



# 2023 - 2024

# UKSPF YEARLY SUMMARY



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Team Caerphilly  
Better Together



Funded by  
UK Government

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POWERED BY  
**LEVELLING  
UP**

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Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg, ac mewn ieithoedd a fformatau eraill ar gais.  
This document is available in Welsh, and in other languages and formats on request.

Collage of eleven photos showing numerous community events and locations across the Caerphilly county borough.



# OVERVIEW

## *What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?*

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills.

The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

## *How much money does Caerphilly County Borough receive?*

Caerphilly County Borough has a conditional allocation of **£28,272,298**, and an allocation of **£5,901,499** for \*Multiply (\*UK Gov Adult numeracy programme) up to March 2025.

## *How is the money being spent?*



**Communities and Place** - to enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships, and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level.



**Supporting Local Business** - to enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.



**People and Skills** - to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding.



**Multiply** - helping transform the lives of adults across the UK, by improving their functional numeracy skills.

Data provided in this summary is subject to validation and verification

## **RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

Food resilience programme – Food4Growth  
Rural innovation and investment fund

## **CULTURAL HERITAGE**

## **TOWN CENTRE & REGENERATION**

Choose Local  
VZTA  
Events  
Tour Of Britain  
Town Enhancement

## **SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS**

Business Enterprise & Renewal Team  
Business Advice Clinics  
Business Development Grants  
Business Development Grants Case Studies  
Business Support Project Fund  
Business Support Project Fund Case Studies  
International Trade Support  
International Trade Support Grants Case Studies  
Industrial Development

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Cost of living grant  
Funding & Support for  
Community Spaces - Project  
W11  
Digital  
Transport and Accessibility  
Streetwave  
Free Town Centre Wifi

## **HEALTH & WELL BEING**

Sport Caerphilly Facility Grant  
Support for local arts, cultural,  
heritage and creative activities

## **PEOPLE & SKILLS**

Aims and objectives  
UKSPF Academy Awards  
Partnership Events

## **MULTIPLY**

## **CAERPHILLY 2035**

Ffos Caerfilli  
Pentrebane Street





# Communities

## **Communities & Places**

*To enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level.*

# RURAL DEVELOPMENT



## FOOD RESILIENCE PROGRAMME – FOOD4GROWTH

To provide and deliver support that increases and promotes the production and processing of food and drink within Caerphilly County. The Food4Growth project, will, alongside partner initiatives across Gwent, fund interventions and projects to sustain a resilient food sector that delivers for the local economy in a sustainable way. Grant funding is available for projects that will result in an increase in production, processing, skills or support social and community initiatives to create a sustainable and circular food system in Caerphilly. The Food4Growth Community Fund is for a maximum of 80% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £30,000.00 exclusive of VAT.



Investments could include the development and creation of community growing spaces, food distribution initiatives, community cooking spaces, processing projects or basic and foundational food skills.

The Food4Growth Community Fund is open to applications that deliver community based or community focussed food projects across Caerphilly and projects can be based in urban, rural or semi-rural areas.

**A broad overview of the type and scope of projects that are eligible to apply to request support include the following:**

- **Community growing activities**
- **Social engagement and volunteering activities with food, growing or processing**
- **Cultural and heritage initiatives around food and drink that contribute to a sustainable food place**
- **One off events**
- **Skills and training initiatives focussed around growing, processing or using food and drink**



## RURAL INNOVATION AND INVESTMENT FUND

Investment in a minimum of 10 rural businesses / initiatives that support the enhancement of Caerphilly's Rural Economy. Investments examples include marketing and staff investments to increase rural competitiveness, shorten supply chains and to introduce new products. The Rural Industry and Innovation Fund is for a maximum of 80% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £30,000.00 exclusive of VAT.

Physical investments into equipment and machinery to diversify farm businesses, boost social enterprises and support businesses to invest in new products. Previous grant support has supported new food businesses, increased drink makers production, supported new manufacture of land-based products and supported rural businesses to increase productivity and competitiveness to overcome the barriers to operating in rural locations.

The fund will target farm diversification directly and measures to boost alternative produce to combat global supply issues and reduce food miles. Measures to reduce the carbon intensity of agriculture will be trialled.



Investments examples could include capital investments into equipment and machinery to diversify farm businesses, boost social enterprises and support businesses to invest in new products.

The fund can also be used to support revenue costs such as marketing and staff investments to increase rural competitiveness, shorten supply chains and to introduce new products.

Previous grant support has supported new food businesses, increased drink makers production, supported new manufacture of land-based products and supported rural businesses to increase productivity and competitiveness to overcome the barriers to operating in rural locations.

The fund will target farm diversification directly and measures to boost alternative produce to combat global supply issues and reduce food miles and will consider measures to trial reducing the carbon intensity of agriculture.

**A broad overview of the type and scope of projects that are eligible to apply to request support include the following:**



- **Agriculture and Agricultural associated activities**
- **Tourism, hospitality and visitor economy**
- **Research and Innovation in rural areas**
- **Land based production, processing and supply chains**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Creative Industries**
- **IT**



## CULTURAL HERITAGE

In 2024 the Council will publish and adopt its Buildings at Risk Strategy using data provided by Cadw. The Strategy is being considered by the Council's Cabinet in December 2023 and will identify an action plan to tackle these nationally important buildings and prevent them being lost forever.

The Strategy accepts that given the range in scale of listed buildings and their sometimes, complex issues there is a need to identify a range of options to tackle buildings at risk.

As part of this Strategy, a Historic Building Grant is being development and being made available from April 2024 to owners of listed buildings at risk within the Borough through the Shared Prosperity Fund. If successful, applicants will see the Council provide financial assistance to help fund the costs of a restoration project for buildings qualifying for the scheme.

The Historic Buildings Grant is being developed to support owners of listed buildings at risk through the provision of a capital funding grant that will enable owners to repair their buildings and preserve these nationally significant buildings for future generations.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Establish a Community Grants Programme for use by community groups/third sector/voluntary sector.

### COST OF LIVING GRANT



- Establish a Cost-of-Living Crisis Support Fund to provide programmes and campaigns to encourage the uptake of energy efficiency measures for homes such as heat pumps, water pumps, increased insulation etc.
- Target the most deprived communities across the county borough with support via an Energy Efficiency Fabric First Programme.
- Provide support for local foodbanks, social supermarkets and Fair Share Schemes to assist residents.

## FUNDING & SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY SPACES - PROJECT W11

The aim is to establish Community Grants Programme for use by community groups/third sector/voluntary sector. Funding for community spaces, such as village halls, libraries or community centres for local civil society and community groups to use. Training programmes to support local civil society and community group leaders.



## Developing the Community Support Fund & Mobilising Engagement

Capitalising on the development of Caerphilly Cares since its inception in ensuring the needs of residents are at the heart of delivery, the team have engaged with groups, individuals and organisations across the borough primarily dealing with Cost-of-Living issues emanating from our communities.

They have prioritised working closely with internal departments and organisations while cutting across SPF priorities using an existing workforce in meeting the required aims and objectives of each work stream.



### Outcomes & Notable Achievements to Date

- 86 community groups supported across 24 wards within the borough. Groups are assisted to access funding and or training to help achieve long term sustainability.
- 70 Welcoming Spaces established and maintained.
- From April 23 to February 24, 1,265 welcoming spaces sessions have been held, where 3,126 individuals attended, and 126 referrals made to the Caerphilly Cares gateway to receive appropriate support.
- Caerphilly Cares Gateway have taken over 5,000 calls and received over 1,500 emails requesting help. The key issues raised by residents are as follows:
  - Food & Fuel Poverty (referrals made to local foodbanks & CAB)
  - Income Maximisation (referrals made to Tenancy Support & CAB)
  - Loneliness & Isolation (residents signposted to existing groups & services)
  - Poor Mental Health (residents signposted to existing groups & services)
- The gateway ensures residents are appropriately signposted to existing provision and will support individuals until they are ready to move on.
- Cross cutting collaborative work and establishing resident focused initiatives, processes, and projects in collaboration with partners.

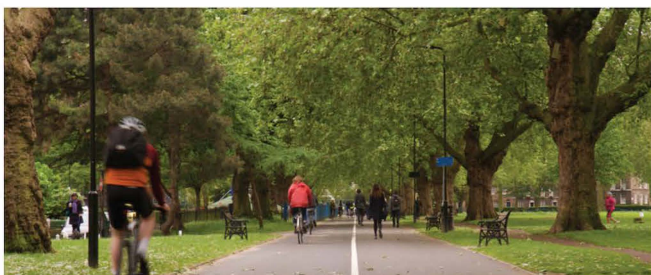


## DIGITAL

- Increase the accessibility and availability of digital infrastructure in local communities.
- Identify key sites that need digital infrastructure improvements plus various employment sites.
- Improve Wi Fi/digital connectivity in town centres and offer support to local businesses via the Caerphilly Enterprise Fund (CEF) to enable businesses to buy and implement new industrial digital technology solutions to add value to their offer.
- Develop a digital application e.g. Near me Now which will enable residents to access the nearest shop, bank, restaurant online and allow independent companies to advertise appointment or promotional offers on the local high street.

