to any funding being made available in Year Three.

**Project 3 - £827,899** - Builds upon the work already being developed and supported through our approach and focus on "Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods" Policy Statement and Localism. Place based with a focus on priority areas in the city, recognising the value of existing neighbourhood organisations many who act as community anchors in their neighbourhood. This is a bottom-up approach with the expectation that specific projects will be developed within the areas themselves, not pre-empted by us and will focus on holistic place-based interventions bespoke to each neighbourhood related to community and neighbourhood infrastructure. On the whole monies will go out as grants from the city council directly to local organisations to implement the interventions.

**Project 4 - £550,000** - Builds upon the work already being developed and supported through our approach and focus on "Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods" Policy Statement and Localism, as above relating to capacity building & infrastructure support.

**Project 5 - £792,000 -** Builds upon the work already being developed and supported through our approach and focus on "Working Together in Birmingham's Neighbourhoods" Policy Statement and Localism, as above relating to local community engagement schemes and local regeneration. The majority of expenditure will go out as revenue grants from the city council directly to local organisations to implement the interventions. The remaining capital will be implemented directly by BCC.

**Coventry**

Continuation of year 1 activity to relocate existing Coventry Job Shop due to City Centre redevelopment. The new Job Shop will serve as the 'hub' for Coventry city council 'Hub and Spokes' delivery model. The new location requires significant re-fit to make fit for purpose and will include ensuring the space is designed with partners to encourage effective 'hub' use. In year 2 additional focus will be to support local activity in preparation for 2024/5 people and skills delivery.

**Project 1 – £1,033,718 –** Engaging Economically Inactive residents who are further from the labour market through volunteering to build confidence and skills and move towards paid employment. This will form a pathway into the employment support funded through the People and Skills strand of UKSPF in 2024/5. Engagement activity will take place through the Job Shop City Centre Hub and through community 'spokes' in partnership with VCS providers, DWP, Prospects (NCS) and other Council Services such as the Migration Team, Libraries and Family Hubs

**Project 2 – £171,326 –** Support for Voluntary and Community sector organisations to improve community centres.

**Project 3 – £114,858 –** Training and support for Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in preparation for Year 3 People and Skills delivery.

**Dudley**

**Project 1 – £300,000 –** Dudley Town Centry improvements and pilot project to develop a town centre partnership. Targeted support to retail and leisure businesses, increasing the diversity of use (vacant premises) and encourage alternative uses within public spaces to increase vibrancy.   
**Project 2 – £30,000 –** Capacity Building for Community Organisation through forums and workshops including bid writing and managing projects

**Project 3 – £150,000 –** Improvements to green spaces and parks

**Project 4 – £100,000 –** Promotion and marketing campaign for Dudley's local areas of historic interest, visitor attractions, and experiences to increase visitors and pride in place

**Project 5 – £100,000 –** Cultural strategy - write and deliver a strategy for the borough. Enable cultural activity and events via promotion of spaces where events can be held and piloting a cultural calendar of events with a view to improve the visitor experience.

**Project 6 – £250,000 –** Pilot a consistent and community led participatory structure / structure for engagement and local democracy

**Project 7 – £15,000 –** Investment and support for digital connectivity in local community facilities

**Local Business Support – Local Allocation**

**Local Business Project 1 - £150,000** - Start-up and growth support including incubation to improve the life chances of new businesses. The budget will be used to commission start-up support appropriate to Dudley’s needs.

**Sandwell**

**Project 1 – £581,877 –** Continues from Year 1 Providing education facilities at Sandwell Valley and Forge Mill Farm by developing community building capacity piloting an education and outreach programme. Targeting community groups, volunteers, schools, colleges, early years, and adult education (particularly NEETS). Delivering outcomes that empower and engage communities to improve green spaces targeting those who are not currently engaged in employment because of a disability of health issue, unemployed, or seeking new pathways to return to work (through green careers, animal welfare careers, conservation career, urban forestry careers etc).

