

Update from the Place and Economy Service

UKSPF(UK Shared Prosperity Fund)/IUK (Innovate UK) & REPF (Rural England Prosperity Fund) highlights:

Marine Projects

- Vessel repowering projects (Salcombe Water Taxi and Lower Dart Ferry) are on schedule— final two days of power requirement testing due to take place in mid-November to ensure we capture a range of tidal conditions. Data will be made available by University of Exeter researchers by December.
- External consultant (Shane Vallance, Moor Economic Ltd) now contracted to carry out a South Hams district-wide marine economic study. Inception meeting took place on 9th October. Waterfront site visits and scoping planned to take place by December, with final report due at end of February 2024.
- Carbon footprint study for Salcombe Harbour – work ongoing to draft appropriate privacy notices and look into option of an opt-out facility ahead of commissioning a full carbon footprint study.
- End-of-life boat recycling pilot – positive discussions at initial meeting on 10th October, which brought together all partners: Creekside Boatyard, Dartmouth; South Devon College; environmental consultancy Blue Parameters; and SHDC. A site visit to Creekside Boatyard is due to take place over next couple of weeks to confirm project timetable and scope.
- The Electric Seaway (TES) project (IUK) – quarterly claim and progress report for July-Sept 23 submitted to DHLUC. Report to Quarterly Monitoring Officer meeting on 12th Oct in Christchurch, was received positively – happy with project's progress. Our focus continues to be on confirming licence agreement with Duchy of Cornwall and lead partner Aqua superPower. Partners will be presenting to the UK Harbour Masters' Association at a webinar on 31 Oct.

Agri projects

- Minimal outputs reported to date, but project late in starting. Update meeting on 18th Oct, no major concerns raised, further quarterly review meeting scheduled on 24th Oct. Now able to refer participants in Agri-Tech scheme to REPF grant scheme for support with investment in new tech trialled on farms to date. They are working with BIP to deliver tailored business support, with specialist agri business support also available. 2 agri engagement events due to take place this FY.

Wider business and community support projects

- Libraries Unlimited (decarbonisation plans), some concerns over customer journey and whether participants (and council) receiving value for money based on current methodology. Following discussions with the delivery partner, a revised programme has been agreed which we believe will pull the project back on track
- Apricot Centre exceeding output targets so far
- A further contract has now been awarded to the Apricot Centre to deliver a food and drink distribution project. This will see farmers and food and drink producers linked in with local market places, hospitality businesses, and customers, reducing food miles, and creating a sustainable network for food and drink distribution.

Monitoring & Evaluation

- Fortnightly meetings arranged with DCC M&E team for updates and to discuss any issues.
- First quarterly reports submitted to M&E team by partners, which they seem happy with

- First quarterly reporting meeting with all partners + members on 31st October

Rural England Prosperity Fund grants

- Further to the UKSPF programme, the Government awarded a further £838,000 of capital funding to SHDC through the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). This fund has a more narrow scope than the UKSPF programme, needing to align with our UKSPF activities, and having a strong focus on decarbonisation, clean growth and business diversification and community activities. The investment plan was submitted in November 2022, and the funding was approved in April 2023.
- The 4 grants available are:
 - Decarbonisation Grants
 - Clean Diversification Grants
 - Agri-Tech Adoption Grants
 - Community Resilience Grants
- Details of these schemes are available through the Council's website, along with guidance documents, policy documents and the online application forms at: <https://www.southhams.gov.uk/your-council/budgets-and-finance/budgets-and-spending/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-0>
- Further to these grants, part of the funding (approximately £300,000) has also been allocated for the delivery of active and inclusive travel infrastructure. However, the programme is flexible, and funding can be allocated to projects where demand is high, and reduced from projects where demand is low.
- Promotional activities are being coordinated to raise awareness of the programme to our businesses and communities. This information will be shared with members. With the grants having gone live in the last few weeks, specific communications activities are being developed to drive traffic to the Council's website. 2 email addresses have also been set up to help funnel grant enquiries to the Place and Economy team. Members are welcome to share these addresses with organisations that are interested in the grants:
 - businessgrants@swdevon.gov.uk
 - communitygrants@swdevon.gov.uk

Freeport

- Solar lighting manufacturer with interest in Langage site, met with Chris Shears in late September on site. Strong local corporate social responsibility (CSR) ethos. Now in discussions with land agent for Langage.
- Boat-building business with temporary premises at Langage potentially interested in waterside location for final fit-out – liaising with Chris Brook + potentially Assets Team for anything suitable before exploring other commercially available sites.
- Major EV battery recycling company looking likely to locate expanded processing plant at Tees Freeport, due to more suitable boat access + volume of hazardous chemicals needed to complete their processing. Discussions ongoing to retain R&D presence in Devon, ideally at or near to current Tavistock facility.

