

	<b>Agenda Item 7</b>
<b>Report To</b>	<b>Town Deal Board</b>
<b>Subject</b>	<b>UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme Update</b>
<b>Relevant Officer</b>	<b>Nick Gerrard, Growth and Prosperity Programme Director</b>
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

To provide a written update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) Programme.

## 2. Recommendation

To note the programme position and progress.

## 3. Programme Latest

### 3.1 Programme Background

On 5th December 2022, Blackpool received confirmation that its SPF Investment Plan had been approved for £5,114,423 to the end of March 2025. The programme is now in the implementation stage with £4,909,845 direct project spend, and £204,577 for programme management.

### 3.2 Programme Spend and DLUHC Claim

DLUHC allocated funding for 2022/23, as set out in the table below, with indicative allocations for the further two financial years up to and including 2024/25.

Allocation 2022/2023 (£)			Indicative Allocation 2023/2024 (£)	Indicative Allocation 2024/2025 (£)
Capital	Revenue	Capacity		
224,472	396,209	20,000	1,241,365	3,252,376

The indicative allocations for 2023/24 and 2024/25 are subject to submission of claim reports to DLUHC.

A second DLUHC report, approved and signed off by the Section 151 officer was initially due to be submitted by the 1<sup>ST</sup> November deadline. This would cover progress on expenditure, outputs and outcome achievement. However, unlike with claim 1, this required online submission via a new "Power App". The new tool caused many accessibility and functionality issues for local authorities across the UK and at the time of writing, DLUHC have stalled the submission process whilst the system is corrected. The Council currently awaits a response as to when the claim now has to be submitted by.

Total spend by end September 2023 was **£540,595.78**, against the available **£1,862,046.00** to end of March 2024. Please see Table 1 below.

**Table 1 - Active Schemes Denoting Spend to End of September 2023 and Forecast Spend to End of March 2024 (from October DLUHC return forms)**

Project Name	Spend to September 2023			Forecast spend to end March 2024		
	Capital	Revenue	Total	Capital	Revenue	Total
Development & Collaboration (BITC)	£0.00	£52,462.32	£52,462.32	£0.00	£100,208.00	£100,208.00
Business Support Team capacity	£0.00	£12,193.00	£12,193.00	£0.00	£415,532.00	**£415,532.00
Low Carbon – Edge	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£150,000.00	£0.00	***£150,000.00
Eco coaching	£0.00	£9,796.00	£9,796.00	£13,500.00	£176,588.50	£190,088.50
Town Centre Regeneration	£245,063.81	£35,000.00	£280,063.81	£306,635.09	£35,000.00	£341,635.09
Grundy	£0.00	£25,200.00	£25,200.00	£0.00	£178,500.00	£178,500.00
Community Flood management	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£52,379.00	£10,996.00	£63,375.00
Eco hubs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£200,000.00	£17,779.50	£217,779.50
VCFSE Support	£5,010.97	£79,844.03	£84,855.00	£5,010.97	£165,094.03	£170,105.00
Showtown	£0.00	£17,474.90	£17,474.90	£0.00	£55,303.97	£55,303.97
Let's Get Digital	Yet to commence	N/A	N/A	£0.00	£30,000.00	£30,000.00
Community Navigators	Yet to commence	N/A	N/A	£0.00	£83,385.00	£83,385.00
The Platform	Yet to commence	N/A	N/A	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	£250,074.78	£231,970.25	£482,045.03	£727,525.06	£1,268,387.00	£1,995,912.06
Programme management fee	£0.00	£58,550.75	£58,550.75	£0.00	£97,931.71	£97,931.71
<b>Total</b>	£250,074.78	£290,521.00	£540,595.78	£727,525.06	£1,366,318.71	*£2,093,843.77
<b>Minimum spend by end March 2024 to avoid funding loss:</b>						£1,862,047.00
<b>Forecast variance:</b>						£231,796.77

**Notes**

\* £2,093,843.77 is an over programmed figure against the £1,862,046 available. This has been purposefully determined due to expectation that a couple of schemes will not meet the forecast targets suggested.

