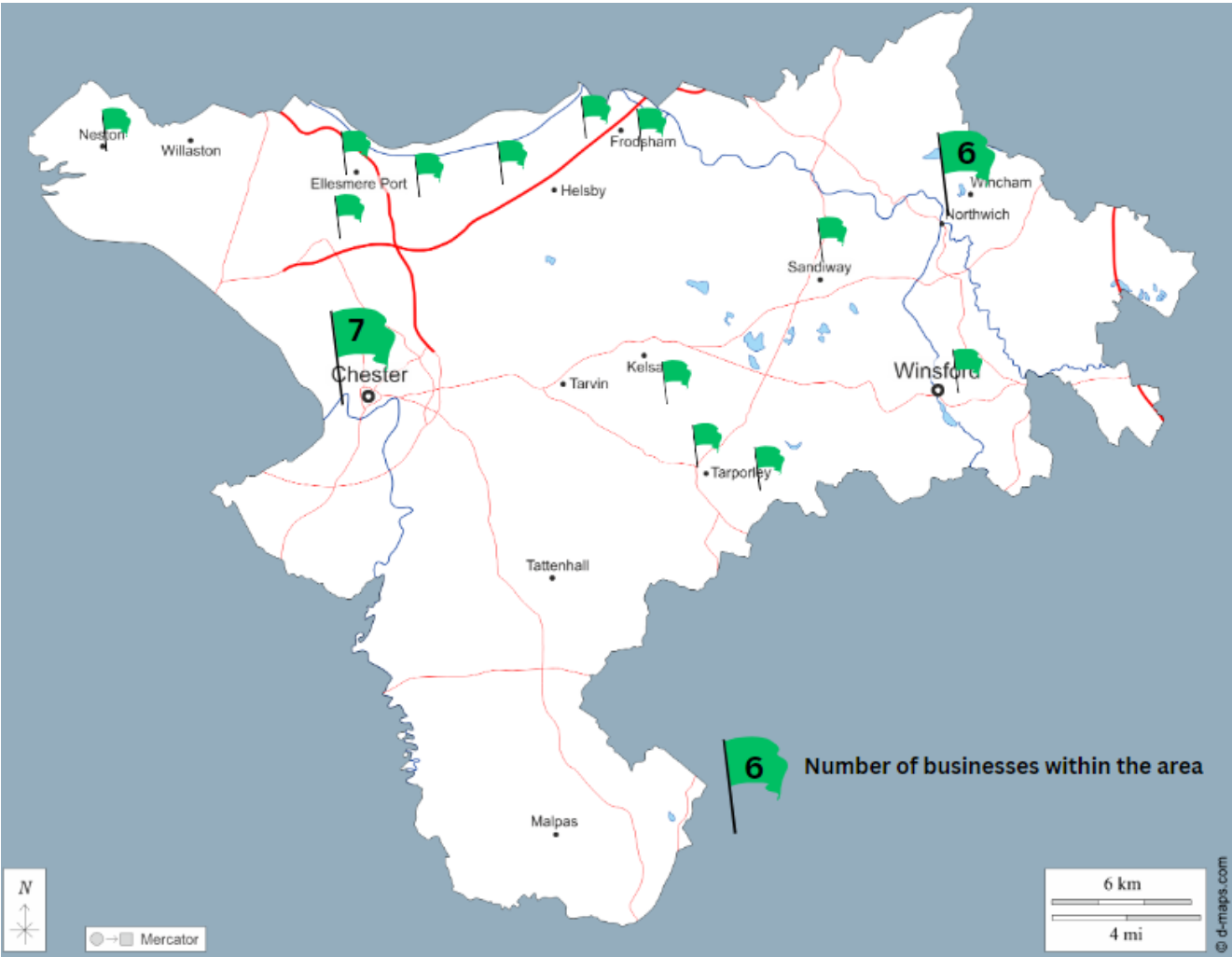


EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF THE UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND ON LOCAL BUSINESSES IN CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER



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15/08/2024



Funded by
UK Government

List of Tables

Table 1 – Companies that participated in the follow-up calls.....	5
Table 2 - University of Chester Innovation Case 25 Project Financial Summary	7

List of Figures

Figure 1 - Grant Applications Breakdown	3
Figure 2 - Multiple Grant Receivers.....	4
Figure 3 – University of Chester Innovation Project Financial Summary.....	7
Figure 4 – Groundwork Decarbonisation Project Financial Summary	8
Figure 5 – Blue Orchid High Growth Project Financial Summary.....	9
Figure 6 - UKSPF Objective Summary	10
Figure 7 – The new technology overview (PMWTechnology, 2024).....	12
Figure 8 - Bluetooth scale and blood pressure monitor	13
Figure 9 – Targets and Additional Outcomes	15
Figure 10 – Additional benefits reported by the selection sample.....	16
Figure 11 Decarbonisation grants objective summary	18
Figure 12 - Solar PV panels installation	19
Figure 13 – Solar PV panels installation	19
Figure 14 – Solar PV roof panels.....	20
Figure 15 – Air Source Heat Pump.....	20
Figure 16 – Delivery Partner's feedback from grant applicants.....	22

Contents

Executive Summary.....	1
Introduction	2
Rationale	2
Report Aims.....	2
Scope.....	2
Methodology.....	3
Selection Sample.....	3
UKSPF programmes	6
Innovation	6
High Growth.....	6
Race to Zero (Decarbonisation)	6
Delivery Partners.....	6
University of Chester	6
Groundwork.....	8
Blue Orchid	8
Follow-up calls results.....	9
UKSPF Grant objectives.....	9
Examples of achieved objectives	12
PMW Technology.....	12
Aspedan	13
Additional outcomes of the UKSPF support	15
New business relationships	17
Partnership with the University of Chester	17
Awareness of other sources of support	17
Networking	17
Opened more doors	17
Improved Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)	17
Race2Zero (Decarbonisation) project.....	18
Companies plans for the future.....	21
Delivery Partners assistance	21

Conclusion.....	23
Recommendations.....	23
References	24
Appendixes.....	25
Appendix 1 – The businesses selected for the follow-up interviews.	25
Appendix 2 – Interview Questions.....	26
Appendix 3 – Examples of job types created.....	27
Appendix 4 – List of quotes provided by businesses	28

Executive Summary

This report evaluates the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) during its second year of implementation (April 2023 - March 2024) in Cheshire West and Chester. The fund, designed to support local businesses through various programmes—Innovation, High Growth, and Race to Zero (Decarbonisation)—has shown significant positive outcomes in the region.

The analysis is based on data from 24 follow-up interviews with businesses that received support through the UKSPF. Key findings include a high success rate in meeting grant objectives, with notable achievements in job creation, technological advancement, and carbon footprint reduction. The report also highlights the additional benefits businesses experienced, such as new partnerships, enhanced corporate social responsibility (CSR), and increased awareness of other support resources.

Despite these successes, the report identifies areas for improvement, including the need to streamline the application process, enhance outreach efforts, and provide more robust post-grant support. The recommendations aim to refine the delivery of the UKSPF, ensuring that it continues to drive economic growth and sustainability in Cheshire West and Chester.

The report concludes that while the UKSPF has been effective in its current form, it can maximise its impact further by addressing the identified challenges and focusing more on long-term sustainability and innovation. These refinements will help ensure that the fund continues meaningfully supporting local businesses.

Introduction

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the new government support programme introduced following Brexit. It replaces previous European Union funding options: the European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The UKSPF fund is worth £2.6 billion and aims to support communities and businesses across the UK over three years (April 2022 – March 2025). Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWaC) was awarded an allocation of £12.642,312 for that period (gov.co.uk, 2022). The first two years have been completed, and the last year of delivering funds to businesses within its geographical boundaries started in April 2024 (CWaC).