Strategic Business Visits

- First visits in the diary:
 - 12pm, 6th December, How Now Dairy near Ugborough
- Hoping to confirm 24th January at South Brent Community Centre ASAP
- Requested 2 dates per month for next 12-18 months with SLT so as to have a programme of these visits in the diary.

S106 allocations and expenditure for open space, sport and recreation 16th September 2023 – 13th October 2023:

South Hams

Funds allocated

Group	Project	Amount	Date reserve request approved
Halwell & Moreleigh Parish Council	New picnic bench at Moreleigh Recreation Ground	£640	Pauline Henstock – 22/09/2023 Chris Shears – 27/09/2023

Funds spent

Group	Project	Amount	Date paid
Parklife CIC	Enhancements to SHDC owned Hangar Marsh open space, Salcombe	£700	27/09/2023
Ivybridge Town Council	Improvements to Filham Park, Ivybridge	£7,837.64	04/10/2023

Broadband support:

- Nothing to report in South Hams

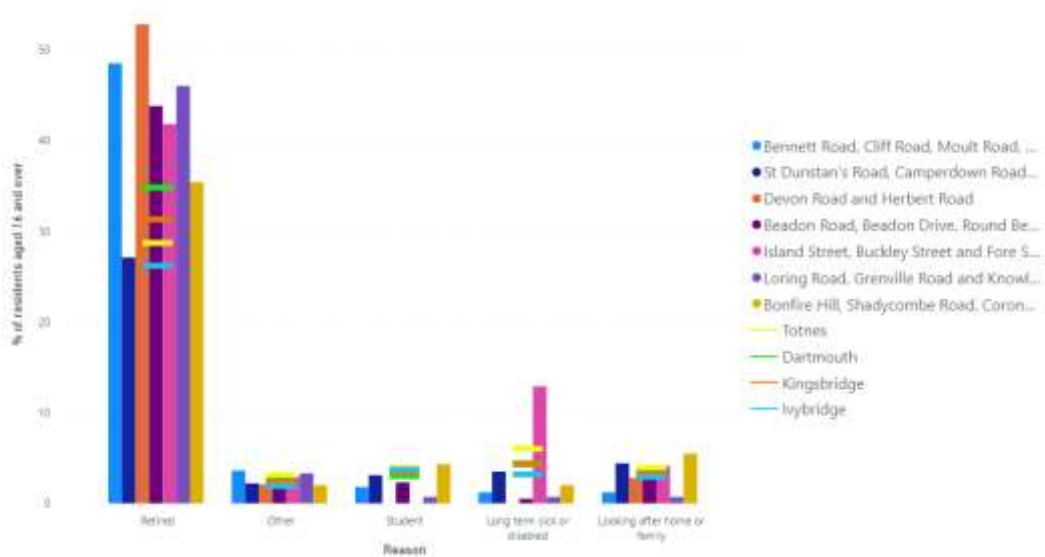
Community Economic Plans (CEP)

- Young people's steering group recruited. Presented the CEP project to the 6th form assembly at Ivybridge Community College and recruited students to take part in the student steering group. Student steering group to meet fortnightly on a Thursday morning to create young peoples survey and marketing campaign.
- MyIvybridge Consultation platform in final stages. Steering group, Place and Economy and Comms team provided feedback on business survey. Steering group to provide feedback on resident's survey and comment map next week.
- Economic profile now interactive on MyIvybridge through Microsoft PowerBI.
- Ivybridge Community Economic Plan logo finalised and approved by steering group and SHDC staff. Other marketing materials are being finalised.
- Delivery timeline for Salcombe finalised and waiting for approval from Town Council. Estimated launch date March 2024.
- Engagement started with Dartmouth Chamber of Commerce working group.
- Meetings with Kingsbridge Town Council provided further engagement with the project and a keenness to start the CEP asap.
- Huq SHDC dashboard ready for utilising once staff have received training.

Data Analysis

- Ivybridge power bi presentation further developed and added to Common Place web page.
- Salcombe power bi presentation in progress (example of charts below – economic inactivity by reason and economic activity %)
- Training to commence with HUQ (footfall software)

Economic inactivity by reason - Salcombe (output areas) and main towns



Visitor Economy - Health of Town Centres

- MyPlace town marketing campaign activities – planning for Christmas campaign is in progress with Communications team, to include web page, social media and advertising. Meetings with town and parish councils in SH to be organised for mid-October
- Visitor Economy – supporting the Local Visitor Economy Plan project which is being managed by the Local Enterprise Partnership, including attendance at recent workshop in Paignton. Update to be circulated to members/SLT shortly.

Other Work the Team is Leading

- Work started on settlement hierarchy mapping task for annual monitoring report (for DM team)

- Help being provided to prepare a list of retail completions and commitments at 2023 monitoring point (for DM team)
- Reports have been completed for Executive regarding the UKSPF programme.
- Contracts have been approved for the food and drink distribution UKSPF project and land management consultancy project.
- Contract soon to be approved for the construction skills UKSPF project
- Meeting with Dartington Trust to identify opportunities for assistance.