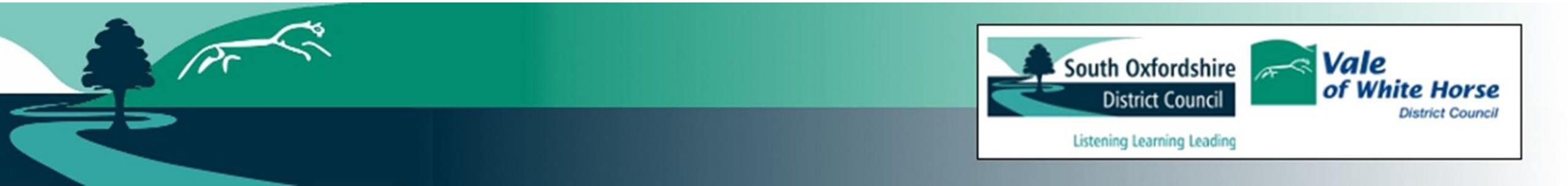


UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund Evaluation

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse



 South Oxfordshire
District Council
Listening Learning Leading

 Vale
of White Horse
District Council

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- South Oxfordshire SPF projects
 - Relation to Council Corporate Plan
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Purpose of UKSPF

- The UK Shared Prosperity Fund provided funding for local investment, particularly focused on creating opportunities and pride in place for areas of deprivation.
 - Restoring a sense of community and place.
 - Supporting local business.
 - Investing in people and skills.
- UKSPF has supported local people and businesses in line with the councils' corporate priorities.



Government interventions

Over **60 projects** were delivered across South and Vale through internal teams, external procurement and grants to deliver the following government aims:

- Community and neighbourhood infrastructure
- Creation of green spaces
- Local arts, culture, heritage, and creative activities
- Development and promotion of the visitor economy
- Enterprise, Infrastructure & employment/innovation sites
- Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy
- Green skills



South Oxfordshire

UKSPF government funding awarded
£1,000,000



South Oxfordshire UKSPF

- The UKSPF investment plan for South Oxfordshire outlines the need to address inequalities in areas of deprivation such as Berinsfield and Didcot.
- Funding has been used to restore a sense of local pride.
- Using the government funding, the council has been able to make progress in achieving the following corporate aims*:

Improved economy and
community wellbeing

Action on climate emergency

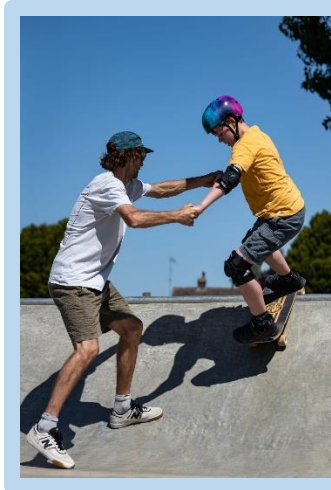
Protecting and restoring the
natural world.

*Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Improved economy and community wellbeing

Community wellbeing

- Working with the communities of South Oxfordshire on projects that benefit residents – in particular, focusing on the arts and green spaces in areas of deprivation.
- Berinsfield skatepark and pumptrack restored and expanded to encourage healthy and active communities.
- A collaboration with Fusion Arts to provide artistic and creative opportunities to budding artists and residents.
 - Hosted events and workshops to involve members of the community of all ages: A youth arts club, community mosaic making, a reminiscence project, and local film-making.



Berinsfield skatepark



Community mosaic

Corporate aim 2020-2024

Improved economy and community wellbeing

Community wellbeing Didcot Hospital



- Patients co-created an arts installation for the hospital entrance as well as flowerbeds and a painted bench.
- 92 patients attended the workshops, resulting in:
 - Reduction in feelings of isolation.
 - Reduction in anxiety and lethargy.
 - Reduction in reliance on painkillers.
 - Improvement of attention span.
 - Hope, confidence and a positive frame of mind.
 - Potential clinical savings of £35,000.

