

# Appendix A – UKSPF Project Highlights

## 1. Cultural Strategy

### Arts in East Herts Case Study

Arts and culture are the heart of an area's vibrancy. Having your bins collected and council tax queries dealt with take some of the stress out of our hectic lives but it's the sheer joy and excitement of painting your first picture in years, taking part in a live show or watching your kids throw themselves into a dance class which can remind us of why we love our local communities so much.

Nowhere is this outlook more passionately felt than in East Hertfordshire – the market towns of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware along with dozens of beautiful villages in between.

In 2024, we devoted £50,000 to run an Arts Trail in one or two locations. We soon realised that would dramatically undersell the breadth and depth of cultural talent across all 184 square miles of our district. So instead, we and key partners decided to run a two month showcase right across the district. We called it exactly what it would be – Arts in East Herts.



We asked professional organisations, individual artists and community groups to showcase their talents, open up their studios and run taster sessions during the months of September and October. We made available small grants of up to £500 to support groups and individuals. The level of local enthusiasm, however, meant that three-fifths of organisations and individuals taking part asked for no financial support from the council at all, beyond being included in our publicity and online showcase calendar.

## Interest exceeded all expectations

The appetite for the Arts in East Herts Showcase from the cultural sector and residents alike outstripped our wildest imagination and we were able to offer participatory events every single day for the full two months, adding up to well over 300 individual events. This included over 50 individual artists and groups, with 20 of these supported by grants from the council.

Participation was phenomenal. Over 5,400 individuals attended the various taster sessions, artist-in-residence events and classes with more forming the audiences at various shows and exhibitions, giving a final estimate of 7,000+ beneficiaries.

Perhaps the most amazing outcome of all was that over 1,700 people reported that they were engaging with the organisations and their chosen cultural activities for the first time ever. Of these, just over 500 people have gone to sign up for further sessions, demonstrating that running taster events really worked in drawing in completely new audiences.

Furthermore, the showcase provided 213 volunteering opportunities for people to make connections, build their CVs or simply give back to their communities.



*Figure 1 Bishop's Stortford Band*



*Figure 2 Cllr Daar and Julie Arnall launching AIEH*

## What did participants tell us?

As well as the statistics, feedback has demonstrated the range and impact of the showcase. Here are some examples.

A participant in the drawing from live circus performances event said:

*"Yesterday I attended the circus drawing workshop held at the Drill Hall in Ware. It was a fantastic evening, the circus performers were wonderful models, who held poses for long periods of time and gave everyone the opportunity to draw characterful, interesting poses... fantastic! I hope that these drawing workshops will be repeated. Thank you for your hard work."*

A parent of a young girl who took part in her first ever dance class said:

*"I want to say thank you so much for the Musical Theatre class held at Pinehurst Community Centre. My daughter Kimberley [name changed] loved it and it was so lovely watching their performance. She is interested in joining a Sunday morning class in January at Pinehurst so hopefully there's enough interest. I can promote the class to her school friends too if you'd like more people signing up."*

An officer from Hertford Regional College, which laid on taster sessions in diverse creative activities including heatpress printing, fabric dying and photography, told us:

*"Our open event last night saw over 100 young people, adults and families view our art & design gallery / facilities at the Ware campus. All our free workshops, scheduled for early October 2024, are now completely full..."*

*"We have some good news stories linked to the sessions including the establishment of new partnerships with local companies and a potential new approach to providing bitesize taster sessions – leading to the availability of a fuller range of arts-based courses in the future."*

A local business that specialises in finding opportunities to promote creativity wherever they can told us:

*"I have now completed my "Rubbish Art" programme. Thank you for supporting my business. Everyone enjoyed their art experience... I have some wonderful photos. Once again thank you so much for the opportunity and for the grant."*

Arts in East Herts isn't just a one-off. It's obvious that for many participants, taking part the showcase awakened a new interest in their creative side. That itself is a fitting legacy, however, it doesn't stop there!

We have commissioned Community Alliance Broxbourne and East Herts (CVBEH) – our community volunteer service – to support a group of energised local artists and creative organisations to establish the Arts in East Herts steering group, with aim of making this an annual event. In time, we envisage the group becoming a community interest company or similar to best position them to gain inward investment.



