**Bolsover District Council**

**Meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 28 October 2025**

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Monitoring Update**

**Report of the Portfolio Holder for Growth**

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|---|---|
| **Classification** | This report is Public |
| **Report By** | Natalie Etches<br>Head of Business Growth |

## PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To provide members with an update on the projects being delivered by the Economic Development Team with funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the financial year 2025/26.

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## REPORT DETAILS

### 1. Background

1.1 The UK Government launched the UK Shared Prosperity Fund on 13 April 2022 and provided £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment through to March 2025 of which Bolsover District Council received £1,963,993.

1.2 An additional allocation of £803,023 for the 12-month period April 2025 – March 2026 was received. £667,824 of funding has been allocated to seven projects which are being managed by the Economic Development Team. The breakdown of the total funding is £451,999 revenue and £351,824 capital.

### 2. Details of Proposal or Information

2.1 Below is a breakdown of the allocation of funding for each of the seven projects followed by an update of activity and expenditure that has taken place **up to 30 September 2023 (Quarter 2).**

| Revenue Projects | Amount |
|---|---|
| Business in Bolsover | £34,000 |
| Hyper Local Business Support | £50,000 |
| Creative Women's Network | £12,000 |
| Housebuilders Forum | £20,000 |
| Net Zero Innovation Programme | £200,000 |
| **TOTAL** | **£316,000** |

| Capital Projects | Amount |
|---|---|
| Creative Hub Project | £50,000 |
| Net Zero Growth Grants | £301,824 |
| **TOTAL** | **£351,824** |

2.2 **Business In Bolsover**

Roxy Rhodes (Filter Free Business) has been commissioned to deliver business support events to businesses across the district, which includes scheduling and management of events together with on-line and social media promotional support. £34,000 UKSPF funding has been allocated specifically to contribute towards Female Business Owners Monthly Training & Networking (£12,000) and Monthly Business Networking Events (£22,000).

Attendance in Q2 for the Monthly Business Networking Events was 48 and the Female Business Owners Monthly Training & Networking was 53 (101 attendees in total). Attendance was lower than in Q1 but Q2 figures only relate to two months meetings as neither of the events were held in August due to it being the main holiday period.
Feedback from events:

- 5/5 for ease of booking
- 4.9/5 for event content
- 4.8/5 for host/presenters
- 4.9/5 for venues

Attendees were asked what they found most useful about the event and comments included:

- It was a great opportunity to get "fresh eyes" on my posts/emails etc that I send out from my business
- The training is always great and very informative. Rody was fabulous as always and delivers it so well
- Great to make some new connections – I already have a meeting in my diary with another attendee for some potential work
- Talke were very interesting a usual, especially the one our incivility in the workplace

Attendees were asked what they found most enjoyable about the event and comments included:

- How relaxed it was. Hearing other women's business inspiration
- Informal and related so I felt comfortable to ask questions
- The atmosphere was fantastic

Progress against outputs is well ahead of target:

- Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support – 211 in total from Q1 and Q2 (target of 40 for the whole term of the programme)

- Number of local events or activities supported – 10 in total from Q1 and Q2 (target of 10 for the whole term of the programme)

There was £9,000 spend in Q2. It is envisaged that the remainder of the £34,000 (£18,000) will be split over the remaining 2 quarters (£9,000 per quarter).

Social Media followers:

By promoting Business in Bolsover events on social media and on www.businessinbolsover.co.uk, followers on social media and email have increased by +371%

Social Media engagement continues to grow, with +55 new companies and individuals following us in the previous quarter.

The plan is to continue to deliver business events across the district, including scheduling and management of events with on-line and social media promotional support for the Female Business Owners Monthly Training & Networking and Monthly Business Networking Events.

2.3 **Hyper Local Business Support**
Clowne Enterprise have been commissioned to deliver hyper local business support to Bolsover clients and businesses with a UKSPF allocation of £50,000. Following the focus last quarter on raising awareness of the services that are available through Clowne Enterprise and ensuring that partners and intermediaries are aware of the continuing support available through this element of the UKSPF funding in Bolsover, the number of people engaging with the programme has continued to grow.

Clowne Enterprise have continued to provide flexible and accessible 1:1 support to clients with an emphasis on ensuring that it is totally focused on their specific needs. The group of new clients that were supported this quarter contained more existing businesses than pre-starts.