\*\* The Business Growth scheme has appointed all external delivery organisation and who are to commence November 1<sup>st</sup>. The spend profile suggested is deemed to be optimistic but until the delivery organisations are active it is difficult to determine exactly

\*\*\* Low Carbon - the Edge. Due to the ongoing issue with the Town Deal “Renovation of Stanley Buildings (The Edge)” project, there remains a potential risk to SPF spend in the timeframe. However, purchase of the equipment up front and storage is still an option to ensure a certain level of spend.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> November a letter was received from DLUHC which confirmed their approach to the management of any Year 2 underspends.

We are pleased to confirm that 100% of underspends from Year 2 can be retained. Using a threshold-based approach, the Council’s Year 3 allocation (2024/5) will be determined by our previous spend over the first two years of the Fund.

Those authorities who, on account of their spend in 2022/23 and 2023/24, are not paid their full allocations in the initial payment at the start of the next Financial Year will be paid the remaining balance at the end of Financial Year 2024/25, based on actual spend. Where any underspends remain at the end of 2024/25, DLUHC will expect these to be repaid to them.

Five bands of spend performance are to be used as shown in the table below. It outlines the percentage spend required to receive each band of funding for initial payments in 2024.

<b>% total spend 2022/23 &amp; 2023/24 (combined)</b>	<b>Initial Year 3 payment to local authority</b>	<b>Amount local authority can claim (in arrears)</b>
1. Less than 20%	0%	100%
2. 20% - 39%	20%	80%
3. 40% - 59%	50%	50%
4. 60% - 79%	70%	30%
5. 80% and higher	100%	0%

It is clear therefore that we must continue to push project leads to spend as much as possible by end of March 24 to ensure the Council receives as large amount of funds in advance.

**Table 2 – Table 2 below shows the SPF Programme spend profile from September 2023 onwards.**

<b>Project Breakdown</b>	<b>Total Capital</b>	<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>Overall Total</b>	<b>Spend to end September 2023 (Actual)</b>	<b>Spend to end March 2024 (Forecast)</b>	<b>2024/2025 Funding allocation</b>	<b>Total Spend</b>
<b>People &amp; Skills</b>							
The Platform / Youth Hub	£ -	£ 450,000	£ 450,000	£ -	£ -	£ 450,000	£ 450,000
Community Navigators	£ -	£ 250,000	£ 250,000	£ -	£ 83,385	£ 166,615	£ 250,000
Let's Get Digital	£ -	£ 112,000	£ 112,000	£ -	£ 30,000	£ 82,000	£ 112,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 812,000</b>	<b>£ 812,000</b>	<b>£ -</b>	<b>£ 113,385</b>	<b>£ 698,615</b>	<b>£ 812,000</b>
<b>Supporting Local Businesses</b>	<b>Original Total Capital</b>	<b>Original Total Revenue</b>	<b>Original Overall Total</b>				
Development & Collaboration Support Services to the Business and Community Sectors	£ -	£ 200,000	£ 200,000	£ 52,462	£ 100,208	£ 99,792	£ 200,000
Combined Business Support Programmes	£ -	£ 850,000	£ 850,000	£ 12,193	£ 415,532	£ 434,468	£ 850,000
Low carbon Investments, The Edge	£ 150,000	£ -	£ 150,000	£ -	£ 150,000	£ -	£ 150,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£ 150,000</b>	<b>£ 1,050,000</b>	<b>£ 1,200,000</b>	<b>£ 64,655</b>	<b>£ 665,740</b>	<b>£ 534,260</b>	<b>£ 1,200,000</b>
<b>Community &amp; Place</b>	<b>Original Total Capital</b>	<b>Original Total Revenue</b>	<b>Original Overall Total</b>				
Eco Coaching	£ 13,500	£ 384,125	£ 397,625	£ 9,796	£ 190,089	£ 207,536	£ 397,625
Town Centre Regeneration	£ 1,257,777	£ 242,223	£ 1,500,000	£ 280,063.81	£ 341,635.09	£ 1,158,365	£ 1,500,000
Grundy Art Gallery	£ -	£ 178,500	£ 178,500	£ 25,200	£ 178,500	£ -	£ 178,500
Community Flood Management	£ 75,000	£ 25,000	£ 100,000	£ -	£ 63,375	£ 36,625	£ 100,000
Eco Hubs	£ 200,000	£ 47,625	£ 247,625	£ -	£ 217,780	£ 29,845	£ 247,625
VCFSE Support Scheme	£ 5,000	£ 290,000	£ 295,000	£ 84,855	£ 170,105	£ 124,895	£ 295,000
Showtown: Laughter	£ -	£ 179,095	£ 179,095	£ 17,475	£ 55,304	£ 123,792	£ 179,096
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£ 1,551,277</b>	<b>£ 1,346,568</b>	<b>£ 2,897,845</b>	<b>£ 417,390</b>	<b>£ 1,216,787</b>	<b>£1,681,058</b>	<b>£ 2,897,845</b>
<b>Overall Totals</b>	<b>£ 1,701,277</b>	<b>£ 3,208,568</b>	<b>£ 4,909,845</b>	<b>£ 482,045</b>	<b>£ 1,995,912</b>	<b>£ 2,913,933</b>	<b>£ 4,909,845</b>