Rationale

The government has not set detailed grant application rules and has delegated responsibility to the local councils for delivering. This report will empirically test the effectiveness of the CWaC approach and the design of the new funding scheme for Year 2 (April 2023-March 2024).

Report Aims

To evaluate the direct and indirect impact of the UKSPF Year 2 funding on the businesses that received support. The report aimed to conduct follow-up calls with 25 firms; however, only 24 of the 29 approached responded.

Scope

UKSPF Year 2 programmes:

- Innovation, delivered through the University of Chester (UoC) delivery partner
- High Growth, delivered through Blue Orchid delivery partner
- Race to Zero (Decarbonisation), delivered through Groundwork delivery partner
- Businesses selected by CWaC and delivery partners are listed in Appendix 1.

Objectives

- To explore and evaluate the actual outcomes of the UKSPF support

- To evaluate businesses' goal achievement rate
- To identify businesses' plans for the future
- To evaluate the delivery partner's assistance during the application support
- To identify additional outcomes of the UKSPF support

Methodology

The report was built based on the information provided by businesses during the application process, and the feedback received through semi-structured interviews conducted with selected businesses during follow-up calls. The interview questions are in Appendix 2.

Selection Sample

The businesses selected for the follow-up interviews were based on the type of grant application, geographical location, size of the industry, and multiple grant receivers. Figure 1 illustrates the number of grants delivered by each delivery partner, and Figure 2 highlights companies awarded more than one grant

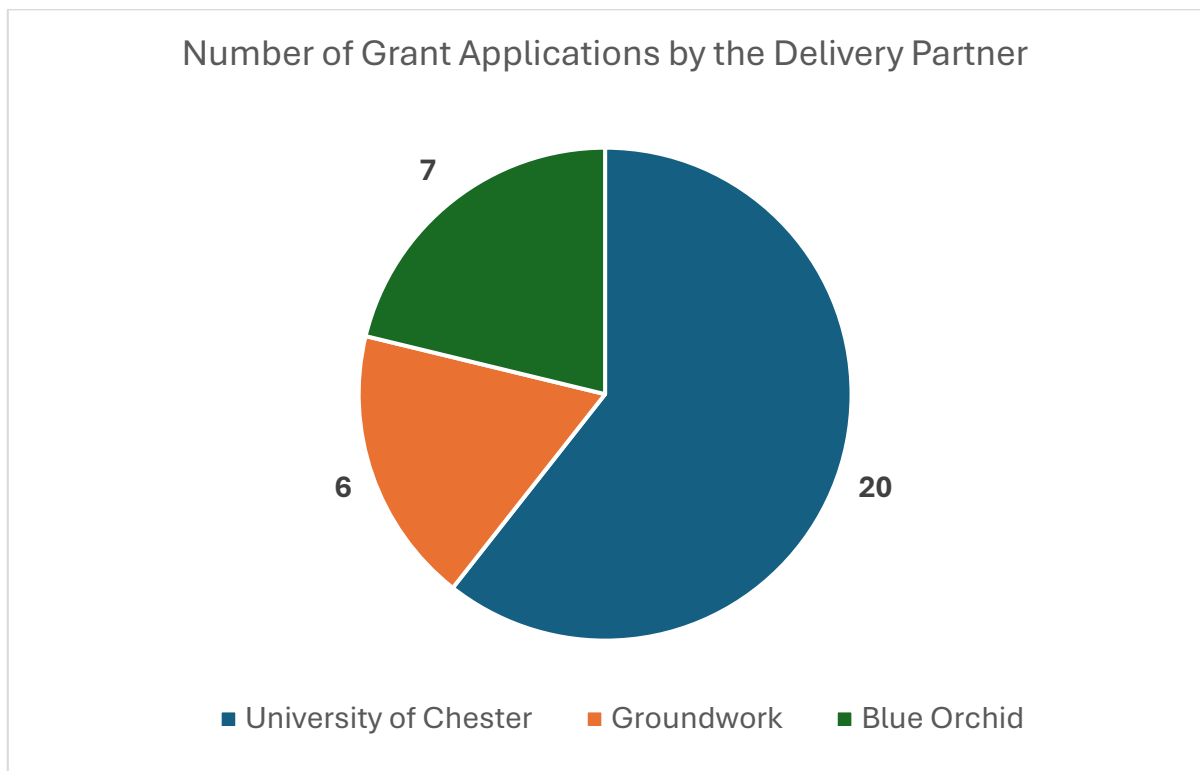
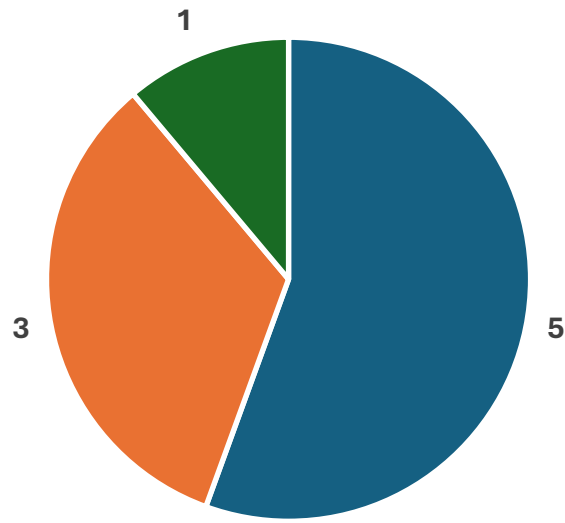


FIGURE 1 - GRANT APPLICATIONS BREAKDOWN

Number of Businesses that Received Two UKSPF Grants by Delivery Partners



■ University of Chester & Blue Orchid ■ University of Chester & Groundwork ■ Blue Orchid & Groundwork

FIGURE 2 - MULTIPLE GRANT RECEIVERS

The detailed breakdown of the selection sample is presented in Table 1 below.

Delivery Partner	Company Trading Name
Blue Orchid	Artezzan Restaurants ltd. Eurospecial Express Ltd Passion For Life Healthcare Racewood Ltd The Eclectic Lifestyle Co Ltd VIP Motorsport Eveque Leisure Equipment Ltd
Groundwork	Chester Cathedral Cygnet Textimp Magma Granite Ltd Tiger Trailers Woodhouse Plumbing, Heating and Electrcial Ltd Eveque Leisure Equipment Ltd
University of Chester	Archi-Scape Artezzan Restaurants ltd. Aspedan Devonshire Bakery Dog Detectives ltd Healthbox CIC iAM Compliant Limited Magma Granite Ltd Motrac Research Engineering Ltd Mouse Design Passion For Life Healthcare Plant Research Ltd (Cheshire Saffron Co) PMW Technology Limited PRW Product Services Ltd T/A PRW Thermal Racewood Ltd The Eclectic Lifestyle Co Ltd Tiger Trailers VIP Motorsport Willington Hall Woodhouse Plumbing, Heating and Electrcial Ltd

TABLE 1 – COMPANIES THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE FOLLOW-UP CALLS

UKSPF programmes

Innovation

The grant application programme supported businesses in adapting to innovations and developing new technologies. It provided match-funded grants of up to £16,000.

High Growth

This programme supported business growth by providing match-funded grants of up to £20,000.

Race to Zero (Decarbonisation)

This programme provided match-funded grants of up to £16,000 to support businesses in reducing their carbon footprint and improving their energy efficiency.

Delivery Partners

University of Chester

The University of Chester focused on fostering business innovation for resilience and Growth. Support included 1-2-1 diagnostics, workshops, digital technology demonstrations, and other resources such as facilities, student placements, and training programs to drive development. Figure 3 and Table 2 below present a financial summary of the grants delivered by the University of Chester.

