



**BOLTON
GREEN
UMBRELLA**

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Volunteer Feedback Report**



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Contents



About the Funding	3
Introduction:.....	3
Funding for Bolton	3
Project Description:	3
Targeted Projects	4
Captains Clough CrowdFunder.....	4
Targeted Projects cont	5
Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).....	5
Targeted Projects cont	6
A new community allotment/tool hub at Tonge Moor Allotments.....	6
Distribution of Native Wildflower Seeds	6
Data & Analysis	7
Data Collection and Analysis of the Grants Programme:	7
Grant Beneficiaries	8
Outcomes & Impact	9
Outcomes:.....	9
Impact:	9
Financial Summary	10
Photos & Evidence	11
Conclusion & Reflection	12
The Project's Achievement	12
Challenges	12
Areas for Improvement going forward.....	12
Conclusion	12



About the Funding



Introduction:

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.

Funding for Bolton

£50 000 of the fund was agreed by Bolton Council to be used to fund the enhancement of green and blue spaces and the environment across Bolton and develop and maintain the volunteering network over two years (£25 000 in 2023-2024 and £25 000 in 2024-2025). They worked closely with Bolton Green Umbrella to ensure that the funds were distributed fairly and effectively as possible.

Project Description:

From November 2023 to March 2024, £15 000 of the funding was used to allocate £200 to small volunteer community groups who are part of Green Umbrella and £6000 was allocated for larger more targeted projects. All the projects needed to meet one or more of the criteria set out below:

1. Improving a green or blue (water) space, or creating a new one
2. Organising local events or activities
3. Improving or creating any local amenities such as repairing or replacing a shed or bench
4. Running any creative events e.g. workshop/project to make bird or bat boxes, bug hotels
5. Helping to increase the number of visitors and/or volunteers to your site
6. Training for your volunteers
7. Improving public safety as a result of what the community volunteers are able to do with the grant e.g. improving a footpath?
8. Improve IT capabilities e.g. website hosting fees, training on social media



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Targeted Projects

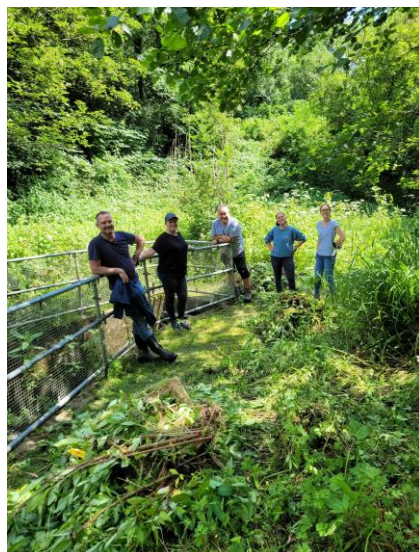


£6000 for the more targeted projects were allocated to the following projects:

Captains Clough CrowdFunder

£1000 was allocated to Captains Clough. Why Captains Clough? - Despite holding Local Nature Reserve status, Captains Clough has been neglected over the years, becoming overgrown with invasive species and polluted with litter. However, local residents and Bolton-based community groups want to change this! Bolton Green Umbrella, who connect and support community groups with a passion for the environment, want to empower these local residents to turn the Clough into a much-loved community space where people can come together to connect with nature and each other. This year, residents came together to tackle the invasive species issue in the Clough, removing substantial areas of the invasive Himalayan Balsam - and now we want to do more!

‘Captains Clough is lovely but it's got the chance to become something really amazing with this project’ – comment from the public on the project