### 3.3 Project Outputs

At the end of the September 2023 claim period there were limited outputs and outcomes but they are due to ramp up. Those to date have included:

(Please note the lists below only show “achieved” and not the full suite of outputs and targets to be achieved by each scheme)

#### Town Centre Interventions

Results	Int.	Achieved by end September 2023	Contracted target
<b>Outputs</b>			
Commercial buildings developed or improved	E1	1.00	1.00
Rehabilitated premises	E1	1.00	1.00
Tourism, culture or heritage assets created or improved	E4	1.00	1.00
<b>Outcomes</b>			
Decrease in vacancy rates (number of occupancies)	E1	1.00	30.00

#### Development and Collaboration Support Services to Blackpool’s Business and Community Sectors (BITC)

Results	Int.	Achieved by end September 2023	Contracted target
<b>Outputs</b>			
People reached	E8	288.00	1,500.00
People attending training sessions	E11	39.00	150.00
People supported to access basic skills	E36	39.00	100.00
People supported to engage in life skills	E36	39.00	50.00
People supported to engage in life skills	E41	39.00	75.00
Rehabilitated premises	E1	1.00	1.00
<b>Outcomes</b>			
Increase in visitor numbers (number of people)	E8	260.00	500.00
Increase in engagement numbers (number of people)	E11	197.00	100.00

#### Grundy

Results	Int.	Achieved by end September 2023	Contracted target
<b>Outputs</b>			
Number of feasibility studies supported	E14	1.00	1.00



### Eco-Coaching

Results	Int.	Achieved by end September 2023	Contracted target
<b>Outputs</b>			
Households receiving support	E13	75.00	1,500.00
Households supported to take energy efficiency measures	E13	75.00	1,500.00

### Showtown

Results	Int.	Achieved by end September 2023	Contracted target
<b>Outputs</b>			
Organisations receiving grants	E6	1.00	3.00
Local events or activities supported	E6	27.00	57.00
Events or participatory programmes	E4	27.00	57.00
Volunteering opportunities supported	E6	5.00	20.00
Projects	E9	1.00	7.00
People reached	E12	4,813.00	15,000.00
<b>Outcomes</b>			
New community-led arts, cultural, heritage & creative programmes	E6	1.00	7.00

### Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) Capacity Building Support

Results	Int.	Achieved by end September 2023	Contracted target
<b>Outputs</b>			
Organisations receiving non-financial support	E9	5.00	30.00
Local events or activities supported	E9	3.00	10.00
Volunteering opportunities supported	E9	67.00	500.00
Organisations receiving grants	E11	18.00	50.00
Organisations receiving non-financial support	E11	24.00	100.00
Local events or activities supported	E12	2.00	10.00
<b>Outcomes</b>			
Increase in engagement numbers (number of people)	E9	142.00	250.00
Volunteers as a result of support	E9	103.00	500.00
Increase in engagement numbers (number of people)	E11	25.00	100.00

### 3.4 Project Updates

Please note there were no Skills projects in delivery stage as of end of September hence no updates included below. The Community Navigator scheme however commenced October 1st. Let's Get Digital will commence December 1st.