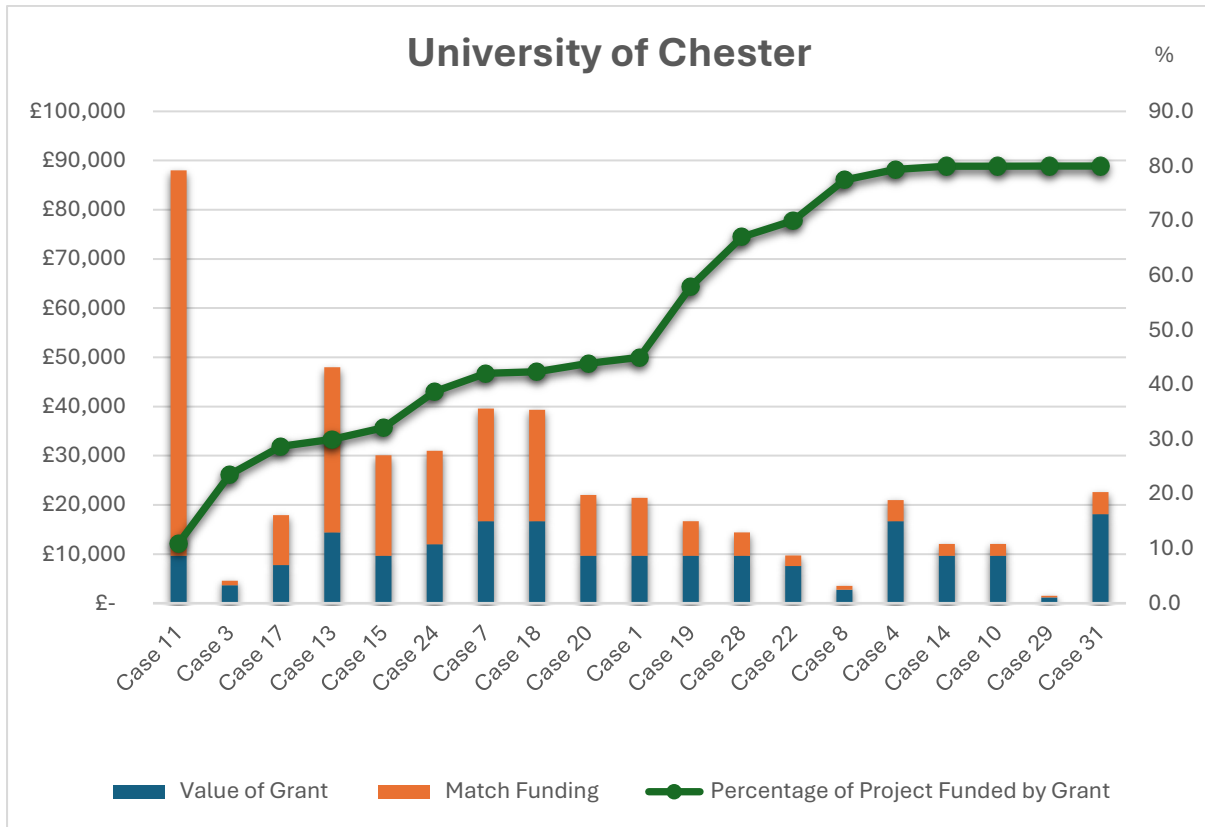


FIGURE 3 – UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER INNOVATION PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

University of Chester	of Total Value of Project	Value of Grant	of Match Funding	Percentage of Project Funded by Grant
Case 25	£1,245,000	£15,000	£1,230,000	1.2

TABLE 2 - UNIVERSITY OF CHESTER INNOVATION CASE 25 PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Case 25 is presented separately due to the high value of the total project cost, which would make the graph in Figure 3 unclear.

Groundwork

Groundwork delivered the Decarbonisation—Race2Zero project. The support included assistance accessing grant funding and identifying potential cost savings options through energy and carbon footprint reduction. The Figure below presents the project's financial summary.

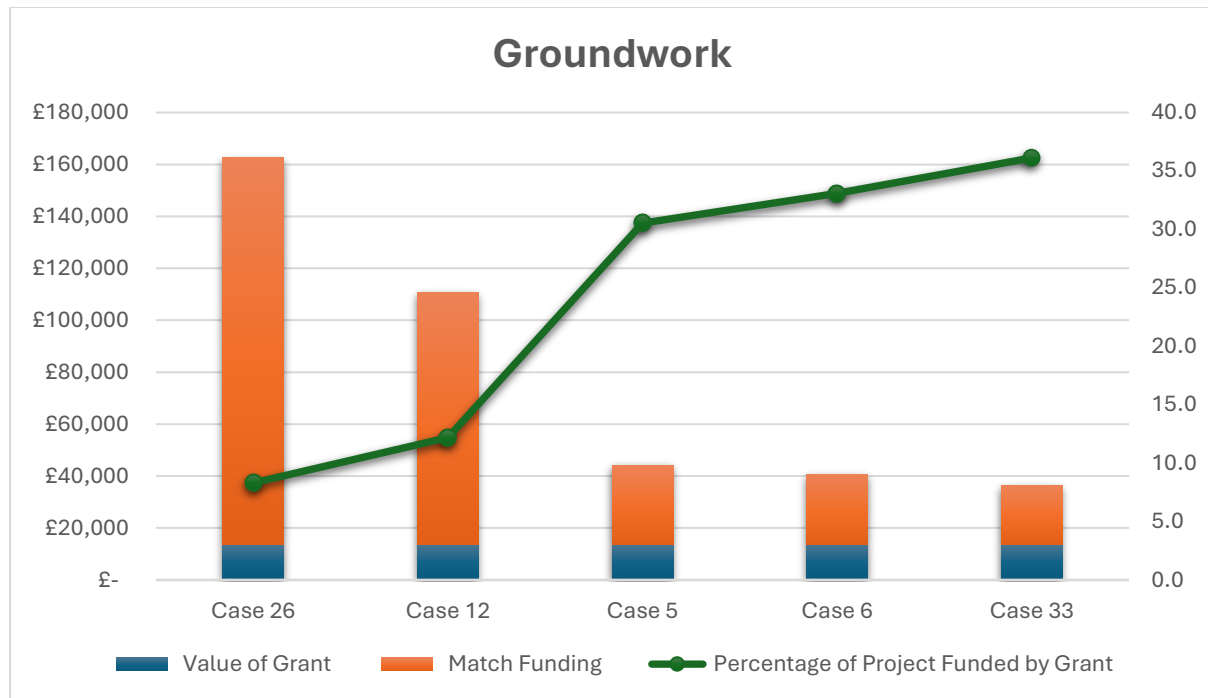


FIGURE 4 – GROUNDWORK DECARBONISATION PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Blue Orchid

Blue Orchid delivered the High Growth Investment Fund as part of the UKSPF Business Growth Programme. This fund was designed to accelerate investment and Growth for Cheshire West and Chester businesses. It provided impartial advice, 1-2-1 diagnostics, and match-funded grants of up to £20,000 to support growth plans. The financial summary of the project is shown below in Figure 5.

