



West Midlands
Combined Authority



UK Government

LEVELLING — UP —



...the historic capital of the Black Country



Community & Place - Vibrant Places and Towns

Dudley Town Centre Vibrancy Pilot



Development of Stourbridge BID



Events



- Town Centre Vibrancy Feasibility study completed.
- Dudley Town Centre Partnership group formed
- Capacity building of group
- 1 x Neighbourhood officer recruited for cleaning and greening

- Development of Business Improvement District ongoing.
- Launch campaign scheduled Oct 2024.
- Ballot scheduled end of 2024, if successful to commence April 2025.
- Group have been able to feed into recent consultation works.

- 20+ events including half term activities in town centres (Dudley, Sedgley, Halesowen, Stourbridge, Brierley Hill).

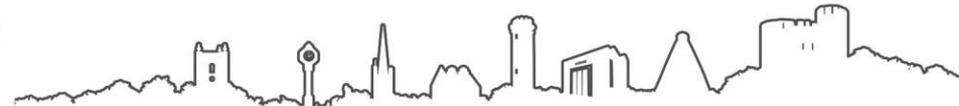
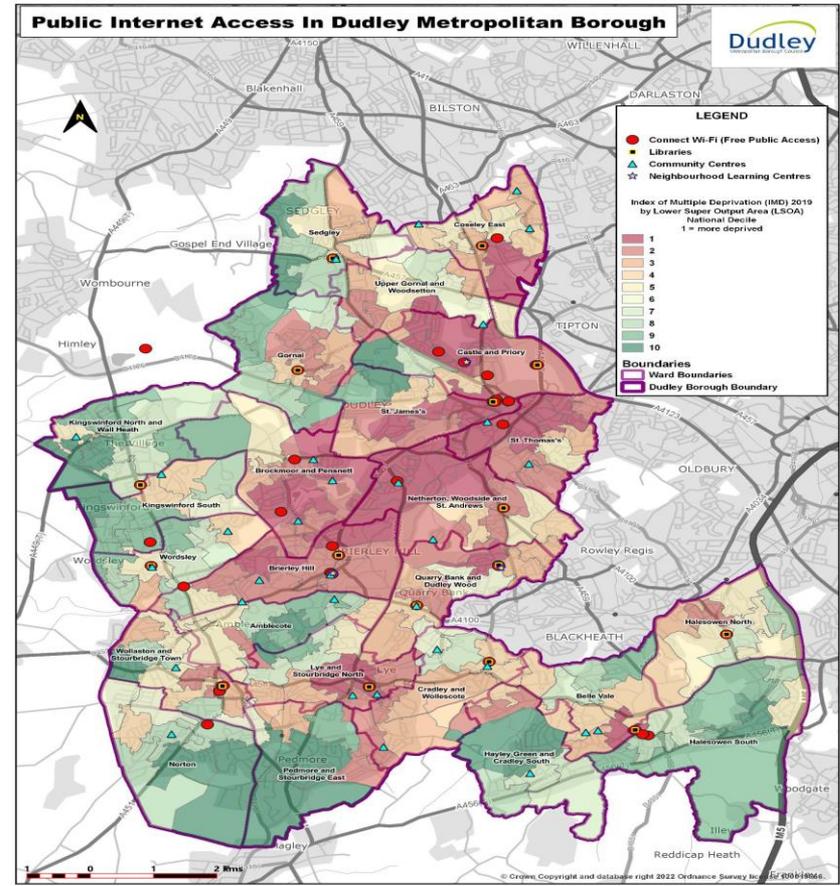
Communities & Place – Resident Delivery

- Six community organisations appointed through our Dynamic Purchasing System to engage with local residents and provide support, motivation, resilience, confidence building opportunities prior to progressing into employment and learning opportunities.
- To date 98 residents are being supported with group and one to one activities which will help them with future opportunities to engage with formal education and employment..
- Next Steps – Year 3 – negotiating contract allocations for final delivery year.



Communities & Place – Digital Inclusion

- Mapping exercise completed with ICT services to consider investment and support for digital connectivity for local community facilities.
- 2 centres have been agreed for internet server improvements, with work to be completed by March 2024.
- Year three priorities under discussion



Multiply - Financial Resilience

- Five community organisations appointed through our DPS to engage with local employed residents to provide financial resilience support with progression opportunities to formal education.
- To date 72 employed residents are being supported with group and one to one activities which will help them with financial management, understanding of basic maths and career progression opportunities.
- Next Steps – Year 3 – negotiating contract allocations for final year.



Regional Business

Business support and advice for SMEs

- Procured Oxford Innovation Services to deliver information, diagnostic, brokerage, advice and account management services to support Dudley SMEs to thrive, collaborate, innovate, and grow.
- More than 70 businesses supported November-February.

Dudley SME Grant Programme

- Scheme launched in December 2023; first successful applicants expected to contract before end of year 2.

Dudley Decarbonisation & Net Zero Grant

- Scheme launched in December 2023; first successful applicants expected to contract by end of y2.



Local Business

Start Up programme for Dudley

- Procured Good2Great Ltd to deliver a comprehensive business start-up support offer; building micro and small businesses and delivering activities to support them across the borough.
- Over 30 entrepreneurs registered to join programme since December 2023.

Innovation

- Strengthened relationships with innovation organisations to bring 2 innovation events to Dudley in Q3/Q4 – Venturefest Mobile Hub and Innovate Local

Grassroots entrepreneurship

- Start-up market project delivered in Halesowen