Clowne Enterprise have continued to interface with other local service providers to ensure that, between them, they are providing a full range of support to clients. This quarter Clowne Enterprise attended the Net Zero programme networking event and delivered a presentation about the business support available from the Business in Bolsover programme. The Net Zero grant opportunities are being promoted regularly via the newsletter, and the new marketing and outreach officer for that programme has attended Clowne Enterprises own networking events. They are referring a sizeable number of people to the Derbyshire Business Start-up Programme and the grant opportunities that are available through that service. Attendance at the Bolsover Partnership AGM, the Bolsover One Year On event and the Bolsover Partnership Employment and Skills Group. Clowne Enterprise also had a promotional stall at Clowne Gala organised by Clowne Parish Council with enterprise competitions and prizes, from which they attracted at least one new client.

Participation in the programme of learning workshops has been good. They have continued to deliver some of the popular topics, especially those related to promotional and marketing topics. New workshops run this quarter have included:

- Digital Foundations for Growth
- Automation Made Simple
- Growing your Business through Recruitment

as well as the Social Media Surgery which continues to be popular. The Growth Through Recruitment workshop was delivered by one of Clowne Enterprise's clients who has been through a period of successful high growth with the support of Clowne Enterprise. All workshops have been well attended.

As shown in the graphs later in this report the programme continues to stay on track, or ahead of outputs and outcomes.

Clowne Enterprise are making excellent progress in terms of engaging with clients and in helping them to achieve positive outcomes. Specific examples of good practice are:

- Supported a client to deliver a pilot programme of play activities for children during the summer holidays. The support included coaching, information about relevant legislation, signposting and collecting/collating customer questionnaires from parents to ascertain the impact of the pilot. This pilot will help the client to develop the idea for the future.

- One of their clients who is an established swimming coach for adults and who has been planning to extend her services into yoga classes, coaching for women's groups and development experiences. This has required support from Clowne Enterprise in helping the client to maintain focus and also in how to market her various services to different groups of clients. During the summer months she has delivered an extremely successful series of events at Creswell Crags: Sunrise Sanctuary and Sunset Sanctuary. They are now helping her to develop ideas for an alternative format of Christmas party for businesses incorporating relaxation and various treatments.

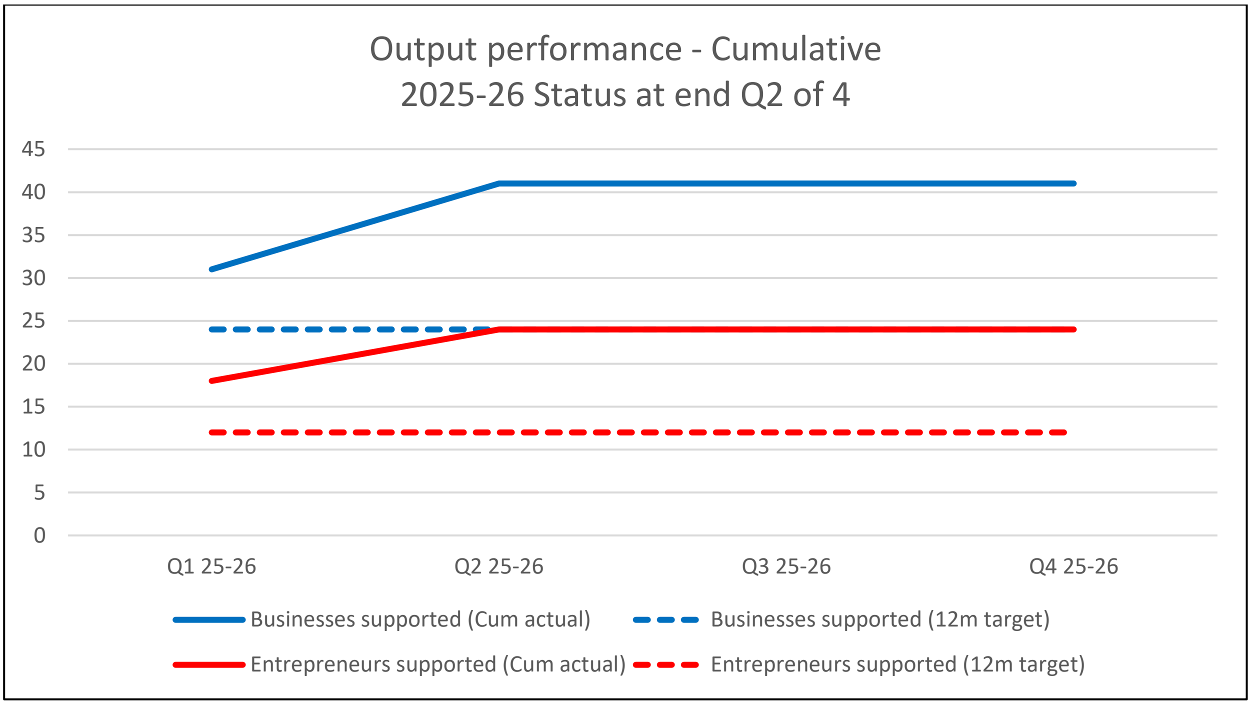
- Assisted a local not-for-profit organisation in developing a business plan to address the loss of one of its core funding streams. The financial planning for that project was delivered as part of the Business in Bolsover programme. Detailed research and the implementation of the forward plan were delivered as part of an additional, unfunded programme of work.