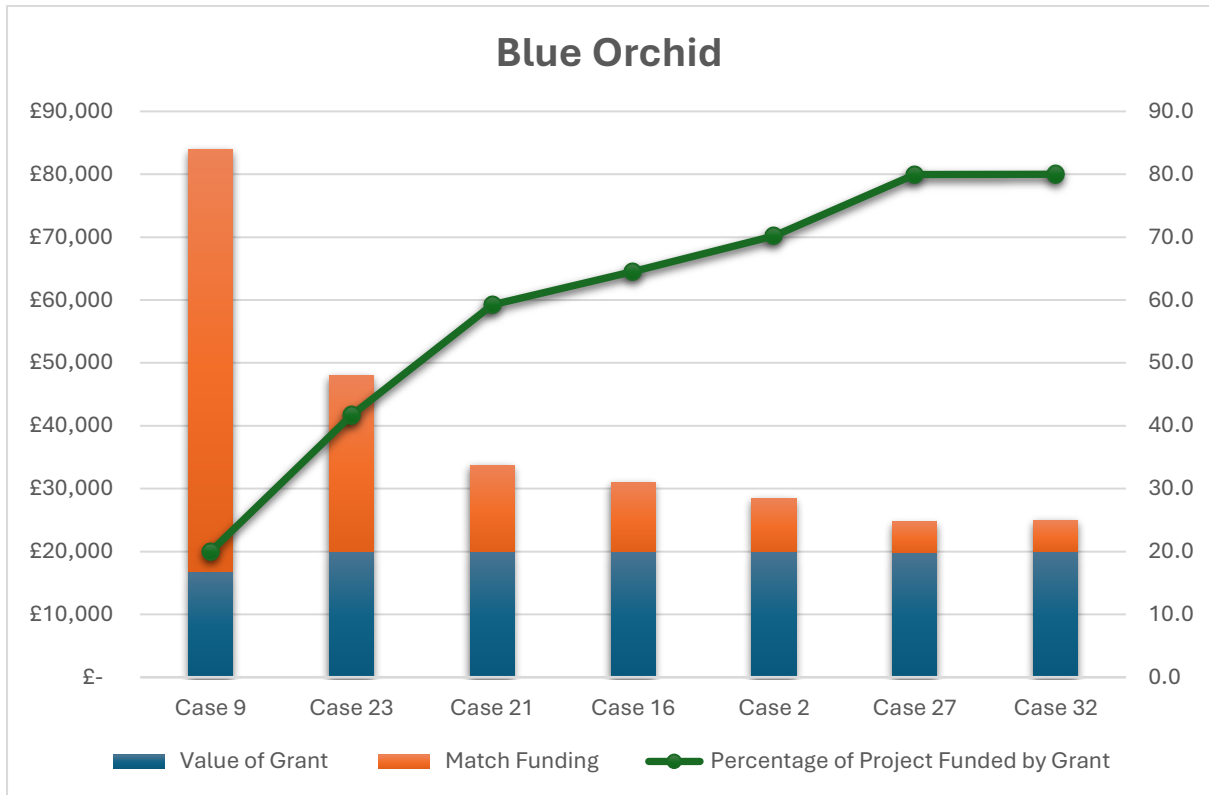


FIGURE 5 – BLUE ORCHID HIGH GROWTH PROJECT FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Follow-up calls results

Of the 29 businesses in Appendix 1, 24 listed in Table 1 participated in the follow-up calls. Since nine businesses received two grants, the results are based on the 33 grant applications (Cases).

UKSPF Grant objectives

The options for businesses to choose from were:

- New products/services
- Job safeguarding
- Creating new jobs
- Introducing new technology (innovation)
- Improving productivity
- Introducing new products to the Market
- Greenhouse gas reduction

Figure 6 illustrates the summary of grant applications planned and achieved targets.

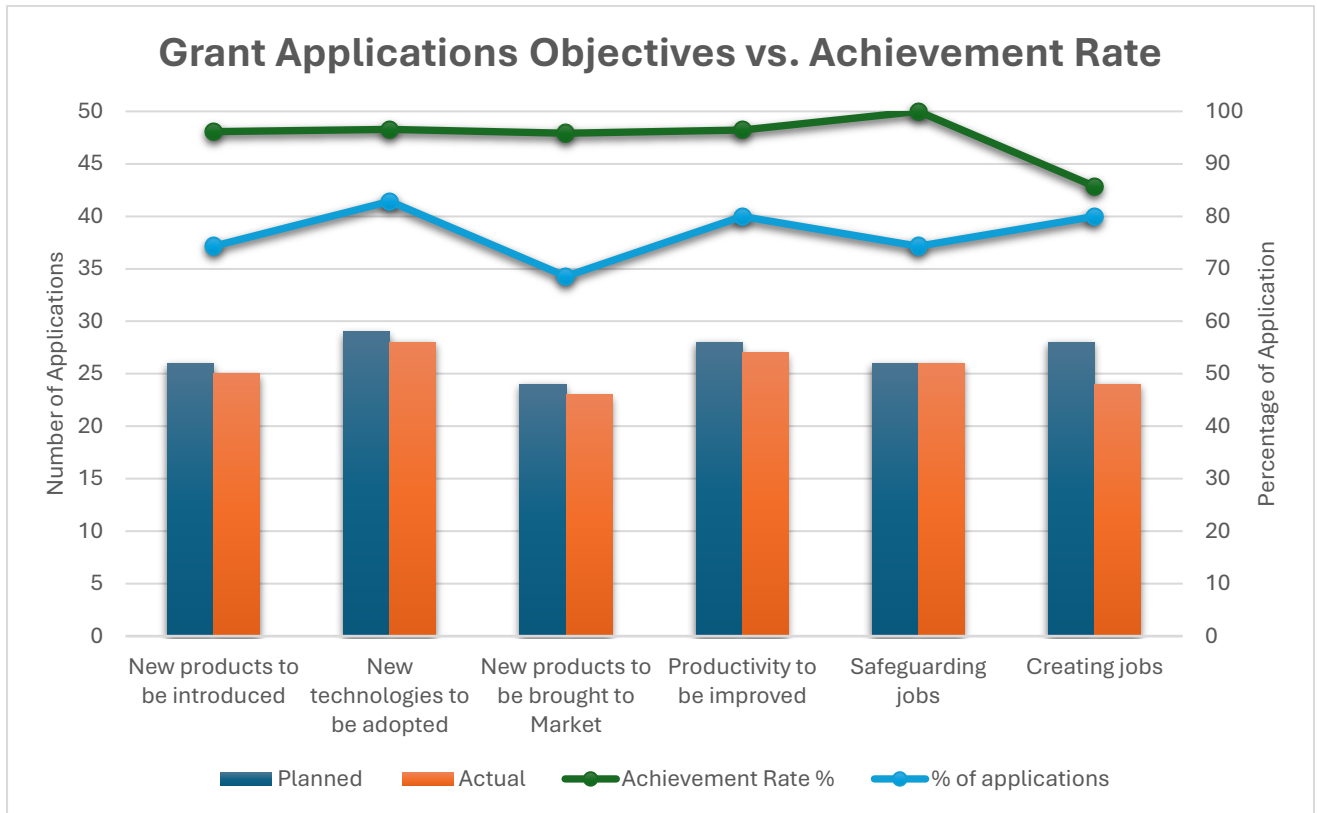


FIGURE 6 - UKSPF OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

The key elements of the chart:

- Blue bars show the number of applications planned to achieve specific targets.
- Orange bars show the number of applications that achieved those targets.
- The difference between the blue and orange bars indicates whether the objective was met as planned or if there was a shortfall.
- The green line represents the percentage of applications that successfully achieved their objectives. It remains high across all categories, indicating an overall solid success rate.
- The blue line shows the percentage of total applications focused on each objective. It provides insight into which objectives were most targeted by applicants.

The green line is consistently high, with achievement rates above 90% for all objectives except for one at 86% and one at 100%. This suggests that the vast majority of applications were successful in meeting their goals.

The blue line shows that 'New technologies to be adopted' and 'Creating jobs' had the highest percentage of applications, indicating these were vital priorities for the applicants.

'New products to be brought to Market' had the lowest percentage of applications, suggesting it was less of a focus or more challenging to achieve.

