



## Local Partnership Group Meeting 8

**Tuesday, 03 June 2025 11:00am to 12:00pm**  
**(MS Teams online only)**

### Attendees

Adrian Davies (AD) Department of Work and Pensions  
 Chris Mansfield (CM) Bracknell Forest Council  
 Cllr Paul Bidwell (PB) Executive Member for Economic Development and Regeneration  
 Nancy Lalor (NL) Learning to Work  
 Nikki Burns (NB) Federation of Small Businesses and Bracknell Forest Skills Hub Lead  
 Sean Griffin (SG) Bracknell Business Improvement District  
 Jo Gosling (JG) Bracknell Forest Council  
 Ben Jokiel (BJ) Activate Learning  
 Chloe Smith (CS) Constituency Support Officer for Peter Swallow MP

### Apologies

Dilip Ladwa (DL) Interfaith Forum  
 Heidi Berry (HB) Craft Coop Director

Minute	Item
1	<p><b>Welcome</b></p> <p>CM opened the meeting by thanking all for attending the meeting.</p> <p>JG gave apologies received from HB and DL.</p> <p>CM asked about actions from the previous minutes.          JG confirmed that the action on a request for the LPG minutes to be available on the Bracknell Forest UKSPF webpage. This webpage has now been updated by our Digital Services Team, with the minutes included.</p> <p><a href="#">UK Shared Prosperity Fund   Bracknell Forest Council</a></p> <p>The previous meeting minutes and the UKSPF Project Update was attached to this meeting invite.</p>

2	<p><b>Project updates</b></p> <p><b>The Ark Community Transport Scheme</b></p> <p>JG provided an update on the Ark Community Transport Scheme, mentioning its success and the ongoing recruitment for more volunteer drivers. The Ark offers a range of support services to the local community. This scheme provides volunteer transport for residents to access services and improve mobility and social inclusion. Chris noted the positive trend in the reduced number of cancelled trips.</p> <p>NL asked if it we know the average age group of clients booking the service.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – JG to ask The Ark if this information is captured and can be shared. The Ark confirmed that dates of birth are captured during the triage/booking element. Going forward The Ark will provide a breakdown of age ranges included in the monitoring figures.</p> <p><b>Craft Coop</b></p> <p>JG updated the group on the Bracknell Craft Coop, located in Princess Square mentioning the challenges with regards footfall and the efforts to increase visibility through social media and publicity. They have a new intern starting at the Bracknell store today, so this should help with regards promotion and media activity.</p> <p>CM suggested celebrating their 2nd anniversary to raise their profile.</p> <p>CS confirmed that Peter Swallow MP is meeting with Craft Coop this week. CS has offered to help link with other organisations to raise their profile and will enquire about the possibility of raising an early day motion in Parliament, to wish Craft Coop a happy 2nd birthday.</p> <p>Craft Coop are collecting 1 litre and 2 litre empty and clean plastic bottles for their forthcoming poppy display during the Remembrance season in The Lexicon.</p> <p>Please consider donating via the Craft Coop store, or if via the Time Square office is more accessible, JG is happy to deliver them to the Craft Coop.</p> <p><b>Action</b> – JG to enquire about a donation point for the bottles in the Time Square café and publicise to Officers and Councillors.</p>
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	<p><b>Bracknell Forest Borough Vision</b></p> <p>CM provided an update on the Bracknell Forest Vision, which aims to develop a vision for the area looking forward to 2050, part of this work is being supported financially by the UKPSF fund. This has involved collaborating with other organisations, stakeholders and residents to develop a vision. There have been several resident engagement activities throughout the borough, including The Town Centre, Crowthorne, and the Bracknell and Wokingham College community also kindly hosted. This proved productive for capturing a younger resident perspective. The vision objectives and themes will reflect values and principles for the community and will be continuously reviewed and assessed. A draft vision is aimed to be shared by the summer.</p> <p><b>Berkshire Prosperity Board</b></p> <p>CM discussed the Berkshire Prosperity Board, which focuses on driving economic opportunities within the Berkshire area, on behalf of the six local authorities in the county. There is an adopted Berkshire Economic strategy in place, that each local authority is contributing some financial support from the UKSPF fund. The Government have invited localities to come together in a wider grouping to devise a strategic authority. CM mentioned the Connect to Work programme and Get Britain Working strategy is a focus of the Prosperity Board priorities.</p> <p><b>Cultural Programme</b></p> <p>JG and CM provided an update on the Cultural Programme and the various activities that are taking place in collaboration with The Lexicon, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bracknell Forest Pride – <b>7 June 2025 11am-7pm</b></li> <li>• Armed Forces Day <b>28 June 2025 (Details TBC)</b></li> <li>• Cultural &amp; Community Day – <b>19 July 2025 11am-5pm</b></li> <li>• White Ribbon evening event – <b>25 November 2025 (Details TBC)</b></li> <li>• South Hill Park Music and Arts Festivals and Wilde Week (<b>local school children attend to participate in various workshops</b>)</li> <li>• Christmas Lights and School Choir Concert (<b>Details TBC</b>)</li> </ul>
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	<p><b>Bracknell Forest Skills Hub – update from Nikki Burns</b></p> <p>NB provided an update on the Skills Hub, mentioning the growth day by day, so much so that they have had to pause some marketing campaigns in order to allow the skills hub team to deliver the current programme. NB discussed the bespoke courses being developed, including the screen skills sector and facilities sector. A retailer event was held in The Lexicon, which was well received, and all engagements have been positive. Next forthcoming project and event in July, is to connect career seekers with employers and educate them about career pathways in the retail sector.</p> <p><b>Career Seekers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 93 new career seeker consultation meetings completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Business &amp; Training Provider Engagement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 73 Businesses engaged</li> <li>• 2 Bespoke training courses created</li> <li>• 33 Senior managers in training</li> <li>• 300 Employees in training</li> </ul> <p>NL commended the work of The Skills Hub team and particularly the impact of their social media and marketing.</p>
3	<p><b>UKSPF Reporting and Forecast Update</b></p> <p>CM explained the forecasting process and the mechanics of the reporting aspect for UK Shared Prosperity Fund. CM confirmed the successful submission of the final six-month return by the end of April, and the approval of the 2025/26 forecast.</p> <p>Our allocation for this transition year is: £327k (Split 260k revenue allocation and 60k Capital allocation). We are pleased to confirm that our forecast was accepted by the UKSPF Government reporting team, and our identified projects deemed in keeping with the Governments 3 core priorities for 2025-26 which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities and place</li> <li>• Local business</li> <li>• People and skills</li> </ul> <p>The project allocation included in the forecast is:</p> <p>Bracknell Forest Skills Hub £115K The Ark £20K Craft Coop £10K Berkshire Prosperity Board £30K Cultural Programme £110K Borough Vision £30K</p> <p>Admin/Project management 11K</p>

	<p>CM emphasised the importance of the Local Partnership Group in providing input and ensuring the projects stay on track and thanked everyone for their time and continued support.</p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Proposed Next Meeting Dates:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Tues 23 September 2025 11:00am – 12:00pm</b></li><li>• <b>Tues 09 December 2025 11:00am – 12:00pm</b></li><li>• <b>Tues 10 March 2026 11:00am – 12:00pm</b></li></ul>