

The Arc  
High Street  
Clowne  
S43 4JY

To: Chair & Members of the Local  
Growth Scrutiny Committee

Contact: Jo Wilson  
Telephone: 01246 242385  
Email: joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Dear Councillor

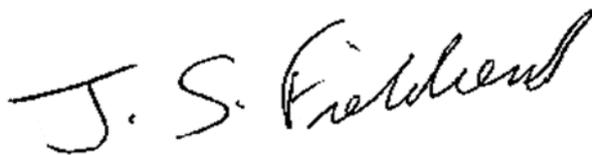
**LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee of the Bolsover District Council to be held at the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2022 at 10:00 hours.

Register of Members' Interests - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised onwards.

Yours faithfully



Solicitor to the Council & Monitoring Officer



**We speak your language**  
Polish **Mówimy Twoim językiem**  
Slovak **Rozprávame Vaším jazykom**  
Chinese **我们会说你的语言**

**If you require this agenda in large print  
or another format please call us on 01246 217753**

If you require an adjustment to enable you to participate in or access the meeting please contact the Governance Team at least 72 hours before the meeting starts.

**LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
AGENDA**

**Tuesday, 14th June, 2022 at 10:00 hours taking place at the Council Chamber, The Arc,  
Clowne**

<b>Item No.</b>		<b>Page No.(s)</b>
	<b><u>PART A - OPEN ITEMS</u></b>	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Urgent Items</b>	
	To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	
	Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of:	
	a) any business on the agenda	
	b) any urgent additional items to be considered	
	c) any matters arising out of those items and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Minutes</b>	4 - 7
	To consider the minutes of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2022.	
<b>5.</b>	<b>List of Key Decisions and Items to be Considered in Private</b>	8
	<i>(Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information. NB: If Members wish to discuss an exempt report under this item, the meeting will need to move into exempt business and exclude the public in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a for that part of the meeting only).</i>	
<b>6.</b>	<b>Work Programme 2022/23</b>	9 - 14
<b>7.</b>	<b>Growth Strategy - Monitoring Update (Interim) 2022/23</b>	
	Verbal report	

**8. Update on Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund**

15 - 91

Verbal report/discussion item

**PART B - INFORMAL ITEMS**

*The formal meeting of the Committee ends at this point. Members will meet informally as a working party to carry out their review work. This meeting is closed to the public, so members of the public should leave.*

**9. Review Work**

# Agenda Item 4

## LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Local Growth Scrutiny Committee of Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, The Arc, Clowne on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 10:00 hours.

### **PRESENT:-**

Members:-

Councillor Jen Wilson in the Chair

Councillors Derek Adams, Tracey Cannon and David Dixon.

Officers: Chris Fridlington (Assistant Director of Development and Planning), Jo Wilson (Scrutiny and Elections Officer) and Tom Scott (Governance Officer).

### **LOC33-21/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Jim Clifton, Councillor Tricia Clough, Councillor Paul Cooper, Victoria Dawson (Assistant Director of Housing Management and Enforcement) and Natalie Etches (Business Growth Manager).

### **LOC34-21/22 URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS**

The Chair had no urgent items of business.

### **LOC35-21/22 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **LOC36-21/22 MINUTES**

Moved by Councillor Derek Adams and seconded by Councillor Tracey Cannon  
**RESOLVED** that the minutes of a meeting of a Local Growth Scrutiny Committee held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 be approved as a true and correct record.

### **LOC37-21/22 LIST OF KEY DECISIONS AND ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE**

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer presented the list of Key Decisions to Members.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer advised that 'Disposal of commercial property at Bramley Vale' was the only decision on the Key Decision list published on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

**RESOLVED** that the List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private document be noted.

## **LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **LOC38-21/22 UPDATE ON BUSINESS GROWTH STRATEGY**

The Assistant Director of Development and Planning presented a report on progress against the Action Plan attached to the Council's Business Growth Strategy. He informed Members that the Economic Development team had appointed two new officers.

The Assistant Director of Development and Planning referred to requests at previous meetings for data on businesses for the whole District, and circulated a number of charts with percentages for numbers of employees, businesses, start-ups and closures.

Councillor Derek Adams was concerned that the chart information was taken from 2019 and 2020 and might be out-of-date, particularly since 2020 was when the COVID pandemic began. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that some of the businesses listed would have maintained themselves, so Members could still take guidance from it. He added that Bolsover District did not have many big brands, which had also limited the impact of COVID.

Councillor Tracey Cannon enquired what kind of encouragement could be given to young people at college age. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that there was currently a lot of pressure on household incomes, and Bolsover District did not offer as much to post-16 students as Sheffield or Mansfield, meaning there were additional costs associated with accessing provision.

Councillor Tracey Cannon asked if officers had a plan to encourage businesses to take on apprentices. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that a plan for bursaries to apprentices could be included as part of the Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that more support would be given to start-up businesses beyond their first year. Councillor Derek Adams supported this idea, because he felt there were events in a business' second year that they would not account for.

Councillor David Dixon referred to the Centre of Excellence mentioned in 2.5 of the Action Plan report ("we have recently been notified that we have an opportunity to draw down £500,000 of funding from D2N2 to support the creation of a skills academy in Shirebrook") and asked if this would involve working jointly with a company. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that the funding had come from the D2N2 low carbon growth fund, and the Council would be expected to produce two low carbon units as a result.

The Assistant Director of Development and Planning informed Members that GTEC specialised in electrical and renewal energy training, and the Council was working with private partners to utilise their training. He added that the Council also had a good relationship with Vision West Nottinghamshire College and Chesterfield College.

Councillor David Dixon was concerned that the lack of public transport links in the

## **LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

District might have a negative effect on the Shirebrook academy. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that Network Rail were considering improving transport links to Shirebrook train station.

The Scrutiny & Elections Officer explained she would circulate to Members more information on the seven Kick Start placements that had been appointed at the Council.

Councillor David Dixon requested that the Bolsover District business data charts shared with Members be broken down geographically. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that this could be carried out, but it might not be possible to present it before June or July 2022 because of the officer time required.

The Chair enquired what kind of initiatives could attract big businesses. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that there was a lot of potential funding for businesses in green energy, so the Council could encourage them to come to the District by making them eligible for grants.

Councillor David Dixon asked for a progress update on the Clowne Garden Village development. The Assistant Director of Development and Planning explained that at the moment, Derbyshire County Council had expressed concerns about the plan for the Treble Bob roundabout.

**RESOLVED** that the Business Growth Strategy be noted.

### **LOC39-21/22      WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The Scrutiny and Elections Officer presented the Work Programme 2021/22 to the Committee.

Councillor Derek Adams and Councillor David Dixon both felt there should be regular updates included in the Work Programme about Section 106 money and in particular, how much the Council has got and what each Parish receives. The Scrutiny and Elections Officer explained that monitoring of Section 106 money was not relevant to this particular Committee, but she would try and investigate their requests for information.

Councillor Tracey Cannon enquired if there could be an item included in the Work Programme about takeaway restaurant limits. The Scrutiny and Elections Officer explained that there was a specific policy in the Local Plan covering Hot Food Takeaways (Policy WC9) with clearly defined restrictions, which the Planning Policy Manager could explain to them in more detail.

**RESOLVED** that Members note the Programme attached at Appendix 1.

(Scrutiny and Elections Officer)

## **LOCAL GROWTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The meeting concluded at 11:10 hours.



**List of Key Decisions and items to be considered in private**

The latest version of the Forward Plan can be found here:

<https://committees.bolsover.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RPId=1147&RD=0&bcr=1>

Members should contact the officer whose name appears on the List of Key Decisions for any further information.

**NB:** If Members wish to discuss an exempt report under this item, the meeting will need to move into exempt business and exclude the public in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 and Local Government Act 1972, Part 1, Schedule 12a for that part of the meeting only.

## Bolsover District Council

### Meeting of Local Growth Scrutiny Committee on 14 June 2022

### Agreement of Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2022/23

### Report of the Scrutiny & Elections Officer

<b>Classification</b>	This report is Public
<b>Report By</b>	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, <a href="mailto:joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk">joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk</a>
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Joanne Wilson, Scrutiny & Elections Officer, 01246 242385, <a href="mailto:joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk">joanne.wilson@bolsover.gov.uk</a>

### PURPOSE/SUMMARY OF REPORT

- To provide members of the Scrutiny Committee with an overview of the proposed meeting programme of the Committee for 2022/23.

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### REPORT DETAILS

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The main purpose of the report is to inform members of the proposed meeting programme for the year 2022/23 and planned agenda items (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 This programme may be subject to change should additional reports/presentations be required, or if items need to be re-arranged for alternative dates.
- 1.3 Review Scopes submitted will be agreed within Informal Session in advance of the designated meeting for Member approval to ensure that there is sufficient time to gather the information required by Members and to enable forward planning of questions.
- 1.4 Members may raise queries about the programme at the meeting or at any time with the Scrutiny & Elections Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

- 1.5 All Scrutiny Committees are committed to equality and diversity in undertaking their statutory responsibilities and ensure equalities are considered as part of all Reviews. The selection criteria when submitting a topic, specifically asks members to identify where the topic suggested affects particular population groups or geographies.
- 1.6 The Council has a statutory duty under s.149 Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity and to eliminate discrimination.
- 1.7 As part of the scoping of Reviews, consideration is given to any consultation that could support the evidence gathering process.

## **2. Details of Proposal or Information**

- 2.1 Attached at Appendix 1 is the meeting schedule for 2022/23 and the proposed agenda items for approval/amendment.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1 This report sets the formal Committee Work Programme for 2022/23 and the issues identified for review.
- 3.2 The Scrutiny Programme enables challenge to service delivery both internally and externally across all the Council Ambitions.
- 3.3 The Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

## **4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection**

- 4.1 There is no option to reject the report as the Scrutiny functions outlined in Part 3.6(1) of the Council's Constitution requires each Scrutiny Committee to set an annual work plan.

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## **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

1. That Members review this report and the Programme attached at Appendix 1 for approval and amendment as required. All Members are advised to contact the Scrutiny & Elections Officer should they have any queries regarding future meetings.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Finance and Risk:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

None from this report.

On behalf of the Section 151 Officer

**Legal (including Data Protection):**            Yes             No

**Details:**

In carrying out scrutiny reviews the Council is exercising its scrutiny powers as laid out in s.21 of the Local Government Act 2000 and subsequent legislation which added to/amended these powers e.g. the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

On behalf of the Solicitor to the Council

**Staffing:**            Yes             No

**Details:**

None from this report.

On behalf of the Head of Paid Service

**DECISION INFORMATION**

<b>Is the decision a Key Decision?</b> A Key Decision is an executive decision which has a significant impact on two or more District wards or which results in income or expenditure to the Council above the following thresholds:  <b>Revenue - £75,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Capital - £150,000</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Please indicate which threshold applies</i>	No
<b>Is the decision subject to Call-In?</b> <i>(Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)</i>	No
<b>District Wards Significantly Affected</b>	N/A
<b>Consultation:</b> <b>Leader / Deputy Leader</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Executive</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>SLT</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Relevant Service Manager</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Members</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Public</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Other</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes  Details: Committee Members

**Links to Council Ambition: Customers, Economy and Environment.**

All

<b>DOCUMENT INFORMATION</b>	
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<b>Appendix No</b>	<b>Title</b>
1.	LGSC Work Programme 2022/23

<b>Background Papers</b>
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*(These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Executive you must provide copies of the background papers).*

Previous versions of the Committee Work Programme.

Rpttemplate/BDC/040222

## Local Growth Scrutiny Committee

### Work Programme 2022/23

#### Formal Items – Report Key

Performance Review	Policy Development	Policy/Strategy/ Programme Monitoring	Review Work	Call-In/Review of Executive Decisions	Petition

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda		Lead Officer
14 June 2022 13	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agreement of Work Programme 2022/23</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update (Interim) 2022/23 (VERBAL REPORT)</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review work</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
1 August 2022	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of Regional Strengths Post-Pandemic To cover: D2N2; HS2; Bolsover Skills Survey</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager/ Partnerships Team
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Programme 2022/23</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review work</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
4 October 2022	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update (Full) 2022/23</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Town Centre Regeneration Frameworks</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Programme 2022/23</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review work</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer

Date of Meeting	Items for Agenda		Lead Officer
6 December 2022	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update (Interim) 2022/23</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update on Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund - TBC</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational of 'Shop Local' initiatives and Town Centre viability</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Programme 2022/23</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
7 February 2023	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review work</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of Dragonfly and Bolsover Homes Programmes</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Property Services and Housing Repairs
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Programme 2022/23</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
13 March 2023	Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review work</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
	Part A – Formal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Growth Strategy – Monitoring Update (Full) 2022/23</li> </ul>	Assistant Director of Development & Planning/ Business Growth Manager
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work Programme 2022/23</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer
Part B – Informal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review work</li> </ul>	Scrutiny & Elections Officer	

## **Background reading**

This item will be a verbal report/discussion item to brief Members on the current funding available to the Council. Some background reading on the Funds has been provided for Members information in advance of the meeting, including

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus (Appendix 1)
- UK Shared Prosperity Fund Outputs and Outcomes (Appendix 2)
- Round 2 of Levelling Up Fund Prospectus (Appendix 3)



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
  2. Business and industry (<https://www.gov.uk/business-and-industry>)
  3. UK economy (<https://www.gov.uk/business-and-industry/uk-economy>)
  4. UK economic growth (<https://www.gov.uk/business/uk-economic-growth>)
  5. UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>)
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>)

## Guidance

# UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus

Published 13 April 2022

## Contents

Ministerial foreword

### Part 1

1. Introduction
2. What to use funding for
3. Funding places will receive
4. How the Fund will be delivered
5. Who should be involved in the Fund
6. How to write an investment plan

### Part 2

7. The Fund's parameters
8. How we will pay places and projects
9. How we will measure performance
10. Next steps and important dates



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This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

This Prospectus provides information to local authorities and other partners across the United Kingdom on:

#### Part 1

- The aims of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund
- What to use the funding for
- The funding places will receive
- How to deliver the Fund
- The investment plan process

#### Part 2

- The Fund's parameters
- How we will pay each place or project
- How we will work with each place to measure impact

It builds on pre-launch guidance published in February 2022.

For further information, you can [contact us](#) on any of the content of this guidance or via the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities area team for your place.

#### Important dates

- Fund launch: 13 April 2022
- Investment plan platform launch: 22 April 2022. A [pre-registration form \(https://forms.office.com/r/X6x0cBDWxU\)](https://forms.office.com/r/X6x0cBDWxU) will need to be completed before accessing the investment plan platform
- Investment plan submissions window: 30 June 2022 to 1 August 2022
- First payments expected to lead local authorities: from October 2022
- Funding period: April 2022 to March 2025

Further information including a more detailed timeline is included in [section 10](#).

#### Ministerial foreword

This government's central mission to level up the whole of the United Kingdom is about many things.

It is about levelling up opportunity and prosperity and overcoming deep-seated geographical inequalities that have held us back for too long.

It is also, fundamentally, about levelling up people's pride in the places they love and seeing that reflected back in empowered local leaders and communities, a stronger social fabric and better life chances.

This is our vision and ambition for the new £2.6 billion UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which succeeds the old EU structural funds. This money will go straight to local places right across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to invest in three local priorities; communities and place, support for local businesses and people and skills.