The blue and orange bars are close in most cases, indicating that what was planned was primarily achieved. Slight variations, such as in 'Creating jobs', suggest areas where expectations may have been adjusted.

Overall Summary

The chart provides a comprehensive overview of the objectives set out by the grant applicants and their success rates. The high achievement rates across all objectives demonstrate the effectiveness of the UKSPF in helping businesses meet their goals. The data also highlights the areas of focus for the applicants, with job creation and adopting new technologies being the most prominent.

Examples of achieved objectives

PMW Technology

Innovation project — New technology designed to capture up to 99% of the CO₂ emissions from exhaust gases in marine and land applications. Based on one vessel, the estimated savings could reach 30.000 tons per year. Figure 7 illustrates the overview of the process.

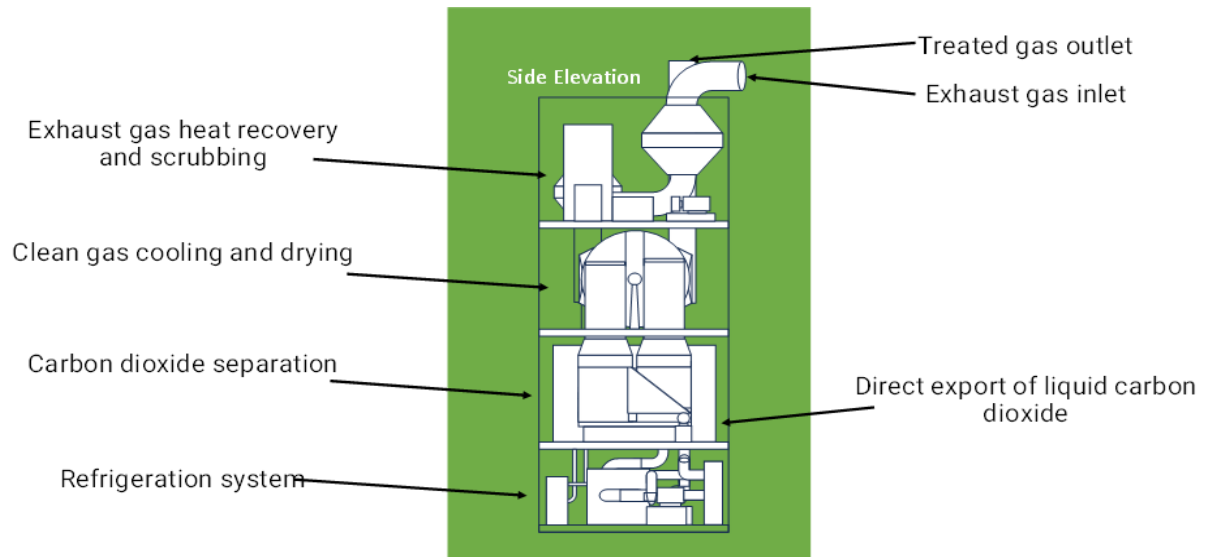


FIGURE 7 – THE NEW TECHNOLOGY OVERVIEW (PMWTECHNOLOGY, 2024).

The grant application objectives were:

- Secure three jobs ✓
- Create three jobs – ongoing
- Complete development of the new technology ✓
- New product ✓ - "The Rig"

Additional benefits:

- Student placements
- Guest lectures and case studies for students
- Carbon footprint reduction

PMWTechnology next steps:

- Bring the new product to the Market

Quote from the business:

'PMW Technology is very pleased to have had the support of the CWaC UKSPF team. The engagement has been constructive and has enabled us to make a key step forward in the implementation of our novel decarbonisation technology. Not only have we gained from the

technical advance but we have also benefited from the credibility that support for our ongoing work has given us in discussion with major potential investors.'

Aspedan

Innovation project – The grant funding allowed the business to continue developing the smartphone app and the Clinician Access Portal. The development included the purchase of own-branded Bluetooth blood pressure monitors and bringing them to the Market.

The grant application objectives were:

- Secure one job ✓
- Create one job ✓ - 3 jobs were created.
- Introduce new products, new technology and improve productivity ✓

Additional benefits:

- Strengthen the relationship with the University of Chester
- 5-week full-time student workplace placements
- One graduate position
- Carbon footprint savings - The use of Bluetooth pressure monitors combined with the Clinician Access Portal will result in fewer trips to GP surgeries

The new products are shown in Figure 8 below.



FIGURE 8 - BLUETOOTH SCALE AND BLOOD PRESSURE MONITOR(ASPEDAN.COM)

Aspedan's plans for the future:

- Integrate Aspedan-branded Bluetooth scales into our app
- Link our Clinician Access Portal with NHS Systems
- Link our app with Muhdo Genetics Testing
- Explore the development of an Aspedan Fitness Tracker
- Aspedan-branded blood tests (already underway with our partners Medichecks)

- Advertising, SEO, and social media campaigns to maximise the number of app downloads and products sold
- Further recruitment to expand our growing team (aim to employ 70-80 skilled and unskilled staff by 2028)
- Getting further investment from angel investors/VCs
- Further grant applications
- Development of HealthiMe with Sum Vivas

Quote from the business founder and owner:

'Our journey with the CWaC UKSPF has been a transformative experience for Aspedan, catalysing our mission to innovate within the digital health sector. The support from the UoC Business Development Team has been pivotal, enabling us to navigate challenges, accelerate our product development, and achieve significant milestones, such as the integration of our patent-pending Bioanalytics Engine and the launch of our hypertension module. This grant has not only facilitated our Growth and ability to impact the health sector positively but also empowered us to begin generating revenue, a crucial step towards sustainability and further innovation. We are immensely grateful for the support that has allowed us to make strides in improving health outcomes and enhancing the quality of life for those with chronic conditions.'

Additional outcomes of the UKSPF support

The report identified several additional outcomes from the grant application process. The heatmap in Figure 9 provides several key insights into the relationship between achieving the objectives set in the grant application and whether businesses benefited in other ways.

Heatmap: Achievement of Objectives vs. Business Benefits

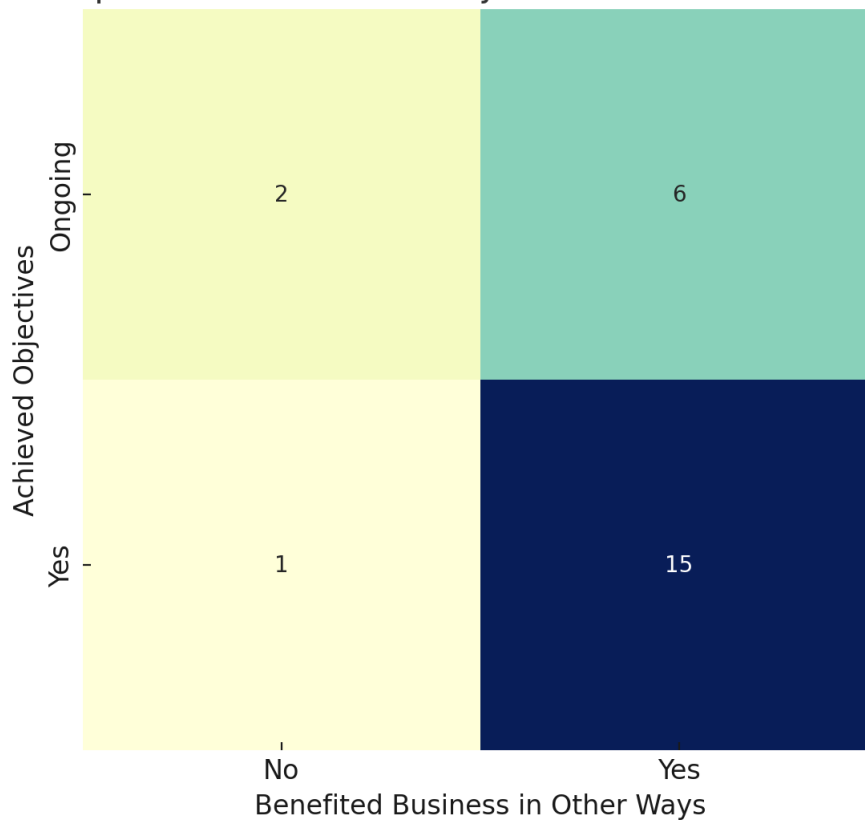


FIGURE 9 – TARGETS AND ADDITIONAL OUTCOMES

High Correlation Between Success and Additional Benefits

The darkest area of the heatmap is in the 'Yes' row and 'Yes' column, indicating that most businesses that achieved their specific objectives also reported additional benefits. This suggests a strong correlation between successfully meeting objectives and gaining extra advantages from the support.