NB the coloured banding of each project reflects its PMO team assigned RAG rating.

## SPF Theme: Communities & Place Projects

### 3.4.1. Grundy Art Gallery, Library & Claremont Feasibility Study

#### Project Outline

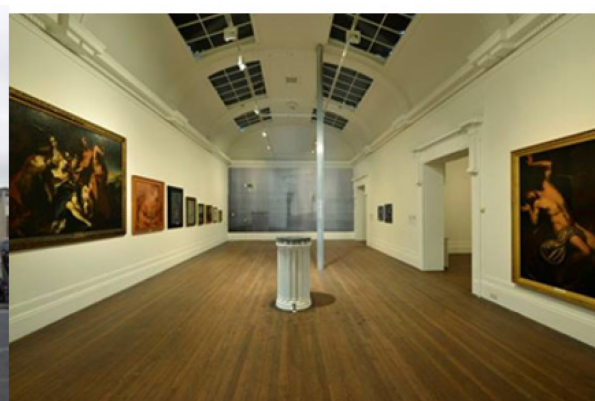
This scheme includes a needs and options assessment, which will lead to the completion of architects' designs). £178,500 total SPF budget is available to the scheme. A place-making vision and narrative will also be provided, including an analysis and articulated vision for how an expanded cultural and community offer could instigate wider place-making moves around Queen Street and Claremont that would support the development of a creative cluster for Blackpool.

#### Project Update

RAG rating is amber as spend is behind original anticipated levels, £25,200.00 against £178,500.00 due by March end. However, this is anticipated to be caught up with final consultant invoices in for payment and the architect practice in place are actively working on the scheme designs. The project is due for completion by March 24.

The two reports created via the feasibility work are complete. The first is the main "Feasibility study" proposals for the Grundy and library alongside how they would fit within a wider master-planning activity for Queen Street. (This document can be made available for review). The second document was a brief to the architects outlining areas for focus on design, which is complete.

The images below show the Grundy and Library currently.



### 3.4.2. Town Centre Interventions

#### Project Outline

Interventions in line with the refreshed Town Centre Strategy and Action Plan, particularly covering the following priority themes:

**1A - Streetscape:** Furniture and planting; Promenade gateways

**1B - Environment:** Biophilia

**1C - Illuminate:** Lighting enhancements

**2C - Signage and Wayfinding:** Visual appearance; Key entry and decision points; Pedestrian traffic flow

#### Update

RAG rating is green due to a £280,063.81 spend to September end against a target to March 24 of £341,635.09.

The 23/4 spend is due to be used against consultancy costs for a Wayfinding strategy which had a tender deadline of Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Appointment documentation is being created at the time of this report completion.

The consultant will deliver a Pedestrian Wayfinding Plan for the town centre. The Plan will develop linkages between key nodes across the town, including arrival points; key built assets and other important infrastructure, and would look to promote an innovative approach in keeping with Blackpool's unique characteristics and its importance to both residents and visitors. Development of the Plan will include engagement activity, undertaken to gain views of stakeholders, and consideration of best practice is expected of the successful consultant.

A monitoring version of the Town Centre Action Plan has been created to aid and track progress – this was used during the second Town Centre Action Group (TCAG) meeting to undertake a prioritisation exercise around actions that could be addressed through SPF projects. Initial priorities began to emerge with the first focus being the development of a Wayfinding Strategy. This is an enabling project, to allow spend later in the SPF programme on installed wayfinding and signage.