## TRANSPORT AND ACCESSIBILITY

- Support initiatives that contribute to active travel use such as the provision of new or improved cycleways/paths and an Active Travel Promotional Budget to promote their use.
- Increase Electric Vehicle charging points at key destinations.



## STREETWAVE

£15.5k allocated to undertake studies on network coverage within the authority. The aim is to improve connectivity with existing networks.



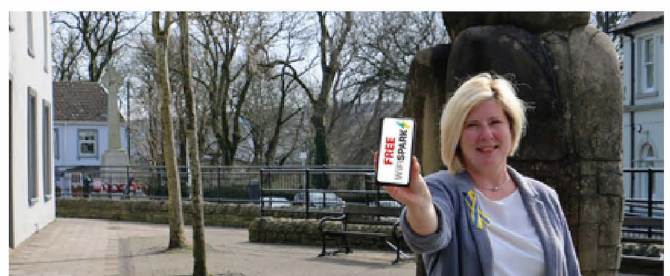
## FREE TOWN CENTRE WIFI

Upkeep and running of the free town centre wifi programme created in Bargoed, Blackwood, Risca, Rhymney, Ystrad Mynach, Newbridge and Caerphilly town centres.

**Cllr. Jamie Pritchard Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Prosperity, Regeneration and Climate Change**

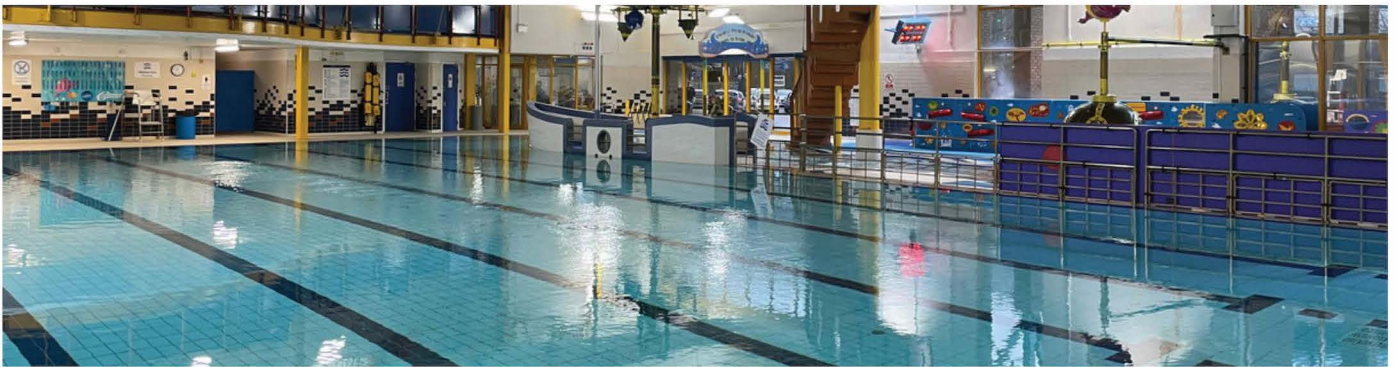
"Keeping people connected while utilising our high streets is a massive boost for our town centres. This provision is another exciting opportunity to draw people back to local town centres.

Free public access Wi-Fi offers opportunities for people with limited or no broadband to access vital online local council, government and health care services. The service will also allow residents and local businesses to engage digital solutions to help improve the overall visitor experience for all".



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- Promote the importance of community sports facilities and engaging in sports.
- Establish a CCBC Sports and Recreation Grants programme for community groups to support community sports leagues.
- Make provision for 3G pitches at a local Community School to improve the provision of sports facilities to create a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- Make provision for Area Co-ordinators to signpost and link to existing services to improve health and well-being in the community.
- Provide a programme of Fitness Suite Enhancements to increase the number of facilities supported/created with the aim of increasing the number of users of facilities/amenities.
- Strengthen our social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.



## SPORT CAERPHILLY FACILITY GRANT

Sporting Clubs that reside in Caerphilly County Borough can now apply to access this funding (**up to £2,000 per club**) to enhance their facility, which in turn help increase opportunities for participation!

The Sport Caerphilly Facility Grant has been developed to support community clubs within the borough. It aims to assist clubs through a Capital funding grant that will enable clubs to grow and improve their settings to benefit residents within our borough.



## SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTS, CULTURAL, HERITAGE AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES - W60

The project has focused on developing creative community hubs that are co created by local people to address their needs. This may be addressing well being, creative or social issues. It enables people to reach their full potential with a forward-thinking approach. The skills of people in communities and employed artists are used as the catalysts to develop social cohesion and better well being. The aim is to mentor and support communities to help themselves and find their own creative solutions to their day to day life.

**Zenfest was a week long arts festival that targeted 4 distinct communities around the county that we identified as having both low creative opportunities and identified Social needs that we discussed through partners and officers working around the county.**

**Day 1 Markham Community Centre  
Day 2 Nelson Community Centre  
Day 3 Risca Library  
Day 4 Caerphilly Miners/Newbridge Library**



**Over 850 people attend during the week with many staying all day to participate in range of activities such as circus skills, music, storytelling, drama games, arts and crafts and writing skills. This has led us to develop projects around these 4 areas and form partnerships with many of the creative people and organizations.**

Follow up of the 4 main areas:



- Mother and toddler drama group in Markham
- Inclusive arts and crafts group in Markham
- Developing whole family projects to bring people together
- Working with Inside Out Cymru at Markham Community house to deliver work that address low level mental health issues
- Working with the creative project manager for Bute Energy developing long term programmes of work in Nelson
- Through partnering with the library we've worked with Caerphilly creatives to extend inclusive arts to Newbridge
- Worked with Menter Iath to establish a Welsh language youth theatre at Caerphilly Miners
- Supported the creative industries so that they can work in the area through a small bursary scheme that mentors and develops 4 local creatives to become self employed
- The project has also supported the pilot of the talking shop which is based in Blackwood shopping precinct



## TOWN CENTRE & REGENERATION

As part of the Business Enterprise and Renewal Team, the Town Centre Management Team takes a proactive approach to the development, promotion, and marketing of our town centres and the business communities within them to ensure the economic success of the County Borough.

Our support is focused but not limited to the five principal town centres of Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Ystrad Mynach and Risca, where we work closely alongside other directorates within the Council, Town Councils, and external partners to create diverse, sustainable and thriving places for communities to live in, work and enjoy.





## What is Choose Local?

There are five principal town centres within Caerphilly County Borough: Caerphilly, Blackwood, Risca, Bargoed and Ystrad Mynach. They are supported by the four local centres of Newbridge, Rhymney, Nelson and Bedwas. Each town centre has their own characteristics and attractions that make them great places to shop, work, live and enjoy.



Objectives:

- Encourage and engage with the public to shop their local high street.
- Encourage a community feel of supporting their local businesses.
- Increase footfall and business for the local economy.

## What is the VZTA Smart Towns App?

Caerphilly Council and Near Me Now Ltd have collaborated to bring the VZTA Smart Towns App to the County Borough's five principal town centres, Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Ystrad Mynach and Risca.



### For Consumers:

The purpose of the app is to provide a digital Highstreet that makes it easy for people to shop local with local product listings, events, and services available at the click of a button. VZTA Smart Towns app is free to download and use by all members of the public.



### For Businesses:

VZTA equips businesses with the tools necessary to compete online and communicate quickly and easily with locals and visitors to their town centre. Businesses can promote their products and services, raise the profile of town centre events and work collaboratively with their town centre business community to create a sense of place online.



VZTA Smart Towns app is free to use for any business with a physical presence currently within the designated town centre boundary of the County Borough's five principal towns.



**SCAN THE  
QR CODE  
TO GET THE  
APP**



## EVENTS

All over Caerphilly Borough, UKSPF has allowed us to put on many fantastic seasonal events throughout the year. From Spring & Summer Fairs, Beach Parties, Food Festivals, The Little Cheese, and of course our various Christmas Fairs, we are able to put on a variety of events.



