

UKSPF Investment Plan Melton Borough Council



Melton
Borough
Council

July 2022

Background



The UKSPF is a national funding scheme that was launched in April 2022 to support the Government's Levelling Up agenda. Through this scheme Melton Borough Council has received an allocation of just over £1.19 million and though it is not a competitive process the receipt of funds is subject to submission of a 3-year investment plan.



£1.19 million

To be spent by
March 2025



£145k

To be spent in
2022/2023



£290k

To be spent in
2023/2024



£758k

To be spent in
2024/2025

This is mostly revenue, minimum capital requirement of 10% initially, rising to 20% in year 3.

This document summarises how we plan to spend the funding over the next 3 years to support our community and bring improvements and enrichment to the borough.

The funding can be used for a mixture of capital and revenue projects. These projects need to align with the investment priorities identified by Government under these three broad themes:

Community
and
Place

Supporting
Local
Business

People
and
Skills

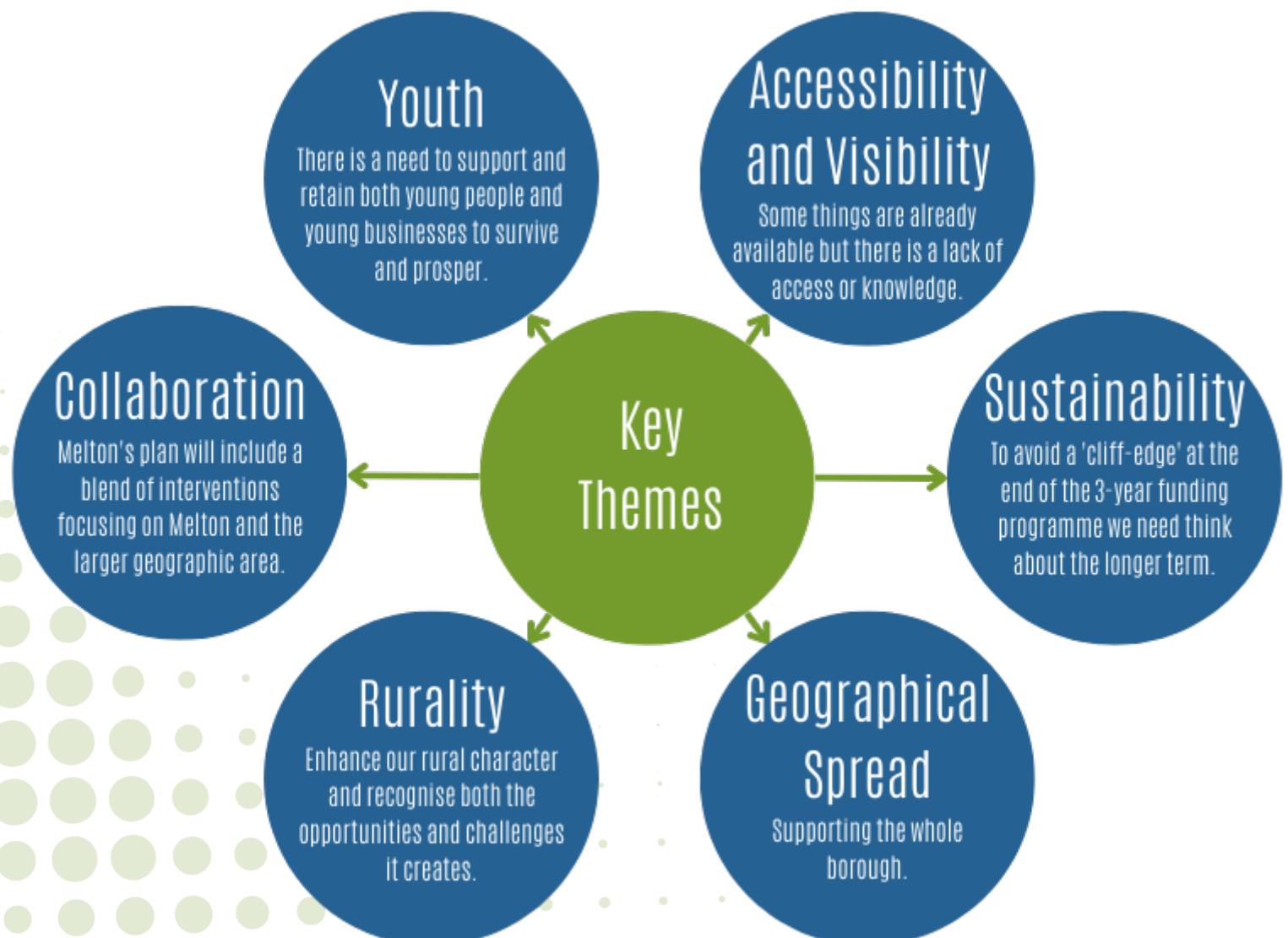
Background



During the course of developing this investment plan consultation has been essential in influencing the key priority areas. This consultation consisted of:

- Member workshops
- Presentations at 3 Stakeholder and Partner workshops
- Information gathered from recent consultation exercises relating to the developing Town Centre vision
- Several 1-2-1 discussions with existing partners and stakeholders
- Presentation to the Scrutiny committee
- 2 stakeholder advisory board meetings
- MP feedback

The investment plan that Melton Borough Council has produced will focus on the following key themes in line with the Government themes and deliver sustainable support, enrichment and opportunities throughout the area:



Community and Place



Theme Objective

- To strengthen our social fabric, fostering a sense of local pride and belonging.
- Building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods.

