

## Appendix 1 - Rotherham Local Growth Fund – proposals for 2026/27

Project	Proposed allocation (£) 2026/27	Description	Key outputs
<b>Supporting local business</b>			
Launchpad (sub-regional project)	263,257	Continued delivery of the 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"> <li>• 20 businesses receiving grants</li> <li>• 85 enterprises receiving non-financial support</li> <li>• 125 potential entrepreneurs helped to be business ready</li> <li>• 24 jobs created</li> <li>• 24 businesses created</li> </ul>
Productivity (sub-regional project)	483,588	Grants to support local SMEs to improve productivity through capital investment, with adviser support to guide businesses through applications and implementation. Builds on previous successful delivery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 businesses receiving grants</li> <li>• 24 jobs created</li> <li>• 12 productivity improvements</li> <li>• 12 businesses implementing new to the firm technologies or processes</li> </ul>
Low carbon (sub-regional project)	200,000	Grants and adviser support to help businesses reduce energy use and carbon emissions, including energy audits and capital grants for low-carbon improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70 Reduction in TCo2e</li> <li>• 13 grants</li> </ul>
Shop Unit Business Grants	666,655	A local small-grants programme supporting businesses to improve shop units on local high streets. The programme aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the condition and appearance of local high streets</li> <li>• Bring empty units back into use</li> <li>• Help businesses to improve their offer</li> </ul> <p>Eligible businesses will be supported through the application and delivery process. A 100% grant of up to £10,000 is available, with a maximum of an additional £10,000 available providing it is matched by applicants' own funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50 businesses supported with grants</li> <li>• 50 jobs safeguarded</li> </ul>
Rotherham Town Centre Markets	60,000	This project will provide resources to support market traders, raise awareness of the markets and increase footfall, particularly during the construction of the new markets and central library. Specific initiatives are being developed, but could include micro grants for traders (new and existing) and themed events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved visibility of the new outdoor covered market (OCM)</li> <li>• Increased footfall to the OCM</li> <li>• Increased revenue for traders</li> </ul>
Social Value	36,559	This will extend the Rotherham Chamber element of the current UKSPF project. The project is based around a series of sector-based events for local businesses, enabling them to identify supply chain opportunities. This is underpinned by a digital campaign providing guidance on understanding and adopting social value and buy local practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement with 400 businesses through events and digital campaign</li> <li>• 5 events</li> </ul>
<b>People and skills</b>			
Ambition	122,367	Supporting young people who are not in employment, education or training to understand the full range of training and skills pathways available to them. The project will seek to increase their confidence and readiness, helping them to achieve additional qualifications where appropriate, and ultimately move them closer to—and into—sustained employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 42 young people with increased employability</li> <li>• 40 young people gain a qualification or professional licence or complete a course</li> <li>• 20 young people improve at least one basic skill</li> </ul>
Core Skills	110,000	Continued provision of community-based core skills (maths, English and digital) courses with a particular focus on communities of greatest need. All learning will be accredited and delivery will be flexible, offering small group sessions, one-to-ones and drop-ins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 150 people supported to participate in education</li> <li>• 40 people supported to access basic skills courses</li> <li>• 100 people participating in adult numeracy provision</li> </ul>
Advance	208,836	Providing support for working people who want to reach their career potential and thrive in their chosen careers. Linking closely with Pathways to Work, the project will offer group-based training to encourage peer support, qualifications, wraparound personalised support, and signposting to wider services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 70 people receiving support to upskill</li> <li>• 35 people completing training, skills or courses</li> <li>• 10 people supported to sustain employment</li> </ul>

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Skills development for young people	300,781	Building on the success of the Children’s Capital of Culture traineeships and skills programme, this project will offer alumni roles in local organisations for previous trainees. Alongside this, the funding will enable the Arts Award programme to be embedded within Rotherham Civic Theatre and create a strategy to further embed a cultural curriculum in local schools.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 people reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills and supported to access basic skills, gain employment and sustain employment</li> <li>• 4 culture and heritage organisations receiving grants</li> <li>• 10 organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>• 15 volunteer opportunities supported</li> <li>• Targeted training and development for up to 20 people in youth engagement and development practices</li> <li>• 5 cultural sector posts safeguarded</li> </ul>
<b>Communities and place</b>			
Events	424,219	This will see a further programme of events delivered throughout the year. As well as established events such as the Rotherham Show, UPLIFT and Christmas lights switch on, the programme will include school holiday events across the borough, new activities piloted in the town centre, and a St George’s Day event in April.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 large-scale events delivered</li> <li>• 15 organisations receiving grants</li> <li>• 8 local events or activities supported</li> <li>• 40 volunteering opportunities supported</li> <li>• 6 jobs safeguarded</li> </ul>