All places have their challenges, with affluence and deprivation often coexisting. In recognition of this, the UKSPF amounts to a predictable, long-term funding stream which local leaders are free to use as they see fit to unleash their unique potential. They can focus on what works best for their communities, including in new and innovative combinations, unshackled by previous EU restrictions.

This is a new approach to investment and the empowerment of local communities that I am confident will make a real difference on the ground and change lives. The next step is for each place to work with the private sector, civil society and others, as well as the devolved administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, to develop a plan. This should set out how they will target their funding on local priorities, against measurable goals. Once this is in place they can unlock three years of UKSPF investment.

I am excited to see the creative, ambitious choices that communities make as they level up and take charge of their destinies. And I look forward to working with leaders and communities right across the UK to ensure they succeed.

#### Part 1

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. It will help places right across the country deliver enhanced outcomes and recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.

It seizes the opportunities of leaving the European Union, by investing in domestic priorities and targeting funding where it is needed most: building pride in place, supporting high quality skills training, supporting pay, employment and productivity growth and increasing life chances. It will reduce the levels of bureaucracy and funding spent on administration when compared with EU funds. It will enable truly local

decision making and better target the priorities of places within the UK. It will lead to visible, tangible improvements to the places where people work and live, alongside investment in human capital, giving communities up and down the UK more reasons to be proud of their area.

Places will be empowered to identify and build on their own strengths and needs at a local level, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances. Local places will be able to use the Fund to complement funding such as the Levelling Up Fund, and mainstream employment and skills provision to maximise impact and simplify delivery.

The Fund's interventions will be planned and delivered by councils and mayoral authorities across England, Scotland and Wales – 'lead local authorities', working closely with local partners and the Scottish and Welsh governments.

In Scotland and Wales we want to use existing strategic geographies and local authorities to draw on the insight and expertise of local partners, including businesses, the voluntary sector and Members of Parliament to target interventions where most appropriate.

In Northern Ireland, UK government will have oversight of the Fund. We want to work closely with local partners to design a Northern Ireland investment plan. We will refine the plan in consultation with stakeholders in a way that reflects the needs of Northern Ireland's economy and society. This group could include representatives from Northern Ireland Executive Departments, local authorities, businesses and the community and voluntary sector.

## 2. What to use funding for

### 2.1 The aims of the Fund

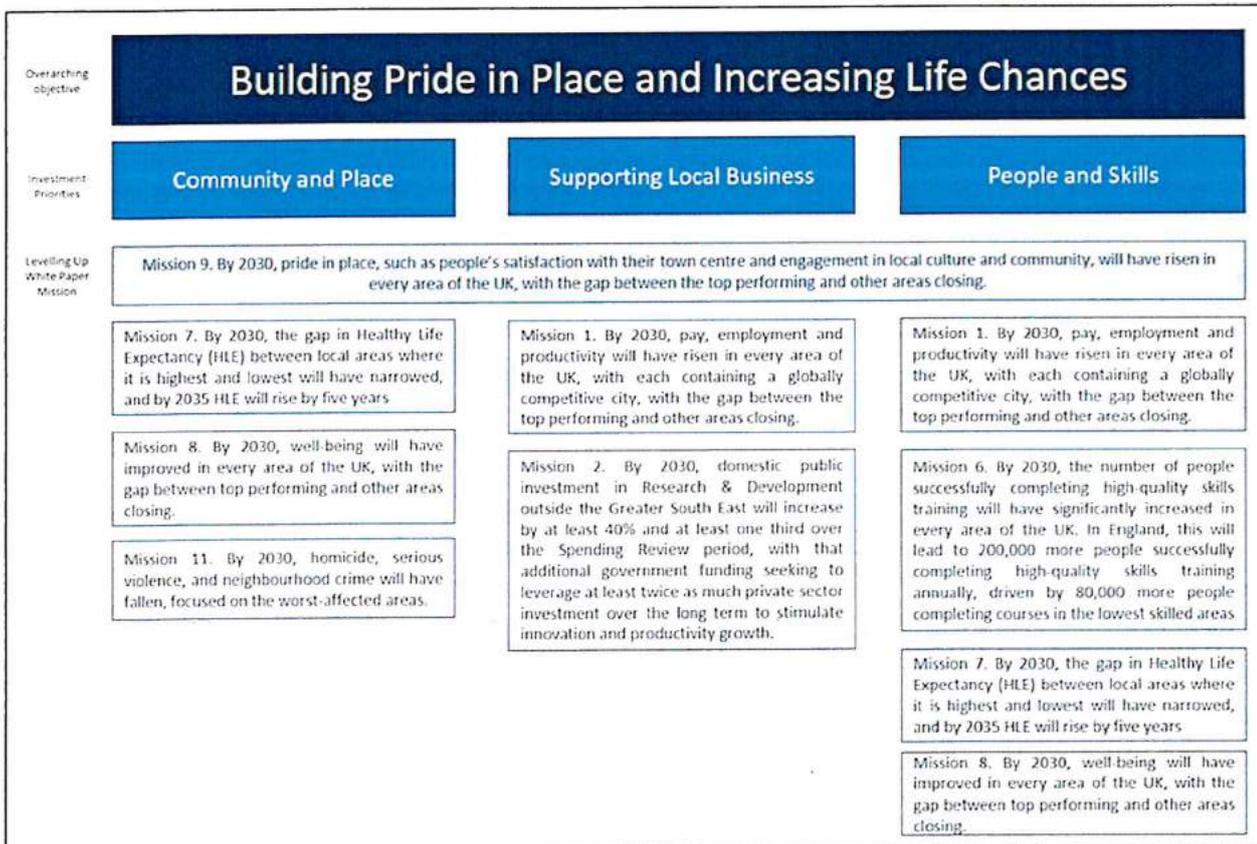
The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. This aligns with Levelling Up White Paper missions, particularly: 'By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.'

Alongside economic pull and push factors, people's lives are shaped by the social and physical fabric of their communities. The local mix of social and physical capital gives local areas their unique character and shapes where people choose to live, work and invest. Recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the pandemic, this Fund will improve the places people live in, and support individuals and businesses. It will drive noticeable improvements that matter to local communities, foster local pride in place and increase life chances including health outcomes.

Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills. There are detailed objectives associated with each of these priorities which are aligned to the relevant Levelling Up White Paper mission.



Description: this picture shows the three investment priorities of UKSPF and how they relate to 7 of the 12 Levelling Up White Paper missions.

Overarching objective = Building pride in place and increasing life chances

All 3 investment priorities:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business; and
- People and Skills

relate to Levelling Up White Paper Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

**The Community and Place investment priority relates to:**

Mission 9. By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years

Mission 8. By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 11. By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.

**The Supporting Local Business investment priority relates to:**

Mission 9. By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 1. By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 2. By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.

**The People and Skills investment priority relates to:**

Mission 9. By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 1. By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

Mission 6. By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.

Mission 7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.

Mission 8. By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

The UKSPF forms part of a suite of complementary levelling up funding. It builds on the competitive Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund through long term, stable funding, allocated to all places. Its mix of revenue and capital funding can be used to support a wide range of interventions to build pride in place and improve life chances. These can complement Levelling Up Fund capital projects, strategic Freeport investments or community-level Community Ownership Fund projects, as well as existing employment and skills provision.

As we simplify the funding landscape, we will consider further opportunities to integrate funding with the UKSPF, including alignment with additional rural funding from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in England.

## 2.2 Using the Fund to meet local needs

[All places across the UK \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/delivery-geographies\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/delivery-geographies) will receive a conditional allocation from the UKSPF.

To access their allocation, each place will be asked to set out measurable outcomes that reflect local needs and opportunities. These should inform the interventions they wish to deliver. Places will be able to choose from investment across three investment priorities of communities and place, local business and people and skills.

Within the context of the Fund's aims, each place will have flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help <sup>20</sup> and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. It should build on existing national provision to create the optimal mix of support for each place. This flexible approach represents a key shift from the previous EU system.

These interventions will be set out in an investment plan submitted to the UK government for approval. The [investment plan process is described in section 6](#).

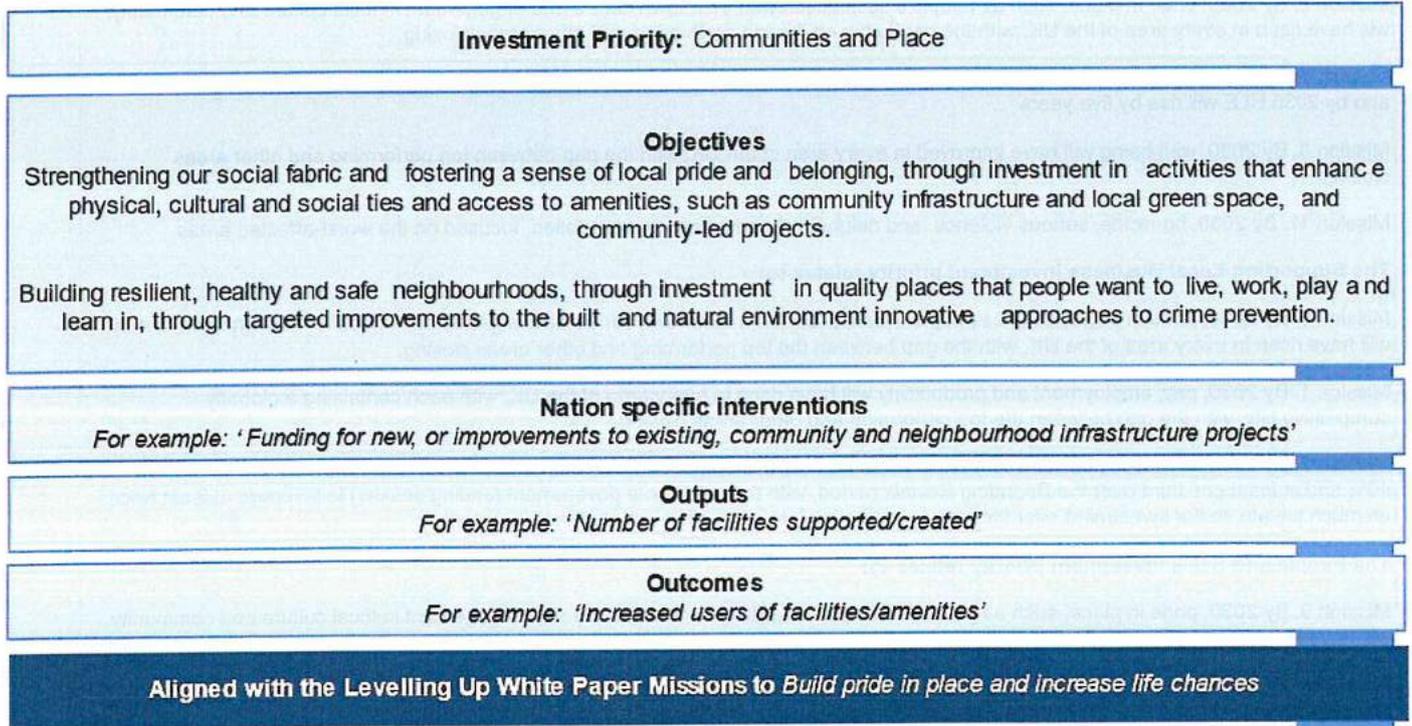
In the plans, places will select outputs and outcomes relevant to each UKSPF investment priority. This will allow lead local authorities, local partners, the UK government, and the devolved administrations to monitor progress.

The UK government recognises that the circumstances in which the Fund will operate differ by nation. Within the context of the Fund's overall objectives, we have worked with the local government associations, the Scottish and Welsh governments and departments across the Northern Ireland Executive to inform and develop the most appropriate mix of interventions for each nation.

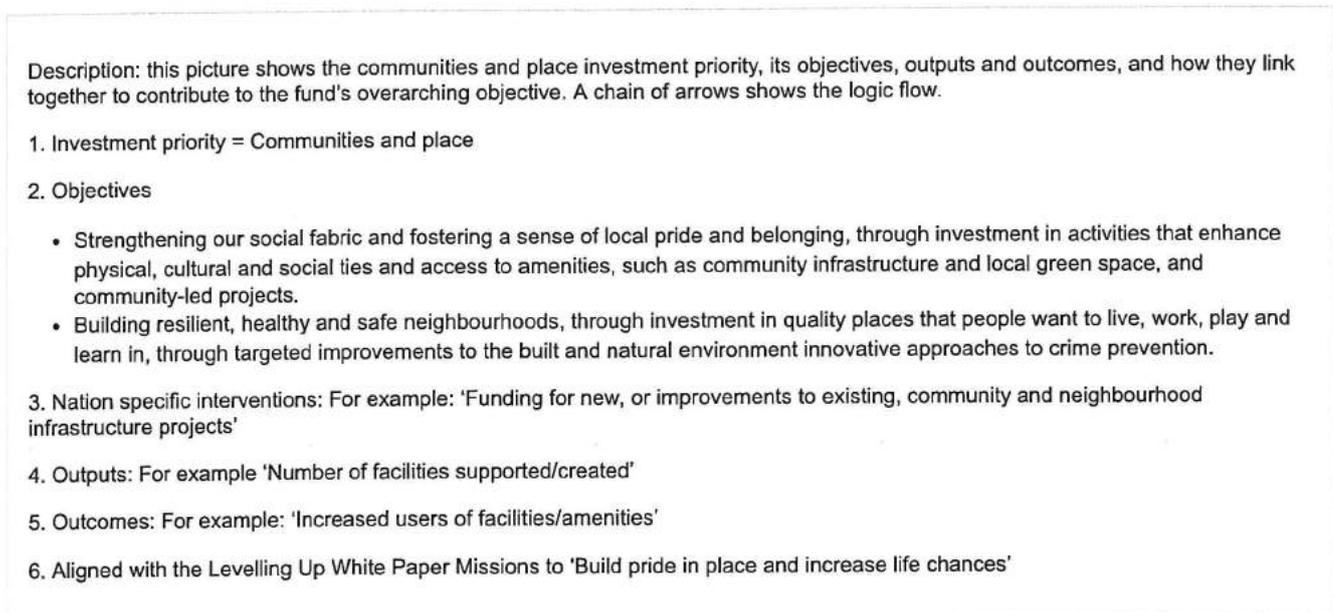
[See a list of the interventions and indicative outputs and outcomes for each investment priority. \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators)

### 2.3 Communities and place

The communities and place investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place.



#### Communities and place – objectives, outputs and outcomes



Alongside the 'pride in place' overarching mission, the Levelling Up White Paper sets out three further missions that should guide interventions for this investment priority:

- By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

- By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas (with a UKSPF focus on neighbourhood crime)
- By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.

These missions, and the wider commitment to Levelling Up, have informed the objectives of this investment priority. [See a list of interventions for this investment priority and indicative output and outcome indicators.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators>)

Places are encouraged to review the interventions and identify activities that would support these objectives in their area, including any interventions that are best delivered at a larger scale in collaboration with other places, or more locally. The following evidence, resources and case studies are designed to help with this.

#### **Case Study: Community-led Sustainable Transport Solutions – Swansea, Wales**

This £129,000 UK Community Renewal Fund project will strengthen sustainable transport and active travel such as car and bike-share schemes, community transport, localised delivery services, lift-sharing and support for active travel. It aims to address social isolation, promote community cohesion, enable better access to services and employment, improve health and wellbeing, and support net zero goals.