Ongoing Objectives

For businesses with 'Ongoing' objectives, a significant portion still reported additional benefits. This might imply that even if the goals have not yet been fully realised, the UKSPF support has already provided some tangible benefits.

The heatmap reinforces the effectiveness of the support provided, as most businesses achieve their specific objectives and gain additional benefits. It highlights the broad positive impact of the grant support on the companies involved.

Figure 10 illustrates the breakdown of the additional benefits.

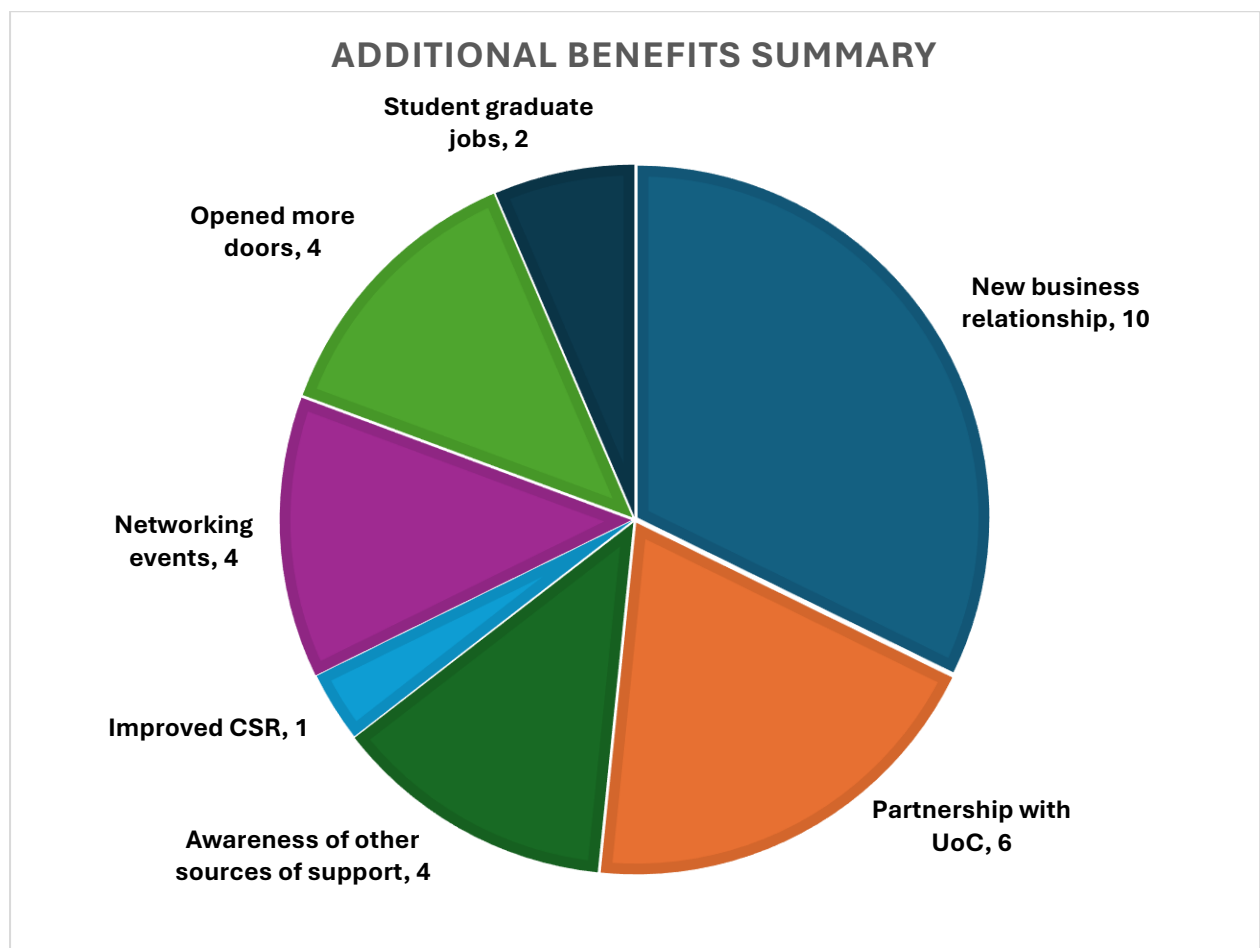


FIGURE 10 – ADDITIONAL BENEFITS REPORTED BY THE SELECTION SAMPLE

New business relationships

The most frequently reported benefit, with ten occurrences, highlights the significant impact of support in helping businesses form new relationships. For example, one business formed a new partnership with a contractor carrying out a grant-funded project. Delivery partners often identified potential connections and referred businesses to each other, sometimes resulting in new business relationships.

Partnership with the University of Chester

Six businesses reported that the support established or strengthened the connection with the University of Chester. These include student workplace placements, student graduate positions (two cases), student projects (one business), guest speakers or becoming suppliers for the university.

Awareness of other sources of support

Four companies learned more about other available sources of support and, in some cases, were referred to other delivery partners, which resulted in extra-funded support.

Networking

Four businesses found value in networking events facilitated by the support, which helped them build connections.

Opened more doors

Four businesses also reported this benefit, which indicates that the support provided new opportunities, possibly leading to new projects or markets.

Improved Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

One business improved its CSR efforts by supporting local community initiatives by sponsoring local scouts and football clubs.

The chart effectively demonstrates that new business relationships are the most common additional benefit of the support programme. It also highlights other significant impacts, such as partnerships with the University of Chester and increased awareness of additional support resources. The last reported benefit, with one occurrence, suggested that while CSR improvements were less common, they were still a notable outcome for at least one business.

Race2Zero (Decarbonisation) project

Six decarbonisation applications estimated greenhouse gas savings of 105.06 tonnes/year.

- Three businesses installed solar PV panels (Cases 6, 26, and 33).
- One company replaced LED lightning (Case 5).
- One company installed a solar PV system with a solar energy storage unit and a wood waste heater (Case 12).
- One company installed an air source heat pump, underfloor heating and solar energy storage unit (Case 30).

Figure 11 below illustrates each application's total greenhouse gas reduction against the total project value cost and estimated financial savings per year.