**Project 2 – £300,000 –** Support for the Voluntary and Community Sector to support residents to become more engaged with their local areas, participate in community activities/event and undertake volunteering opportunities.

**Project 3** **– £299,678 –** Support residents to become more engaged with local employment and skills provision, participate in community activities/event, undertake volunteering opportunities, and access opportunities to prepare them for future work opportunities.

**Solihull**

**Project 1 – £325,000 –** Provide Community and Family Hubs through investment in new and existing community assets ensuring they are realising a community benefit including refurbishment and renovation of community buildings including asset transfer and community management to make them more accessible and relevant to their local community.

**Project 2 – £50,000 –** Strengthening and embedding creative arts and culture in local neighbourhoods, fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, building safe and resilient neighbourhoods through involvement, participation and attendance in arts and culture. Supporting local creatives to develop their offer and audiences and supporting people to progress in work in the arts, culture and creative industries sector

**Project 3 – £102,200 –** Development and enhancement of Solihull's green corridors through planting of 100 trees, 50,000 bulbs, 30,000 plants and 300m2 of wildflowers.

**Project 4 – £39,500 –** Improvements to high Streets and local centres including Digital Advertising Campaign, designed to drive traffic to the Visit Solihull website and promote visits, events and attractions in the Solihull Borough

**Project 5 – £30,000 –** Investment in the Kinghurst village centre re-development,

**Project 6 – £71,000 –** Support for local community and Voluntary Sector organisation encouraging community engagement and volunteering

**Walsall**

**Project 1 – £260,000 –** Developing vibrant and viable places that offer affordable working, living abd recreation spaces through a programme of regeneration activities helping to attract new investment, create local jobs, grow a stronger local economy, offer greater opportunities for residents and more positive experiences for visitors.

**Project 2 – £70,000 –** Developing a Heritage Forum to work alongside the borough's wider heritage strategy partners, focused on increased opportunities for young people including access to work experience, learning and advocacy opportunities. Undertake a feasibility study to appraise options for a new / enhanced visitor attraction. Develop activities trialing partnerships between diverse local heritage and culture organisations.

**Project 3 – £194,654 –** Working with Voluntary and Community Organisations to address local need and build safe communities through grants including a crowdfunding model; VCS capacity building; community led projects to reduce crime and anti-social behavior and StreetWorks i.e. CCTV, bollards.

**Project 4 – £50,000 –** Expansion of the free advice services for households across Walsall through 4 additional partners for domestic decarbonisation, 10 additional trained staff and volunteers and to funding for 180 households with support to reduce the cost of living or take up energy efficiency measures;

**Project 5 – £400,000 –** Provision of community-based unemployment support services to economically inactive residents aged 16+ to overcome barriers to work, volunteering and community engagement, by providing cohesive, locally tailored support. priority groups for services are (but are not restricted to): people aged over 50, people with a disability and health condition, women, people from an ethnic minority, young people not in education, employment or training and people with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/ offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence).

**Wolverhampton**

**Project 1 – £462,000 –** Community Grants programme focused on place-based activities that support local priorities including financial wellbeing, digital inclusion and employment and skills. Target groups will be residents who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis, digital exclusion and/or unemployed or economically inactive targeting residents in our most deprived areas.

**Project 2 – £240,000** – Develop activities to improve the city centre and high streets: improve physical spaces and create a sense of local pride through improved public realm, local identity installations and new visitor attractors creating a high quality, flexible environment and infrastructure required to deliver a successful programme of activity; support local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.

**Local Business Support – Local Allocation**

**Local Business Project 1 - £150,000 - Start Up Support** - Grow and sustain businesses / start up support targeting areas of high deprivation and unemployment (noted that discussions around this being regional allocation are ongoing to be confirmed)

**Local Business Project 2 - £60,000 - iGNITE** – Establishment and ongoing running costs of enterprise hub supporting local businesses to start up and grow.