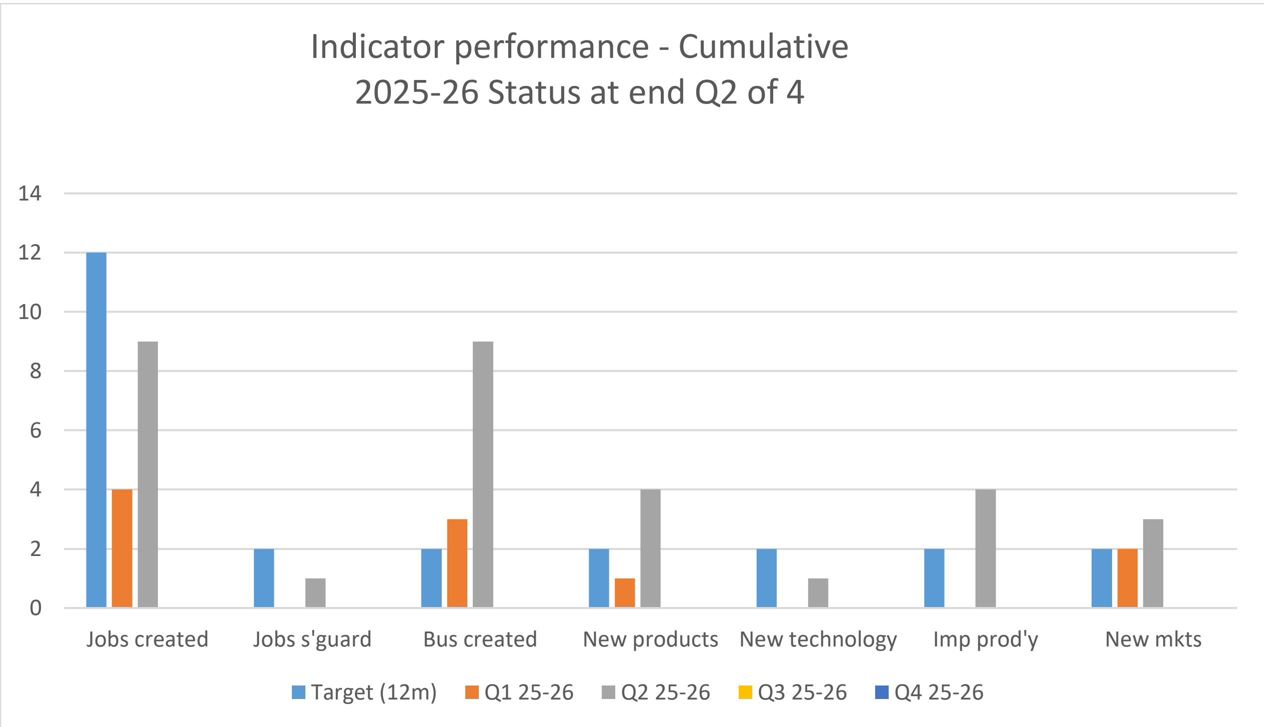
Clowne Enterprise are well on target regarding the group of KPIs. In terms of the recruitment of potential new business starts and existing businesses they are ahead of target: 200% and 171% of the full year targets respectively.