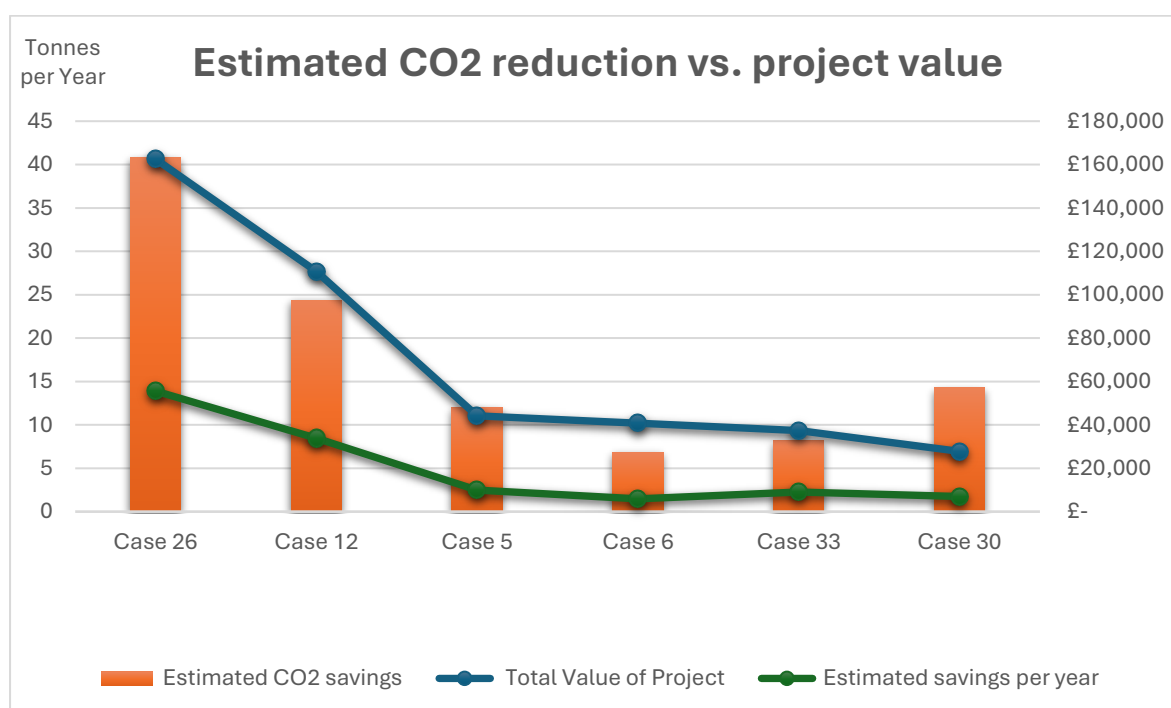


FIGURE 11 DECARBONISATION GRANTS OBJECTIVE SUMMARY

Case 26 shows the highest total project cost and greenhouse gas reduction, suggesting that while the project was expensive, it is highly effective in reducing CO2 emissions.

Case 12 shows a good balance between project costs and greenhouse gas reduction.

Case 30 shows a relatively high reduction in CO2 emissions with low project costs, indicating good cost-effectiveness.

Cases 5, 6 and 33 have lower project costs and CO2 savings.

To summarise, more expensive projects result in higher CO2 savings, with one exception, Case 30.

Examples of completed projects

Case 26 – 230kW solar PV system with estimated savings of £55.559/year and 40.8 tonnes of carbon/year. Figures 12 and 13 show photos of the new solar PV installation.



FIGURE 12 - SOLAR PV PANELS INSTALLATION



FIGURE 13 – SOLAR PV PANELS INSTALLATION

Case 12—Installation of solar PV panels, a solar energy storage unit, and a wood waste heater resulted in £33.874 and 24.36 tonnes of carbon savings per year. Figure 14 below shows part of the building roof with newly installed panels.



FIGURE 14 – SOLAR PV ROOF PANELS

Case 30 – The project included an air source heat pump, underfloor heating and solar energy storage unit. The combined savings per year are £7.026 and 14.26 carbon tonnes. Figure 15 below shows the new air source heat pump unit.



FIGURE 15 – AIR SOURCE HEAT PUMP

Companies plans for the future.

The following bullet points summarise where businesses are focusing their efforts over the next three years:

- Growth and Expansion: Most businesses are focusing on growth, whether by increasing turnover, expanding into new markets, or enhancing their product offerings.
- Sustainability and Environmental Focus: There is a significant focus on sustainability, with several businesses planning to reduce their carbon footprints or achieve environmental goals.
- Innovation and New Product Development: Some businesses are focused on innovation, with plans to introduce or enhance new products.
- Profitability and Efficiency: A few businesses seek to improve profitability and efficiency, often through strategic investments or process improvements.
- Compliance and Certification: A smaller number of businesses have specific goals for achieving certifications and ensuring compliance.
- Survival and Continuity: A couple of businesses are focused on continuity, particularly in the face of external challenges like government changes.

Delivery Partners assistance

The overall feedback from businesses participating in the follow-up calls was consistent and positive. The most common answer to the question *"What was the most straightforward part of the application process?"* was *"Delivery Partners assistance in the process."* - 13 responses, more than 50% of the applications.

Specific mentions, such as *"Karen was very supportive and really helped"* and *"Louise Goodman's input made the process very straightforward,"* highlight that individual support and guidance were crucial to positive experiences.

The data reflects that while businesses encountered some common challenges, especially around obtaining quotes and managing documentation, the assistance provided by delivery partners was highly valued and often led to a more straightforward application process. The overwhelmingly positive feedback suggests that the support was instrumental in helping businesses navigate the complexities of the grant application process.

Figure 16 below shows how businesses rated the delivery partner's support throughout the grant application process.



FIGURE 16 – DELIVERY PARTNER'S FEEDBACK FROM GRANT APPLICANTS.

Conclusion

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund has demonstrated significant positive outcomes in its second year of implementation in Cheshire West and Chester. The majority of the businesses supported under the Innovation, High Growth, and Race2Zero programmes successfully met their objectives, with notable achievements in job creation, the introduction of new technologies, and carbon footprint reduction. The strong correlation between achieving these objectives and additional benefits, such as new business relationships and increased awareness of support resources, underscores the fund's effectiveness. However, while the overall success is evident, the report also identifies areas for improvement, particularly in enhancing the grant application process's efficiency and expanding the support's reach.

Recommendations

Streamline the Application Process: Business feedback suggests that obtaining quotes and managing documentation can be difficult. Simplifying these steps and providing more straightforward guidelines could improve the application experience and encourage more businesses to apply.

Expand Outreach and Awareness Efforts: While many businesses benefited from the UKSPF, increasing awareness of the fund and its potential benefits could attract a more diverse range of applicants, particularly those in underserved sectors.

Enhance Post-Grant Support: Providing ongoing support after grants are awarded, such as mentoring or additional networking opportunities, could help businesses maximise the long-term benefits of the fund.

Focus on Sustainability and Innovation: Given the success in areas like carbon footprint reduction and the adoption of new technologies, future funding rounds could place greater emphasis on sustainability and innovation to align with broader environmental and economic goals.

Monitor Long-Term Outcomes: Implement a system for tracking the long-term impact of the UKSPF support on businesses, particularly in terms of sustained growth, innovation, and environmental impact. This data will be invaluable for future evaluations and adjustments to the programme.

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Appendixes

Appendix 1 – The businesses selected for the follow-up interviews.

- Company Trading Name
- Able Systems Ltd
- Anderson Bevan Limited
- Archi-Scape
- Artezzan Restaurants Ltd.
- Aspedan
- Chester Cathedral
- Cygnet Texkimp
- Devonshire Bakery
- Dog Detectives Ltd.
- Eurospecial Express Ltd.
- Eveque Leisure Equipment Ltd.
- Hapgood Developments Ltd.
- Hartford Golf Club
- Healthbox CIC
- iAM Compliant Limited
- Magma Granite Ltd.
- Motrac Research Engineering Ltd.
- Mouse Design
- Passion For Life Healthcare
- Plant Research Ltd (Cheshire Saffron Co)
- PMW Technology Limited
- Protos Networks Limited
- PRW Product Services Ltd T/A PRW Thermal
- Racewood Ltd.
- The Eclectic Lifestyle Co Ltd.
- Tiger Trailers
- VIP Motorsport
- Willington Hall
- Woodhouse Plumbing, Heating and Electrical Ltd.