Corporate aim 2020-2024

Improved economy and community wellbeing

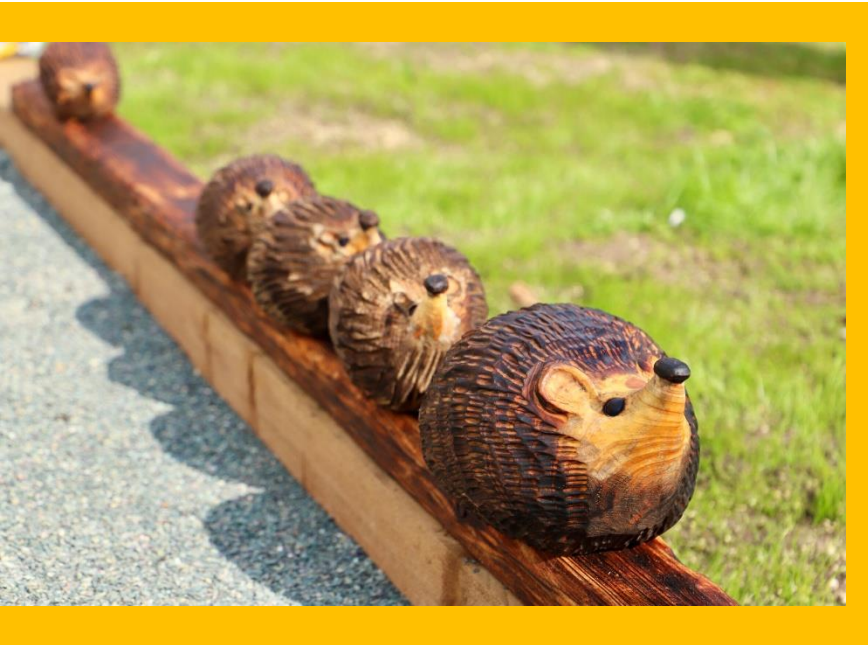
Improved economy

- The Fusion Arts project not only provided creative opportunities for over 350 residents, but also employed 13 local artists (for some, this was their first artistic employment opportunity).
- Project to boost the local visitor economy including a website (<https://southernoxfordshire.com/>) with 2,113 active visitors.
- An enterprise support programme, led by OSEP with partner organisations, to support the growth of socially impactful businesses.

Corporate aim 2020-2024



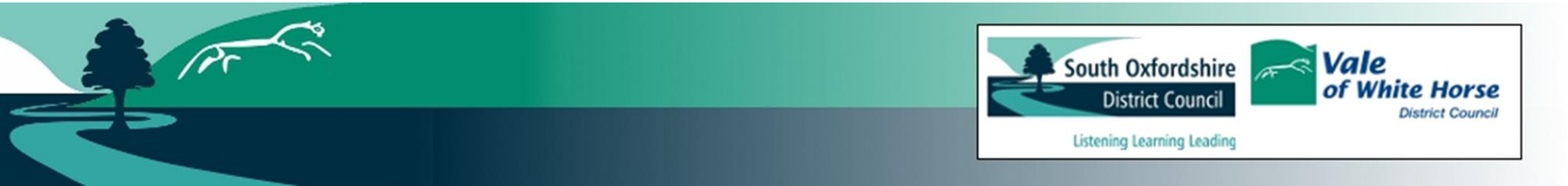
Protect and restore the natural world



- Promoting green spaces that are easily accessible and appeal to a variety of audiences.
 - Garden communities pocket parks and wayfinding in Berinsfield including new nature trails and animal wood carvings.
 - The renovated skatepark in Berinsfield included tree planting to encourage biodiversity and create a green space. Held a community launch day, encouraging young people to spend more time outdoors.

Vale of White Horse

UKSPF government funding awarded
£1,000,000



Vale of White Horse UKSPF

- The UKSPF investment plan for Vale of White Horse outlines the need to address inequalities with a focus on the Caldecott Ward in Abingdon.
- Funding has been used to foster a sense of local pride and increase usage of green spaces.
- Using the government funding, the council has been able to make progress in achieving the following corporate aims*:

Building healthy communities

Working in partnership

Tackling the climate
emergency

*Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Building Healthy Communities

- Funding for a programme of community led arts engagement activities for South Abingdon residents encompassing training for would be artists, community events, permanent and temporary exhibitions and installations.
 - Working with Makespace, 11 residents were trained as commercial artists.
 - Delivery of more than 80 local engagement activities.



Corporate aim 2020-2024

Building Healthy Communities

Ride Revolution

- Funding for Ride Revolution to renovate an abandoned piece of land and to repurpose old shipping containers into storage for bikes to be restored and donated to those in need in Abingdon.
- Funding paid £3,000 for 100 bike repairs by TRAX – 40 donated so far.
- Paid Pedal Power for bike accessories to be provided including lights, lock, helmet, and a child seat.



Mural commission by Makespace

Corporate aim 2020-2024

Building Healthy Communities

Cotman Close Renovation



School children working on the design renamed the park to Thameside Whizzer park.