#### **Case Study: Zero Carbon Cultural Regeneration – Inverness, Scotland**

This £19 million Levelling Up Fund project combines three complementary culture-led projects that will drive the environmental, cultural and economic regeneration of Inverness. Located along deprived riverside areas in the heart of the city, they will provide transformational opportunities for residents and visitors. The projects combine culture, regeneration and renewable energy, to deliver economic benefits to local businesses and help meet zero-carbon targets.

#### **Case Study: SMART Tottenham Project, Haringey, London – England**

£500,000 from Haringey's Future High Streets Fund award focuses on reducing crime and supporting retail on Tottenham High Road. Funding an increased level of CCTV in the high street, it aims to generate behavioural change and discourage antisocial behaviour, tackling crime and making the area safer.

#### **Case Study: The Nile and Villiers Community-Led Project – Sunderland, England**

£4.7 million from the Levelling Up Fund will be invested to redevelop a brownfield site and derelict buildings into new homes, workshop/commercial space, and a revitalised historic building. These developments will catalyse the regeneration of Sunnyside, one of the city centre's most deprived areas, characterised by poor-quality housing, high crime rates, derelict industry and hostels for vulnerable adults. It will create a popular, organic and residential community, changing perceptions of the area and city centre living.

### **Evidence and resources**

The communities and place investment priority covers a wide range of local interventions, including public realm projects, community-led initiatives, and cultural and heritage projects. Analysis of approved round one Levelling Up Fund bids suggests communities and place interventions can offer good value for money. While the evidence around cause and effect of public realm and community-based interventions is limited, evaluators note they can create better places to live and do business, deliver important wider social outcomes and generate positive placemaking amenity benefits.

The What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth (WWLEG) have a 'Place' focused policy design toolkit and evidence reviews available for area-based initiatives, public realm, sports and culture, and estate renewal interventions, amongst others, that may help inform local decisions around investment in this investment priority. It is important to note that the centre's focus is on the extent to which those policies show evidence of impact on economic outcomes, as opposed to outcomes that measure progress towards the broader 'pride in place' focus of UKSPF.

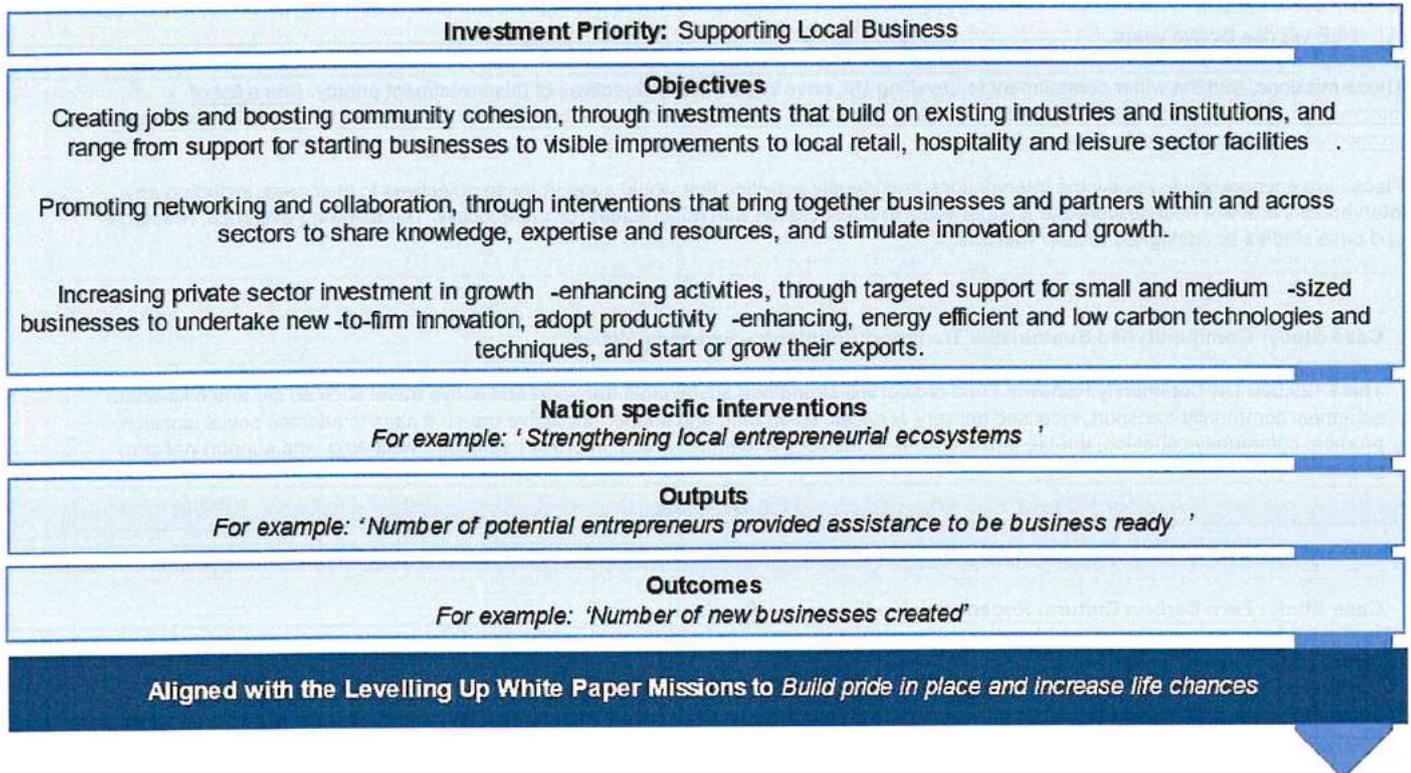
One of the aims of UKSPF is to contribute to a better evidence base for communities and place interventions. Where evidence is more limited, we will work with lead authorities to robustly evaluate a sample of interventions at the local level to inform the design of future funding schemes that the UK government may wish to develop.

Places are also encouraged to consider bespoke interventions that meet the unique needs of their community and place. Lead local authorities will need to provide further detail on these – including a Theory of Change, Logical Framework or Logic Chain – in their investment plan to access their UKSPF funding.

Working with other places is strongly encouraged in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. This includes working with places in different parts of the UK.

## **2.4 Supporting local business**

The supporting local business investment priority will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.



Supporting local business – objectives, outputs and outcomes

Description: this picture shows the supporting local business investment priority, its objectives, outputs and outcomes, and how they link together to contribute to the fund's overarching objective. A chain of arrows shows the logic flow.

1. Investment priority = Supporting local business
2. Objectives
  - Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
  - Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
  - Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.
3. Nation specific interventions: For example: 'Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems'
4. Outputs: For example: 'Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready'
5. Outcomes: For example: 'Number of new businesses created'
6. Aligned with the Levelling Up White Paper Missions to 'Build pride in place and increase life chances'

Alongside the 'pride in place' overarching mission, the Levelling Up White Paper sets out two further missions that should guide interventions for this investment priority:

- By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth (with a UKSPF focus on helping businesses to access innovation support).

These missions, and the wider commitment to Levelling Up, have informed the objectives of this investment priority. [See a list of the interventions for this investment priority and indicative output and outcome indicators. \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators)

Places are encouraged to review the interventions and identify activities that would support these objectives in their area, including any interventions that are best delivered at a larger scale in collaboration with other places, or more locally. Places should also consider segmenting their business population, focusing on specific interventions that will best meet local business need. This can be informed by early engagement with local business representatives. The following evidence, resources and case studies are designed to help with this.

**Case Study: Tees Valley Business Challenge, England**

This £826,000 Community Renewal Fund project is designed to accelerate Small and Medium Enterprises' development of market-led solutions to innovation challenges and supply chain opportunities relevant to local economic priorities. It will strengthen innovation maturity in the Tees Valley economy, building resilience for post-Covid economic recovery and unlocking growth potential.

**Case Study: Barrow in Furness Town Centre, England**

This £16 million Levelling Up Fund project will deliver a package of schemes to modernise and diversify the market hall and its offer, create of a new arrival point and improve in links to the main retail area. Accessibility improvements will connect the town areas, together with investment in sustainable travel infrastructure, combining to boost business start-ups and the local economy.

**Evidence and resources**

The What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth (WWLEG) have found that business advice interventions had a positive impact on at least one firm outcome in a little over half of the schemes evaluated. The Business Productivity Review call for evidence provides a summary of studies examining the impact of business support activities<sup>[footnote 1]</sup>.

The Office of National Statistics has conducted research that found a 1% increase in management score was associated with a corresponding 10% increase in productivity<sup>[footnote 2]</sup>. Further research has also found that firms that invest in R&D have 13% higher productivity than those who do not<sup>[footnote 3]</sup>. Social returns from R&D investment, are typically 2 to 3 times larger than private returns<sup>[footnote 4]</sup>.

The What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth have a 'Business' focused policy design toolkit and evidence reviews available for access to finance, apprenticeships, business advice and innovation interventions, amongst others, that may help inform local decisions around investment in this investment priority and, if you decide to invest, the policy design questions that you should ask yourself to maximise local growth impacts. Note that local growth impacts are the focus of the WWLEG, and we know much less about the impact of these types of interventions on delivering pride in place or social outcomes. The [OECD \(https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/oecd-studies-on-smes-and-entrepreneurship\\_20780990\)](https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/industry-and-services/oecd-studies-on-smes-and-entrepreneurship_20780990) and [Enterprise Research Centre \(https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/\)](https://www.enterpriseresearch.ac.uk/) are also useful resources that local places should consider.

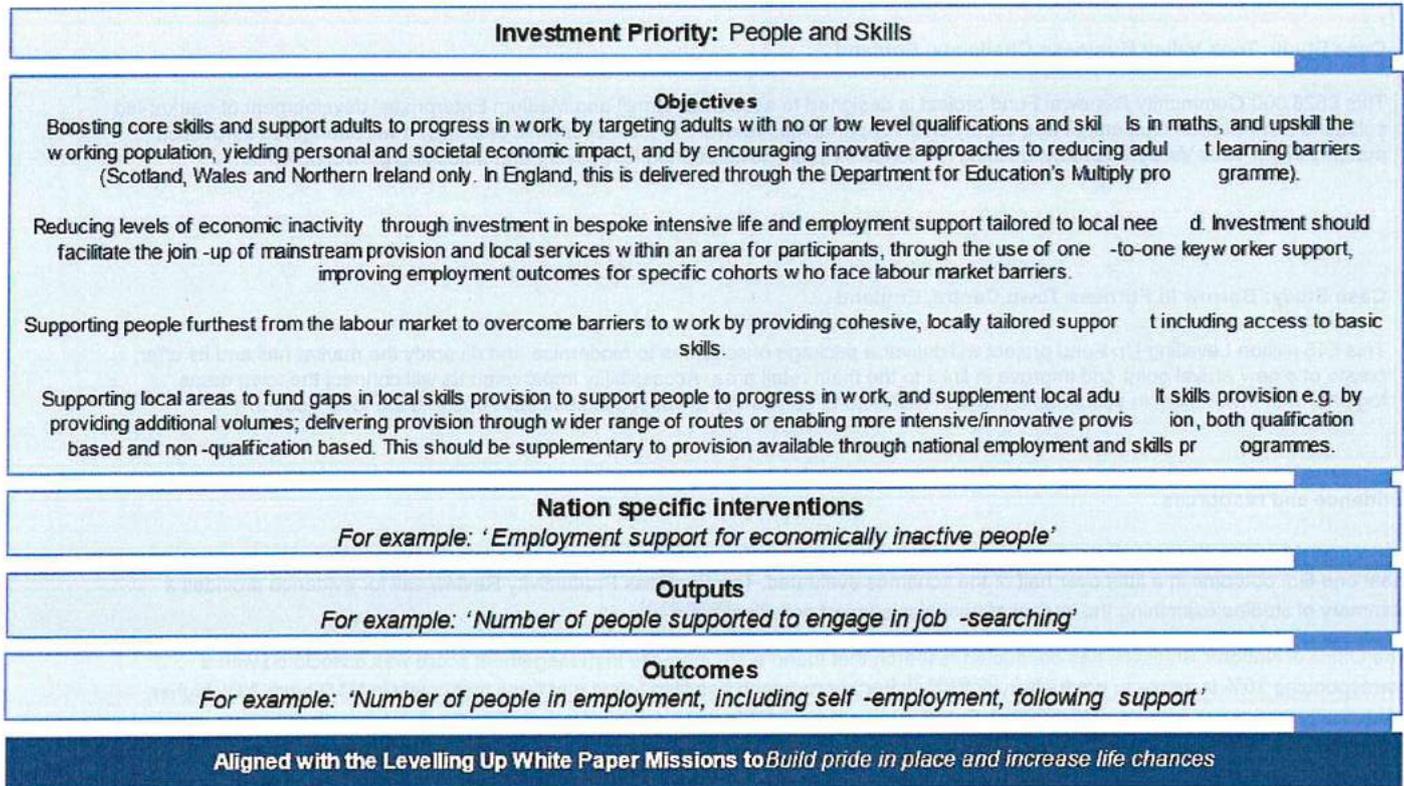
One of the aims of UKSPF is to contribute to a better evidence base for supporting local business support interventions. Where evidence is more limited, we will work with lead authorities to robustly evaluate a sample of interventions at the local level to inform the design of future funding schemes that the UK government may wish to develop.

Places are also encouraged to consider bespoke interventions that meet the unique needs of their community and place. Lead local authorities will need to provide further detail on these – including a Theory of Change, Logical Framework or Logic Chain – in their investment plan to access their funding.

Working with other places is strongly encouraged in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. This includes working with places in different parts of the UK.

**2.5 People and skills**

Through the people and skills investment priority, places can use their funding to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.



#### People and skills – objectives, outputs and outcomes

Description: this picture shows the people and skills investment priority, its objectives, outputs and outcomes, and how they link together to contribute to the fund's overarching objective. A chain of arrows shows the logic flow.

1. Investment priority = People and skills
2. Objectives
  - Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low level qualifications and skills in maths, and upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland only. In England, this is delivered through the Department for Education's Multiply programme).
  - Reducing levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.
  - Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.
  - Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.
3. Nation specific interventions: For example: 'Employment support for economically inactive people'
4. Outputs: For example: 'Number of people supported to engage in job-searching'
5. Outcomes: For example: 'Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support'
6. Aligned with the Levelling Up White Paper Missions to 'Build pride in place and increase life chances'

Alongside the 'pride in place' overarching mission, the Levelling Up White Paper sets out four further missions that should guide interventions for this investment priority:

- By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
- By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
- By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
- By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.

These missions, and the wider commitment to Levelling Up, have informed the objectives of this investment priority. UKSPF offers places the option to fund local people and skills support that will complement, not duplicate, mainstream provision.

This investment priority has two primary elements, employment support for economically inactive people (benefit and non-benefit claimants) [\[footnote 5\]](#) and funding skills provision to provide people with the skills needed to progress in life and work, including supporting local areas to fund local skills needs. Multiply will include these cohorts but with a specific focus on numeracy. It will be targeted at those aged 19 and over who have not previously attained a GCSE Grade 4/C, SCQF Level 5 or higher maths qualification or equivalent.

See a [list of the interventions for this investment priority and indicative output and outcome indicators](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators).  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators>)

For Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, see [information on Multiply](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/multiply-in-scotland-wales-and-northern-ireland) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/multiply-in-scotland-wales-and-northern-ireland>). Each place in England should read the [Multiply prospectus](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiply-funding-available-to-improve-numeracy-skills) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multiply-funding-available-to-improve-numeracy-skills>) published by the Department for Education. They should take account of the aims, objectives and priorities of Multiply when developing local plans for people and skills interventions.