Claim forms are up to date.

The Abington Street Market scheme, which has received support through this SPF scheme, has its fresh food offer due to open now late October /November.

### 3.4.3. VCFSE Capacity Building Support

#### Project Outline

The scheme will increase the capacity of the local VCFSE sector to deliver support to the community by:

- delivering a small grants programme to build capacity of the sector



- working with other funders and strategic partners to promote grants and encourage investment in the VCFS sector;
- supporting groups to submit funding applications;
- supporting the development of new groups through governance advice and training;
- developing volunteering and increasing volunteer numbers and good practice in volunteer management;
- supporting the development of community engagement

### Update

RAG rating is green as the project is only slightly behind spend forecast. Most of the underspend can be attributed to a lower spend on staff costs due to recruitment processes however they anticipate that all staff will be in post in the next quarter.

- A meet the Funders event took place on 27 September with over 100 attendees from a range of organisations, with 7 funding bodies present. The Head of Procurement from the Council presented around Council contracting and “myth busting” about applying into Councils. Further to the event, the National Lottery have now asked for a presence at the Volunteer Centre to support direct engagement locally. This will commence from November.
- “Vinci” grants have now gone live. First Grant Panel meeting to be held on 6th November.
- Liaison ongoing with Blackpool Coastal Housing around outreach in Revoe and Bloomfield. This will look to improve skills and bring people closer to employment.
- Survey to be undertaken with VCFSE organisations around training and development needs. Bid writing and governance workshops are top of the “asks”.
- Hoping to create a ‘future leaders’ programme within the VCFSE sector in conjunction with B&FC.
- Some interest from PHX training, who have training funding available, which could help with development opportunities.
- Awareness being raised on a cross-sector footing around Blackpool Can, and research programme in place with NHS, which will help to understand, need and build capacity.



#### 3.4.4. Community Flood Risk Reduction

##### Project Outline

Provide property owners in areas of high risk of flooding a financial incentive to replace hard areas, with soft landscaping to reduce local flood risk. Providing £650 per domestic property with the potential to provide larger sums for larger reallocated areas such as business premises.

##### Update

RAG rating is amber because whilst there is no spend to date, the relatively small allocation of £63,375.00 by March 24 is achievable.

- Previously it was reported that a tender process for the water butts supplier had been unsuccessful. A re-tender however has been successful with a supplier appointed.
- An online application form is established. The Volunteer Centre are hopeful of working with the scheme lead to support butt installation.
- A Rain garden proposal has been produced by the Council Parks team with a scheme



costing provided.

#### 3.4.4. Eco Coaching

##### Project Outline

Scaling up an existing project on the Grange Park estate, this scheme offers practical 1:1 support delivered within resident's homes to help them understand domestic energy efficiency and how their behaviour can increase/decrease energy consumption. The project will include a complete domestic energy assessment to maximise the efficiency of the property. The visit also includes the installation of low cost energy saving devices such as draft proofing, low energy lightbulbs and radiator reflector panels. Beyond this households can be registered with the Priority Services Register and onward referrals made to large domestic energy saving schemes. Numbers of residents seeking help for the scheme have risen substantially in light of the cost of living crisis and this would provide a resource across the town.

##### Update

The project RAG rating is amber because there has been some delay in the project and it's spend (£9,796.00 against the £190,088.50 forecast), however project delivery and expenditure is due to ramp up significantly over the coming months.

- Three advisors now active, taking an initial 20 or so engagements each per week. Looking to limit the amount of traffic coming through to ensure people are engaged with in a timely manner.
- Looking to open facility with practical demonstrators at Palatine Library in November.
- Groundwork colleagues attending events to promote the service.

#### 3.4.5. Eco Hub

##### Project Outline

- Establishment of an eco-hub in the Palatine library in Blackpool, retrofitting low carbon technologies to an existing building and developing local green spaces to engage local communities with nature and biodiversity
- The hub will including renewable power generation, high thermal efficiency, nature rich public green space and carbon free heating systems
- The hub will be used to deliver courses to long-term unemployed, those currently in education, school leavers, business owners, entrepreneurs and others.
- Delivering courses in green skills – Ecology, renewable energy generation, engineering, building management, Carbon accounting etc.

