

## **APPENDIX C**

Proposed activity under the Supporting Local Business theme.

### **2022-23 Buckinghamshire Business First programme**

BBF will undertake two strands of work:

- An Energy Resilience Programme (ERP) advising businesses on resilience to high energy prices through energy use reduction
- A rural business advice service supporting businesses to create applications for small capital grants that the Rural England Prosperity Fund will offer businesses in Bucks from April 2023 onwards.

ERP will be focused on the ten wards Opportunity Bucks has identified, directly supporting job opportunities and existing employment in these areas. It will offer businesses a free carbon footprint assessment, offering tailored, practical advice to businesses on how they can reduce energy use. This will address the three-fold increase in business energy costs over the last couple of years that businesses are now facing, as well as helping them prepare for any future increases in energy prices after the business energy price cap expires in April 2023.

The rural business advice service will offer a local staff resource to support businesses (in parts of Bucks outside of Aylesbury and High Wycombe) to bid for funding, including REPF grants that will be available from April 2023.

### **Economic Development Team business support programme**

Buckinghamshire Council's Economic Development Team has a planned programme of business support activity that UKSPF funding will be used to delivery. These are based on both legacy experience and pilots that were recently funded by the ERDF Reopening High Streets Safely Fund (RHSSF) and Welcome Back Fund (WBF). Many are focused on protecting and growing the businesses at the head of local town centres. The projects made a positive impact and provided a tried and tested approach we will build on. Specific strands of work will include, but are not limited to:

- Start-up training for business entrepreneurs.
- Support to make it easier for market-traders to operate in existing markets and new specialist markets.
- Signposting, support and training for market traders.
- Digital skill training to help Buck's businesses reach new customers and expand