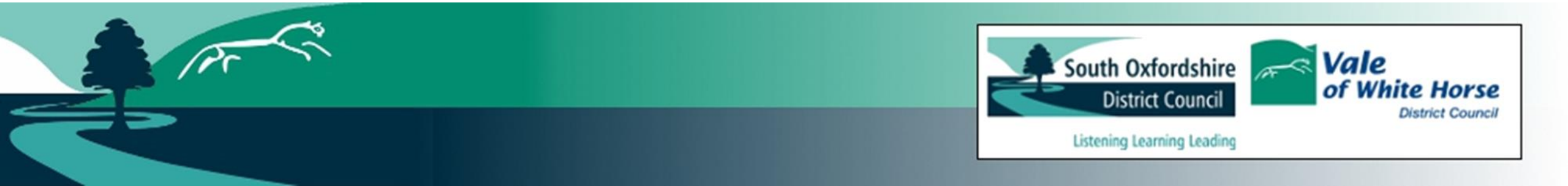
- Funding was used to refurbish the Cotman Close play area in Caldecott Ward, Abingdon with input from local school children.
- Workshops ran by artists, who were trained by the Makespace arts project.
- Improving green spaces, making them more attractive to residents and encouraging local pride and community engagement.

Corporate aim 2020-2024



Joint SPF Projects

South and Vale



Employment Support

- Enterprise Oxfordshire ‘No Limits’ programme, delivered by SOFEA, resulting in 19 people becoming employed.
 - Promoting opportunities to those who are the furthest from employment through 1:1 employment support, digital literacy, and device distribution.
 - The success of the programme has led to an extension of the contract.

40 people became work-ready.

Collaborated with 8 partner organisations.

Travel assistance provided to 28 people.

38 laptops distributed.



Business Support

- OSEP piloted a successful six-month social impact business support programme, with partner organisations, resulting in an extended contract.
- Enterprise support programme offering a range of assistance to those looking to start businesses or charitable enterprises, specifically targeting those residing in areas of deprivation, and furthest from employment.

27 clients completed the triage tool.

33 businesses received 1:1 support.

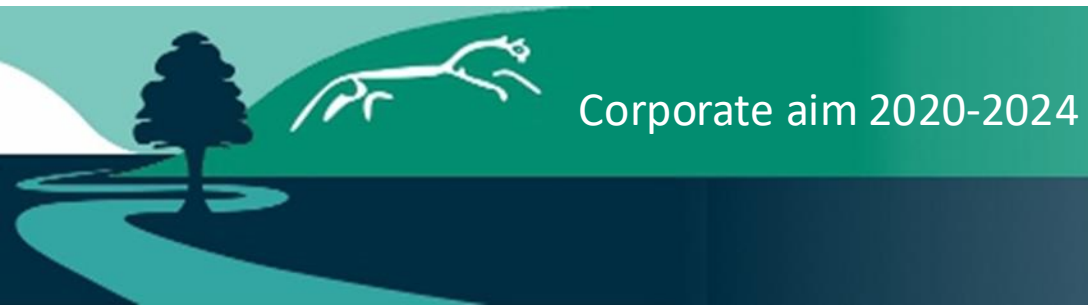
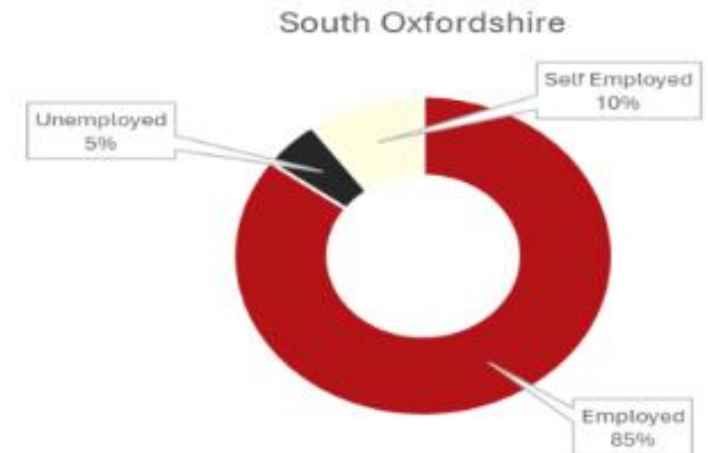
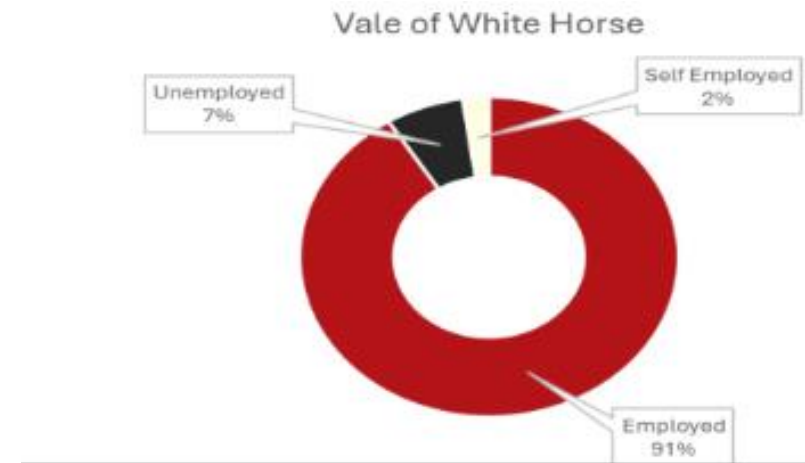
15 businesses received intensive support.