*Figure 3 Hertfordshire Health Walks*



*Figure 4 Buntingford mosaic*

## 2. Climate Change Strategy

Activities in this strand are based on aspirations in the Climate Change Strategy. They have engaged a wide variety of local and national stakeholders and, beyond the specified outcomes, have created valuable legacy relationships, ideas, learnings and frameworks. Here are some key highlights from the projects:

### Residential Decarbonisation (£50k allocation)

- Partnership with National Energy Foundation (NEF)
- 42 residential decarbonisation plans/retrofit assessments delivered providing a path to decarbonisation through energy saving measures recommended for each home with projected carbon savings of 98 tCo2 annually
- 13 grant applications approved for solar and battery installations with projected carbon savings of 14 tCo2 annually
- Aiming to ensure low carbon or zero energy infrastructure impacts in residential properties of up to 150 sqm

### Community Buildings (£60k)

- Partnership with CDA (Community Development Action) Hertfordshire and Utility-Aid
- Offer of remote discovery energy saving and decarbonisation plans made to 83 community and village halls
- 26 halls responded to the offer, ultimately taken up by 17
- Based on the discoveries, offers were made to each hall for simple, cost/carbon effective upgrades that could be completed by a local qualified electrician or plumber for a maximum budget of £2500 each.
- 10 halls took up the offer:
  - 14 electricians and 3 plumbers were employed
    - 1 hot water heat pump
    - 1 Destratification system
    - 3 for gas boiler efficiency improvements
    - 2 small ventilation with heat recovery systems
    - 2 upgrades to LED lights
    - 3 new smart systems (in addition to smart tech being used wherever possible)
    - 1 hot water heat pump cylinder
    - 2 Infrared heating systems for halls to replace 1 gas and 1 oil heating system.

- Of the remaining funding allocation for this project, 2 halls were granted additional funding for the measures that represented the best value for money carbon reduction from the list of all possible hall interventions.
- Aim for a carbon saving of 10.93 CO<sub>2</sub>e t annually

### Carbon Reduction Grants (£60k):

- Retrofit (mostly on community buildings)
- Local 'grass roots' grants of up to £3,000 for carbon reduction projects in East Herts.
- 30 applications received over two rounds of which 25 were successful. Measures include:
  - Decarbonisation plans
  - Community engagement events and activities
  - Community resources such as thermal imaging cameras
  - Sustainable travel such as bike racks.



*Figure 5 Bike Racks installed at St Andrews Church, Hertford*

### Urban Tree Planting (£50k)

Partnership with HCC to plant all possible remaining ground tested tree locations in Urban locations across the District with a particular focus on Air Quality Zones and flood prone areas. Aim for carbon saving of 1000 CO<sub>2</sub>e t annually

Town	Totals trees, of which:
Bishops Stortford	34
Buntingford	15
Hertford	30
Sawbridgeworth	8
Ware	13
	<b>100</b>

## Energy Hubs Case Study

### Introduction: Context and Challenges

Increasing extreme weather events underscore the urgent need for climate action. In East Hertfordshire, rising energy costs and resource constraints have further complicated the challenge of delivering net-zero initiatives. Recognising these pressing issues, East Herts Council made its Climate Declaration in 2019 and amplified it to an Emergency in 2024, committing to ambitious targets to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change across the District.



*Figure 6 Energy Hub in Sawbridgeworth*

The Energy Hubs initiative was launched to address these challenges. These physical event stands, held year-round across the District, have the potential to engage tens of thousands of residents, offering advice on home retrofits, energy saving, and government grants. This community-led approach leverages behaviour change principles, empowering residents with tools and knowledge to reduce energy use and carbon emissions while encouraging peer-to-peer influence. Over the past year, the Energy Hubs have been hosted at 14 events, underscoring the Council's commitment to delivering impact at scale and pace.

