

## Chesterfield Borough Council Equality Impact Assessment – Preliminary Assessment

<i>Title of the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		Chesterfield UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan
<i>Service Area:</i>	Economic Growth / Leisure, Culture and Community Wellbeing / Corporate	
<i>Section:</i>	Economic Development	
<i>Lead Officer:</i>	Matthew Southgate	
<i>Date of assessment:</i>	28/06/2022	
<i>Is the policy, project, service, function or strategy:</i>		
<i>Existing</i>		
<i>Changed</i>		
<i>New / Proposed</i>	X	

### Section 1 – Clear aims and objectives

#### 1. What is the aim of the policy, project, service, function or strategy?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) will provide £2.6bn of funding to local areas over the three year period (2022/23-2024/25). The SPF guidance identifies the Council as a 'lead local authority' with responsibility for preparing an investment plan for Chesterfield borough. Chesterfield has been allocated a total of £2.69m for the three years, subject to the approval of the investment plan by Government, which needs to be submitted by 1<sup>st</sup> August 2022.

The overall aim of the SPF is to build pride of place and increase life chances across the UK. Underneath this overarching aim are three SPF priorities: Communities and Place; Supporting Local Businesses; and People and Skills. The Council (and its partners) has the flexibility to determine what mix of actions/activities it will deliver under each of these headings, in response to identified local needs and opportunities.

To assist in defining the scope of interventions that could be included in the investment plan, a review of current council plans and strategies has been undertaken in order to establish a long-list of priorities. The following plans and strategies have been considered:

- Council Plan and Delivery Plan
- Chesterfield Growth Strategy and Covid Recovery Plan
- Chesterfield Visitor Economy Strategy
- Climate Change Action Plan
- Parks and Open Spaces Strategy
- Play Strategy
- Chesterfield Health and Wellbeing Partnership Priorities
- Chesterfield Community Safety Partnership Priorities

The long-list of priorities was then reviewed to produce a focused short-list of 11 priorities, which now form the basis of the Chesterfield Investment Plan. It should be noted that whilst the preparation of the investment plan constitutes a new project, it is based on the delivery of existing council priorities that have previously been subject to wider consultation (internal and external) and approved by the Council. The short-listed priorities are set out in the table below, grouped under the three SPF investment themes.

Communities and Place
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver and support a programme of borough wide events, festivals and speciality markets</li> <li>• Continue to support the place marketing activities of Destination Chesterfield</li> <li>• Development and delivery of a Chesterfield Inspired marketing campaign</li> <li>• Build upon our Covid-19 community recovery approach by embarking on the development of a social investment plan</li> <li>• Focus on community safety including the strengthening of antisocial behaviour prevention and response</li> <li>• Development of costed 5 year delivery plans in line with the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy and Play Strategy</li> </ul>
Supporting Local Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support business growth and investment through the provision of Enterprise Chesterfield</li> <li>• Work with partner organisations to ensure a co-ordinated approach to delivery of business support services</li> <li>• Development of a Heritage Interpretation Plan</li> </ul>

#### People and Skills

- Enable local businesses and employees to access a wide range of skills, apprenticeships and education opportunities
- Ensure work readiness and employment support programmes are fully accessible and targeted at priority communities and groups

Subject to confirmation by Cabinet, funding has been allocated against each of the priorities to enable the delivery of actions / activities.

### 2. Who is intended to benefit from the policy and how?

The funding allocated to each of the council's priorities will enable a range of actions and activities to be brought forward and has the potential to deliver significant benefits to individual groups and communities across the borough. For example, the investment plan includes a significant funding allocation to directly support community development activities and this could include investment in community infrastructure, capacity building for local groups and support for impactful volunteering and social action projects. Funding of activities under this priority is also likely to include measures to support financial inclusion and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Other activities under the community development heading will include measures to help reduce anti-social behaviour and capital investment in relation to parks, open spaces and play across the borough. Under the 'People and Skills' heading, funding will be available to deliver employment support programmes, targeted at priority communities and groups such as individuals who are long-term unemployed and facing complex and multiple barriers to work.

### 3. What outcomes do you want to achieve?

The primary outcome of SPF funding is to build pride of place and increase life chances in local communities. Whilst specific outcomes in the investment plan have yet to be defined these are likely to include the following under the 'Communities and Place' heading:

- Number of new / improved community facilities
- Increased users of facilities / amenities
- Improved perception of facilities and amenities
- Improved engagement numbers
- Increased volunteering numbers as a result of support
- Reduction in neighbourhood crime

- Improved perception of safety

And, under the 'People and Skills' heading, outcomes will include:

- Increased proportion of participants with basic skills
- Number of people in education and training
- Number of people in employment following support
- Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months
- Fewer people experiencing structural barriers to employment

## Section 2 – What is the impact?

**4. Summary of anticipated impacts.** *Please tick at least one option per protected characteristic. Think about barriers people may experience in accessing services, how the policy is likely to affect the promotion of equality, knowledge of customer experiences to date. You may need to think about sub-groups within categories eg. older people, younger people, people with hearing impairment etc.*

	Potentially positive impact	Potentially negative impact	No disproportionate impact
Age	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability and long term conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gender and gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Marriage and civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Pregnant women and people on parental leave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ethnicity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Religion and belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Section 3 – Recommendations and monitoring

If you have answered that the policy, project, service, function or strategy could potentially have a negative impact on any of the above characteristics then a full EIA will be required.

**5. Should a full EIA be completed for this policy, project, service, function or strategy?**

Yes       No

*Please explain the reasons for this decision:*

As highlighted above the delivery of actions / activities under the SPF investment plan have the potential to have a positive impact in relation to a number of the priority characteristics (subject to the final mix of actions/activities that are brought forward with SPF funding). As a minimum it is reasonable to assume that the investment plan will have 'no disproportionate impact' on the identified characteristics.

The EIA will be reviewed at key stages throughout the development of the SPF programme in Chesterfield, should the Investment Plan be approved by government, and wider engagement with local organisations and local community will be taking place.

## Section 6 – Knowledge management and publication

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Please note the draft EIA should be reviewed by the appropriate Service Manager and the Policy Service **before** WBR, Lead Member, Cabinet, Council reports are produced.

Reviewed by Head of Service/Service Manager	Name:	Lynda Sharp
	Date:	28/06/22
Reviewed by Policy Service	Name:	
	Date:	
Final version of the EIA sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Decision information sent to Policy Service	<input type="checkbox"/>	