# 2022-23 UKSPF-funded Town Centre Events

Event	Footfall
Blackwood Spring Fair 2023	8,058
Bargoed Spring Fair 2023	76,470
Caerphilly Food & Drink Festival 2023	70,977
Risca Beach Party 2023	2,533
The Little Cheese Festival 2023	77,737
Caerphilly Pride	7,704
Ystrad Mynach Winter Food & Craft Fair 2023	5,385
Blackwood Winter Food & Craft Fair 2023	7,627
Caerphilly Winter Food & Craft Fair 2023	9,326
Ystrad Mynach Spring Fair 2024	5,623

**RECORD NUMBERS OF ATTENDANCE SEEN AT MANY OF THE EVENTS.**



**RED** boxes indicate highest footfall on record for that event.



# Town Centre Events - Businesses' Feedback



**“On behalf of Risca RFC, we were very grateful for the advertising, we did also get on every local social media page. The day was fantastic, we were busy all day and totally sold out of burgers and hot dogs. It was great to see so many people in Risca town and there is no doubt other businesses would have benefited from the day. Bring on next year’s Risca Beach Party!”**

**Louise Jenkyn, Club Secretary at Risca RFC  
Risca Beach Party 2023**

***“Good community spirit, ticked all the boxes, lovely for the kids, the petting zoo and pantomime were very popular.”***

**Memories  
Ystrad Mynach Spring Fair 2023**



**“It may have been called the Little Cheese, but there was nothing little about this year’s festival. It was fantastic, Caerphilly shone. There were so many happy faces, lots of laughter, dancing in the High St. It was amazing, all the small business who joined us at Caerphilly Artisan Market were blown away. A perfect weekend, in a beautiful town. Well done to everyone involved and thank you.”**

**Christopher Hall, Caerphilly Artisan Market  
The Little Cheese Festival 2023**

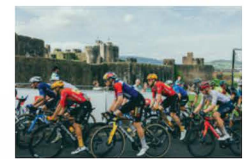


**“Lots of smiling happy faces all day long. Best street fair we’ve ever seen, there were more market stalls. Very well organised. Really positive event. Blackwood was kept spotless throughout the day and lots to do for the kids too!”**

**Sarah, Darren and Sharon from  
Woodies  
Blackwood Spring Fair 2023**



# Tour Of Britain 2023



*Carlos Rodriguez on his way to winning this year's final stage of the Tour Of Britain, here in Caerphilly.*

The Tour of Britain is the UK's biggest cycle race, and featured its first return to the legendary Caerphilly Mountain climb since 2013 to conclude a spectacular final stage in South Wales.

Event attendance 45,000. Net visitor expenditure £725,501.00

Stage eight of the Tour saw over 100 of the world's best riders race from the picturesque Margam Country Park to the finish line in the shadows of the spectacular Caerphilly Castle.

## WOUT VAN AERT CROWNED TOUR OF BRITAIN CHAMPION IN CAERPHILLY

Wout van Aert became only the third rider in history to win the Tour of Britain twice after withstanding multiple attacks in Sunday's dramatic final stage in South Wales.

**94% visitors to the event rated it very enjoyable**

**76% of visitors came from outside the area**

**85% would visit the area again**

**57% of visitors inspired to cycle more often**

Andy Hawes | Route Director

"I must thank Caerphilly Council for their support in pulling together what has been hailed as one of our greatest final stages ever!"





# Town Centre Enhancement

Town centres were audited and as a result of the audit it was recognised that enhancements were required to create places that attracted visitors, increase dwell time and provide sustainable places.

Ongoing improvements were required to upgrade and create an improved visual enhancement in order to attract additional town centre users, create a sense of well being and enhance the sense of place. This will contribute to the sustainability through the improvement of green spaces within the centres.

Conversations were held with councillors, town councils and stakeholders in each town centre to determine priorities. Deep cleansing, seating upgrades, algae removal, painting, and green space enhancements were carried out in the key areas.

## Town Centre Enhancements have been broken down into:

- Seating improvements
- Town centre audit enhancements
- Meanwhile Space

### Seating improvements

We have replaced a significant number of benches within Caerphilly and Risca and some in Blackwood after the Town Centre Team noted the condition of town centre benches during on-site audit inspections. The new benches are aesthetically pleasing and made of recycled plastic that should ensure better sustainability, greater accessibility and reduced maintenance. We have also introduced additional seating for town centre users.

9 benches removed

43 benches replaced in total **Cost - £56,566.00**



**Improved accessibility**



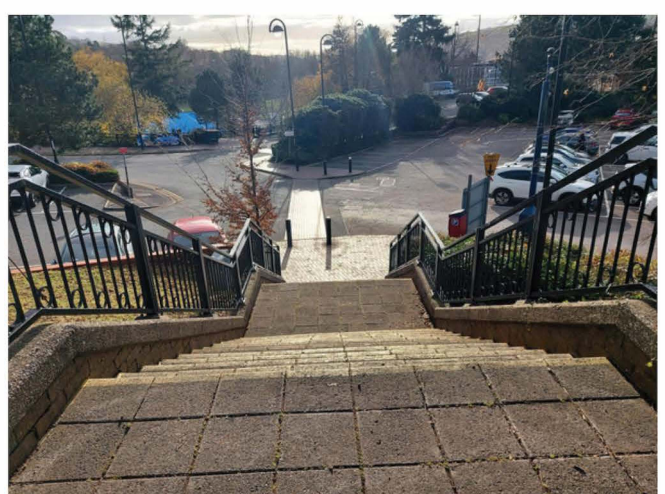
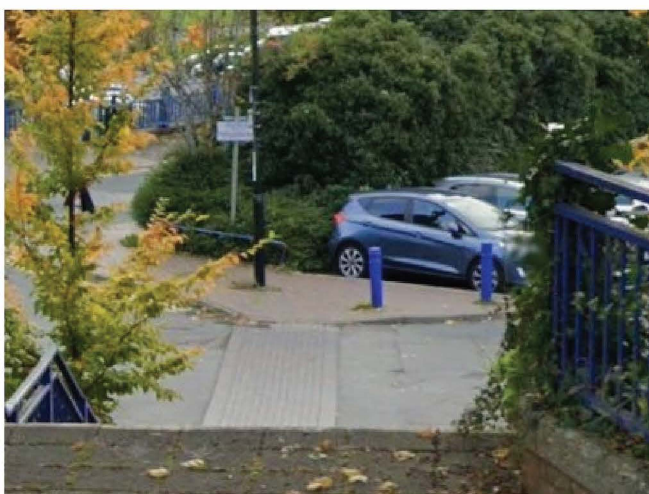
**Additional provision of seating**

# YSTRAD MYNACH

£17,036 invested in Ystrad Mynach

## SPF Projects examples

- Siloh Square - town centre enhancement.
- Penallta Road - town centre enhancement.
- High Street - benches as a town centre enhancement.
- Pengam Road - town centre enhancement.
- Oakfield Street Car Park - EPG Feasibility Study to examine the feasibility of creating ramped access to the car park in Year 3, with the intention of improving DDA accessibility and connectivity to the town centre.

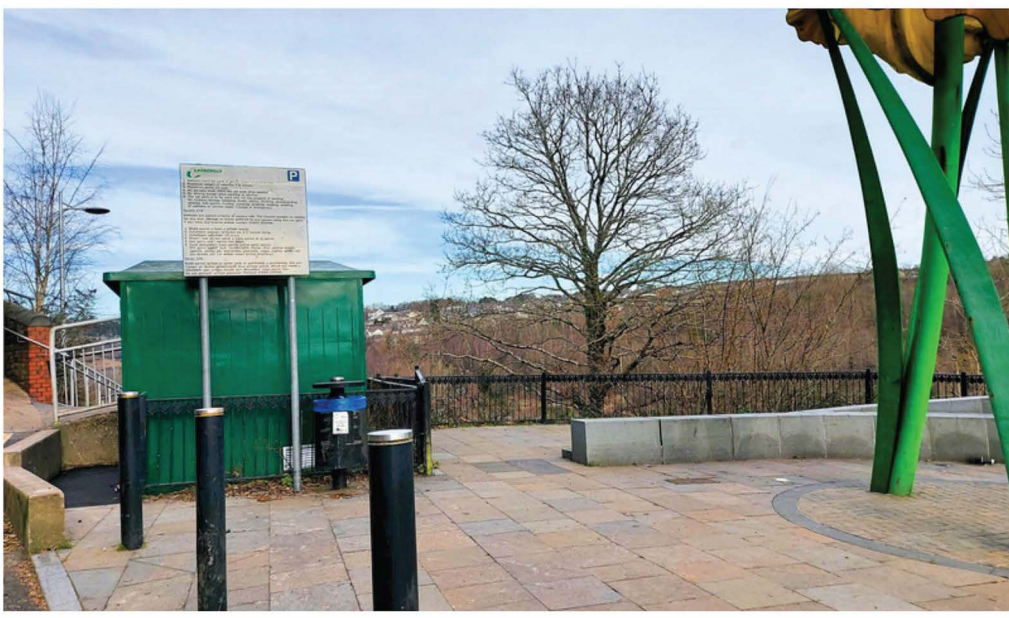


# BARGOED

£74,365 invested in Bargoed

## SPF Projects examples

- Gateway Steps - enhancement works to retaining wall.
- Miners' Heads - fabrication, and seating to enhance the visual amenity of the area.
- Hanbury Road Steps enhancements - barrier stabilisation and repointing of brickwork.
- Royal Square - seating enhancement.
- Bargoed Gateway Steps – the creation of a soft landscaping seating area as a town centre enhancement is being progressed and will include picnic benches and pebble seating once completed.