In England, places will be able to select people and skills interventions from 2024-2025 onwards, or earlier where they meet the [voluntary sector considerations outlined here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators>).

In recognition of their specific circumstances, places in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will be able to select interventions from the people and skills investment priority from 2022-2023.

Places are encouraged to review the interventions and identify activities that would support these objectives in their area, including any interventions that are best delivered at a larger scale in collaboration with other places, or more locally. The following evidence, resources and case studies are designed to help with this.

#### **Case Study: BE BEST – Ards and North Down, Northern Ireland**

This £511,000 Community Renewal Fund project offers a menu of training opportunities, including access to basic skills, employability support, mentoring and work placements. Investing in people helps them to secure new and better jobs, and local businesses to meet workforce needs. Leadership, management and entrepreneurship support is also available for businesses which encourages cross sectoral community initiatives, increasing the local skills base for employers, address local business and innovation needs through digital collaboration.

#### **Case Study: 50+ employment support, Greater Manchester, England**

As part of its devolution deal, Greater Manchester is working with DWP and the Centre for Ageing Better to pilot localised support to bring inactive people between 50 and State Pension age back into work.

Its co-creation and prototyping phase was carried out from July 2020 to January 2022. It identified a series of feasible approaches including employment support; personal budgets; meaningful, paid work placements; self-guided support to identify transferable skills and explore career options with optional coaching (Reach); and a person-centred approach to commissioning employment support. Two of these approaches, Reach and person-centred procurement, will be piloted in a second phase of work.

#### **Case Study: Individual Placement and Support (IPS) to people with common mental and/or physical health conditions – West Midlands, South Yorkshire and North Wales**

IPS is a well evidenced initiative for individuals with severe mental illness that provides intensive, individual support to help people find suitable employment and in-work support. DWP has been testing whether it could also work embedded in primary healthcare teams and supporting individuals with more common conditions. This integrates employment specialists within healthcare teams with referrals made by healthcare professionals. 30% of participants are expected to find a job as a result. The trials have forged stronger relationships between local government and the healthcare system, and given healthcare professionals confidence to have employment related conversations with patients. It continues to be delivered to around 3,500 individuals in the West Midlands, South Yorkshire and North Wales.

### **Evidence and resources**

A report examining the 2007-13 England European Social Fund programme found that increasing the quantity and range of support available to participants helped them to find employment and gain qualifications [\[footnote 6\]](#). It provides insight into the added value of using a keyworker model, bringing together a range of local services, to support economically inactive people move towards employment. A study examining the economic returns to publicly funded vocational qualifications in England found these generate strong returns [\[footnote 7\]](#).

The What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth (WWLEG) found that employment training programmes had a positive impact on wages and employment in around half of evaluations reviewed. They also noted that in-firm or on-the-job programmes tend to be particularly effective and involving employers in the design of courses, and ensuring activities mirror actual jobs are further ways to drive effectiveness.

WWLEG have a 'People' focused policy design toolkit and evidence reviews available for apprenticeships and employment training, amongst others, that may help inform local decisions around investment in this investment priority and, if you decide to invest, the policy design questions that you should ask yourself to maximise local growth impacts. European Social Fund project case studies also provide an

overview of the types of support currently available. Note that local growth impacts are the focus of the WWLEG, and that people and skills interventions will also have important social outcomes.

One of the aims of UKSPF is to contribute to a better evidence base for place interventions. Where evidence is more limited, we will work with lead authorities to robustly evaluate a sample of interventions at the local level to inform the design of future funding schemes that the UK Government may wish to develop. Places are also encouraged to consider bespoke interventions that meet the unique needs of their community and place. Lead local authorities will need to provide further detail on these – including a Theory of Change, Logical Framework or Logic Chain – in their investment plan to access their funding.

Working with other places is strongly encouraged in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of the place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people. In particular, we strongly encourage lead local authorities to work with other places (such as neighbouring district, county or unitary authorities) to agree and commission people and skills activity over larger geographies. This includes working with places in different parts of the UK.

## 2.6 Other policies or plans to take into account

Interventions supported by UKSPF will need to consider other local and national policies and priorities – including those of the Scottish and Welsh governments and departments across the Northern Ireland Executive where relevant. These include:

- Investment made under this Fund should demonstrate the extent of contribution to [net zero and nature recovery](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>) objectives, including the UK's legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, wider environmental considerations, such as resilience to natural hazards and the [25 Year Environment Plan](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan/25-year-environment-plan-our-targets-at-a-glance) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan/25-year-environment-plan-our-targets-at-a-glance>) commitments, and any specific commitments in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.
- To support green growth, places should also consider how projects can work with the natural environment to achieve project objectives, and – at a minimum – consider the project's impact on our natural assets and nature. For further information on how to take these considerations into account, see the [Enabling a Natural Capital Approach \(ENCA\) resources](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/enabling-a-natural-capital-approach-enca>).

Each place in Scotland and Wales should involve the Scottish and Welsh governments, and the Offices of the Secretary of State for Scotland and Wales, respectively, to identify links to relevant national policies and priorities that should be considered in the preparation of investment plans. The UK government will work with partners to also consider the strategies and funding of the Northern Ireland Executive.

As a minimum, this should include:

- the Northern Ireland Programme for Government Draft Outcomes Framework 2021
- the Scottish Government's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, or
- the Welsh Framework for Regional Investment

Public bodies are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty in all their decision-making and should ensure that they meet these obligations when taking decisions on UKSPF.

Each place should take account of the wider funding landscape, and in particular, complementary interventions at UK, national or local level. This will ensure that funding is effectively targeted and delivered efficiently. As a minimum, lead local authorities (and Northern Ireland partners) should consider alignment with:

- [The Levelling Up Fund](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus>) which has now launched a second round competition.
- [The Community Ownership Fund which will launch a further round in the spring](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-levelling-up-and-community-investments#the-community-ownership-fund) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/new-levelling-up-and-community-investments#the-community-ownership-fund>).
- [Freeports](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/freeports) (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/freeports>) where relevant.
- Other digital infrastructure delivery plans as part of Project Gigabit. For digital infrastructure/connectivity interventions supporting community facilities, this investment should deliver gigabit-capable infrastructure and be aligned with the procurements and other intervention types delivered by that programme.
- National employment support provided through Jobcentre Plus, its contracted providers or equivalents in Northern Ireland. Local authorities should work with local Department for Work and Pensions representatives to build an understanding of this provision<sup>[footnote 8]</sup>.
- Existing adult skills provision in each nation, which should not be displaced or duplicated.
- European structural fund provision, which continues until 2023 in some areas.
- Funding for rural areas where relevant.
- Other funding sources from the devolved administrations.

We would strongly encourage lead local authorities to engage widely with local partners – including current deliverers of EU structural fund interventions and managing authorities, arms-length bodies of government, neighbouring local authorities, voluntary and community representatives, civil society organisations higher and further education and business representative and strategic bodies. This will ensure that local investment plans complement and do not duplicate other provision and that interventions are delivered at the appropriate scale.

## 3. Funding places will receive

### 3.1 Funding for each place

Every place in the UK has been allocated a share of the UKSPF, with even the smallest places receiving at least £1 million. This recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support. It will help people access opportunity in places in need, such as ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities, and support people who are economically inactive

or have skills needs that cannot be met through mainstream provision.

As set out at Spending Review 2021, the Fund is worth £2.6 billion over the period to 2024-25. The Fund will ramp up to £1.5 billion in 2024-25, including Multiply.

Funding is confirmed for three financial years – £400 million for 2022-23, £700 million for 2023-24 and £1.5 billion for 2024-25, providing predictable baseline local growth funding.

[Allocations for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are available here, including Multiply allocations.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/ukspf-allocations)

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/ukspf-allocations>) The annual funding profile for each place will be available for eligible local authorities through the UKSPF investment plan portal, within the expenditure profile spreadsheet. £179 million will be managed centrally by the Department for Education for a UK-wide digital platform for adult numeracy, as well as a programme of evaluation.

The local split of capital and revenue for the Fund in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland is as follows:

Year	Core UKSPF: revenue	Core UKSPF: capital	Local multiply: revenue
2022-23	89.6%	10.4%	100%
2023-24	87.5%	12.5%	100%
2024-25	82.1%	17.9%	100%

The local split of capital and revenue for the Fund in England is as follows:

Year	Core UKSPF: revenue	Core UKSPF: capital	Local multiply: revenue
2022-23	90%	10%	100%
2023-24	87%	13%	100%
2024-25	80%	20%	100%

Each place's allocation will comprise both revenue and capital funding. Lead local authorities should set out their preferred mix of funding in their investment plan. Note - each place must identify a minimum percentage of capital funding, each year in line with the overall split of revenue and capital at UKSPF level set out in the above tables.

### 3.2 How we decided the allocations

We have made allocations to each nation to ensure a real-terms match of EU structural funds.

For England, we have adopted a blended approach to allocate funding to each place. This ensures that all places get an allocation that allows for significant continuity with EU structural funds:

- within the continuity model that maintains EU structural fund distributions, 70% is allocated on a per capita basis, within each region based on Local Authority population size
- 30% of the allocation uses the same needs-based index previously used to identify UK Community Renewal Fund priority places, namely:
  - Productivity
  - Household income
  - Skills
  - Productivity -Places with lower population density

For Scotland, taking into account the remote nature of parts of the country and the special needs of the Highlands and Islands, we have adapted this approach in consultation with local stakeholders:

- 60% of funding is allocated on a per capita basis across Scotland.
- 30% of the allocation uses the same needs-based index previously used to identify UK Community Renewal Fund priority places.
- 10% are allocated using the lower population density measure contained within the UK Community Renewal Fund, recognising the higher cost of delivering services in rural areas and the unique rurality of some Scottish authorities and island communities.

For Wales, we have adapted our allocation approach following engagement with partners to the following:

- 40% of funding is allocated on a per capita basis across Wales.
- 30% of the allocation uses the same needs-based index previously used to identify UK Community Renewal Fund priority places.
- 30% are allocated using the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation.

For Northern Ireland, recognising the different role local authorities play there compared to England, Scotland and Wales, we are not allocating below the Northern Ireland level. Further detail on the delivery approach in Northern Ireland is set out below.

A [methodological note](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-allocations-methodology) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-allocations-methodology>) that sets this out in more detail is available. The full model will be published in May 2022.

## 4.1 Overview

The UKSPF is establishing new relationships between the UK government, devolved administrations, local government and local partners across the UK. We are putting people that know their places best, front and centre in shaping decisions.

Working to a UK-wide framework published by the UK government, local partners will influence the Fund through development and delivery of an investment plan for each place. This represents a fundamental shift in responsibility compared with the European structural funds that the Fund succeeds.

The Fund will operate UK-wide and use the financial assistance powers in the UK Internal Market Act 2020 to deliver funding to places across the UK.

In addition to the devolved administrations' existing powers, this allows the UK government to complement and strengthen the support given to local people, businesses and communities in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as England. We have worked with each of the devolved administrations to develop interventions that follow the fund's principles of local autonomy while recognising the different policy and funding landscapes of each nation.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will oversee the Fund at UK level, working with other departments and in particular when bespoke interventions are proposed.

The Department for Education will lead delivery of the Multiply element of the Fund in England, a UK-wide digital platform for adult numeracy, as well as a programme of evaluation, including randomised control trials, to build the evidence of what works. It will work closely with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, lead local authorities and the devolved administrations on Multiply delivery in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. It will play a key role in relation to wider skills interventions, working with local partners.

Local areas will also be expected to work closely with Department for Work and Pensions or devolved administrations where relevant in the planning and delivery of employment interventions to ensure alignment with mainstream employment provision.

## 4.2 The role of lead local authorities

In England, Scotland and Wales, local government is being given responsibility for developing an investment plan for approval by the UK government, and for delivery of the Fund thereafter. This recognises that pride in place and increasing life chances can be best achieved by delivery close to local people and businesses; by authorities that understand each place's unique local context and identity, and with established governance.

Lead local authorities will receive an area's allocation to manage, including assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring.

Where the Fund operates over a strategic geography (for example, places in Scotland and Wales or the mayoral combined authorities), all allocations will be aggregated at the strategic geography level, including the 4% for administration. The lead authority for the strategic geography will have overall accountability for the funding and how the Fund operates. Where specific local authorities within the strategic geography take lead responsibility for a particular UKSPF intervention or policy for the wider geography, lead authorities can allocate a proportion of their administration budget to them.

Individual local authorities or other public bodies within the strategic geography may take lead responsibility for a particular UKSPF intervention or policy, either delivered locally or for the wider geography, where this reflects the right approach to local needs. While the lead local authority would retain overall responsibility, they can allocate a proportion of their administration budget to individual authorities or bodies in these circumstances.

Lead local authorities can determine, with partners, the most appropriate scale for each intervention – for example, regional, local or through collaboration with other places or bodies to deliver specific interventions. This can include working with places in different parts of the UK. This should consider value for money, effectiveness and current arrangements.

Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund. They may wish to use a mix of competitions for grant funding (which is the default approach set out in [Cabinet Office Grants Standards \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-standards\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-standards)), procurement, commissioning or deliver some activity through in-house teams. For example, some community level interventions may require a commissioning or in-house approach, recognising that competitions for grant may create barriers to participation in left behind communities.

Lead local authorities should also design their project selection and contracting processes so they have mechanisms to recover funding where beneficiaries do not comply with fund parameters, UK law or any local requirements.

We will ask each lead local authority to notify us of any current or emerging operational or financial risks, or issues, and any contingency measures put in place. This will be requested in each place's investment plan and in each report thereafter. This will help us determine the level of support we may provide, and/or enhanced monitoring that we may require. This may also result in reduced delegation of the fund in the affected area.

In Northern Ireland, the UK government will work with local partners to design a Northern Ireland investment plan. This plan will be used by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities who will have oversight of delivery. This reflects the distinct and different role local government plays in Northern Ireland.

## 4.3 Collaboration with other places

Each place has a range of economic and societal relationships with other places across the UK, including their neighbours and places with common needs and opportunities.

We expect a separate investment plan for each [delivery geography \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/delivery-geographies\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/delivery-geographies) (whether this is a strategic geography, or a single district council area). However, working with other places is strongly encouraged in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. This could take the form of national or regional interventions, or projects that deliver across places either side of national boundaries in the UK with strong economic and social ties.

Delivering interventions at the national or regional scale might be beneficial when seeking to deliver larger, strategic projects, when economies of scale exist that would result in higher value for money or better outcomes for local people and businesses, or where it would reduce the burden or complexity of commissioning. It could also involve places at opposite ends of the UK with similar thematic needs working together on common interventions to achieve scale. Or, more local collaboration between councils and their neighbours.

In particular, we strongly encourage lead local authorities to work with other authorities (district, county or unitary councils where relevant) to agree and commission people and skills activity, or business support activity over a larger scale representative of the full local labour market or business base. Lead local authorities will be asked to set out their approach in their investment plan.

In addition, where the Fund is operating over a strategic geography, lead local authorities must engage with their constituent authorities and other local partners to ensure that the needs of places within the strategic geography can be effectively addressed.

## 4.4 Delivery arrangements across the UK

### 4.4.1 England

In England, the Fund will primarily operate over the strategic geographies of the Mayoral Combined Authorities (MCAs) and the Greater London Authority (GLA), and district councils or unitary authorities elsewhere. These are the lead local authorities for UKSPF purposes. See [Delivery geographies \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/delivery-geographies\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/delivery-geographies).