Progress is being made against the seven indicators for the programme. Six new businesses have been created this quarter and five new jobs created.

Expenditure in Q2 2025-26 has been £16,664 (£4,166 relates to Q1 but the payment did not clear in Q1). Scheduled expenditure in the remaining two quarters of the programme will bring the total expenditure up to the programme budget of £50,000

The following graphs show our cumulative performance against the output and indicator targets. All are either on-track to reach or exceed the target for the 12-month programme by the end of March 2026.



The programme of workshops over the coming months will include some new themes:

- Building your Brand,
- Cyber Security, and
- Winning Customers for Life

as well as revisiting previous topics such as email marketing; social media strategies and tax/self-assessment.

Clowne Enterprise are continuing to hold monthly informal business network events which provide the opportunity for existing clients to meet and share ideas, and also for potential new clients to make contact with the local network of businesses and to learn more about the support currently available to them.

2.4 **Creative Women's Network**

Platform Thirty1 have been commissioned to deliver support to creative businesses from the arts, culture and visitor economy sectors. The monthly network meets the first Wednesday of every month at Pleasley Vale Mills. £12,000 of UKSPF funding has been allocated to cover the cost of running the sessions. In Q2 34 attendees came to the networking sessions.

There were no payments made in Q1 for the cost of running the sessions as the invoice for the Quarter was not submitted in time to be paid before 30 June 2025. Q1 and Q2 payments (£6,000) have been paid in Q2.

The programme is well on target.

The number of organisations receiving non-financial support the Q2 was 34 (including Q1 numbers this equates to 173% of the total target for the year)

The number of local events or activities supported in Q2 was 3 (including Q1 numbers this equates to 60% of the total target for the year)

The number of organisations receiving non-financial support will continue to rise each quarter due to the increasing popularity of these networking events.

Sessions are planned frequently and therefore the target of 10 sessions over the year will be met.

There was no spend on this programme for Q1 as Platform Thirty1 did not submit their quarterly invoice for payment before 30 June 2025. Therefore, Q1 payment has been made in Q2 together with Q2 payment. Platform Thirty1 have been informed to ensure that future invoices are submitted in time to be paid before the end of each Quarter.

The plan is to continue to deliver the Creative Women's Network events over the forthcoming six months.

2.5 **Housebuilders Forum**

The Bolsover-UK Place Belong campaign was launched at the one-year place anniversary in June 2025. The Belong video showcases the ambition of Bolsover to promote the area as a great value living location. Following the anniversary event the inaugural East Midlands Housing Developer Forum took place. A summary of the meeting is below:

***3 September 2025 – 3-5pm. Creswell Crags***
***Attendees:***

Woodall Homes
Bolsover District Council
Forge New Homes
Persimmon Homes
Strata
Homes England
Dragonfly UK
Stancliffe Homes
MJ Gleeson
Wilkins Hammond

SWOT Analysis of local Housing Sector:

Strengths:

- **Quality of housing**: Emphasis on residential choice and balancing family and commercial provisions.
- **Collaborative forum**: The Bolsover Place Board programme is highlighted as a collaborative forum.
- **Strong heritage**: The importance of preserving heritage while modernising and attracting people to the town.
- **Access and connectivity**: Good connectivity is noted as a strength.
- **Proactive and stable planning department**: A successful and growing planning department or council.
- **Future growth areas**: Key areas of future growth have been identified, such as Shirebrook and Creswell.
- **Experienced group**: The group has great experience and knowledge.
- **Good housing market**: The existing housing market is strong.
- **Community spirit**: The population and Bolsover town are adapting and changing, with a great heart of people in place.