## Bargoed Miners' Head Sculpture

£3850 invested



The much loved sculpture in Bargoed was in need of enhancement to bring it back to its former glory and to prevent future damage and provide additional seating.

Enhancement to areas of Bargoed including the High Street, St Gwladys Car Park, Upper High Street, Emporium Car Park, Bus Station, Chisholm's Lane, Hanbury Road, Community Gardens, Royal Square, Lower Plaza Square, Colliers Walk, Cardiff Road and Hanbury Road Car Park.



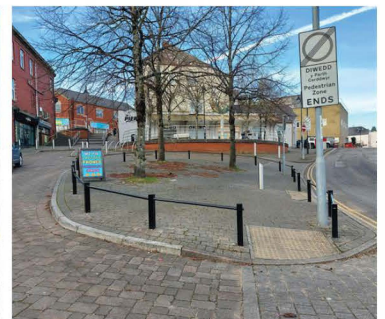


# BLACKWOOD

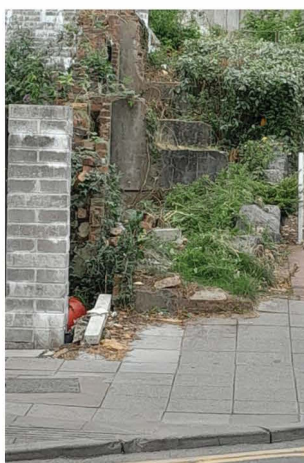
£52.421 invested in Blackwood

## SPF Projects examples

- Land next to 54 High Street - enhance to seating area amenity.
- Gravel Lane - enhancements to pavement following fire damage.
- Woodbine Road - Landscaping works to include removal of hoarding, excavation of rubbish and existing bed, import soil and supply and plant new plants. Recapping and rendering of boundary wall to ensure the safety of town centre users.
- High Street - Boots to Woodbine Road - installation of vehicle mitigation bollards to improve visitor safety and pedestrian access to town centre.
- Hall Street - Installation of a knee rail to improve safety and prevent on pavement parking.



Enhancement to areas of Blackwood including Bus Station, Bus Station Car Park, Gravel Lane, High Street and restoration of sculptures

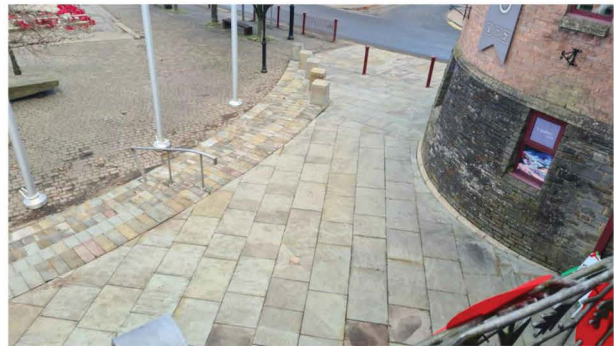
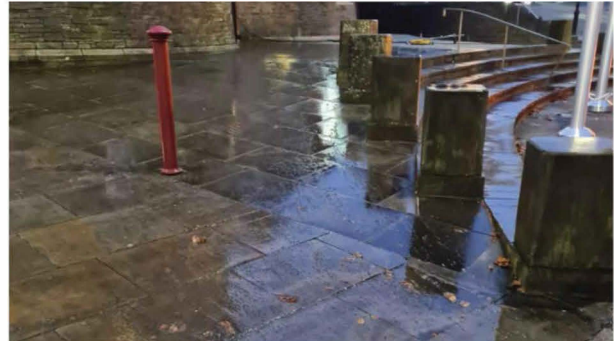


# CAERPHELLY

£58,643 invested in Caerphilly

## SPF Projects examples

- Cardiff Road - enhance the visual amenity of the area.
- Station Terrace / Mountain Road - Relay slabs around the trees and bottom of handrail to enhance public access.
- Cardiff Road - Removal surplus parklet from Bargoed and relocated to Caerphilly as a seating enhancement.
- Clive Street - modification to two parklets to ensure safety.
- Relaying of Yorkstone slabs around the Cenotaph for visual improvement and visitor safety.



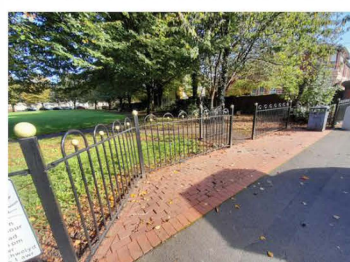
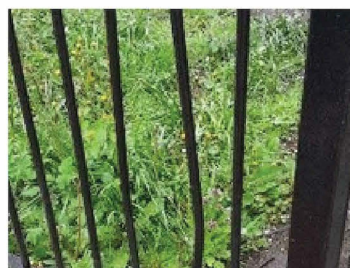
Enhancement to areas of Caerphilly including Station Terrace to Mountain Road, Obelisk area, Cardiff Road, Castle Street, and Cenotaph.

# RISCA

£41,138 invested in Risca

## SPF Projects examples

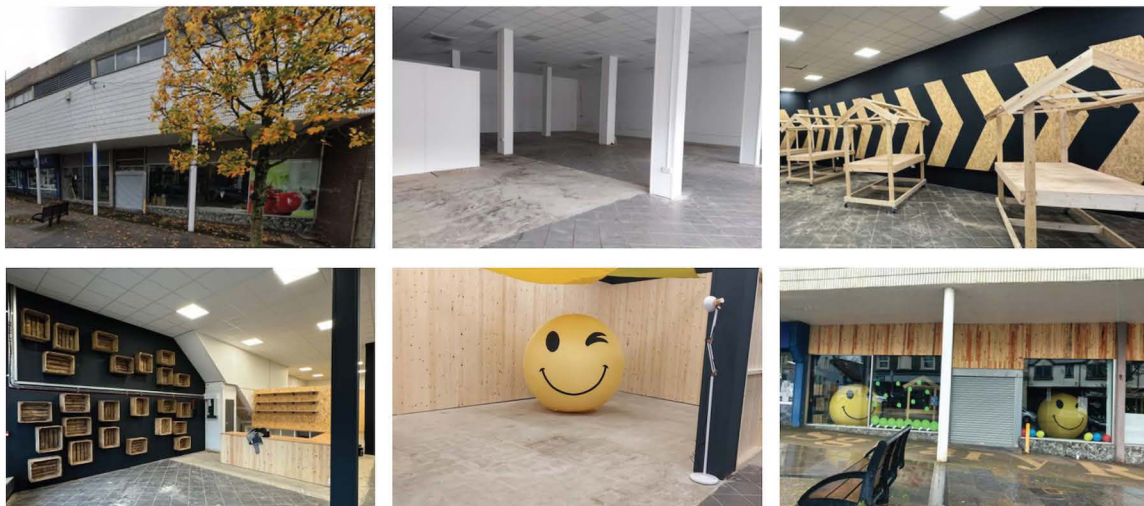
- Enhancement to street lighting to enable stakeholders to provide seasonal lighting.
- Work has begun on land next to Commercial Street roundabout (Pontymister) - this is the redevelopment of the soft landscaping seating area as a town centre enhancement.
- New benches and seating area to enhance the town centre.



- Tredegar Park - railings fabrication to enhance visual amenity of area.
- Tredegar Street - remedial works to dipped paving to improve public access to town centre.
- Tredegar Street - modification to two parklets to enhance public access.



## MEANWHILE SPACE **£22,250 invested**



A Meanwhile Space refers to the temporary use of vacant units, sometimes referred to as Pop-Ups, generally at low cost or no rent. Meanwhile Spaces can have direct financial benefits to landlord and reduces potential additional costs, improves perception of the area, and adds activity and vibrancy that can in turn support wider development. Meanwhile Spaces can support start-ups to test the market, create employment opportunities and increase an areas sense of community.

The SPF funding for the piece of scoping work that was carried out in Year 1 to identify a suitable pilot for such a space. 28-29 High Street, Bargoed was identified as being appropriate for such a project due to the number of years vacant, having a large shop front that was not pleasing on the eye and being in a central location that would address the perception of the area by introducing activity with a business and community focus.

The project has been completed and is due to open early May and will provide business accommodation at no risk for potential businesses, it will include community areas for workshops, training, co working opportunities and bring activity and vibrancy into a previously disused property.