Outside of MCAs and the GLA, Multiply will be delivered at the upper-tier or unitary level in England. [Multiply local authorities in England \(https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1068822/Multiply\\_Investment\\_Prospectus.pdf\)](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068822/Multiply_Investment_Prospectus.pdf) should set out plans for delivery of adult numeracy support in a separate plan submitted to the Department for Education.

Lead local authorities for either Multiply or core UKSPF should work closely together to ensure that each element of the Fund works coherently, achieves good value and is as aligned as possible. Lead local authorities should take account of the Adult Education Budget and remaining European Social Fund investments, which operate at larger geographies and engage with relevant employment and skills bodies and stakeholders, including Jobcentre Plus and Skills Advisory Panels, even where the decision is taken not to deliver interventions at the strategic scale.

### Unitarisation

Since publication of the pre-launch guidance, Parliament has agreed legislation to restructure local government in North Yorkshire, Somerset and Cumbria. This means we need to update the delivery arrangements for these areas.

In each of North Yorkshire and Somerset, a single new unitary council will – from 1 April 2023 – replace all the principal councils in these areas. Before then, North Yorkshire and Somerset county councils will be ‘continuing authorities’; these councils will have the right to sign off all new district council investment, including UKSPF. As a result, we now require a county-wide plan for each of North Yorkshire and Somerset. The county councils and district councils are expected to work closely to target interventions according to local need, and in particular ensure that communities and place investments reach all parts of the county areas.

In Cumbria, two new unitary councils will – from 1 April 2023 – replace all the principal councils in these areas. Consent of these two new unitary authorities – Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council, even in shadow form, will be needed for new district council investment, including UKSPF. As they will only exist in shadow form until April 2023, individual plans for each of Cumbria's district council areas are still needed. We expect close collaboration between districts leading investment plans and the shadow unitary councils. This should include some joint elements of each district plan, notably delivery arrangements, and consent by the shadow unitary authorities prior to submission. From 1 April 2023 the district areas are abolished. At this point, we expect the relevant district investment plans to be merged into plans for each new council area.

### The Devolution Mission

The Levelling Up White Paper sets out a devolution mission for England: By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.

We expect delivery responsibility for the Fund to align with these deals in due course. To provide funding and delivery certainty for all local partners, the delivery arrangements set out in this prospectus will continue until March 2025

In the meantime, each district or unitary council is expected to produce and deliver a standalone investment plan for its place. As noted above, working with other places is strongly encouraged in the delivery of Fund interventions where it meets the needs of their place, and achieves value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. This can include working across wider county or other geographies. Any such plans should be identified in the place's local investment plan.

In particular, we strongly encourage lead local authorities to work with other district, county or unitary authorities to agree and commission people and skills activity or business support where relevant.

### 4.4.2 Scotland and Wales

The partnerships that deliver City and Growth Deals in Scotland and Wales are strong examples of collaboration. Supported by the UK government and devolved administrations, the deals have empowered local leaders and partners to come together to drive growth and productivity across their region.

Devolved administrations have also established, or are in the process of establishing, complementary structures to promote partnership working over strategic geographies. These include Corporate Joint Committees in Wales and Regional Economic Partnerships in Scotland. The UK government wants to build on this approach and promote existing partnership working across both Scotland and Wales.

Local authorities across each strategic geography have been invited to collaborate in developing investment plans and delivering the Fund. This builds on the strong support for a regional approach from local partners and the Scottish and Welsh governments.

In Scotland, we support delivery through Regional Economic Partnerships where this is the preference of local areas. These regional geographies build on the successful City and Regional Growth Deal partnerships.

We intend to work with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities and the Scottish Government to facilitate collaborative work across these Regional Economic Partnership geographies. This recognises that the final composition of some partnerships is still to be determined, and that some authorities want to cooperate with partners in multiple directions. Under such arrangements, the lead local authority for each partnership will submit a single investment plan.

In Wales, we support delivery across the four regional strategic geographies which are co-terminous with strategic geographies covering City and Growth Deal areas. We want to work with the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association to support work across the four existing geographies and develop comprehensive accountable arrangements to administer the Fund in time for submission of each place's investment plan.

#### 4.4.3 Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will manage delivery at Northern Ireland scale.

To do this effectively we want to work with local partners to design an investment plan. We will refine the plan in consultation with stakeholders in a way that reflects the needs of Northern Ireland's economy and society. This group could include representatives from Northern Ireland Executive Departments, local authorities, businesses and the voluntary sector. This will forge new ways of working and opportunities across Northern Ireland.

The development of the single Northern Ireland investment plan and its delivery will create roles for partners across each of Northern Ireland's City and Growth Deal geographies. It will maximise local intelligence, insight and knowledge, in recognition of the opportunities and challenges unique to Northern Ireland and the distinct and different role local authorities play there.

In order to support the delivery of interventions at their most appropriate level, we anticipate that there will be a varied approach to market in Northern Ireland. For example, it could involve local project selection across City and Growth deal areas or interventions might be delivered at a Northern Ireland wide level. The approach to delivery will be guided by the final version of the UKSPF plan for Northern Ireland.

### 4.5 Supporting lead local authorities to deliver

#### Preparing the investment plan

We are making £20,000 available per lead local authority or £40,000 for each Mayoral Combined Authority and the Greater London Authority in England to undertake initial preparatory work for the Fund, including developing their local investment plan for submission in the summer.

In Scotland and Wales, the lead local authority for each strategic geography will receive £40,000. This reflects the extra work required to establish new delivery and governance arrangements in these areas.

This funding is in addition to each place's allocation, and will be paid on sign-off of each place's plan.

#### Day-to-day Fund administration

We know that local government will require support to administer the Fund. Each lead local authority in England, Scotland and Wales will be able to use up to 4% of their allocation by default to undertake necessary Fund administration, such as project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing stakeholder engagement.

Setting up the Fund may need a larger administration budget in the first year than in later years. This is acceptable so long as the percentage is not exceeded overall.

Larger authorities, and those with bigger Fund allocations will not require a full 4%. In these cases, a smaller amount can be used, with the balance being used to support Fund interventions.

By exception, smaller local authorities, those with smaller Fund allocations or strategic geographies in Scotland and Wales may need to use more than 4% of their allocation to successfully administer the Fund. Where this applies, the lead local authority must set out a case for a higher percentage in their investment plan. This request will be assessed and where approved monitored, to ensure that the benefits of a higher administrative budget are being secured.

#### Longer-term capability support

We are also exploring the need for additional capability support for local government and other partners to maximise the opportunities that the Fund affords.

To help us understand this need better, we are asking lead local authorities to answer specific questions on the experience and capability of their teams, as part of their investment plan.

We will explore working with experienced local authorities, government and sectoral partners in developing peer networks that can help share good practice. Lead local authorities interested in leading networks may use part of their admin allocation to support this work.

## 5. Who should be involved in the Fund

### 5.1 Local partnership groups

Throughout the UK, access to local insight and expertise is essential for each place to identify and address need and opportunity, and respond with the right solutions for each place. Comprehensive and balanced local partnerships will be a core component of how the Fund is administered locally.

Lead local authorities (or the UK government in collaboration with Northern Ireland partners) are tasked with working with a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders, civil society organisations, employer bodies responsible for identifying local skills plans, and businesses or business representative groups to achieve Fund outcomes in their areas.

Local partners should support lead local authorities for each place to develop an investment plan. Once plans are approved, partners should be asked to provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability – taking care to avoid conflicts of interest. This will ensure that Fund investments complement other activities in the area and meets Fund and local objectives.

The local partnership will be convened by the lead local authority (or UK government in collaboration with Northern Ireland partners). In circumstances where a place already has a group that could be used, then the group can be designated for this Fund's purposes, taking care to ensure that the panel is fully representative and that its terms of reference meet the Fund's needs.

The list below is a guide for the types of groups that should be represented on the local partnership groups. The precise composition will be for each place to determine, based on their needs:

- Representatives from the lead local authority (this may also include neighbouring authorities or constituent authorities where relevant and to maximise alignment)
- Local businesses and investors (large employers and small and medium sized employers)
- Business support providers or representatives, including sectoral representatives relevant to the place (for example – cluster bodies, tourism organisations)
- Local partnership boards and strategic bodies where relevant (for example, Local Enterprise Partnerships or Local Skills Improvement Partnerships in England, City and Growth Deal partners in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland)
- Regional representatives of arms-length bodies of government where appropriate
- Prominent local community & faith organisations
- Voluntary, sector social enterprise and civil society organisations, including Third Sector Interface Groups in Scotland
- Rural representatives unless there are no rural communities within the area
- Education and skills providers – for example higher education institutions and further education colleges, adult learning providers
- Employment experts and providers – for example Jobcentre Plus representatives and employment related service providers
- Nature, environmental or associated representatives
- Public health representatives
- Police and crime representatives (such as Police and Crime Commissioners where relevant)
- Officials of devolved administrations or their agencies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland
- Members of Parliament where appropriate (explained in section 5.2 below)

Representatives of the UK government may also attend and can provide access to specific expertise where this is needed.

## 5.2 The role of Members of Parliament in the Fund

Members of the UK Parliament play an important role in representing the views of their constituents, working collaboratively with local authorities and other local partners to work for the good of local places. They should be closely engaged in the design and delivery of the Fund. In most cases, all MPs in the area should be invited to join the local partnership group.

Where an authority or strategic geography is so large that this is impractical (in places like London and Northern Ireland), lead local authorities should invite all MPs for the place to a convened MP engagement group, and ensure their views are represented on the local partnership group.

They should provide an advisory role to lead local authorities, reviewing the investment plan prior to submission to UK government for sign-off. Each plan will need to detail the MPs involved in the local partnership group and whether each are supportive of the final plan submitted to the UK government for consideration.

We expect lead local authorities to demonstrate that they have actively reached out to MPs and other partners. The investment plan needs to demonstrate local consensus for the plan. If it does not, ministers reserve the right to defer sign off until broad consensus is secured. Failure of one or more MPs to agree would not prevent consideration of the investment plan.

Lead local authorities are also encouraged to engage proactively and constructively with MPs on a periodic basis, post investment plan sign-off – including through a regular reviews and meetings of the partnership group in its delivery phase.

Members of the Scottish Parliament, Members of the Senedd and Members of the Northern Ireland Assembly should also be engaged where relevant.

## 5.3 The role of the devolved administrations

Recognising that levelling up is a programme for the whole of the United Kingdom, the UKSPF will be delivered UK-wide, using our powers in the UK Internal Market Act. It is a priority of the Fund to deliver effective investment to all parts of the UK, to maximise benefits for citizens and the economy.

We know we share these goals with the devolved administrations and have engaged with each government on the design and delivery of this Fund ahead of publication. Our engagement and collaboration will not end here. Throughout the lifetime of UKSPF we want local places to work with the grain of devolved administrations' activity and deliver better outcomes for communities across the UK in partnership with them. This should mean plans are designed mindful of ensuring better value for money, avoidance of duplication so we can deliver our shared objectives.

To enable this, the devolved administrations will take on a number of roles and responsibilities in the Fund. The Scottish and Welsh governments and the Northern Ireland Executive have been invited to be part of a UK wide ministerial forum that will support delivery of the Fund. In Scotland and Wales we want each government to work with their strategic geographies on the development of investment plans and to attend all local partnership groups in a full way.

## 5.4 The role of the UK government

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will be accountable for the overall implementation of the fund, working in partnership with a range of UK government departments.

The Department for Education will sign off Multiply investment plans in England.

Where relevant, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will seek advice from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Education on the implementation of the people and skills investment priority, and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy for the supporting local business investment priority.

## 6. How to write an investment plan

### 6.1 Investment plans

In order to access UKSPF funding, lead local authorities are being asked to complete an investment plan, setting out how they intend to use and deliver the funding. UKSPF has been designed to empower local leaders and communities to deliver locally-identified priorities and the investment plan process has been designed with this in mind.

Lead local authorities will be asked to develop their investment plan in conjunction with local stakeholders. Places should establish or designate a local partnership group to consult when developing their investment plan. Plans will then need to be agreed by both the lead local authority and by UK government to unlock the allocations.

In Scotland and Wales, we want each strategic geography to involve the Scottish and Welsh governments, and the Offices of the Secretary of State for Scotland and Wales respectively, in the preparation of their investment plans.

In Northern Ireland, the UK government will work with local partners to design a Northern Ireland investment plan. This plan will be used by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities who will have oversight of delivery; this reflects the distinct and different role local government plays in Northern Ireland.

### 6.2 Investment plan questions

The investment plans will feature three broad stages:

**1. Local context:** an opportunity for places to set out their local evidence of opportunities and challenges through the lens of the three investment priorities for UKSPF.

**2. Selection of outcomes and interventions:** where places will identify the outcomes they wish to target based on local context, and the interventions they wish to prioritise, under each investment priority, from the menu of options. These should be clearly linked to local opportunities and challenges.

**3. Delivery:** this will represent the most detailed stage of the investment plans and is broken down into the following:

**a. Approach to delivery and governance:** where places outline the structures and processes that will support the delivery of their chosen interventions. We will also expect places to set out the engagement they have undertaken as part of the development of their Plan, including their engagement with MPs.

In this section we will also ask places to set out how they intend to collaborate with other places in the delivery of specific interventions – for example with neighbouring places, or with places across the UK with common needs or challenges.

**b. Expenditure and deliverables:** detailing what places want to deliver with their investment plan, including the spend profile for the three years of the fund as well as outputs and outcomes figures, and where places have already identified specific projects they wish to fund under each of the investment priorities.

As part of these spend and indicator profiles, lead local authorities will be asked to detail their intended budgets at priority and intervention level. UK government will use this information as part of the assessment and as initial performance management, along with additional performance management information set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (or Grant Funding Agreement in Northern Ireland).

Please note – expenditure profiles must be accurate and deliverable. Each place must set out a minimum amount of capital funding to invest each year in their investment plan, which will be monitored. Where small authorities have smaller overall allocations we will consider requests for flexibility. We reserve the right to withhold or delay payment from 2023-24 onwards where this does not occur.

**c. Capability and resource:** to allow places to outline the resource they have to manage and work on UKSPF, as well as their capability and previous experience of delivering similar funds.

### 6.3 Delivering innovative provision

While we have developed a broad set of interventions, to allow places flexibility, we recognise that there will be instances where our menu of options does not meet specific local challenges or priorities that have been identified. To mitigate against this, places will be allowed to select 'bespoke' interventions that do not feature in our menu of options. Places will need to provide evidence to support their bespoke intervention, including a logic chain or theory of change and demonstrate where they align with UKSPF investment priorities.

### 6.4 How to submit your local investment plan

A [pre-registration form \(https://forms.office.com/r/X6x0cBDWxU\)](https://forms.office.com/r/X6x0cBDWxU) will need to be completed before accessing the investment plan platform. The investment plan platform is now live and after completing your pre-registration form, you will receive a link to the platform via email. This form will require the name and email address of the person intending to submit the investment plan on each place's behalf, as well as an alternative's email address.

Once this form has been completed you will receive a:

- link to the online platform to submit your investment plan, and a
- link to allow you to upload the supporting documentation we require as part of the investment plan process.

We have also published the [investment plan questions \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus) that can be referred to offline.