### Leadership and Vision

East Herts Council has provided vital leadership in establishing and supporting the Energy Hubs initiative. The Council's Environmental Sustainability Forum, formed in 2019, has been instrumental in uniting local Town and Parish Councils and Carbon and Sustainability Groups. The Forum fosters collaboration, enabling stakeholders to share knowledge, shape climate strategies, and steer initiatives like Energy Hubs.

Peer-to-peer training has been vital, with one Forum member, for example, sharing their experience installing an air-source heat pump and offering optimisation tips. This collaborative environment has amplified community capacity and fostered trust, ensuring sustainability and lasting impact.

The Council's leadership extends to providing funding, materials, and logistical support. Yet, some of the most impactful results have emerged from the passion and dedication of volunteers, demonstrating that community-led action thrives on collaboration and shared purpose.

## **Innovation in Action**

The Energy Hubs represent an innovative solution designed to engage residents directly in climate action:

- **Pop-Up Stands:** Hosted at local events and staffed by trained volunteers, the Hubs provide practical advice on energy-saving practices, lowering household carbon footprints, and accessing grants. The branding and awareness potential of these events is significant, given they attract tens of thousands of residents annually.
- **Community-Driven Engagement:** Volunteers, drawn from the Environmental Sustainability Forum and local communities, adopt a trusted, peer-led approach to engagement. This behaviour change model fosters a cycle of participation, uptake, and influence, building momentum for broader climate action.

The Hubs have been instrumental in driving uptake of retrofit grants and schemes. They have helped East Herts consistently lead the County in engagement and participation, including:

- Topping the leader board for the Local Cycling and Infrastructure Plan consultation.
- Securing significant uptake of the Home Upgrade Grant.
- Encouraging over 200 residents and businesses to invest £2.2 million in solar panels through the Solar Together bulk purchasing scheme, installing 2,100 solar panels and saving 175,000kg CO2 to date.

## **Volunteer Training Programme: Embedding Sustainability**

To sustain the Energy Hubs' impact, East Herts Council has partnered with the Energy Saving Trust to deliver Home Energy Training. New volunteers completing training and assisting at three Hub events gain CV endorsements, enhancing personal and professional growth. This programme focuses on embedding knowledge, amplifying impact, and building confidence and self-efficacy, ensuring that volunteers remain motivated and effective.

By equipping volunteers with the tools to become sustainability champions, the Council is building a foundation for long-term community involvement. This approach sustains the Hubs' legacy, creating a ripple effect that extends beyond individual events to foster enduring climate action.

## **Community Engagement and Inclusivity**

Community involvement is central to the Energy Hubs' success:

- **Volunteer Network:** The initiative engages volunteers from Town and Parish Councils and local Carbon and Sustainability Groups, who act as trusted ambassadors within their communities.
- **Interactive Engagement:** Residents are encouraged to ask questions, share concerns, and receive tailored advice, fostering dialogue and trust.



- Ongoing Collaboration: The Environmental Sustainability Forum ensures continuous engagement, where participants help shape strategies and amplify outreach efforts.

This peer-to-peer approach has driven significant behaviour change, fostering a culture of shared responsibility and collective action. David Royle from community group Sustainable Sawbridgeworth remarked:

"The Energy Hubs initiative has been a game-changer for our community. Residents feel empowered to take action, and the volunteer network has been vital in spreading the message that we all have a role to play in tackling climate change."

### **Delivery and Impact: At Scale and Pace**

The Energy Hubs have delivered measurable results at scale:

- Widespread Reach: Nearly one thousand residents engaged in conversation with Hub volunteers last year, gaining insights on reducing energy use and accessing grants.
- Empowered Residents: Feedback shows residents feel more informed and confident about implementing energy-saving measures.
- Boosted Uptake: The initiative has driven strong participation in key schemes, contributing to significant carbon reductions.
- Volunteer Growth: Training and endorsements have attracted new volunteers, sustaining long-term involvement and amplifying impact.
- Sustained Impact: Volunteers remain active and committed, serving as sustainability champions within their communities.

With funding, logistical support, and community leadership, the Energy Hubs are a scalable, replicable model for other communities. Success breeds success, inspiring further action and innovation.