Proposed Project	UKSPF contribution	Total
A community supermarket to help with the cost of living.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £40k in year 1• £12k in year 2• £20k in year 3	£72k
Further develop and better promote Discover Melton, providing bookable offers and strengthen clubs directory within 'live' section along with awareness campaigns.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £6k in year 1• £5k in year 2• £40k in year 3	£51k
Invest in additional in-house communications to enable additional place marketing and promotion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £15k in year 2 (Match funding from reserves req.)• £30k in year 3	£45k
Contribute to the 'Taste the Place' and 'Green Tourism' campaigns to prevent a decline in tourism and visitor economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £8k in year 2• £5k in year 3	£13K
Extend scope of successful community grant schemes to push cultural events and community empowerment, active travel and prevent rural isolation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £10k in year 1• £10k in year 2 for grant scheme plus £20k towards post• £60k in year 3 for grant scheme plus £20k towards post	£120k
Build digital capacity and skills by maintaining and developing a community hub digital suite.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £25k (capital) in year 3	£25K
A programme of health checks for farmers based out of the cattle market to prevent rural isolation and allow access to services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £7k in year 1• £13k in year 2• £13k in year 3	£33k

Community and Place



Proposed Project	UKSPF contribution	Total
Support future viability of town centre street market by commissioning an expert to undertake a critical appraisal of the street market provision in the town, producing a report with recommendations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £15k in year 2 • £60k (capital) in year 3 (to support action plan) 	£75K
Provide direct support to retail through Business Improvement Grant scheme within the Bell Centre to enable pop-up shops and increase occupancy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5k in year 1 • £20k in year 2 (of which £10k to support grant scheme) • £30k in year 3 	£55k
Investment in greening the town centres - more shrubs and trees.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5k (capital) in year 2 • £30k (capital) in year 3 	£35k
Investment in environmental maintenance team to enable more proactive improvements and support to Melton in Bloom and other key community partners.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £15k in year 2 (match funding from reserves required) • £30k in year 3 	£45k
Support the development and growth of the AMY project. Establishment of social action programme. Establishment of Melton youth council. Develop AMY directory of things to do across Melton.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5k in year 1 • £10k (capital allocation) in year 2 • £20k in year 3 	£35k
Coordination, continuation and development of physical activity offer in priority neighbourhoods (building on success of Fairmead football league).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £5k in year 1 • £5k (capital) in year 2 • £5k in year 3 	£15k

Supporting Local Business



Theme Objective

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion.
- Promoting networking and collaboration.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities.

Proposed Project	UKSPF contribution	Total
Invest in Inward Investment resources - increase account management and active engagement with regional agents and prospective businesses to combat low wage economy and decline in economic activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £10k in year 1• £20k in year 2• £40k in year 3	£70k
Production of promotional investment literature, events and development of 'invest' section of Discover Melton to battle declining business base and economic activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £5k in year 2• £20k in year 3	£25k
Incubation space - Lease vacant unit on high street and provide concessionary rents/business rates to businesses for 6 months to support new business start ups and growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £5k in year 1• £5k in year 2• £20k in year 3	£30k
Direct provision of business support service to include advice and potential access to grants for a new and start up businesses and young entrepreneurs to prevent decline in business base and stop a high proportion of business deaths.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £30k revenue in year 2• £50k revenue in year 3• £80k capital grants in year 3	£160k

People and Skills



Theme Objective

- Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress in work.
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity.
- Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers.
- Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision.

Due to the requirements to only fund existing ESF (European Social Fund) projects for the first 2 years the table below reflects those ESF schemes that officers consider could be beneficial to explore continued funding of or repurposed funding of.

Proposed Project	UKSPF contribution	Total
Supporting Graduate retention to help keep hold of younger workers (age 24-39).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £20k in year 1• £20k in year 2• £50k in year 3	£90k
Leicester Employment Hub - drive up demand for apprenticeships, work placements within local business to combat low economic activity rates and poor job rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Funded through ESF scheme in year 1• Funded through ESF scheme in year 2• £44k in year 3	£44k
Get Inspired Leicester - encouraging those furthest from labour market to get back in work to raise low economic activity rates and poor job rates.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• £10k in year 1• £20k in year 2• £30k in year 3	£60k

Summary



The investment proposals within the plan meet the funding criteria and requirements.

Below is the summary of the spending:

Proposed Spend	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
UKSPF allocation	£145k	£289k	£758k
Of which min capital is required	10% (£14.5k)	13% (£38k)	20% (£152k)

Proposals	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Community and Place	£78k	£153k	£388k
Supporting Local Business	£15k	£60k	£210k
People and Skills	£30k	£40k	£124k
Monitoring	£22k	£36k	£36k
Total	£145k	£289k	£758k
Of which capital allocation is	£20k	£42k	£195k

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has confirmed the receipt of Melton's Investment Plan and supporting documents. All plans will now be subject to a more detailed review and we now wait to hear from the Government in due course.



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