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

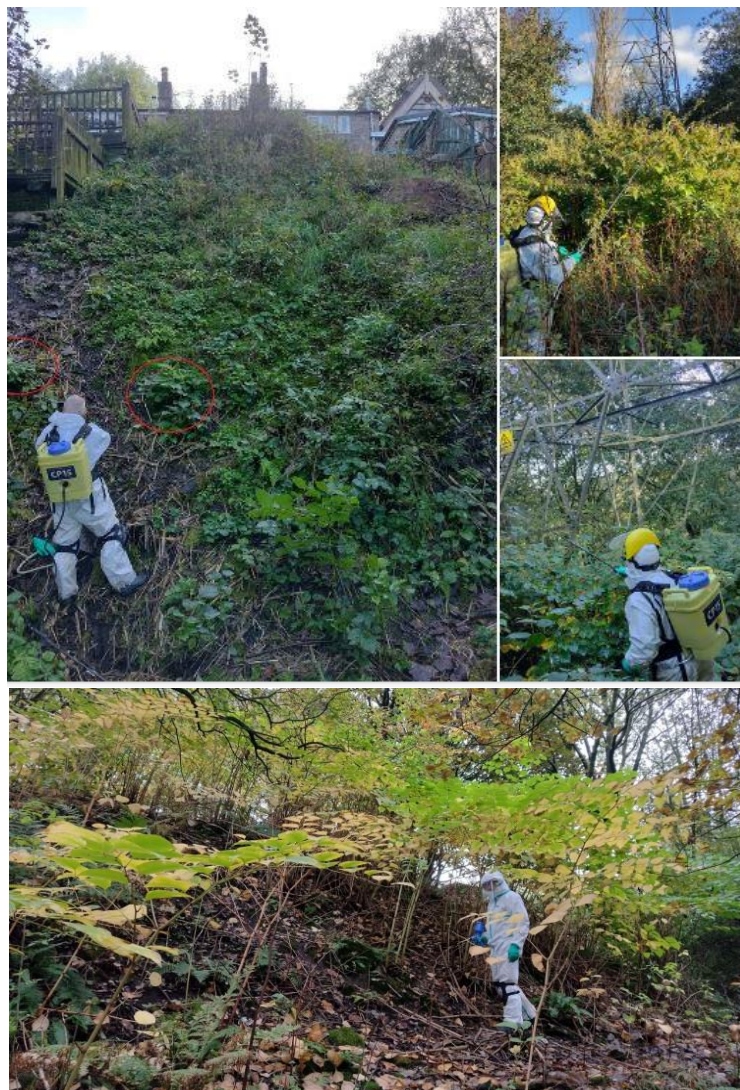
POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Targeted Projects cont.

Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS)

£500 was allocated to John Frazer and Bradshaw Brook Fly Fishing Club Volunteers who has done incredible work to reduce and even eradicate the amount of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam in Bolton.

Bolton had been identified as a national hotspot for the invasive plant Japanese knotweed. With this in mind and John's continued efforts to eradicate this invasive plant, the committee felt that it was imperative to support this on-going work, which will benefit the whole of Bolton. Bolton Green Umbrella received a generous donation of £1308.00 from Bolton School Boys Division, which was allocated to the INNS (Invasive Non-Native Species) project. As part of our commitment to raising awareness, John Frazer and Barbara Hackett delivered engaging presentations during pupil assemblies, highlighting the importance of tackling invasive species and promoting environmental awareness.



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Targeted Projects cont.

A new community allotment/tool hub at Tonge Moor Allotments

This project hopes to develop an allotment plot at Tonge Moor Allotments for community use. We will be arranging for a shipping crate to be delivered to site, which will hold essential tools and equipment that can be loaned out to any community group wanting to improve their own local areas.

In addition to this, we're excited to develop the plot further by creating dedicated growing spaces for the community. These spaces will empower local volunteers to cultivate their own plants, fostering a sense of ownership and connection. Additionally, we will establish an area specifically for growing native hedging and tree plants. These native species will enhance Bolton's greenspaces, contributing to biodiversity and cleaner air.

We expect this project to span over the two years and have had a quote for the work and equipment to bring this project to life of £3040.00

Distribution of Native Wildflower Seeds

As part of our commitment to enhancing biodiversity in Bolton, Bolton Green Umbrella is providing 50g of free native wildflower seeds to successful grant applicants on request. These seeds will not only beautify our surroundings but also play a vital role in supporting local ecosystems and pollinators. By fostering the growth of native wildflowers, we collectively contribute to a greener, more vibrant community. Our carefully curated native wildflower seed packets, complete with a comprehensive planting guide, have become incredibly popular among recipients.