*Figure 7 Energy hub in Sawbridgeworth*



*Figure 8 Cllr Tim Hoskin at Abel Smith School, Hertford*

### 3. Town and Village Centres

*We have issued a number of grants to different towns and villages across the district. In most cases these projects have been match funded and delivered by the relevant town or parish council. It includes:*

**East Herts Council**  
28 Feb 2024 · 🌐

🌱 Recently, we awarded a grant of £9,810 to help improve the Meadows area in Stanstead Abbots to make it more usable to the local community!

🌸 This compliments the Section 106 Funding and Parish Council funding that was used to buy new equipment to improve the play area

😊 Stanstead Abbots is [#LevellingUp](#) thanks to the [#UKSPF](#) (UK Shared Prosperity Fund)!

📷 Pictured: Parish Cllr Mike Dormon, Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward (Executive Member for Planning and Growth), Cllr Peter Boylan, and Economic Development Officer Andrew Figgis

👍❤️ 22      2 comments 3 shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    📧 Send    ➦ Share



- Ware Town Council - £100k contribution towards the refurbishment of the WCs & a new 'Library of Things' to open in the summer
- Buntingford WCs - £10k towards their refurbishment to bring them up to a better condition
- Sawbridgeworth Memorial Hall - £45k contribution towards refurbishment, creating more space including commercial units
- Datchworth £30k towards outdoor play area improvements on Nutcroft play area and additional facilities at Turkey Farm
- Watton-at-Stone - £14k towards various improvements in the village, including new street furniture, planters and refurbishments to the Lammas common area
- Buntingford High Street, £75k for improvement works including replacing paving stones, planters, new bollards and repainting existing bollards
- Cottered & Throcking, £30k towards pathway improvements and a new pavilion

**East Herts Council**  
16 Jan 2024 · 🌐

🏡 Little Hadham is a network of 8 hamlets, and we are set about making improvements to benefit the local community, including the refurbishment and renewal of various village landmarks, signs and features.

🌸 As such, East Herts has awarded £13,200 from the [#UKSPF](#) to carry out these improvements.

👍❤️ 23      3 comments 2 shares

👍 Like    💬 Comment    📧 Send    ➦ Share



👍❤️ 2



East Herts Council

11 Jan 2024 · 🌐

👉 East Herts has approved a grant of £21,198 to Albury Parish Council.

🏠 This will be a contribution towards replacing the patio area to increase the hall's usability for events, improve the public realm and increase footfall to the facility.

💡 The total cost of the project will be £25,000 with £21,198 of that coming from the #UKSPF.

Pictured here are the works in progress, featuring Councillor Vicky Glover-Ward (Executive Member for Planning and Growth) along with parish clerk and local resident, Jane Pettitt, who has been organising the project on behalf of the parish council.

👍❤️ 14

2 comments 1 share

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- Markets manager for Hertford and Ware – part time markets manager to increase number of traders at the charter markets and also monthly farmer’s market. Up to £15k over 6 months
- £9k contribution to the Bishop’s Stortford BID for provision of parking rangers

We also commissioned additional work on some of our own assets including:

- Northgate End Car Park: installation of accessible doors and 13 pieces of artwork in the lobby areas (around £13k)
- Remaining elements of the Castle Park Project which couldn’t be funded including pathway repairs and the installation of a new harness to enable repairs (£100k)

To date we have created or improved over 1000 sqm of public/ community space



East Herts Council

4 Mar 2024 · 🌐

👉 We recently awarded Little Berkhamsted a grant of £9,157 to help improve the energy efficiency of the village hall!

👍 This means the building can be heated more affordably during the colder months, allowing more events to take place!

😊 Little Berkhamsted is #LevellingUp thanks to the #UKSPF (UK Shared Prosperity Fund)!

📷 Pictured: Parish Cllrs Penny Stokes and Derek Standbrook, Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward (Executive Member for Planning and Growth), Cllr Bob Deering, and Economic Development Officer Andrew Figgis.