- Provide job seeking support
- Serving as information points with multiple people providing energy saving advice and information on green grants
- When the hubs are not in use renewable energy will be utilised in the local grid.

#### Update

The project RAG rating is amber due to an underspend (£0 against a £217,779.50 forecast), but the project lead confirms the scheme will catch up over the coming months and is confident of meeting the spend forecast.

- A reply has been received as to the required new electricity supply position with regards to Palatine Library building, as well as costings, so this activity can move forward.
- Approvals are being checked with the Planning department and other statutory bodies around what is proposed for the building.

### 3.4.7. Showtown: Laughter Programme

#### Project Outline

This is a unique community engagement activity programme completely grounded and rooted in Blackpool and its incredible history. It encompasses a range of laughter-themed activities ranging from a laughter club and festival, a funny bones artist residency, a laughter-based schools programme, an exhibition and an app to guide people around Blackpool on a laughter-themed tour of discovery. A dedicated officer coordinates and delivers the programme. This programme enables Showtown to continue and further develop its community engagement programme, which is currently funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This includes the extension of the hugely applauded Open Up the Mic programme. There is the potential for this to be matched against other sources e.g. Paul Hamlyn Foundation, National Lottery Heritage Fund.

#### Update

RAG rating is green. Spend is behind at £17,474.90 against forecast to March end, £55,303.97, but the project lead is confident this will be achieved.

- Laughter Club now in development, with an ask of a shift in delivery to January-March 2024. Will be an adult version of 'Open Up The Mic' and will be socially prescribed in line with the Volunteer Academy, developed via co-production.
- Change in timing requested of the 30 day Funny Bones residency over 6 months down to a 30-day residency over a May-July period. The programme activity will see the person in residence looking to activate some of the Showtown collection, with a potential new acquisition being the focus.

- Meetings being held with Winter Gardens and Comedy Station regarding festival programme for 2024.
- Music to My Ears programme shifted to September to October 2024. Will mean engaging with schools, with a search for a lead about to be undertaken.
- On the 20<sup>th</sup> October it was announced that the Sir Ken Dodd's charity had made a "generous" donation to help young people in a town he held dear "reclaim their rich entertainment heritage". The charity will help to fund the Sir Ken Dodd Learning Space at Blackpool's Showtown, now due to open in 2024. The learning space, is hoped will help children "understand the town's founding role in the entertainment industry". Please see the following link :- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-lancashire-67159136>

### SPF Theme: Local Business Projects

#### 3.4.8. Development and Collaboration Support Services to Blackpool's Business and Community Sectors

##### Project Outline

- Work with Blackpool Council to bring forward an Employment Charter and support the rolling out of the initiative to Blackpool businesses;
- Act as an advocate for Blackpool and its development amongst businesses and residents including activity to promote the town to visitors, for example through events;
- Provide activity to support and encourage the use and development of existing community buildings and infrastructure and its enhancement for example through additional green space. This would be facilitated by co-ordinated business level input and expertise;
- Provision of activity to develop life skills either directly or through a delivery partner, to those who are disadvantaged across Blackpool, and upskill local residents, either directly or through a delivery partner, to provide localised digital support and advice in key community spaces;
- Support and enhance existing local activity that looks to bring those furthest from the labour market in to access opportunities to secure work experience and placements;
- Provide activity that will support and facilitate innovation and growth for business start-ups. It is anticipated this would be undertaken alongside the Council's existing Economic Development Team making use of its existing and proposed new facilities e.g. the EDGE once complete;



- Provide networking opportunities for local businesses to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and work collaboratively to boost productivity, innovation and growth;
- Co-ordinate and support activity including the above to deliver the specified Shared Prosperity Fund outputs and outcomes

### Update

RAG rating is green despite the project being slightly behind on spend profile, however, it is expected expenditure will be in line with profile by year-end.