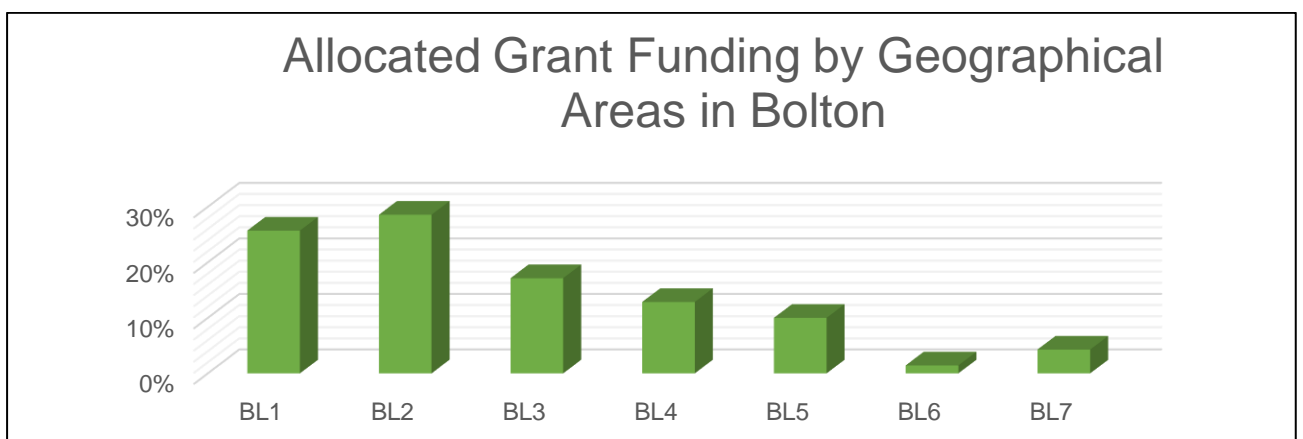
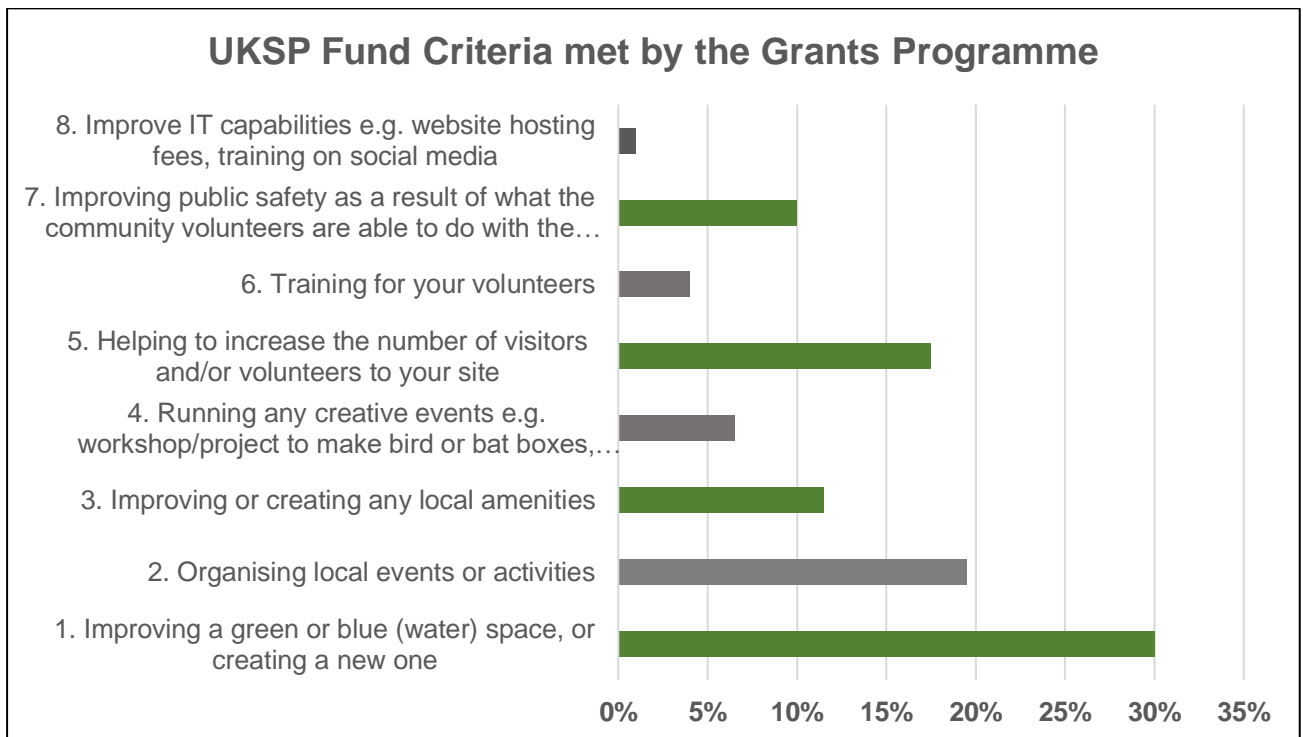
Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Data Collection and Analysis of the Grants Programme:

- When an application had been successful a funding feedback form was given to the community group.
- The successful groups were asked to provide this feedback on their own dedicated Bolton Green Umbrella page on the website. Each group was invited to share feedback on their dedicated Bolton Green Umbrella page. You can find the feedback links in the next section of this document.
- Below is data collected on the criteria each successful group had met with their project. Also below is the percentage of the reach of the grants in the Bolton borough:



Grant Beneficiaries



Groups A - D

[12th Bolton Scout Group](#)
[77th Bolton Guides](#)
[Bolton & Bury Swifts](#)
[Bolton Community Kitchen](#)
[Bolton Ramblers](#)
[Bolton SPAWN](#)
[Bolton West Guerrilla Gardeners](#)
[Bradshaw Brook Fly Fishing Volunteers](#)
[Brightmet Men in Sheds](#)
[Bridgeman Neighbourhood Community Group](#)
[Brighter Brightmet](#)
[Daisy Dell Action Group](#)
[Daisy Hill Cricket Club comm Garden](#)
[Darcy Lever GPAG](#)
[Deane and Daubhill Litterpickers](#)
[D's Clean Up Crew](#)

Groups E - F

[Eldon House Residents Group](#)
[Farnworth & Kearsley Litter Pickers](#)
[Flockton Court Social Centre](#)
[Four Seasons Food Plot](#)
[Friends of Captains Clough](#)
[Friends of Firwood](#)
[Friends of Harwood and Longsight Park](#)
[Friends of Highfield](#)
[Friends of Maxton House](#)
[Friends of Moses Gate](#)
[Friends of Moss Bank Park](#)
[Friends of Seven Acres](#)
[Friends of Sunnyside Park](#)
[Friends of Westhoughton Station](#)

Groups G - I

[GERA Grow and Share](#)
[Gilnow Green Island](#)
[Girl Guides HQ](#)
[Great Lever Connected](#)
[Hall i'th Wood Environment Group](#)
[Halliwell Community Alliance](#)
[Harpers Lane Community Garden](#)
[Harwood Clean and Green](#)
[Harwood Litter Pickers](#)
[Haslam Park Veterans Social and Bowling Club](#)
[HERA \(Halliwell Env Ramblers Assoc\)](#)
[Highfield and New Bury Litter Pickers](#)
[Highfield House Residents Group](#)
[Horace Street Community Group](#)
[Horton Horticulturalists](#)
[Hulton Lane Happy Gardeners](#)

Groups J - L

[Jubilee House Residents Action Group](#)
[Lever Edge Environment Group](#)
[Lever Edge Litter Pickers](#)
[Litter Pickers of Bolton West](#)
[Litter Pickers of North Bolton](#)
[Longsight Bowling Club](#)
[Longsight Lodge Residents Group](#)
[Love Stoneclough Action Group](#)

Groups M - R

[Morris Green Litter Pickers](#)
[New Bury \(Oakfield\) Allotment](#)
[Over Hulton Litter pickers](#)
[Over Hulton Allotment](#)
[Red Lane Growing Project](#)
[Rumworth Parents Supporting Parents](#)