Investment plans should be submitted via the online platform during the submission window. The submission window opens on 30 June 2022 and closes on 1 August 2022. This is designed to enable places that are ready, to submit for assessment sooner. It also recognises that places in Scotland and Wales, or places where local elections have been held, may need longer to submit their plans. In Northern Ireland we will work directly with partners to prepare an investment plan.

## 6.5 How we will agree your plan

We expect the content of each investment plan to be coherent and broadly supported by relevant partners. The interventions, outputs and outcomes set out in the investment plan must be deliverable. We will require lead local authorities to set out how they will deliver a successful programme and provide a complete and accurate expenditure and deliverables profile.

We will lead an assessment of the three areas in the investment plan:

- Local context – including challenges and opportunities
- Selection of outcomes, outputs and proposed interventions
- Delivery

If bespoke interventions are included, i.e. those not in our menu of options, we will expect to see a clear explanation of the theory of change or logic chain and justification for the intervention proposed before approving the intervention, as well as how the intervention will be monitored and evaluated.

There are a number of areas that require complete and accurate information to be submitted for assessment. Where this is not provided, we will ask for further information and/or resubmission, for example:

- Limited justification for selecting bespoke interventions
- Failure to enter sufficient rationale in text boxes as required
- An inaccurate or incomplete expenditure and deliverables profile – please read the guidance on the first tab to ensure successful completion
- Failure to outline your delivery plan, including governance and resources structures as well as delivery design and management of specific delivery elements, e.g. subsidy control/State Aid

Plans will need to be agreed by the lead local authority and UK government to enable sign off. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will lead the government assessment process and will engage relevant departments as needed.

Where a plan cannot be signed off first time, we will provide feedback to the lead local authority and work iteratively to secure sign off.

## Part 2

### 7. The Fund's parameters

The Fund is designed to be flexible and responsive to local circumstances, extending to flexibility on how fund interventions are designed and delivered. Nevertheless, lead local authorities, and local partners should consider the following fund parameters when drafting investment plans and designing interventions:

#### 7.1 Who can the Fund support?

The Fund is intended to help communities across the country, support people living or working in the UK, citizens with permission to work here, and help businesses operating in the UK. Any organisation with legal status<sup>[footnote 9](#)</sup> can receive funding to deliver a UKSPF intervention, including arms-length bodies of government where appropriate.

Working with international partners may be appropriate where it represents a suitable way of meeting local needs.

#### 7.2 When can Fund investment start?

The Fund can support investment in interventions that start from 1 April 2022 where they fit with the relevant interventions toolkit and all Fund requirements set out in this Prospectus.

Any such interventions will be at risk prior to sign off of local investment plans. Lead local authorities may choose to focus on specific interventions from the toolkit, where there is a clear need, and an established delivery approach to minimise risk.

Lead local authorities can also incur administrative and preparatory costs from 1 April 2022. This is subject to provisions on the use of the Fund for administration, set out at section 4.5, and all other Fund requirements set out in this Prospectus, including but not limited to branding and publicity, and reporting.

Funding is confirmed for three financial years – 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 providing a predictable baseline element of local growth funding. All interventions should end by March 2025, or have a break clause allowing for closure by March 2025 if required (for example, yearly renewable funding).

#### 7.3 How can we fund interventions?

The Fund can be used flexibly to support interventions via:

- grant to public or private organisations
- commissioning third party organisations
- procurement of service provision
- in-house provision

All places should take account of the [Cabinet Office Grants Standards \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-standards\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/grants-standards) when deciding which option best fits their circumstances. Lead local authorities should note that competitions for projects is the default approach for selecting recipients of public grants.

Lead local authorities should also design their project selection and contracting processes so they have mechanisms to recover funding where beneficiaries do not comply with fund parameters, UK law or any local requirements.

Loans to organisations or businesses may also be appropriate in limited circumstances. However, loan funding requires specific expertise and will be subject to close scrutiny. Any intervention must not simply duplicate other UK government funding, including the £1.6 billion announced at Spending Review 2021 for the next generation of UK investment funds delivered by the British Business Bank.

## 7.4 Maximising other funding sources

Match funding will not be required to unlock an area's allocation. This provides flexibility, reduces bureaucracy and empowers lead local authorities to tailor their approach to local circumstances.

The sourcing of match funding/leverage will not be a factor in the assessment of each place's investment plan.

Although match funding is not required and will not form part of the investment plan assessment criteria, in **England, Scotland and Wales**, all lead local authorities are strongly encouraged to consider match funding from the private, public and third sectors and leverage options when selecting communities and place and supporting local business interventions to fund. This will maximise the value for money and impact of the Fund.

Information in respect of any known or anticipated match funding or leveraged funding should be provided in the investment plan if available at the time of submission, and should be considered when designing interventions and agreeing Fund outputs and outcomes. We will expect lead local authorities to provide regular updates on the match funding/leverage they have achieved throughout the lifetime of the Fund as part of their reporting responsibilities.

In **Northern Ireland**, project applicants and delivery partners will be asked to state if they have match funding as part of their application. This will be considered as part of the value for money assessment of interventions and as part of State Aid assessment.

## 7.5 Are there any limits on funding?

### 7.5.1 The following costs should not be included in a UKSPF intervention:

- paid for lobbying, entertaining, petitioning or challenging decisions, which means using the Fund to lobby (via an external firm or in-house staff) in order to undertake activities intended to influence or attempt to influence Parliament, government or political activity including the receipt of UKSPF funding; or attempting to influence legislative or regulatory action
- payments for activities of a party political or exclusively religious nature
- VAT reclaimable from HMRC
- gifts, or payments for gifts or donations
- statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties
- payments for works or activities which the lead local authority, project deliverer, end beneficiary, or any member of their partnership has a statutory duty to undertake, or that are fully funded by other sources
- contingencies and contingent liabilities
- dividends
- bad debts, costs resulting from the deferral of payments to creditors, or winding up a company
- expenses in respect of litigation, unfair dismissal or other compensation
- costs incurred by individuals in setting up and contributing towards private pension schemes

### 7.5.2 Apportioning costs

For projects funded by more than one Funder or more than one local UKSPF allocation, it is expected that costs will normally be apportioned on a percentage basis in line with funding contributions.

Where costs are to be apportioned, the method of apportionment should be clear and transparent and agreed by the lead local authority (or the UK government with delivery partners in Northern Ireland).

## 7.6 Complying with UK law

### 7.6.1 Subsidy control and State Aid

In the investment plan, lead local authorities will be asked to detail how their proposed interventions will be delivered within the subsidy control regime and their capacity and capability to manage subsidy (and State Aid in the case of interventions affecting Northern Ireland).

For England, Scotland and Wales, we will publish further guidance on subsidy control and UKSPF in the summer. This will assist lead local authorities in carrying out their delegated delivery role.

For Northern Ireland, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will oversee Fund delivery, including responsibility for assessing and monitoring State Aid and subsidy control for individual interventions. This will be done in collaboration with local partners as appropriate.

### 7.6.2 Public procurement

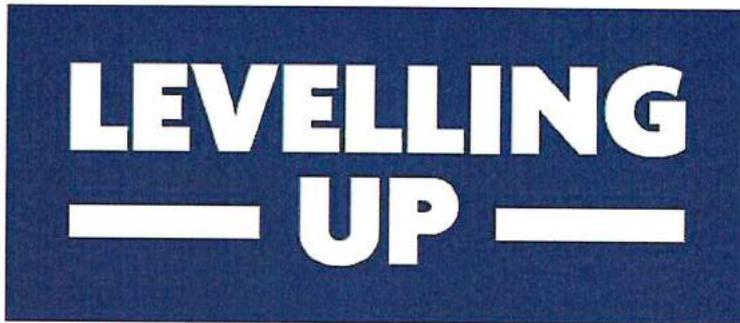
For England, Scotland and Wales, all spend associated with the Fund must be assessed by the lead local authority in advance to ensure that proposed investment is compliant with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 or Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 where relevant and follows local constitution and grant rules, processes and procedures as and where relevant.

For Northern Ireland interventions, all spend associated with the Fund must comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 where relevant. This will be assessed by us prior to approval and subject to monitoring after approval, in collaboration with relevant organisations as appropriate.

### 7.7 Branding and publicity

Lead local authorities and project deliverers must ensure that the appropriate UK government logos are used prominently in all communications materials and public facing documents relating to funded activity – including print and publications, through to digital and electronic materials.

The following logos must also be used when communicating in English and Welsh respectively:



Alongside use of the appropriate UK government logos, lead local authorities and project deliverers must also ensure that websites and printed materials include a clear and prominent reference to the funding from the UKSPF. This includes any preparatory activity linked to the Fund.

We will require project deliverers to install a plaque of significant size at a location readily visible to the public, bearing the appropriate UK government logos, project name and standardised text. Plaques should be bilingual in English and Welsh in Wales.

Co-branding is only permitted with lead local authorities (or any strategic geography branding) or funders.

Further detail on branding and publicity requirements will be published in the summer.

## 8. How we will pay places and projects

The Fund will operate UK-wide and use the financial assistance powers in the UK Internal Market Act 2020 to deliver funding to places across the UK.

In addition to devolved administrations' existing powers, this allows the UK government to complement and strengthen the support given to local people, businesses and communities in Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, as well as England.

### 8.1 England, Scotland and Wales

We will pay each lead local authority in England, Scotland and Wales annually in advance. In 2022-23, funding will be paid once the local investment plan has been signed off. In 2023-24 and 2024-25, we will pay at the start of the financial year. Lead local authorities will receive a grant determination letter and Memorandum of Understanding setting out Fund requirements and obligations. Lead local authorities will be asked to return any underspends at the end of each financial year.

Lead local authorities in Scotland and Wales will receive a Multiply allocation as part of their annual payment. We will require separate reporting and monitoring for this amount.

We expect Fund investment and outputs to be achieved in line with each place's investment plan, on time and in-year. We reserve the right to withhold or delay payment and alter payment cycles from 2023-24 onwards where there are performance or other issues with delivery.

### 8.2 Northern Ireland

It is our intention to support delivery and we propose to pay direct project deliverers (including Multiply deliverers) in Northern Ireland in advance, on a six monthly cycle. This may be paid via a grant funding agreement or an agreed alternative approach, depending on a number of factors including the status of the delivery body. This will be guided by the agreed investment plan for Northern Ireland. Each project deliverer will receive a clear statement of Fund requirements and obligations.

We expect Fund investment and outputs to be achieved in line with each intervention's agreed application and spend and output profile. Here, we also reserve the right to withhold or delay payment and alter payment cycles where there are performance or other issues with delivery.

We set out in section 9 how we will measure performance.

## 9. How we will measure performance

### 9.1 Performance management overview

#### 9.1.1 England, Scotland and Wales

Lead local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales will be asked to report data to us to ensure that allocations are being spent to agreed timescales and milestones, including achievement of outputs and outcomes at the project level. We will also ask local authorities to report individual project outputs and outcomes at UK Parliament constituency level.

The milestones, expectations and timescales will be set out in a Memorandum of Understanding with each lead local authority. There will be a formal reporting request every six months, with qualitative updates on a more frequent basis also required.

Prior to each annual payment, lead local authorities will also be asked to complete a report. Depending on timings of the first payment, for the second annual payment, lead local authorities may be asked to submit a report earlier than six months after the first report is submitted.

Lead local authorities who are unable to meet milestones will be supported by Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities officials to ensure delivery gets back on track. If lead local authorities wish to make changes to their planned activity this can be reviewed.

We will ask each lead local authority to notify us of any current or emerging operational or financial risks, or issues, and any contingency measures put in place. This will be requested in each place's investment plan and in each report thereafter. This will help us determine the level of support we may provide, and/or enhanced monitoring that we may require. This may also result in reduced delegation, reduced payment periods or withholding of funds in the affected area.

Lead local authorities will also be expected to report on technical delivery aspects such as fraud and risk.

Further detailed information, including, the reporting format and process, will be set out in detailed guidance in the summer.

#### 9.1.2 Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, individual projects will be performance managed by officials from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Specific requirements will be set out in a grant funding agreement, or alternative approaches depending on circumstances. We will measure whether funding is spent to agreed timescales and milestones, including achievement of outputs and outcomes. There will be a formal reporting request to manage every six months, with informal updates also required.

Project deliverers in Northern Ireland who are unable to meet milestones will be supported by government officials to ensure delivery gets back on track. If project deliverers wish to make changes to their planned activity this can be reviewed with us.

Project deliverers in Northern Ireland will also be expected to report or adhere to technical delivery aspects and legal requirements such as branding, risk and State Aid or subsidy control.

Further detailed information, including, the reporting format and process, will be set out in detailed guidance in the summer.

## 9.2 How we will monitor and evaluate the Fund at UK-level

The Fund will be evaluated based on a theory of change aligned with the objectives of the [Levelling Up White Paper](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>), its theory of change <sup>[footnote 10]</sup> and the resulting outcomes that the government wants to achieve across the Levelling Up agenda. Lead local authorities will need to refer to these outcomes and indicators in their investment plan.

We are developing a national approach to evaluation, including a scoping study in partnership with the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth. The evaluation methodology cannot be fully specified until we have received investment plans and understood the range of activities to be funded. This may include pooling or synthesising data from several different areas.

The national evaluation will evaluate the Fund as a whole through two related lenses:

- **Fund-level process evaluation/s** to demonstrate accountability and understand what worked well, what did not, and why, in the design and delivery of the Fund. Performance indicators from lead local authorities or project deliverers will contribute to the programme-level process evaluation. In addition, places may be required to cooperate with process evaluation activity undertaken by or on behalf of us.
- **Exploring the feasibility of causal impact evaluation.** How to evaluate value for money delivered by the Fund will also be considered. Places may be required to cooperate with impact, or value for money evaluation activity (including data collection) undertaken by or on behalf of us.

We will work closely with other departments to evaluate UKSPF, including the Department for Education for Multiply interventions.

We will publish further details on our evaluation approaches for the Fund (including the overarching Fund-level evaluation) once the investment plans have been reviewed.

## 9.3 Monitoring and evaluation requirements for local places

### Theories of change

Any bespoke interventions proposed by lead local authorities will need to be supported by their own Theory of Change, Logical Framework or Logic Chain in their investment plans. This should be based on numeric evidence where possible.

### Monitoring

We expect all lead local authorities to, at minimum, monitor spend, outputs and outcomes against agreed indicators and submit this information to us to assist with programme-level evaluation. This needs to include relevant metrics from the Levelling Up White Paper. Further information about indicators can be found in section 9.4.

### Locally-led process evaluations

All lead local authorities are advised to carry out process evaluation/s of each project they fund to demonstrate the effectiveness of delivery of the interventions pursued. This can help contribute towards local accountability and provide learning on what worked in terms of delivery.

### Locally-led causal impact evaluations

To build the evidence base on what works for local pride interventions, lead authorities are also strongly encouraged to conduct their own causal quantitative impact evaluations for certain projects, where feasible.

This should be proportionate to their allocations and investment plans. For example, the opportunities to undertake causal impact evaluations are expected to be greater for larger allocations. Moreover, a lead local authority may prioritise causal impact evaluations on particular projects, if impact evaluations on some other projects are unlikely to provide meaningful results.

We value quality over the quantity of impact evaluation, including attempts to define causality or contribution. Where an increase in the proportion of local budget beyond the 4% allocated for administration and evaluation could lead to a significant improvement in quality and ability to learn lessons, this case should be set out in the investment plan.