Appendix 2 – Interview Questions

1. How did you find out about the SPF fund?
2. What was the most challenging and most straightforward part of the application process?
3. How would you rate the delivery partner's assistance throughout the grant application process?
4. Have you achieved your specific objectives in your grant application? Please provide details.

If not, when they may be achieved?

5. Do you have any photos we could use to show the impact of the grant?
6. Has the support benefitted your business in other ways?
 - Increased sales
 - New suppliers
 - New business relationships
 - Improved knowledge of other sources of support
 - Raised awareness of net zero
 - CRS
7. Where do you see your company in 3 years, future plans
8. Have you Registered your business for the Let's Talk Business Directory and to receive the Let's Talk Business weekly newsletter?
9. Are you aware of the business support resources on the Business Tapas platform?
10. Do you have any questions or feedback regarding the UK SPF grant?
11. Please provide a quote on how the support provided has benefited you/your business.

Appendix 3 – Examples of job types created

- Life Science Graduate
- Kitchen Staff
- Front-Of-House
- Electrical Engineer
- Software Engineer
- R&D Engineer
- Product Design Engineer
- Production Operator
- Prototyping Engineer
- Customer Service
- Technical Manager
- Project Manager
- Engineer
- Assembly Operator
- CNC Machining Operator
- Lead Developer
- Sales&Marketing Operator
- Warehouse Operator
- Business Administrator
- FLT Operators
- Welders
- Plumber
- PV and Heat Pump Engineer

Appendix 4 – List of quotes provided by businesses

Business	Quote
Archi-Scape	<i>'The CWaC UKSPF scheme has enabled our innovative housing concept to start to move from fantasy to reality. The support we have received throughout from the UoC Business Development Team has been incredible, particularly in terms of business guidance and networking opportunities. We truly believe this grant will facilitate enormous growth for the practice and help us help the housing crisis.'</i>
Artezzan Restaurants Ltd.	<i>'I just wanted to say a massive thank you for your help with the grant. (Louise) You have the patience of a saint! Thank you for your perseverance.'</i>
Aspedan	<i>'Our journey with the CWaC UKSPF has been a transformative experience for Aspedan, catalysing our mission to innovate within the digital health sector. The support from the UoC Business Development Team has been pivotal, enabling us to navigate challenges, accelerate our product development, and achieve significant milestones, such as the integration of our patent-pending Bioanalytics Engine and the launch of our hypertension module. This grant has not only facilitated our growth and ability to impact the health sector positively but also empowered us to begin generating revenue, a crucial step towards sustainability and further innovation. We are immensely grateful for the support that has allowed us to make strides in improving health outcomes and enhancing the quality of life for those with chronic conditions.'</i>
Chester Cathedral	<i>'Thanks to the UKSPF fund, Chester Cathedral shines brighter than ever. The UKSPF Decarbonisation grant transformed our Quire Aisles - illuminating the architecture while decreasing our carbon footprint. We're very grateful to the scheme in helping us move one step closer to our Net Zero ambitions.'</i> - The Very Reverend Dr Tim Stratford
Devonshire Bakery	<i>'From the very beginning the CWaC UKSPF team have provided guidance to help in the successful application of the funding.'</i>

Dog Detectives Ltd	<i>'The grant has enabled us to develope futher our bespoke software which allow us to not only measure productivity and outcomes of our workforce, but also provide valuble data which will then enable us to perfect the training of our detection dogs. This will in turn keep us leading the field of detection dog training within the UK.'</i>
Eurospecial Express Ltd	<i>'The support provided by the SPF grant has been transformative for our business. With the acquisition of new equipment, including tracking units and vehicle cameras, as well as enhanced marketing tools, we have significantly increased our market presence. This growth has enabled us to expand our team and better support our local community. The grant has not only helped us achieve our immediate goals but has also positioned us for sustained future growth.'</i>
Healthbox CIC	<i>'Working with UKSPF has been a pleasure and we are so grateful for the help and support we have received from them at each step of the process. The UoC Business Development Team have been especially supportive, and helped us ensure we make the most of the wonderful opportunity their funding has given us.'</i>
iAM Compliant Limited	<i>'The University of Chester team have been very helpful in making us aware of the grants that we can utilise. Likewise, the University of Chester team are always prepared to visit us on site, to not only support in the activity, but to help with the necessary documentation. Friendly, professional and knowledgeable!'</i>
Magma Granite Ltd	<i>'Thank you for all your help ... this has really helped Magma'</i>
Motrac Research Engineering Ltd	<i>'The support provided throughout the CWaC UKSPF grant application has been fantastic. The impact this help will have on our business will be transformational. Thank you!'</i>

<p>Mouse Design</p>	<p><i>'I wanted to say a big thanks for your help and support with this application! This project has made a real difference to our business in building the teeth into market ready products and I know it will continue to do so as we move forward into 2024. We have just won our second large contract to supply the next round of teeth, which is fantastic and we look forward to rolling the project out to other universities early in the new year. I really appreciate all you did to make us aware of the grant initially right through to being able to close out a successful project! Many thanks.'</i></p>
<p>Passion For Life Healthcare</p>	<p><i>'The SPF grant opportunity came at the right time for us and the team from the council and the university were very motivated to make the application a success if possible.'</i></p>
<p>Plant Research Ltd (Cheshire Saffron Co)</p>	<p><i>'This funding has allowed our business to move into indoor growing, fostering an environment where innovation can take root and flourish. Through this support, it will allow our business to cultivate a sustainable future.'</i></p>
<p>PMW Technology Limited</p>	<p><i>'PMW Technology is very pleased to have had the support of the CWaC UKSPF team. The engagement has been constructive and has enabled us to make a key step forward in the implementation of our novel decarbonisation technology. Not only have we gained from the technical advance but we have also benefited from the credibility that support for our ongoing work has given us in discussion with major potential investors.'</i></p>
<p>PRW Product Services Ltd T/A PRW Thermal</p>	<p><i>'The CWaC UKSPF grant support has made a real positive impact on the business and we have been greatly assisted by Louise Goodman throughout.'</i></p>
<p>Racewood Ltd</p>	<p><i>'Thank you for your help'</i></p>
<p>The Eclectic Lifestyle Co Ltd</p>	<p><i>'The grant we secured for new machinery has been a transformative catalyst for the growth of our business. With the infusion of funds, we were able to acquire state-of-the-art machinery that significantly enhanced our production capabilities and efficiency. The new equipment streamlined our manufacturing processes, allowing us to meet increased demand and deliver products with greater precision and quality. The [UoC] Business Development team have provided unwavering support throughout the process and have helped contribute to our business growth.'</i></p>

Tiger Trailers	<p><i>'The Cheshire West and Cheshire Council Shared Prosperity Fund assisted us in getting some funding for a two major projects which are now underway at Tiger, to replace our 2 current Spray Paint Booths and add a third, also installing a second set of solar panels on the roof of our building. These projects are around £1.5m in Capital expenditure and will provide many benefits to the business, including reduced maintenance costs, energy consumption and also valuable capacity expansion/new jobs as we continue on our exciting growth journey. Louise Goodman, Karen Mckean and the team have been fantastic in not only assisting us through this particular grant process, providing Structure and making everything as simple as possible but also giving us access to lots of other networking and learning opportunities. So, a huge thank you from Team Tiger and we look forward to working with you on other initiatives!'</i></p>
Eveque Leisure Equipment Ltd	<p><i>'The grants received so far have been incredibly beneficial, both in terms of facilitating short-term improvements to the business & also in terms of providing the investment we needed as part of our longer-term strategy for growth'</i></p>