Groups S-U

[Settle Street Allotment](#)
[Smithills Community Alliance](#)
[St Chads Community Garden and Growing Site](#)
[St Georges Residents Committee](#)
[Tonge & Haulgh Community Alliance](#)
[Tonge Moor Allotment Society](#)
[Tonge Park Bowling Club](#)

Groups V - Z

[Women of Willow Hey](#)



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Outcomes & Impact

Outcomes:

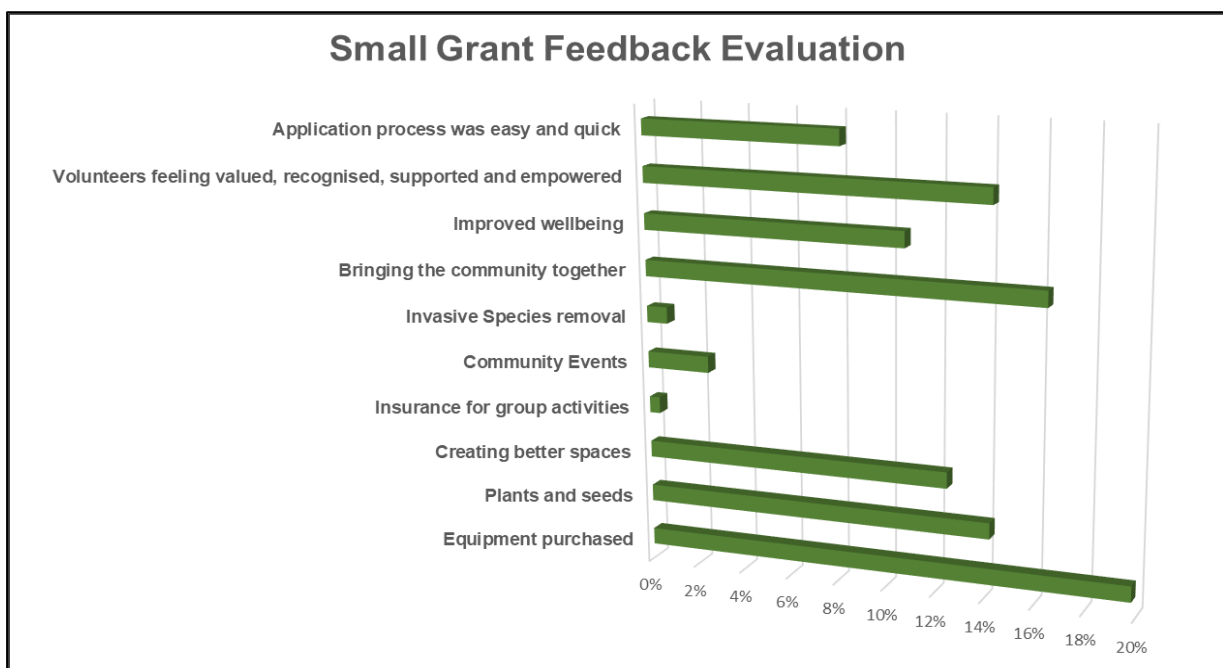
The project has achieved several notable outcomes, including increased community participation, improved access to resources such as tools, equipment and plants and a bigger sense of pride in the community where people volunteer.

These outcomes have contributed positively to addressing the initial need targeted by the grants to enable these small volunteer community groups access to much needed funds. Moreover, the outcomes are sustainable, with these groups now working more collaboratively and having Green Umbrella as a mechanism for continued benefits for the community beyond the fund's lifespan.

Impact:

The impact of the UK Prosperity Fund on the community has been significant. Importantly, it has made volunteers in Bolton feel recognised, valued and supported. By providing these grants to the small voluntary community groups it has strengthened community cohesion and improved wellbeing. The funds have also been distributed to all areas of Bolton as the data analysis has shown. The grants have also been distributed to a diverse number of community groups from Scouts and Guides, community allotments, litter pickers, community gardens, conservation groups, rambles, and friends of groups all over Bolton.

Furthermore, the small grants have empowered community members to take ownership of initiatives and drive further positive change within their locality. The ripple effects of the project are likely to extend well into the future, fostering lasting improvements and joined up working in the community.