# Supporting Local Business



## **SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS**

*To enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.*

# Business Enterprise & Renewal Team

## HELPING TO BUILD BUSINESS



***Funding new initiatives and growth can be difficult. Various help is available to help achieve these goals.***

The Business Enterprise Renewal Team can help with grant applications and oversee various business grants, such as:

- **UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund Business Grants**
- **CEF Business Grants**
- **UKSPF Start up Business Grants**
- **UKSPF Business Support Project Grant**
- **Rural Development Grants**
- **Community grants**

They can also help advise on other Welsh Government grants and investment loans available. Regular Business Clinics are organised throughout the authority, check social media for dates in your area.

**Adam Sadler - Principal Business Development Officer**

"The Business Enterprise Renewal team offers bespoke tailored advice and guidance for new and existing businesses around the Caerphilly borough. This ranges from grant and funding support to international trade advice and town centre development as well as business marketing, promotion and regeneration project management. The Shared Prosperity Fund has enabled us to offer enhanced support through the delivery of various projects including match funded grant distribution and has helped make a positive impact on the businesses we have supported."



# Business Support & Funding Clinics

## 10 CLINICS AND 130 BUSINESSES HELPED



The Business Enterprise & Renewal Team host numerous clinics throughout the Borough where businesses can find out more about local support available from a variety of organisations. Working together we can provide funding to start or expand a business, supporting you with funding in order to purchase new equipment or even to buy a business.

The clinics have been an ideal opportunity to meet with local business and explain the UKSPF grants that could be available to grow their companies.

## Business Development Grants

### 2023 - 2024 STATS



**UKSPF - CEF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT**  
**68 AWARDED AND OVER £904,000.00 GRANTED**



**UKSPF - CEF BUSINESS START-UP GRANT**  
**4 AWARDED OVER £18,700.00 GRANTED**

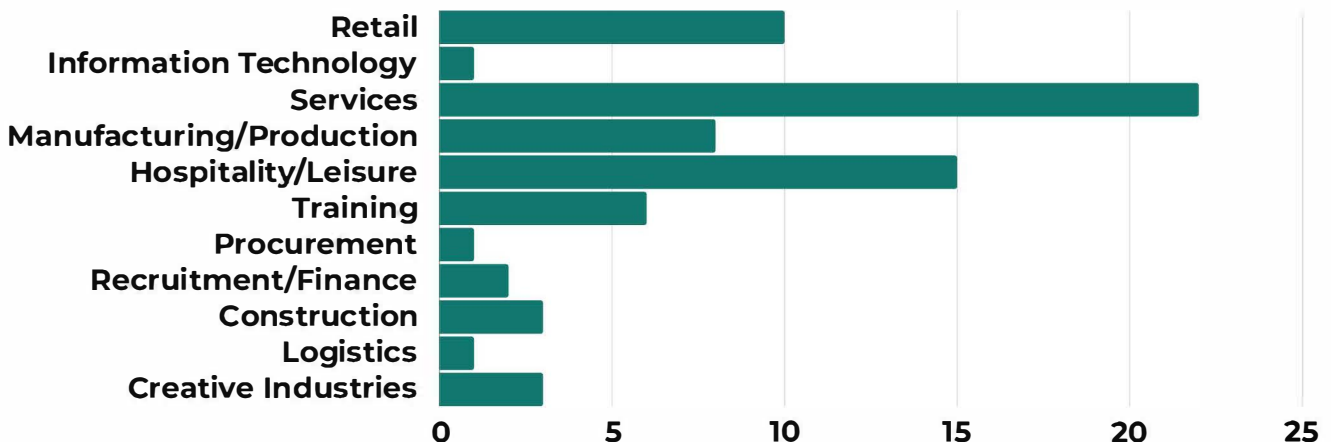


**JOBS CREATED - 156**  
**JOBS SAFEGUARD - 431**



**Grants supporting local businesses and businesses relocating to Caerphilly 2023 - 2024.**

### Types of Sectors grants allocated



## Business Case Studies

As part of the UKSPF Levelling Up funding Caerphilly Council's Business Enterprise and Renewal Team have been making a real impact to business throughout the borough with grant support. Here are just a highlight of some of the businesses supported.



### Smugglers Equestrian Centre

Smugglers Equestrian Centre, based at Penderi Farm Lane Manmoel, Blackwood, offer Livery to the local community and Riding lessons, Horsebox Hire, Facility Hire as well as holding events. Smugglers Equestrian Centre received £9000.00 from the UK Government through the CCBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

There grant was to support with the purchase of a mechanical horse so they are able to offer riding lessons to complete beginners, also to enable other riders to perfect their dressage movements and basic arena movements buy practicing balance. The Centre is the only facility in the whole of Wales to offer this facility.

The new project has safeguarded 2 employment positions enhancing the various roles of these employees. It also provides another source of income for them and attracts custom from further afield.

**Owner Melissa Bules**

**"The grant we received from CCBC enabled us to offer a wider range of equestrian services by providing specific dressage, general riding and Riding for the Disabled (RDA) sessions via our mechanical horse. This has been an invaluable asset to our centre. This new addition has secured jobs by adding a further source of income. Without the Grant from Caerphilly Council, we would not have been able to fund this new venture as the risk of the investment was too great."**

### HUBU

HUBU are a Accountancy and Business Advice company who have been operating since 2008.

In 2021 Greg took on new business' premises in Bargoed Town centre, they applied for a Transforming Towns grant and was awarded £25,000 to start the refurbishment works on the property.

In 2022 awarded £10,000 from the UK Government through the CCBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which was to help finish of the refurbishment of the building. Works included a new Kitchen area for staff, refurbishment of Shop Frontage, office furniture and IT equipment for staff.

In 2023 Greg awarded a further £10,000 from the UK Government through the CCBC UK Shared Prosperity Fund. to help with finishing the works which included Rear Access Works, refurbishment of bathroom area and creation of a staff area.

These works enabled Greg to take on 2 new members of staff and refurbishment what had been an empty property on Bargoed High Street.

### CEO Greg Hughes

**"With further expansion and recruitment of more staff the business has grown from a home business into a large, much needed service for our clients. We couldn't have done it without the support from Caerphilly Council and the UKSPF grants."**



## More Business Case Studies



### CB Refrigeration Ltd

CB Refrigeration has been in business for over 50 years and in 2016 relocated their main office to Caerphilly. Since then, owner Andrew Hall has seen the business grow from strength to strength with turnover now more than £4.3 million and increasing by 25% this year alone. They specialise, throughout the UK, in supplying, maintaining and fitting refrigeration and air conditioning for Retail, Hospitality and Distributor sectors, with some of the major blue-chip companies in hospitality among their clients.

CB Refrigeration received £11,877.75 from CCBC through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to refit their offices to accommodate their new staff, build a new reception area and purchase the new IT needed to allow the business to grow. The expansion of the company saw a further 18 new staff being taken on in various roles throughout the company.

#### CEO Andrew Hall

**"We have seen a dramatic growth in our business in the last few years so the help and support from Caerphilly Council's Business Team was very much welcomed. The whole process of applying for the grant was made very easy by the Team, who have been there to advise and support us all the way."**

### SPORTTAPE Ltd

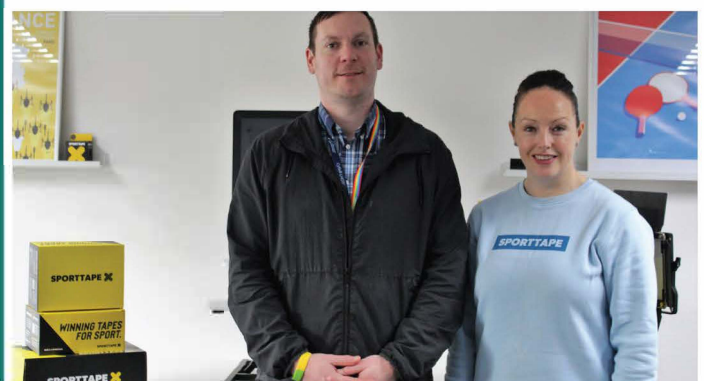
The brand was born out of a passion to help other athletes (get injured less and recover faster). Fortunately, in 2012 Sports tape LTD managed to supply Team GB for the London Olympics and that propelled them to fame. They have now sold over 5 million meters of our flagship kinesiology tape and it has been worn by Olympians and World Champions.

Sports Tape Ltd received £4515.25 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to help the purchase of IT and filming equipment to help with advertising product to break into other markets such as Amazon online retail.

The company has seen a 30% growth and an earmarked to achieve a £2million turnover this year with projected figures of £3 million next year. The company is currently working on 3 sites and plans to find premises in the Caerphilly area to bring it all under one roof.