### UK government led causal impact evaluations

We also intend to use the UKSPF to build the evidence base on what works for local pride, life chances, and local growth interventions, by robustly evaluating a number of those interventions delivered through the Fund (using experimental or quasi-experimental methods, if appropriate) to determine their effectiveness. These evaluations will also feed into the evaluation of the fund as a whole.

We will determine which interventions will be evaluated at which level and using which methods, after reviewing the local investment plans. In order to evaluate different types of intervention, places may be required to cooperate with evaluation activity undertaken by or on behalf of us (through, for example, providing specified data). We may make specific asks of places in what they collect, to allow us to look across a range of areas or types of intervention. As well as before and after outcome data, lead local authorities should also expect to be asked for other data that helps us to do this. Likely asks could include project location data (e.g., postcodes) and unique identifiers for people or business (e.g., National Insurance numbers or Company Registration Numbers) to allow us to identify matched control groups. Areas should have this in mind when developing their investment plans and make preparation for the collection, storage and (controlled) sharing of such data.

We may also ask you to consider staggering interventions to allow us to exploit differences in timing of roll out to learn more about impacts.

**UK government-led causal impact evaluations will not duplicate any locally led ones.**

## 9.4 Fund indicators

Each place, and each intervention across the UK must use common indicators, as set out for each intervention to measure outputs, outcomes and impacts. This ensures that we can compare similar interventions in different places, and undertake and synthesise evaluation activities.

It also means that places will be able to work together more easily, and organisations delivering in multiple places will be able to deliver their interventions more efficiently.

See the [Indicative Fund indicators that are set out for each intervention \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators). These should be used by lead local authorities as a guide when drafting local investment plans.

Final indicator definitions will be confirmed in the summer, prior to the submission date of the investment plans, when further guidance will be published on GOV.UK.

## 10. Next steps and important dates

Drawing on the information set out in this Prospectus, each lead local authority (or the UK government working with local partners in Northern Ireland) is encouraged to work with a diverse range of local stakeholders, appropriate groups and organisations to develop their investment plan.

A timeline of key dates is included below for information, please note that some of these dates are indicative and may be subject to change.

When	Activity
2 February 2022	Pre-launch guidance
13 April 2022	Fund launch
22 April 2022	Investment plan platform launch. Contacts for each lead local authority <a href="https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=EGg0v32c3kOociSi7zmVqDjap0_97JFDjQFYkTEureZUNkJKMkEwRTdCRTVSWVM3MIISS1IxQTIPRS4u">sign up to access the investment plan portal (https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=EGg0v32c3kOociSi7zmVqDjap0_97JFDjQFYkTEureZUNkJKMkEwRTdCRTVSWVM3MIISS1IxQTIPRS4u)</a> . Investment plan log-ins issued.
April – May 2022	Engagement sessions with local authorities and other local partners to support the investment plan process
April – June/ July 2022	Lead local authorities (and UK government in Northern Ireland) work with stakeholders to develop local investment plans
Summer 2022	Further guidance published including guidance on monitoring benefits and evaluation, assurance, subsidy control, branding and publicity. Application processes and templates for Northern Ireland will be published – these may be used by lead local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales where desired.
30 June 2022	Investment plan window opens
1 August 2022	Investment plan window closes
July – September 2022	Indicative investment plan assessment period for UK government
October 2022 onwards	Anticipated date for first investment plans to be approved
October 2022 onwards	Anticipated first payment to be made to lead local authorities
March 2025	Three year funding period ends

1. [Business productivity review: call for evidence \(https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-productivity-review-call-for-evidence\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/business-productivity-review-call-for-evidence).
2. ONS (2018) Management practices and productivity in British production and services industries.
3. Department for Business Innovation and Skills (2014) Innovation Report 2014: Innovation, Research and Growth.
4. [Science and innovation: rates of return to investment \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/science-and-innovation-rates-of-return-to-investment\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/science-and-innovation-rates-of-return-to-investment).

5. Economic inactivity refers to those without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or are not available to start work in the next two weeks, although in practice many people who are inactive will have been so for a long time. For UKSPF people and skills investments the term includes people not in work who are on and off benefits, with the exception of Universal Credit, Jobseekers Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance claimants who are in the all work related requirements legal conditionality groups (i.e. Light Touch and Intensive Work Search).
  6. [England ESF Programme 2007–2013: Evidence synthesis](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/518935/rr920-england-esf-programme-2007-2013-evidence-synthesis.pdf) ([https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/518935/rr920-england-esf-programme-2007-2013-evidence-synthesis.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/518935/rr920-england-esf-programme-2007-2013-evidence-synthesis.pdf)).
  7. [Measuring the net present value of further education in England 2018 to 2019](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measuring-the-net-present-value-of-further-education-in-england-2018-to-2019) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/measuring-the-net-present-value-of-further-education-in-england-2018-to-2019>).
  8. Lead local authorities in Scotland should work with the Scottish Government on employment provision for the long term unemployed and people with a disability which is devolved to the Scottish Government.
  9. This may include local authorities, public sector organisations, higher and further education institutions, private sector companies, voluntary organisations and registered charities.
  10. See pages xv-xix for summary and chapters 1 & 2 for details.
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# UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs –  
England

Version 1  
April 2022

## Interventions, Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes

To access their allocation, each place will be asked to develop a UKSPF plan that addresses three questions:

- **Local context:** an opportunity for places to set out their local evidence of opportunities and challenges through the lens of the three investment priorities for UKSPF.
- **Selection of outcomes and interventions:** where places will identify the outcomes they wish to target based on local context, and the interventions they wish to prioritise, under each investment priority, from the menu of options. These should be clearly linked to local opportunities and challenges.
- **Delivery:** this will represent the most detailed stage of the investment plans.

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Within the context of the Fund's aims, each place will have flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, to help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging. The balance of priorities should reflect local need and opportunity. It should build on existing national provision to create the optimal mix of support for each place. This flexible approach represents a key shift from the previous EU system.

These interventions will be set out in an investment plan submitted to the UK Government.

In their plans, places will select outputs and outcomes relevant to each UKSPF investment priority. Places will set out measurable outcomes that reflect local needs and opportunities. These should inform the interventions they wish to deliver. Places will be able to choose from investment across three investment priorities of communities and place, local business and people and skills. This will allow local authorities, local partners, the UK Government, and the devolved administrations to monitor progress.

## UKSPF Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs Table – England

ENGLAND						
Investment Priority	Interventions	Example projects	Objectives	Indicative Outputs	Indicative Outcomes	LUWP Missions
<b>Communities and Place</b>	E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regenerating a town square</li> <li>▪ Public realm improvements, for example street art, street furniture or other decorative improvements</li> <li>▪ Regenerating a town square or high street</li> <li>▪ The delivery of outreach/engagement/participatory programmes for community spaces, including youth centres and public libraries</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number and m2 of commercial buildings developed or improved</li> <li>▪ Amount of rehabilitated land or premises</li> <li>▪ Amount of public realm created or improved</li> <li>▪ Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed</li> <li>▪ Number of decarbonisation plans developed</li> <li>▪ Sqm of land made wheelchair accessible/step free</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Increase footfall</li> <li>▪ Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>▪ Reduced vacancy rates</li> <li>▪ Greenhouse gas reductions</li> <li>▪ Improved perceived/experienced accessibility</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of facilities/amenities</li> </ul>	Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
	E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding. This could	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The delivery of events programmes for community spaces, including youth centres and public libraries</li> <li>▪ Building new or updating existing defences to increase communities' resilience to natural hazards like flooding or coastal erosion</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Greenhouse gas reductions</li> <li>▪ Increased users of facilities/amenities</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of facilities/amenities</li> </ul>	Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

	cover capital spend and running costs.		<p>infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of facilities supported/created</li> <li>▪ Number of local events or activities supported</li> <li>▪ Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed</li> <li>▪ Number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>
	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of a new park, particularly in areas with the least access to greenspace</li> <li>▪ Development of a new community garden</li> <li>▪ Improvements to a canal towpath, particularly in more deprived neighbourhoods</li> <li>▪ Urban/riparian tree planting</li> <li>▪ Changes to management of green spaces, verges etc.</li> <li>▪ Regeneration of existing parks or community gardens, particularly in areas with poor quality parks and gardens</li> <li>▪ Improving access to existing parks</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of rehabilitated land or premises</li> <li>▪ Sqm of land made wheelchair accessible/step free</li> <li>▪ Amount of public realm created or improved</li> <li>▪ Number of facilities supported/created</li> <li>▪ Amount of green or blue space created or improved</li> <li>▪ Amount of new or improved cycleways or paths</li> <li>▪ Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken</li> <li>▪ Number of trees planted</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased footfall</li> <li>▪ Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>▪ Increased use of cycleways or paths</li> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of facilities/amenities</li> <li>▪ Increased users of facilities/amenities</li> <li>▪ Improved perceived/experienced accessibility</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top</p>

			innovative approaches to crime prevention.			performing and other areas closing.  Mission 7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years
	E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The development, restoration or refurbishment of local natural, cultural and heritage assets and sites</li> <li>▪ The delivery of outreach, engagement and participatory programmes for these local assets and sites</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Amount of rehabilitated land or premises</li> <li>▪ Amount of public realm created or improved</li> <li>▪ Number of facilities support/created</li> <li>▪ Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved</li> <li>▪ Number of events/participatory programmes</li> <li>▪ Amount of green or blue space created or improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>▪ Increased footfall</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of facilities/amenities</li> <li>▪ Improved perceived/experienced accessibility</li> <li>▪ Increased affordability of events/entry</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>

			approaches to crime prevention.			
E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promoting the active use of streets and public spaces throughout the daytime and evening</li> <li>▪ Improvements to streetlighting</li> <li>▪ Installation of new CCTV</li> </ul>	Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of public realm created or improved</li> <li>▪ Amount of new or improved cycleways or paths</li> <li>▪ Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased footfall</li> <li>▪ Increased use of cycleways or paths</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of safety</li> <li>▪ Reduction in neighbourhood crime</li> </ul>	Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.	
E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for maker spaces</li> <li>▪ Funding for local art galleries/museums/libraries for exhibitions</li> <li>▪ Support for displays for artists to showcase work</li> <li>▪ Locally-led music and theatre performances, tours, author events and film screenings</li> <li>▪ Funding for cultural, heritage and creative events</li> <li>▪ Support for outreach/engagement/participatory programmes as part of wider local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities</li> <li>▪ Support for the establishment/development of cultural/heritage collaborative networks to share knowledge locally</li> </ul>	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Number of local events or activities supported</li> <li>▪ Number of volunteering opportunities supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Increased footfall</li> <li>▪ Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>▪ Improved engagement numbers</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of facilities/amenities</li> <li>▪ Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of events</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap</p>	

						between top performing and other areas closing.
	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Creation of new foot paths and cycle paths, particularly in areas of health need</li> <li>▪ Upgrading of existing foot paths and cycle paths, particularly in areas of health need</li> </ul>	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Amount of new or improved cycleways or paths</li> <li>▪ Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken</li> <li>▪ Amount of public realm created or improved</li> <li>▪ Number of facilities supported/created</li> <li>▪ Amount of green or blue space created or improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased use of cycleways or paths</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years</p>
	E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Campaigns promoting the local area and its culture/heritage/leisure/visitor offer to residents and visitors</li> <li>▪ Campaigns to encourage visitors from further afield to visit and stay in the region, collaborating with other places where appropriate</li> </ul>	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of people reached</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased footfall</li> <li>▪ Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>▪ Increased number of web searches for a place</li> <li>▪ Reduced vacancy rates</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing</p>

						and other areas closing.
E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for local volunteering groups, such as youth charities, carers groups or refugee support groups</li> <li>▪ Support for people to develop volunteering and/or social action projects locally</li> </ul>	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of local events or activities supported</li> <li>▪ Number of volunteering opportunities supported</li> <li>▪ Number of projects</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved engagement numbers</li> <li>▪ Volunteering numbers as a result of support</li> </ul>	Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.	
E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Renovation/maintenance of existing sports facilities</li> <li>▪ Support for community sports leagues</li> <li>▪ Regeneration of an unused area to build sports facilities</li> <li>▪ Creation of new 3G sports pitches and other sports facilities</li> </ul>	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of facilities supported/created</li> <li>▪ Number of tournaments/leagues/teams supported</li> <li>▪ Levels of participation in sports and recreational activities at facilities that have benefitted from funding (based on registered players/teams)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved perception of events</li> <li>▪ Improved perception facilities/amenities</li> <li>▪ Increased users of facilities/amenities</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 7. By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years</p>	
E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for community spaces, such as village halls, libraries or community centres for local civil society and community groups to use.</li> </ul>	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support</li> </ul>	Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of	

	and community groups.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training programmes to support local civil society and community group leaders.</li> </ul>	investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> <li>Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved</li> <li>Number of people attending training sessions</li> <li>Number of facilities supported/created</li> <li>Amount of green or blue space created or improved</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved engagement numbers</li> </ul>	<p>the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>
	E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmes to encourage participation in local democracy, for example information events on how to become a local councillor or developing youth participation in decision making.</li> </ul>	Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> <li>Number of volunteering opportunities supported</li> <li>Number of people reached</li> <li>Number of local events or activities supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved engagement numbers</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and</p>

						community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programmes/campaigns to encourage uptake of energy efficiency measures for homes, including water pumps and increased insulation.</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of people reached</li> <li>Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> <li>Number of households receiving support</li> <li>Number of households supported to take up energy efficiency measures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greenhouse gas reductions</li> <li>Increased take up of energy efficiency measures</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>	
E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.		<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of feasibility studies supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top</p>	

			<p>cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.</p>			<p>performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>
	E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.		<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Number of facilities supported/created</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project</li> <li>▪ Number of premises with improved digital connectivity</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>

Investment Priority	Interventions	Example projects	Objectives	Indicative Outputs	Indicative Outcomes	LUWP Missions
Supporting Local Business	E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding to support the establishment and ongoing running of a new open air market</li> <li>Business support activity for entrepreneurs</li> </ul>	<p>improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.</p> <p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of local markets supported</li> <li>Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance be business ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs created</li> <li>Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>Number of new businesses created</li> <li>Increased footfall</li> <li>Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>Reduced vacancy rates</li> <li>Improved perception of markets</li> <li>Increased business sustainability</li> <li>Increased number of businesses supported</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>
	E17: Funding for the development and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of local visitor trails and tours</li> </ul>	Creating jobs and boosting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses receiving grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs created</li> <li>Jobs safeguarded</li> </ul>	Mission 1: By 2030, pay,

	<p>promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Grants for the development, promotion and upkeep of local tourist attractions</li> <li>▪ Development of other local visitor experiences based around the local offer</li> </ul>	<p>community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved</li> <li>▪ Number and m2 of commercial buildings developed or improved</li> <li>▪ Number of people reached</li> <li>▪ Number of local events or activities supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased footfall</li> <li>▪ Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>▪ Increase in visitor spending</li> <li>▪ Increased amount of investment</li> <li>▪ Improved perception of attractions</li> </ul>	<p>employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 9: By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>
	<p>E18: Supporting Made Smarter Adoption: Providing tailored expert advice, matched grants and leadership training to enable manufacturing SMEs to adopt industrial digital technology solutions including artificial intelligence; robotics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wraparound support to help SME manufacturers adopt industrial digital technology solutions such as AI and robotics</li> <li>▪ Impartial, expert advice to support business planning and digital roadmapping</li> <li>▪ Specialist leadership and management training focused on industrial digitalisation with an emphasis on peer learning, network building and collaboration</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Number of people attending training sessions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity</li> <li>▪ Number of premises with improved digital connectivity</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive</p>