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Financial Summary



Bolton Green Umbrella UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2023-2024

Budget area	Budget	Actual/Allocated	Remaining
Grant Awarded	£25,000.00	£25,000.00	£0.00
Small grants awarded	£15,000.00	£13,600.00	£1,400.00
Larger Projects	£6,000.00	£5,952.02	£47.98
Captains Clough Trail		£1,010.00	
Community Allotment		£3,040.00	
Community Allotment Payment		£48.03	
Rotivator		£900.00	
INNS Project		£500.00	
Wildflower Seeds		£453.99	
Admin costs	£4,000.00	£2,433.22	£1,566.78
BGU Insurance		£157.00	
Workshop attendance		£34.50	
Virtual Meeting Camera		£269.99	
Web Hosting		£82.74	
Projector		£209.99	
BGU Branded Fleeces		£179.00	
Website improvements		£1,500.00	
Balance	£0.00	£21,985.24	£3,014.76

£25 000 was allocated to Bolton Green Umbrella.

As a committee, we invited groups who have joined the Bolton Green Umbrella website to apply for a small grant of £200.00. We allocated £15 000 of the budget to this. 90% of the total has been awarded to small community groups across Bolton.

We allocated £6000 to larger projects. These were for enhancements to Captains Clough trail, investment in the ongoing invasive non-native species (INNS) project and towards the start of a brand-new community allotment at Tonge Fold Allotments. We are also in the process of buying a rotavator that can be used as a community asset. Native wildflower seeds have been purchased to be distributed across the Bolton Green Umbrella groups.

The remaining £4000 has gone on necessary equipment and services to improve the running of Bolton Green Umbrella going forward. All the equipment bought are community assets and can be used by groups in Bolton Green Umbrella if they so wish.

The remaining £3014.76 will be carried forward and put towards grant awards for 2024-2025.



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Photos & Evidence



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**

Conclusion & Reflection



The Project's Achievement

On page 7 are links to all the fantastic projects that have benefitted from the grant funding.

The fund has enabled 68 small groups all over Bolton to become more empowered to care for the places they love. The funding has also grown the Bolton Green Umbrella network with many more volunteer groups joining, providing a fantastic network of volunteering opportunities all over the Bolton area. It has given them the equipment to build on the all the hard work that they have already achieved. Many of the groups have stated that the application process was easy and they received a very quick response.

Bolton Green Umbrella grant assessors played a crucial role by providing valuable feedback and constructive suggestions to applicants. Their expertise and insights helped applicants refine their proposed projects and activities, ultimately enhancing the quality of submissions. By sharing their experience with member community groups, Bolton Green Umbrella not only contributed to individual project improvements but also added significant value to the entire grants process. This collaborative approach fosters growth, innovation, and meaningful outcomes for the community.

Challenges

Some of the challenges the committee encountered was with verifying bank details, but this was overcome very quickly by working with and keeping in contact with the groups. It was also challenging to administer the grant fund in the short space of time that was allocated to us, but with the dedication of the volunteer committee this was achieved.

Areas for Improvement going forward

The committee agreed that administering the grant next financial year should be easier as we will have a full year to complete the project. Over the coming weeks, the BGU Committee will diligently review all the feedback and learning points gathered during the grants process. Our goal is twofold: first, to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the grants process itself; and second, to critically assess the focus of our funding initiatives. We will closely examine the alignment of recipients with our mission, as well as the clarity of expected outcomes. By doing so, we aim to maximize the positive impact of our grants and ensure that they contribute meaningfully to Bolton Green Umbrella's objectives.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the UK Prosperity Funding has been a success, effectively addressing the targeted need within the volunteer community. Through clear objectives, efficient implementation, and meaningful outcomes, the project has made a tangible difference to volunteer community groups in Bolton. By embracing the lessons learned and implementing the provided recommendations, future community grant projects can build upon this success and continue to drive positive change in communities across the whole of the Bolton area.

Finally, Bolton Green Umbrella would like to express thanks to Bolton Council for the grant fund that has helped to empower and grow the committed volunteer groups that contribute so much to improving Bolton for all its residents.



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**



Funded by
UK Government

**GREATER
MANCHESTER**
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

POWERED BY
**LEVELLING
UP**