#### Kate-Anne Kelly, Founder, SPORTTAPE.

**"As a Caerphilly based business, being able to access funding through the CEF Business Development grant has helped expedite the purchase of much needed technical equipment. As a result, we are now able to professionally film online educational content in house for our customers which promotes the full range of SPORTTAPE products we offer. More recently with this content, we have expanded onto new social platforms including TikTok and now have over 280k followers with more than 75 million video views taking our South Wales business truly global."**





## More Business Case Studies



### Libanus Lifestyle

Libanus Lifestyle is a registered Community Interest Company, whose profits are put straight back in to the Libanus Centre. As part of the gateway to Blackwood High Street the grounds and venue had seen better times, so in 2014, Libanus Lifestyle was created to provide a community hub, cafe, and garden, providing a wide range of health and wellbeing services and venue hire for meetings, events, and community needs.

Libanus Lifestyle received £25,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This grant was dedicated towards Libanus Lifestyle through Caerphilly County Borough Council's intervention of UKSPF funds. The grant was matched funded and was used to replace the roof of their premises.

#### Director Karen James

"The support from Caerphilly Council has been amazing, the ease of applying for the grant and the support given, made what we thought would be a daunting process into an easy one. The funding has meant we can now make the centre sustainable as a commercial building with plans to access the attic space for further use. The worth of the help is more than just financial and will see us provide a long-term benefit to the community as a whole."

### Terry's Patisserie

Terry's Patisserie is an award-winning specialist food manufacturing business, providing hand-crafted patisserie products to hotels, restaurants, stadiums, and venues throughout the UK as well as the local community.

The company employs 14 people, including highly skilled chefs from all around the world, as well as recruiting local talent. The company also works with Cambrian Training to upskill their recruits to the level required to succeed in their roles.

Around the UK, Terry's Patisserie has worked with clients including RHS Chelsea Flower Show, Ascot Races, as well as numerous notable football clubs, hotels, and venues, representing some of Britain's iconic hospitality events.

The company received £25,000 (£22,000 capital and £3,000 revenue) from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This grant was 50% match funded by Terry's Patisserie and dedicated towards the company through Caerphilly County Borough Council's intervention of the UKSPF. The equipment bought using this grant has allowed the company to elevate business productivity, attain Safe and Local Supplier Approval (SALSA) accreditation and gain a NOUVEM software system.

#### Director Rhys Williams

"It was a very simple process, and it was great to be able to easily reach someone on the phone. And the fact that the team have been flexible to suit the business is brilliant."



## More Business Case Studies



### Street Food Factory

Street Food Factory, operating since 2019, have expanded their business with a new bespoke mobile food kitchen to keep up with demand for their products and service. The company has gone from strength to strength since the pandemic with revenue and sales up over 23%.

They received £24,249.00 from CCBC through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The grant was match funded by the business and made up of £20717.49 as a capital grant, and £3531.51 in a revenue grant.

The grant supported the conversion of the mobile kitchen with the purchase of the kitchen equipment needed to create a space where food can be prepared. The support also helped towards the costs of the 2 new staff members, their training, staff uniform, Staff Reward Scheme and also payment software for touchscreen payments.

#### Owner Mathew Whitcombe

**"The grant has been a huge factor in allowing us to expand our business and provide what our customers needed. The application process was very easy to apply for and the Business Teams support in the process was very reassuring. It has really helped kickstart our plans to make the business bigger and better than ever!"**

### The Westgate Rymney Brewery

Rymney Brewery is a local brewery that invests in growth in local communities all over South Wales. They have converted a vacant property in Blackwood High Street to a New Public House.

This is a standalone business that serves Rymney Brewery Beer. The pub will be the only true real ale bar in Blackwood offering all their brewery's real ales and is the 13th bar they have now opened.

The new bar is a step forward in improving Blackwood's nighttime economy.

Rymney Brewery received £20,870.00 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This grant was dedicated towards Rymney Brewery through Caerphilly County Borough Council's intervention of UKSPF funds. They also received £5000 from Caerphilly County Council's UKSPF business start up grant. The grants were used to help the renovation of all walls and ceiling in the property, making it an inviting place for customers.

#### Managing Director - Steve Evans

**"The application process to apply for the grants was the best and most straight forward I have encountered. The Business Team at Caerphilly Council were very supportive and helpful making the process as seamless as I could wish for. The grant has allowed to bring this much needed bar to Blackwood and create 6 new jobs in the area."**



# New grants for 2024-2025



**UKSPF TOURISM GRANT**

*Friendly faces, Fascinating places!*

**What is the grant for?**  
The Tourism Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing Tourism attractions or Accommodation enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs).  
Eligible items may include:  
• Revenue - E-Commerce/ website/ one off marketing costs  
• Capital - property refurbishment or enhancement and capital equipment

**UP TO £25,000 MATCH FUNDED CAPITAL & REVENUE GRANTS**

**Who can apply?**  
The Fund is open to existing Businesses and new Business Start Ups in Tourism specifically attractions and accommodation businesses.

More information and how to apply  
Tel: 01443 866220  
Email: [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
WWW.CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK

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The **Tourism Grant** aims to support a range of development activities with a focus on helping enterprises achieve their long-term business ambitions, through quantifiable economic, environmental and social outputs that will add value to their operations through an enhancement of their production, service and output capabilities.

**Business Development (Revenue)** – The grant for this theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £5,000 exclusive of VAT (if applicable).

**Business Development (Capital)** – The grant for this Theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £25,000 exclusive of VAT

**Business Development (Capital & Revenue)** – For business looking to apply for a mixture of both elements the maximum Grant for the Revenue element will be £5,000 and the maximum grant for the Capital element will be £20,000 making a maximum total as a whole award of £25,000.

The **IT Development Grant** aims to support with a focus on helping enterprises achieve their long-term business ambitions, through quantifiable economic, environmental and social outputs that will add value to their operations through an enhancement of their production, service and output capabilities.

**Business Development (Revenue)**– The grant for this theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £7,500 exclusive of VAT (if applicable)



**UKSPF IT DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

**50% Match Funded REVENUE GRANTS UP TO £7500**

**What is the grant for?**  
The IT Development Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized manufacturing businesses (SMEs) in the Caerphilly Borough develop and grow to help drive Wales's economic recovery.

**Who can apply?**  
The Fund is open to existing Businesses and new Business Start Ups, Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises, established Community Groups or Social Enterprises; Sole Traders; Partnerships, Limited Companies, Community Businesses, Co-operatives and Registered Social Landlords within the Caerphilly Borough.

More information and how to apply  
Tel: 01443 866220  
E-mail: [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
[www.caerphilly.gov.uk](http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk)

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## UKSPF BUSINESS SUPPORT PROJECT FUND



10 local providers awarded. The project is expected to run between 1 September 2023 to 31 March 2025 with only Revenue expenditure available this financial year. A small Capital allocation can be applied for from April 2024 at around 10% of Revenue spend. The fund allows bids up to £150,000 and is limited to the South Wales region.

## 10 PROJECTS AWARDED

ORGANISATION	PROJECT	DESCRIPTION	AWARDED OVER 2 YEARS
Welsh ICE	Caerphilly IGNITE, Revitalising High Streets	Welsh ICE, Town Sq Spaces, and Caerphilly Business Club have teamed up to offer a package that revitalises high streets across Caerphilly.	£150,000.00
Welsh ICE	Caerphilly Enterprise HUB	HUB offers subsidised Workspace for pre-start businesses, support for established businesses, training and events, digital learning platform, tailored support, community connections.	£165,000.00
Welsh ICE	ICE Academy: 5-9 clubs and Hackathons	Entrepreneurship training & support programmes designed to assist aspiring entrepreneurs, early-stage startups, and established businesses. Delivered through 5-9 clubs.	£150,000.00
ESPORTS WALES CIC	Digital & Creative industry pathways programme	Expand our Industry Pathways Programme by providing training, networking and business support to young people aspiring to work in the digital or creative sectors.	£165,000.00
Business in Focus	Focus Futures	Community based engagement and business support service.	£149,110.76
CEMET	CEMET Caerphilly SPF programme	Support Caerphilly based start-ups, micro companies, SMEs and social enterprises through a bespoke 6-8 week SPF funded programme.	£140,573.52
Town Square Spaces Ltd	Elevate Caerphilly	Project looks to deliver targeted support for pre starts, start ups and businesses with high growth potential.	£139,233.00
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Leading and Growing Business	The project is organised around cohorts who will attend workshops, write assignments, and produce a Strategic Growth Project based on the requirements of their businesses.	£149,832.00
CWMPAS	Building community wealth in Caerphilly	Provision of specialist business and consultancy support and market development activity to enhance the delivery capacity of Social Business Wales (SBW) and support social businesses in Caerphilly to start up and grow.	£122,130.00
Cardiff Metropolitan University	Clean Growth Innovation Community Programme	The Clean Growth Innovation Community programme (CGIC) will support businesses and third sector organisations in Caerphilly, through a Programme Community of Practice (PCoP), to develop their innovation and Circular Economy (CE) capabilities.	£82,816.00

# INTERNATIONAL TRADE SUPPORT



Helping to develop companies export strategy, access training and masterclasses, linking to specialist export advisers and helping make the most of Welsh Government and Department for International Trade's (DIT's) global network to grow your presence on the global stage.