👍❤️ 19

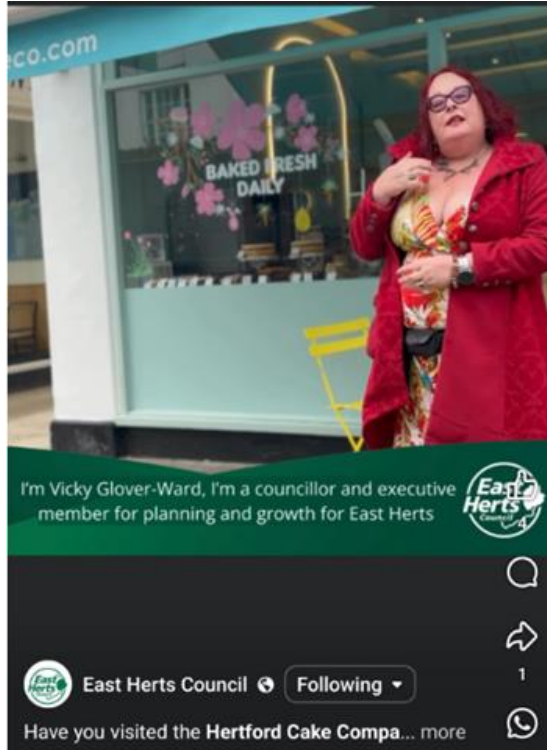
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## Business Support

Over the past year we have give out a number of small premises grants to businesses across the district, encouraging them to open up new premises or expand their existing ones, including:



- We heart pole/ Studio Fly (Ware)
- Thirteen Bakery (Hertford)
- My vintage market (Tewin)
- The Foley Barn (Aston)
- Countryman Inn (Buntingford)
- Le Peche Mignon (Stortford)
- Storm X recruitment (Ware)
- Gift Room (Sawbridgeworth)
- House Plants Express (Stortford)
- TDM (Stortford)
- The Deep House (Hertford)
- Hertford Cake Company (Hertford)
- Restless (Bishop's stortford)
- The Skin Lab (ware)





Figure 9 Le Peche Mignon



Figure 10 The Foley Barn



Figure 11 House Plants Express

*To date, through all the grants given out we have leveraged around £750k in additional, private sector investment in the district and created or safeguarded 10 jobs*

*We have also given out larger grants to a small number of businesses who applied for funding. The criteria for award was for those businesses generating new employment, new products or services, diversifying income streams or creating new commercial space. Several hundred expressions of interest however only a handful were awarded*



**East Herts Council**  
 Meet Dom Hampton, owner of **Attend 2 IT - Event IT Solutions** based in #Buntingford, pictured with Cllr Vicky Glover-Ward. The company specialises in providing a wide range of IT services, including WI-FI, CCTV and event st... See more  
 3 NOV 2023  
 7  
 6 shares

- Attend to IT (Buntingford), £17.5k towards costs of new equipment to allow them to support more events
- Hornbeck (Hertford), amount £17.5k towards cost of developing new products focused on sustainable materials for street lighting and signage.
- UKPN (Much Hadham), amount TBC towards developing new products which enable energy management
- Skill at arms (Sawbridgeworth), £50k towards costs of refurbishing and fitting out old, disused agricultural barns into 4 new commercial office spaces.
- Black Horse Pub (Brent Pelham), amount TBC towards to cost of creating 6 accommodation units/ rooms on site to help diversify income
- Air energy (Hertford), amount TBC towards expanding on site manufacturing and distribution capacity for air compressors and heating systems



Figure 12 Air Energy MD Mrk Asker hosting a visit



Figure 13 works taking place at the Black Horse



Figure 14 works in progress at Skill at Arms

*In conjunction with Hertfordshire Futures we have also delivered the following:*



*Figure 15 Launch of Generation Stortford*

- Growth hub – over 2000 enquiries from East Herts based businesses, 42 businesses provided with direct support (classed as over 6 hours) and 7 jobs created.
- Get Enterprising – 24 jobs created, 12 new business started
- Film office – 40 businesses supported, 7 jobs created
- We also ran 2x careers fairs connecting businesses to young people not considering university (one in BEAM and another at the Herts and Essex High School). Around 70 businesses took part along with 1300 year 10 & year 13s from 6 schools



Today myself Sue Farrugia and Clare Savage are at BEAM Hertford for the Generation Hertford Careers Fair... more