- The Employment Charter has been moved forward now with the Council having an assigned project lead who is linking with BITC to support matters. This activity will align with the Responsible Business Network.
- Anniversary Event on the 20<sup>th</sup> October had 144 businesses registered to attend.
- A Careers Fair is scheduled for 31 January. 25 organisations already registered with around 800 students due to attend. 40 volunteers will support the activity.
- Support within the hospitality sector around a “Chefs Academy” ‘beyond food’ proposal. A tender document has been drafted to go out in a month or so for support with delivery
- E-sports event taking place on 11 November. This is a Europe-wide event, and will be the highest attended Halo event for 12/13 years. There is now an improved prize fund further to Lando Norris involvement.
- Headteachers’ Conference took place 9<sup>th</sup> October week, looking at linking careers to the curriculum.

Image from the Responsible Business Network (RBN) celebration event





Image from Tech Hub Workshop



### 3.4.9. Business Growth Scheme

#### Project Outline

The Project will provide Business Start Up and Business Growth Advice Services, forming a core offer of a new initiative - The Blackpool Business Growth Academy. Blackpool needs a flexible place-driven business support service to complement and underpin strategic capital investment in the town. The service will support and encourage business success and growth with a particular focus on more high quality jobs for local people.

The BGT will provide tailored business advice services to empower the local business community to achieve their growth objectives.

The Council aims to enhance its offer to local businesses by investing the allocated SPF funds in an integrated range of quality business advice for start-ups and growth ambitious companies; and to accelerate business decarbonisation. Support will include the likes of Incubation, Business Networks, Business Growth, Made Smarter, R&D, Innovation, Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, International Trade, Supporting Decarbonisation and Mentoring.

A focus will be on start-up and growth advice services and also on net zero advice via a sister initiative - The Blackpool Net Zero Academy.

#### Update

The RAG rating remains at red as the project has defrayed little funds at this time (£12,193) against the £415,532.00 allocated to end of March 24.

However there has been a great deal of progress recently especially around the tender activity for external providers.



- Happy Creative now on board and delivering the marketing/ PR element.
- Small Business Academy (Blackpool based) successful on Business Growth tender and now in the final pre-delivery stages. Small Business Academy have already profiled a £127k spend to end of March 24.
- Already approximately 90 clients being kept “warm” on a waiting list for support so should accelerate as soon as becomes active in November.
- Net Zero Business Academy tender won by Adler and Allen. Now in final stages of contract establishment. Will be new to Blackpool, as based from Harrogate.
- Significant progress with regards new branding with Happy Creative due to have re-launched the website on or around November 1st.
- Meeting on 7th November between all new providers to support joint working and understanding.

### 3.4.10. The Edge – Low Carbon

#### Project Outline

To enable a significantly lower carbon footprint for Stanley Buildings which is being renovated to create The Edge. Solar panels and ground source heat pumps would be incorporated.

#### Update

The scheme has a red RAG Rating as spend to date is £0 against £150k forecast until end March 24.

Due to the ongoing issue with the Town Deal project, there remains a potential risk to SPF spend in the timeframe. However, purchase of the equipment up front and storage is still an option to ensure a certain level of spend. Under close review.

## 4. Programme Management

### 4.1 General Update

Full programme management systems and procedures are in place with quarterly claims processes outlined. Substantial efforts have been made by project leads and the PMO team to get all SPF claims up to speed. However, this has been hampered by a member of the team leaving and due to the extensive wider DLUHC claims activity ongoing, which has had some impact on progress.

A Shared Prosperity Project Board (SPPB) continues to sit monthly with representatives from all schemes. Meeting notes are shared with TDIP. After consultation with the Project Leads, this has been agreed to be reduced to six weekly from January 2024.





As noted previously Arcadis are the appointed consultant to undertake programme evaluation. They attended the SPPB meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> October as way of introduction. A workshop with all Project Managers is to take place on the 16<sup>th</sup> January.