Whether they are looking to export for the first time, looking for support to grow into new or existing markets our International Trade Support Officer can support with:-



- **Advice / Guidance.**
- **Signposting.**
- **Organise events.**
- **Identifying and Generate Commercial Opportunities.**
- **Unlock Export Potential.**
- **Develop and Maximize Your Presence on the International Stage.**
- **Grants for :-Training, Publications/Subscriptions, Certifications/Accreditations, Overseas Marketing\*, and visits to Trade Fairs & Exhibitions.\* ( \* assessed on a case-by-case basis)**

**£2000 MATCH FUNDED GRANT**

**UKSPF INTERNATIONAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT GRANT**

**What is the grant for?**

The International Trade Development Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in Wales relaunch, develop, their import/export capabilities. Eligible items may include:

- Training.
- Publications / Subscriptions.
- Certifications / Accreditations.
- Overseas marketing. (Assessed on a case by case basis)
- Visit to Trade Fairs and Exhibitions. (Assessed on a case by case basis)

**Who can apply?**

The Fund is open to existing SME Businesses and new Business Start Ups.

**More Information and how to apply**

Tel: 01443 860220  
Email: [business@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:business@caerphilly.gov.uk)  
[WWW.CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK](http://WWW.CAERPHILLY.GOV.UK)

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CAERPHILLY COUNCIL

## UKSPF TRADE GRANT

The International Trade Development Grant provides targeted financial assistance to new and existing enterprises throughout the County Borough to help small and medium sized businesses (SMEs) in Wales relaunch, develop, their import/export capabilities and grow to help drive Wales' economic recovery.

The International Trade Development Grant aims to support a wide range of development activities with a focus on helping enterprises achieve their long-term business ambitions, through quantifiable economic, environmental and social outputs that will add value to their operations through an enhancement of their production, service and output capabilities.

Business Development & Support (Revenue)– The grant for this theme will be a maximum of 50% of reasonable eligible costs, up to a maximum grant award of £2,000 exclusive of VAT.

# UKSPF TRADE GRANT CASE STUDIES



**Atlantic Service Company**, based in Blackwood, has been manufacturing in South Wales since the 1970s. Manufacturing band saw blade material for the meat and fish industries using high quality European steel and follow strict quality guidelines., with a business turnover around £10m.

They were awarded a UKSPF International Trade Grant From CCBC to the sum £1,122.74 to help finance a trip to the Andina Pack International Trade Fair in Bogota Columbia.

The trip was a success receiving approximately £124k of orders for Q1 2024 with 1 more order currently being negotiated. It also helped build on existing relationships and future expansion plans in South America.



**Asbri Golf Ltd** based in Caerphilly, was founded in 2001 and was originally a product design consultancy which was commissioned to design sporting footwear, apparel and accessories to many global brands including Fila, Kappa, Puma and Umbro. Utilising this product design, developing, and sourcing knowledge, Asbri Golf was launched in 2003.

They secured an UKSPF International Trade Grant of £2000.00 from CCBC to assist with financing a recent trade visit to Canada assisting their Canadian Distributors with their largest national trade exhibition. Their visit helped their Canadian Distributors secure large orders for delivery Spring this year and have taken on new staff to join the ever-growing business.



**Ben Williams, of IAE Hire**

**IAE Hire** are a business that supply, hire and manufacture scaffolding systems for business and household consumer hire. Business owner Michael Wong and his colleague Ben Williams moved into the Ty Du business units in August 2022 after originally being based in Hong Kong.

**"The benefit of the Business Enterprise Renewal Team has been immense. From the stability to trade, the networking to local businesses and groups, help with grant information, event and exhibition opportunities, Sarah and Adam have been there to help us bridge the gap of working in a new country and to grow our business."**

Our International Trade Support Officer, Sarah Gaze and Principal Business Development Officer, Adam Sadler recently represented CCBC at the fantastic Explore Export Wales Conference 2024 in Cardiff.

The event is the biggest Export Conference in Wales seeing all of the major organisations and Government bodies attending. CCBC was the only Local Authority in Wales to attend.

### Sarah Gaze International Trade Officer

**"It was an excellent event to explore important avenues and contacts that will help us to benefit the County's businesses in achieving their exporting goals. It was also fantastic to see so many companies and entrepreneurs from our area attend the event."**



## INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

The market for employment property and sites in south-east Wales has improved over the past decade, with a range of enquiries for industrial land in the mid and upper Valleys for businesses seeking functional employment floorspace for manufacturing, trade counter or local distribution / administration base.

Oakdale Business Park sits within the Northern Valley and benefits from its proximity to the A465 which has benefited from a significant investment in the dualling of the trunk road. Plateau 2 within the business park currently sits within the ownership of the Council and is a reclaimed colliery site that has around 19 acres of undeveloped brownfield land to the South of the site.

As part of the plan to unlock this site for development around £1.5m of the SPF programme has been identified to extend the access road within the site to service the undeveloped land based on the masterplan to allow for the creation of new industrial space which could create over 130 jobs initially.





## People and Skills

### **PEOPLE AND SKILLS**

*The People and Skills investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education.*



# AIMS TO DELIVER SUPPORT, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT

- Make provision for employment support for economically inactive people.
- Jointly commission FE, ACL and locally procured bespoke courses which address skills gaps, address recruitment issues linked to skills gaps, and focus on growth areas in the local labour market including Creative and Digital, Green skills and green industries, Lower carbon sectors etc.
- Enable those employed in high carbon sectors locally to retrain / develop skills in lower carbon sectors.
- Jointly commissioning the FE sector to provide keyworker & wrap-around support (including counselling, financial inclusion, enrichment activities, health & wellbeing advice, hook courses, alternative qualifications etc) for those who are at risk of disengaging from EET within the FE setting.
- Deliver and procure work related qualifications.
- Provide individual support for people who are in work and would like to progress or change their career direction. Work related qualifications and interview skills and job search skills will be the focus.
- Set courses or learner led and cover topics such as – numeracy refresh, budgeting, managing your energy bills, shopping on a budget, cooking on a budget, and much more). One -to-one sessions will also be offered for those furthest away from engagement.
- Large scale events will be held over the life of the project to engage and enthuse the public/potential learners with the Multiply Programme.



Employment support for economically inactive people including intensive and wrap-around one to one support to move people closer to mainstream provision and to gain and retain employment.

Examples include tailored and intensive support delivered through mentors / key workers and referrals to local training, skills and specialised support.

The Caerphilly Employment Support team have provided Employability support to 375 people through the People and skills programme. 195 of these have accessed in-work support. 127 customers have completed a qualification.



# ACADEMY AWARDS CASE STUDIES

Caerphilly Employment Support Mentors and their participants recently celebrated their journeys and the support they've received through the Caerphilly Employment Support Programmes. The UKSPF funding has made an enormous impact on the ability to provide this scheme.

**Louise Aston - Team Leader - Employability Programmes**

"The merger of the 2 teams has allowed us to provide a streamlined and flexible service to meet the needs of the Caerphilly residents in relation to employment support via Welsh Government and UK Shared Prosperity Team."

**Kirstie Harris  
Mentor - Julie Davila**

Kirstie was referred to the SPF programme in October 2023. Julie Davila was appointed Kirstie Employment support Mentor. Kirstie had worked for herself since she was 17 years old and had started her own business called The Little House of Beauty in Blackwood. Kirstie was feeling frustrated when Julie first met her as she explained she was struggling to keep ahead with all the training that was required to remain competitive. Together they were able to identify that it would be beneficial for Kirstie to attend a nail extension technique course. This would give Kirstie the ability for her business to remain competitive in frequently changing industry. After completing the Nail extension course Kirstie was able to offer the most up-to-date nail extension packages in time for the busy Christmas period.

Kirstie had also been funding training for her employees, which proved costly. To help Kirstie overcome this financial barrier she enquired if the SPF programme would be able to support and fund her attending a Beauty educators' course. This was approved and Kirstie is currently in the process of completing this course. Once completed this will enable Kirstie to train staff herself and will save her business thousands of pounds in the future.



**Kirstie Harris**

"The SPF programme has allowed me to work with a fantastic mentor to help in achieving my aim to help with educating and upskilling my staff. I am now working on a new business to set up a training academy for nail technicians and I am very grateful for the support I have received through the project."

**Carolyn Beddis – Employment Manager**

"We as a management team are extremely proud of all the work our mentors are undertaking to support residents of Caerphilly to overcome barriers and move closer to reaching their potential and securing work."