7 CICs registered or in the process or becoming registered.



Action on Climate Emergency

- Both South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse Councils have a corporate policy to act in response to the climate emergency.
- Funding to Abingdon & Witney College to provide 83 places across 17 different green skills courses, free of charge, to residents and businesses with a focus on upskilling.
 - A focus on green construction, retrofit, and energy.
 - Offerings across a range of qualification levels.



Action on Climate Emergency

8 free how-to guides for businesses, created by Green Savvy.

Thame Town Council worked with 33 businesses.

One Planet Abingdon gave decarbonisation support to Abingdon businesses.

12 decarbonisation grants given to Vale businesses. 6 given in South.

23 free energy assessments and bespoke decarbonisation plans by Low Carbon Hub.



A reduction of at least 14.96 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.

38 businesses supported through the Decarbonisation Business Support Programme with ALP Synergy.

Decarbonisation grant given to White Horse leisure centre.

Corporate aim 2020-2024

Visitor Economy

- Tourism Southeast was commissioned to conduct research on the current landscape of the tourism sector in the area and to create a website to promote local events and activities.
 - Promotion of local towns, and businesses can upload their events for free.
 - Increasing footfall and spend on high streets.
 - Providing local people and tourists with up-to-date information about events and activities happening in the area.
- UKSPF also paid for a pilot programme of the Faringdon Tourist Bus, which is now being externally funded by Faringdon Town Council after a successful trial.





<https://southernoxfordshire.com/>



Rural England Prosperity Fund



Listening Learning Leading

£468,196 REPF spend in
Vale.

21 grants awarded in
Vale.

REPF Outcomes South and Vale

£620,041 REPF spend in
South.

28 grants awarded in
South.



REPF Overview

- The Rural England Prosperity Fund is funding to support activities that address rural challenges. It provided capital funding for projects that support rural businesses or serve and benefit the local economy and community.
- Aims:

Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.

Growing the local social economy and supporting innovation.

Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.



South REPF

- Projects included:
 - Investing in small rural enterprises by giving a grant to Stanely and Pickford for a farm shop upgrade, including energy efficiency.
 - Supporting the social economy and innovation through grants to Thomley, a charity providing play and activities to children with disabilities, to help them build new accessible play areas.
 - Infrastructure support for local community groups achieved by giving a grant to Aston Rowant cricket club in order to build a net zero sports pavilion.



New accessible splash pad at Thomley

Individual case studies will be made available on councils' website.

Vale REPF

- Projects included:
 - Investing in rural micro and small enterprises through funding for frozen meal storage to the Down to Earth Community Café, to support their warm spaces meal programme.
 - Growing the social economy through support to Tap Social bakery, a local social enterprise, by increasing business capacity.
 - Support to local community groups through grants to Farringdon Town Football Club for a sustainable energy lights system.



New mezzanine seating at Tap Bakery



Community meal at Down to Earth

Individual case studies will be made available on councils' websites.

80 local arts events in Vale with over 1,100 attendees.

83 places completed on green skills training courses.

23 businesses were provided with a free energy assessment.

11 community arts sessions in South with over 350 attendees.

40 bikes donated to people in need in Vale.

UKSPF Highlights South and Vale

Clinical savings of £35,000 due to hospital arts project.

11 local people trained and employed as commercial artists.

12 business decarbonisation grants awarded.

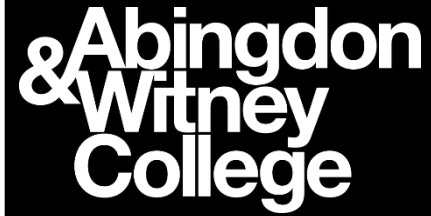
19 people entered employment with support from SOFEA.

13 local people trained and employed as commercial artists.

All projects had to complete evaluation and reporting for the government. Information has been taken from final evaluation reports.



Listening Learning Leading



Thank you to our external partners and our council teams who have delivered UKSPF projects including: Garden Communities team, Arts Development team, Active Communities team, Parks team



Thank you

For more information, please contact
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<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/>

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/>