Opportunities:

- Opportunities through EMCCA with a focus on housing growth
- Place making with strong sense of community and belonging
- Share data to support sustainable growth
- Synergies win/win for developer and place
- Use lifestyle traits - unique heritage - education traits - build on story
- Identify media platforms to deliver messages
- Collaborative working
- Land availability with large landowners – invite to future forum meetings

- Support place young ambassador programme - apprenticeships - supporting young people into careers/development within sector
- Support for diversity artists/young people/your reps?
- Attend housing specific events
- Sharing marketing media such as new narrative, photo library & Belong video.
- Promote key attractors for house buyers to key segments: employment opportunities, access services access open space
- Showcase place uniqueness
- Share cumulative economic impact of new developments
- Identify what does best practice look like?
- Share key council contacts for developers to benefit from
- CSR and social value

With the opportunities focussed on marketing and promotion of the area as a great living location it was agreed that a facilitator to lead the future sessions would be commissioned to have housing developer and marketing background.

Total spend to the end of Q2 equates to £82.17 relating to room hire and refreshments.

**Outputs:**

Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support: Target total 8 – Q2 actual 8.

Number of local events/activities: Target total 4 – Q2 actual 1

**Outcomes:**

Number of enterprises adopting new or improved products or services: Target total 4 – Q2 actual - 0

Anticipated spend Q3 - £5,000 with remaining to be spent as planned in Q4.

The SWOT analysis from the first meeting provides the context for the forum going forward. Data was discussed to inform an understanding of the housing market but marketing activity will be the focus so future trends may be presented.

Planned action is to commission a facilitator with housing developer and marketing experience to lead the forum to ensure marketing is produced to support developers showcase Bolsover.

Future meetings to take place in November 2025, January 2026 and March 2026.

2.6 **Net Zero Innovation Programme**

- Total project allocation: £200,000
- Total project spend to date: £100,000
- The second quarter of the project has seen an increase in activity now that the project team are fully in place at NTU

- Progress towards outputs/outcomes is steady and tracks last year's figures, where activity was slow over Q1 and Q2, with numbers increasing over the last 2 quarters.
- Marketing has been carried out – adverts have been placed on LinkedIn to advertise the project. Focus is on the workshop offer. There has also been a targeted leaflet drop to businesses in the area.
- A case study is in progress from the latest event, which was held at a local business premises, Alleppey Kitchen in Bolsover.
- An article has been published in Issue 70 of InTouch, promoting the grant scheme and support available from the NZIP, which will be distributed in October.
- The project has been nominated for the EDIE Net-Zero Awards. The project team are travelling to London on the 17th October for the awards ceremony, where the project is a finalist in the Upskilling and Training Initiative of the Year category. edie Net-Zero Awards – Meet the Finalists

- Below are dates of workshops and events for future activity. We are planning to run events across the region and at different venues and online. We are currently in discussion with local business champions to run events at local business premises.

  Workshops:
  14th Oct
  19th Nov
  20th Jan
  25th Feb
  11th March

  Events
  25th Nov
  27th Feb

- We will also be running upskilling workshops for businesses who attended workshops in year 1. This will represent their next step on their journey to Net Zero and will focus on implementation, rather than awareness.

Updated figures:

- 43 businesses have been in contact about the project since the start of phase 2
- 9 businesses have had an Energy Efficiency Site Audit completed
- 8 businesses are pending a site visit with Mike for an Energy Efficiency Site Audit
- 5 unique businesses attended a networking event in Q2 / 8 attendees in total (some businesses brought a colleague to the event)
- 1 unique business attended a Carbon Reduction workshop in Q2
- 4 businesses have successfully applied for and been awarded a Net Zero Growth Grant following support from the project, with further applications pending

2.7 **Creative Hub**

Local Creative Ltd in Q2 have delivered the 3rd workshop (3 August). The workshop considered practical steps for a first Phase of developing a more ambitious site vision. We discussed the ways in which a temporary facility in the existing Co-op building could be used for exploring potential uses, governance models, and funding, and identified immediate activities to animate the building.

Bolsover District Commissioning Board has approved that the focus of the remainder of the work led by Local Creative Ltd and their subcontractors: Baumont Lyons Architects and Tyler Turner, Creative Practitioner is getting the former Coop building compliment and opened up for the hub to be a testbed for creative activity that will shape the future vision for a Creative Hub on the site. We are currently engaging with Arts Council England (ACE) to support with funding to animate the space and provide a programme of activity to support the future viability.

Spend this quarter equates to £40,000.

Tyler Turner, a creative poet from the area has been commissioned by Local Creative Ltd to share the engagement done to date. Local residents and stakeholders need to have a clear understanding what the scope of a creative hub could be for Bolsover. Tyler has written a poem that articulates this, see the video link here.