**Catherine Penney**  
**Mentors - Cerian Thomas / Vicky Hughes**

Catherine has worked with both Cerian Thomas and Vicky Hughes over the past 18 months and has thrown herself into job searching and learning. She has been supported by both CFW+ and SPF funded projects and is known to the Caerphilly Basin team as dedicated and focussed on finding work.

Catherine is diligent and enthusiastic in all she does and despite a few knock-backs at interview she has always been ready to rise to the next challenge. Catherine is always positive about constructive feedback and has always shown willing to develop her skills. Catherine's confidence has gone from strength to strength over this time and is getting ever closer to finding employment.

Catherine's determination is un-wavering and she is always looking for the next challenge. Alongside volunteering at three different locations, Catherine completed the CFW+ hospitality pathway course in December 2023 and is now looking to access a Paid Work Placement at a CCBC care home with the support of the Academy team in the near future.



**Katie Howells**  
**Mentor - Kelsey Pitt**

Katie was referred to the SPF programme in April 2023. Kelsey Pitt was appointed Katie's Employment support Mentor. Initially Katie wanted support to find employment as she had been unemployed for many years due to taking care of both of her parents. Sadly, both Katie's parents passed away in a matter of a year of each other. After a few sessions of Kelsey talking to Katie and her auntie and uncle who are great support to her, they decided to focus on overcoming Katie's barriers before looking for employment. Katie showed an interest in improving her numeracy and money skills so Kelsey made a referral to Multiply where she undertook a 6 week money management course and is interested in attending more sessions.

Kelsey supported Katie with her volunteering work as Katie volunteers for Tenvous every Friday. Katie really enjoys this and it gives her a sense of purpose. Katie was also referred to Cruse for bereavement support, Katie says this has helped her a great deal.

Kelsey helped with producing an up to date CV for Katie and she has now completed a Customer Service Level 2 Course which is now included on her new CV. Not only did this help with developing her skills and knowledge, it will hopefully lead to employment in the future.

Kelsey expressed how Katie is a very caring individual who also volunteers every Tuesday at her local food bank. Katie also attends church on a weekly basis and choir practice every Monday this is something that she says her parents would be extremely proud of. Kelsey recognises just how much Katie has achieved within such a difficult year in her life and the support of the scheme will help her achieve her goals.

## Lewis Colborne Mentor Emma Griffiths-Price

Lewis was a self-referral to the SPF Project in March 2023. Emma Griffiths-Price was appointed Lewis Employment support mentor.



Lewis was a very shy and extremely quiet individual when he first joined the project, and despite having excellent qualifications and a clear career plan, a level 2 plastering qualification and CSCS card, Lewis explained that he wasn't sure how to move forward and take the next step towards securing employment.

His mentor identified a number of barriers to Lewis moving forward in his employment journey some of these included lack of employment experience, the disruption covid had had on his studies, limited job search and interview experience, a lack of routine and a transport barrier.

A voluntary placement was sourced labouring with the Caerphilly Homes Team, and in addition to gaining valuable experience and confidence – Lewis grew as a person in so many other ways. Lewis explained he had a better daily routine. Lewis was always on time for his morning pick-up and said that that he felt much more motivated now that he has a better routine, and this is something that he has maintained throughout his time with SPF.

Lewis gained eight months' experience volunteering with the Caerphilly Homes team working Monday to Friday full time. He has since completed an 8-week paid placement within the Caerphilly Homes Team.

### Greg Roach – Employment Manager

**"The SPF programme has dovetailed effortlessly with Communities For Work Plus, providing pre-employability support. It has also enabled us to deliver paid work placements providing individuals with invaluable work experience and skills."**

## PARTNERSHIPS EVENTS



A special partnership event, hosted by Caerphilly Council at their Penallta House HQ, highlighted the support that is available to employers and their employees from the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP), the council and a range of other partner organisations.

The event focused on promoting the support that is available including mid-careers reviews & personal learning accounts, myth busting around the 16-hour limitation to accessing Universal Credit and promoting supplementary benefits.



# Multiply

## **MULTIPLY**

***Multiply is a new programme designed by the UK Government to help transform the lives of adults across the UK, by improving their functional numeracy skills.***

# MULTIPLY



## Courses available

- **Money Management**
- **Numeracy First Steps**
- **Employability**
- **General Numeracy**

Numeracy is the ability to understand and use maths in daily life, at home, and in work. Improving your numeracy could help you achieve a number of goals ranging from understanding recipes and helping children with homework to managing your finances and accessing new job opportunities.

If you are looking to boost your confidence in numeracy in your home life or your work life, we will be here to help.

Coleg-Y-Cymoedd and their partners are focusing on interventions W48,W49,W50 these mainly focus on:

- Maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.
- Innovative programmes delivered together with employers to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.
- Level 2 maths in Wales.

We have also asked CYC to deliver all interventions but solely through the medium of Welsh.

Threshold who are out other procured partners are concentrating on W53 Money Management and W46 Prisoners released or on temporary licence.



## Caerphilly Town 2035

### **CAERPHILLY TOWN 2035**

*Caerphilly Town 2035 is a bold and ambitious plan for the future of Caerphilly, which includes numerous projects to enhance and regenerate the town. Caerphilly County Borough Council, in partnership with Welsh Government and Transport for Wales, has launched the Caerphilly Town 2035 to make Caerphilly a better place to live, work and visit.*

**More info at: [www.caerphillytown2035.co.uk](http://www.caerphillytown2035.co.uk)**





# The future of Caerphilly

## *New developments, better connections*

The projects have been developed to enhance and revitalise Caerphilly Town with a series of new schemes. The first stage of the developments will include Ffos Caerffili market, Caerphilly Leisure & Wellbeing Hub, Pentrebane St revitalisation and the Leisure Quarter.

## **Ffos Caerffili - Park Lane Market Development**

Built from shipping containers, Ffos Caerffili is an eco-friendly, fresh, modern, multifunctional space; home to a mix of twenty-eight eateries, independent shops and work spaces. Ffos Caerffili will create an exciting and vibrant focal point within the town.



- *Container-style market built on a currently vacant lot on Park Lane in Caerphilly.*
- *Will provide 28 small-scale units and space for additional 'pop-up' market traders.*
- *Will also house an external events venue to further enhance the visitor attractions on offer within the town centre.*

## **Businesses opened and created**

- *Two Shot Takeaway*
- *Eco Play Box*
- *Welsh ICE*
- *Lock Up Bottle Shop*
- *Castle Tackle & Bait*
- *Upmarket Butchers*
- *Joe's Plant Place*
- *Circular Studio*
- *Joy House Creations*
- *Bab Haus*
- *ACME Burger*
- *Bao Selecta*
- *Eastraneo*
- *Two Shot Social*
- *Keralan Karavan (monthly pop up)*
- *Doughnutters*

Ffos Caerffili is one of the first projects to be developed within the Caerphilly 2035 Placemaking Plan, providing stimulus for further investment throughout the town, with projects such as the redevelopment of Pentrebane Street.

## PENTREBANE STREET

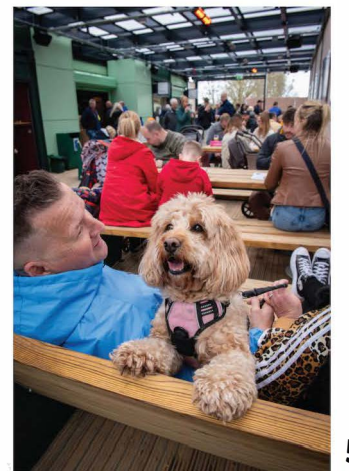
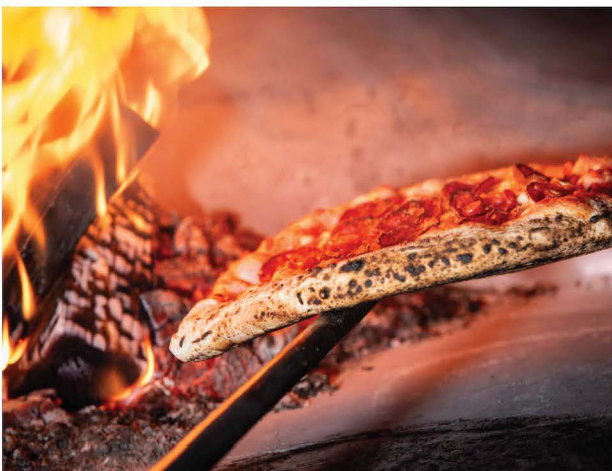


Caerphilly County Borough Council has secured funding from the Welsh Government to redevelop Pentrebane Street, bringing exciting changes to the area.

Our vision is to create a vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive community that caters to the needs of residents and businesses. The plan includes the acquisition of properties along Pentrebane Street, including the indoor market, to make way for the construction of a ground floor commercial space.

We are partnering with Linc Cymru Housing Association to create a mixed-use development featuring co-working spaces, retail units, and a café, all in one convenient location.







Team Caerphilly  
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