

Appendix 2 - Rotherham UK Shared Prosperity Fund – proposals for 2025/26

Project	Proposed allocation (£) 2025/26	Description	Anticipated Impact
Supporting local business			
Launchpad (sub-regional project)	245,256	Continued delivery of start-up support programme, which is embedded within the package of support offered through the borough's business hubs. It includes an extensive series of workshops, as well as one-to-one support, and small grants. The project also receives referrals from DWP to support unemployed people who are interested in starting a business.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 businesses receiving grants • 60 enterprises receiving non-financial support • 100 potential entrepreneurs helped to be business ready • 24 jobs created • 24 businesses created
Productivity (sub-regional project)	500,000	This project will offer grants to local SMEs to enable them to improve their productivity and increase digital innovation. It builds on the successful programme that has been delivered in the current UKSPF programme, with 54 grants awarded over two years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24 businesses receiving grants • 16 jobs created • 8 productivity improvements • 8 businesses implementing new to the firm technologies or processes
Low carbon (sub-regional project)	200,000	Provision of grants to help businesses reduce energy consumption and carbon emissions, following on from the current UKSPF project.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 Energy Audits • 14 Grants
Shop Unit Business Grants	330,000	A local small grants programme to enable businesses to improve shop units in the town centre and on other local high streets. The key aims are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the condition and appearance of local high-streets • To encourage economic revitalisation within the town <p>100% grants will be available for up to £10,000 (no match funding required). For grants above £10,000 and up to £25,000, match funding is required from the applicant on the amount above £10,000. Grants will be for capital expenditure, including internal and external refurbishment, accessibility improvements or fit out.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 businesses receiving grants
Markets	60,000	Enhancing the operation of the outdoor market during the current redevelopment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Local Markets Supported
Social Value	137,667	This will extend the project funded through the current UKSPF programme, incorporating three strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and information for businesses in relation to forthcoming contract opportunities through sector-based events • One-to-one support for businesses to help them become tender-ready • Ensuring that social value commitments are delivered by working with public sector contract teams and suppliers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 160 businesses supported • 4 events
People and skills			
Ambition	126,149	Targeted and intensive support for young people, particularly those who are disengaged, to take up education, training and employment opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 young people receiving support and 20 moving into employment, education or training
Core Skills	110,000	This project will draw on successful elements of the Multiply numeracy skills programme, offering community-based courses focusing on basic maths, English and digital skills. Multiply delivered over 3,500 learning opportunities in areas with high levels of worklessness. The project will link closely with the new economic inactivity pathfinder, which will provide further funding for delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 140 people supported to access basic skills courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 120 out of work participants improving at least one basic skill

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Advance	208,836	Support for employees to improve their skills, gain qualifications and progress in or change their careers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50 people receiving support to retrain • 10 people supported to sustain employment
Children’s Capital of Culture Creative Skills	275,000	<p>Extension of the successful traineeship programme, with young people gaining invaluable paid work experience through placements with local cultural organisations.</p> <p>The scheme targets economically inactive young people and the first cohort of trainees saw over 70% of participants enter into employment or training within three months of the traineeship ending.</p>	<p>A minimum of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills and supported to access basic skills, gain employment and sustain employment • 5 local events or activities supported • 5 organisations receiving grants • 15 organisations receiving financial support other than grants • 25 volunteer opportunities supported • Targeted training and development for up to 20 people in youth engagement and development practices
Communities and place			
Children’s Capital of Culture Capacity Building	200,000	This will provide increased marketing to support the communications and reach of the Festival Year, to include outdoor advertising e.g. bus shelters and billboards and ensure a wider distribution of marketing materials across the borough and in neighbouring towns and cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 60% increase in visitor numbers for town centre events • 30% increase in visitor numbers for events in parks and green spaces
Events	255,000	<p>Extension and expansion of the events programme, combining large scale events in the town centre with local ward-based delivery, aiming to bring people together, increase footfall and enable people to access high-quality cultural experiences.</p> <p>The events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPLIFT festival, 31st July – 2nd August - £40,000 • Rotherham Show, 6-7th September - £50,000 • Plug In & Play, October half-term - £55,000 • Bonfire Night, November - £20,000 • Signals Town Centre Festival, February 2026 - £10,000 • Development of Town Centre Events - £80,000 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhancement and expansion of the existing Rotherham events programme • Two new FTE fixed term employment opportunities to enable scale up of the previously planned activities • Satisfaction ratings of 90%+ • 60% increase in visitor numbers for town centre events • 30% increase in visitor numbers for events in parks and green spaces • For every £1 invested in event delivery estimated £5 return to the local economy • culture and leisure Jobs safeguarded • 40 organisations receiving financial support other than grants
Open Arms Rotherham	329,549	<p>Further delivery of Open Arms, the local voluntary and community sector led response to cost of living challenges. In 2025/26, the project will focus primarily on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued financial inclusion drop ins, maintaining regular sessions in key locations • Delivering community engagement events in every ward across Rotherham • Further developing local groups with coaching for volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2,200 residents engaged in sessions • 220 sessions delivered • 400 residents engaged in ongoing 1-2-1 support • 8 community groups supported/developed • Creation of/involvement in 4 local forums • 16 community leaders trained/supported to take part in forums • 300 local people involved in group led community activities
Reaching Out	30,000	Extension of the work to establish local equality networks, ensuring that projects, activities and services are informed by and effectively reach all of Rotherham’s diverse communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New networks established • Increased engagement and improved perception
Active Lives	86,000	Match funding for a bid to the Football Foundation’s Playzones programme enabling the creation of a multi-use games area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 local facility created