Outputs: Number of local events or activities supported – Total target 1
Q1, 3 Q2, 1= total 4

Outcomes: Improved engagement numbers – Total target 250
Q1, 35 Q2, 12= 47

The remaining £10,000 will be spent as the project completes at the end of Quarter 4.

The initial brief was to provide a pre planning business case for a creative hub on the former Co-op site This has now evolved as internal and externa influences have come into play. With Bolsover District Council now owning the Co-op building, a short term test bed phase is being planned alongside a more long-term vision. There has been a delay in starting engagement and animating the space as the former coop building has been prone to ASB requiring the site to be secured. The site is currently undergoing the installation of hoarding around the site. Costs are being agreed to open up the site to be compliant so that the site can be animated and programmes tested alongside local engagement. ASB will impact on the capital budget from the £15m Regeneration Funding allocated for the site.

2.8 **Net Zero Growth Grants**

- Total project allocation: £301,824
- The total value of the grants approved to date is: £73,849.10 with Match Funding of £71,287.12

- The total value of the potential allocation to date (if all EOIs in progress complete a Full Application and were approved) is: £214,415.60 with Match Funding of £179,873.40
- The second quarter of the project has seen an increase in activity, which is to be expected. The first quarter activity consisted of promotion, managing enquiries and appraising EOIs, whereas the second quarter has moved into delivery as we start to receive the completed applications from businesses.
- Enquiries continue to be logged by the team and both BDC and NTU continue to promote awareness of the programme at events and workshops.
- Progress towards outputs/outcomes is slow but not unexpected as the project moves from the business engagement and enquiries stage to delivery.
- The range of projects being proposed/delivered include PV solar panel installation, installation of LED lighting to reduce consumption, purchase of new equipment/technology to reduce waste to landfill
- An article has been published in Issue 70 of InTouch, promoting the grant scheme and support available from the NZIP, which will be distributed in October to encourage other businesses to come forward.

Updated figures:

- 25 businesses have been in contact to enquire about the grants scheme and have been sent an Expression of Interest
- 15 businesses have returned an EOI and have been referred to the NZIP for an Energy Efficiency site audit
- 12 businesses have been invited to complete a Full Application
- 5 Businesses have submitted a Full Application
- 4 Applications have been appraised by the panel and 4 have been approved
- 1 business has fully completed their project to date and is in the process of claiming their grant

## 3. Reasons for Recommendation

3.1 The Local Growth Scrutiny has been provided with this report which sets out details of the schemes funded by UK Shared Prosperity which have been identified to be delivered by the Economic Development Team. The intention of the report is to update Local Growth Scrutiny of progress on delivery to date, for Members to review the content of the update to ensure appropriate progress is being made to deliver the projects successfully within the timescale provided.

## 4. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 The alternative is not to provide detailed updates of the progress on delivery of the projects but this may risk loss of focus on achieving the outputs and outcomes required.

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## RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. That Members review the content of the progress report and make recommendations to Executive, where required, on additional action that may be needed for successful delivery.

Approved by Councillor Tom Munro Portfolio Holder for Growth

**IMPLICATIONS;**

**Finance and Risk:** **Yes☐** **No ☒**

**Details:**

There are no additional finance implications arising from this report, all expenditure will be funded from the grant award

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):** **Yes☐** **No ☐**

**Details:**

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Environment:**

Please identify (if applicable) how this proposal/report will help the Authority meet its carbon neutral target or enhance the environment.

**Details:**

Three of the five projects have specific aims and objectives around access to carbon reduction solutions for businesses, which in turn will enhance the environment. Grants are available to enable businesses to become more carbon efficient, there are plans to assist businesses with the development of sustainable and Net Zero strategies and also advice to tourism businesses on how to become greener and more sustainable.

**Staffing:** **Yes☐** **No ☒**

**Details:**

There is no staffing implication, delivery is contained within existing structures

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

| **Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.** |
|---|
| Economy<br>• Working with Partners to support enterprise, innovation, jobs and skills<br>• Promoting the District and working with Partners to increase tourism<br><br>Environment<br>• Supporting businesses to reduce their carbon footprint |

| **DOCUMENT INFORMATION** | |
|---|---|
| **Appendix No** | **Title** |
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