	<p>and autonomous systems; additive manufacturing; industrial internet of things; virtual reality; data analytics. The support is proven to leverage high levels of private investment into technologies that drive growth, productivity, efficiency and resilience in manufacturing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Match funded grants to enable firms to buy and implement new industrial digital technology solutions</li> </ul>	<p>improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes</li> <li>▪ Increased amount of investment</li> </ul>	<p>city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.</p>
	<p>E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research and development grants for local organisations, for example universities</li> <li>▪ Grants to encourage and support partnership working between organisations locally and regionally</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of new to market products</li> <li>▪ Number of new businesses created</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each</p>

	<p>of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding to support the development of sector clusters and high growth ecosystems</li> </ul>	<p>for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed</li> <li>▪ Greenhouse gas reductions</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses with improved productivity</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm</li> </ul>	<p>containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.</p>
	<p>E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research and development grants for new product, services and markets</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of new to market products</li> <li>▪ Number of R&amp;D active businesses</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen</p>

			<p>industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> </ul>	<p>firm technologies or processes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased amount of investment</li> <li>Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity</li> <li>Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services</li> </ul>	<p>in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.</p>
E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding for innovation and technology facilities in the local area</li> </ul>	Creating jobs and boosting community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs created</li> <li>Jobs safeguarded</li> </ul>	Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment	

	<p>innovation infrastructure at the local level.</p>		<p>cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of new businesses created</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses with improved productivity</li> <li>▪ Number of new to market products</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm</li> </ul>	<p>and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.</p>
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	<p>E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding to support the development of new business sites</li> <li>▪ Accelerator and incubator provision to support businesses to innovate, scale and reach new investment</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Amount of rehabilitated land or premises</li> <li>▪ Number and m2 of commercial buildings developed or improved</li> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Number of new businesses created</li> <li>▪ Reduced vacancy rates</li> <li>▪ Number of premises with improved digital connectivity</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes</li> <li>▪ Increased amount of investment</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and</p>
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			techniques, and start or grow their exports.			productivity growth.
	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and connecting businesses to wider support on, for example, innovation, trade and skills</li> <li>▪ Establishing local peer-to-peer networking/support and learning to improve sharing of best practice</li> <li>▪ Development of evidence-based regional entrepreneurial support, led by entrepreneurs, risk capital providers, corporates, academia and government</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Number of new businesses created</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes</li> <li>▪ Increased number of businesses engaged in new markets</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses with improved productivity</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm</li> </ul>	Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.

			efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.			
	E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding to establish a new local business accelerator/growth programme</li> <li>▪ Funding to support local business support offers</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Number of new businesses created</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to firm technologies or processes</li> <li>▪ Increased amount of investment</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm</li> <li>▪ Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity</li> <li>▪ Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support</li> <li>▪ Number of R&amp;D active business</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector</p>

			firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.			investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
E25: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants to bid for, secure and hold a conference for a leading sector locally</li> </ul>	<p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>Number of events/participatory programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased visitor numbers</li> <li>Increased number of businesses engaged in new markets</li> <li>Increased amount of investment</li> <li>Increased number of businesses supported</li> <li>Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity</li> </ul>	Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.	
E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training schemes for local people looking to set up a new co-operative business</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of people attending training sessions</li> <li>Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs created</li> <li>Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>Number of new businesses created</li> </ul>	Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen	

	cooperatives and social enterprises.		<p>industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased number of businesses engaged in new markets</li> <li>▪ Increased amount of investment</li> </ul>	in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding to establish a local angel investor network</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of angel investors in the local area</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving angel investment</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of angel investors engaged</li> <li>▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Number of new businesses created</li> <li>▪ Increased number of businesses engaged in new markets</li> <li>▪ Increased business sustainability</li> <li>▪ Increased amount of investment</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic</p>

			<p>interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>			<p>public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.</p>
	<p>E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DIT Internationalisation Fund, which provided match funding grants of up to £9,000 per business to enable them to fund support for an agreed export strategy. The DIT-funded International Trade Adviser network acts as the entry point to support businesses in developing their export strategy and applying to the Internationalisation Fund.</li> </ul>	<p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>Number of businesses engaged in new markets</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jobs created</li> <li>Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>Number of businesses increasing their export capability</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p>

	<p>E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for net zero initiatives for local business</li> </ul>	<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> <li>▪ Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed</li> <li>▪ Number of decarbonisation plans developed</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Number of new businesses created</li> <li>▪ Number of premises with improved digital connectivity</li> <li>▪ Greenhouse gas reductions</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and</p>
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			techniques, and start or grow their exports.			productivity growth.
E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.			Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support other than grants</li> <li>▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Increased number of businesses supported</li> <li>▪ Increased business sustainability</li> </ul>	Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.			<p>Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.</p> <p>Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of feasibility studies supported</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 2: By 2030, domestic public investment in R&amp;D outside of the Greater South East will</p>

			<p>share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.</p> <p>Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.</p>			<p>increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.</p>
	<p>E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Funding for schemes that better protect local businesses from flooding and coastal erosion</li> </ul>	<p>Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.</p> <p>Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs created</li> <li>▪ Jobs safeguarded</li> <li>▪ Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p>

Investment Priority	Interventions	Example projects	Objectives	Indicative Outputs	Indicative Outcomes	LUWP Missions
<p><b>People and Skills</b></p>	<p><b><i>Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.</i></b></p>					
	<p>E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.</p> <p>This provision can include project promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives, alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Personalised and intensive support delivered through keyworkers, including referrals to relevant local training, skills and specialised support</li> <li>▪ Areas investing in the keyworker function may also procure additional services, offering life skills and basic skills support, where there are gaps in local provision</li> <li>▪ Basic skills delivered in alternative or novel settings. Maths and English up to Level 1, ESOL courses and essential digital skills</li> <li>▪ Supported employment provision and placements for individuals with health and disability needs, including person-centred vocational profiling</li> <li>▪ Support groups for people with similar health barriers to share personal experiences, coping strategies, or information about their conditions</li> <li>▪ Counselling and advice services, including tailored work-focused mental health support, to help individuals with coping strategies and support plans for transition into work</li> <li>▪ Financial support to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications, debt advice to help manage money, housing support, financial support for clothes or travel, and childcare support</li> </ul>	<p>targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.</p> <p>Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services</li> <li>▪ Number of economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system</li> <li>▪ Number of socially excluded people accessing support</li> <li>▪ Number of people supported to access basic skills</li> <li>▪ Number of people accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment</li> <li>▪ Number of people supported to engage in job-searching</li> <li>▪ Number of people receiving support to gain employment</li> <li>▪ Number of people receiving support to sustain employment</li> <li>▪ Effective working between keyworkers and additional services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support</li> <li>▪ Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups (and/or) increased employability through development of interpersonal skills</li> <li>▪ Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)</li> <li>▪ Number of people in supported employment (and) number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services</li> <li>▪ Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services</li> <li>▪ Number of people engaged in job-searching following support</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>

<p>Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to people aged over 50, people with a disability and health condition, women, people from an ethnic minority, young people not in education, employment or training and people with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence).</p> <p>*via Multiply.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enrichment activities for the socially isolated delivered in community centres such as sports, arts and other interactive activities. Volunteering and work experience opportunities to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing</li> <li>▪ Referrals to services that offer a holistic approach to substance misuse treatment</li> <li>▪ Specialist outreach for housing or those with criminal backgrounds</li> <li>▪ Person-centred emotional, practical or financial support for carers, and advice on how to balance caring and work responsibilities, or support around health and wellbeing</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support</li> <li>▪ Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months</li> <li>▪ Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance</li> </ul>	
<b>Supporting people furthest from the labour market through access to basic skills.</b>					
<p>E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.</p> <p>Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better</p>		<p>Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people supported to engage in life skills</li> <li>▪ Number of people supported onto a course through providing financial support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people in education/training</li> <li>▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support</li> <li>▪ Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)</li> <li>▪ Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality</p>

	<p>integration for those benefitting from ESOL support.</p> <p>**where not being met through Department for Work and Pensions provision.</p>					<p>skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.</p>
	<p>E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.</p>		<p>Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people supported to participate in education</li> <li>▪ Number of volunteering opportunities supported</li> <li>▪ Number of people taking part in work experience programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace</li> <li>▪ Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 8: By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.</p>
	<p>E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support for activities to increase people's motivation and confidence in getting online, such as through Bring Your Own Device sessions at libraries</li> <li>▪ Provision of devices for digitally excluded people, accompanied by essential digital skills courses delivered at local community centres or libraries</li> </ul>	<p>Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people supported to access basic skills</li> <li>▪ Number of people supported to engage in life skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people gaining a qualification following support</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to</p>

			intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.			200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
<b>Skills to progress in work and to fund local skills needs.</b>						
E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.		Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people supported to participate in education</li> <li>▪ Number of people retraining</li> <li>▪ Number of people in employment engaging with the skills system</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people gaining qualifications, licences and skills</li> </ul>	Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.	
E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2		Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people receiving support to gain a vocational licence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people in education/training</li> <li>▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support</li> </ul>	Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality	

	<p>and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that cannot be met through mainstream funding.</p>		<p>adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education and training</li> </ul>	<p>skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.</p>
<p>E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased number of people developing their skills to deliver local environmental priorities, such as those set out in Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Relevant courses could include environmental conservation or forestry operative apprenticeships, or Agriculture, Land Management and Production T Levels</li> </ul>	<p>Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people receiving support to gain employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people gaining a qualification following support</li> <li>▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality</p>	

						skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Courses targeted at employees from local high carbon sectors to develop their existing skills in lower-carbon alternatives</li> </ul>	Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people receiving support to gain employment</li> <li>▪ Number of people attending training sessions</li> <li>▪ Number of people retraining</li> <li>▪ Number of people receiving support to sustain employment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of people gaining a qualification following support</li> <li>▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support</li> </ul>	<p>Mission 1: By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.</p> <p>Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality</p>	

						skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
E41: Funding to support local digital skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing a community digital skills pathway programme</li> </ul>	Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of people supported to engage in life skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of people gaining a qualification following support</li> <li>Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions</li> </ul>	Mission 6: By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing	

						courses in the lowest skilled areas.
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1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
  2. Business and industry (<https://www.gov.uk/business-and-industry>)
  3. UK economy (<https://www.gov.uk/business-and-industry/uk-economy>)
  4. UK economic growth (<https://www.gov.uk/business/uk-economic-growth>)
  5. Levelling Up Fund Round 2: prospectus  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-prospectus>)
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>)
  - Department for Transport (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-transport>)
  - HM Treasury (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/hm-treasury>)

Policy paper

# Levelling Up Fund Round 2: prospectus

Published 23 March 2022

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## Section 1: Fund overview

### Introduction

Investing in infrastructure has the potential to improve lives by: giving people pride in their local communities; bringing more places across the UK closer to opportunity; and demonstrating that government can visibly deliver against the diverse needs of all places and all geographies. Our local communities and the links between them across the UK are fundamental parts of our shared economy, culture, and society.

Nevertheless, economic differences remain between different parts of the UK, including our cities, ex-industrial towns, and rural and coastal communities. These economic differences have real implications: they affect people's lives through their pay, work opportunities, health, and life chances. Tackling these economic differences and driving prosperity as part of levelling up left behind regions of the UK is a key priority for this government.

Prosperity can be measured in many ways. However, for many people, the most powerful barometer of economic success is the positive change they see and the pride they feel in the places they call home.

The first round of the Levelling Up Fund was announced at the 2020 Spending Review to support communities in realising this vision. Focusing on capital investment in local infrastructure, building on and consolidating prior programmes such as the Local Growth Fund and the Towns Fund, the first round of the Levelling Up Fund supported £1.7 billion of projects in over 100 local areas across all corners of the UK, delivering over £170 million of funding in Scotland, £120 million in Wales, and £49 million in Northern Ireland. Amongst other things, we are backing the regeneration of the city centre in Aberdeen, the Station Gateway in Leicester, the Tywi Valley Path in Carmarthenshire, and a Production Studio in Belfast.

Through this next round of the Levelling Up Fund, the UK government will continue to invest directly in communities across all parts of the UK. By increasing the impact of its investment, the UK government will unleash productive power and boost pride in place across every corner of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland to support our levelling up agenda.

Levelling up is at the heart of the government's agenda to build back better after the pandemic and to deliver for citizens in every part of the UK. We recognise that levelling up requires a multi-faceted approach and the Fund is delivered as part of a broad package of complementary UK-wide interventions including: The UK Community Renewal Fund, The UK Community Ownership Fund, the Plan for Jobs, the Freeports programme, the UK Infrastructure Bank, the Towns Fund, and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

The [Levelling Up White Paper](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>) published on 2 February builds on these foundations, with a clear plan to level up every corner of the UK. It is underpinned by 12 ambitious missions over 10 years and tracked by an annual report that will monitor levelling up progress and ensure the government is held to account. Our plan will address regional disparities across the UK, reduce crime in the worst-affected areas, put more money in the pockets of those who need it most, and transform the UK economy by generating higher paid, higher skilled jobs and new investment.

This government is committed to protecting and promoting the combined strengths of the UK, building on hundreds of years of partnership and shared history. This round of the Levelling Up Fund will strengthen the Union and ensure the institutions of the UK are used in a way that benefits people in every part of our country.

The UK government's priority is to deliver effective investment in all parts of the UK, to maximise benefits for citizens. Delivering effectively for people and communities is a goal we know we share with our colleagues in the devolved administrations. By taking this strategic approach, working as one United Kingdom, we are better able to tackle challenges which the whole country faces.

To apply for investment from the second round of the Levelling Up Fund, eligible applications must submit their full bids, with all supporting documentation via the online application portal, by 12:00 noon Wednesday 6 July. Further details for applicants on how to prepare and submit bids can be found in the [Technical Note for Great Britain \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales) and [Northern Ireland \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland)

## Investment themes

The second round of the Fund will focus on the same three investment themes as the first round: local transport projects that make a genuine difference to local areas; town centre and high street regeneration; and support for maintaining and expanding the UK's world-leading portfolio of cultural and heritage assets. In particular, the Fund will look to support:

- **Transport investments** including (but not limited to) public transport, active travel, bridge repairs, bus priority, local road improvements and major structural maintenance, and accessibility improvements. We are requesting proposals for high-impact small, medium and, by exception, large local transport schemes to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, cut congestion, support economic growth, and improve the safety, security and overall experience of transport users.
- **Regeneration and town centre investment**, building on the Towns Fund framework to upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure; acquire and regenerate brownfield sites; invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction; and bring public services and safe, accessible community spaces into town and city centres.
- **Cultural investment** maintaining, regenerating, or creatively repurposing existing cultural, creative, heritage and sporting assets, or creating new assets that serve those purposes including theatres, museums, galleries, production facilities, libraries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces), sports and athletics facilities, heritage buildings and sites, and assets that support the visitor economy.

Investment proposals should focus on supporting high priority and high impact projects that will make a visible positive difference to local areas. We recognise that what constitutes priority investment will vary across local authorities and geographies, including in rural areas of the UK.

When submitting proposals, places will be expected to indicate which investment theme(s) the intervention is targeted toward, on a project-by-project basis. Within places' bids, they will be free to submit any combination of projects across the three investment themes (including single projects across multiple investment themes) where a split of funding across different pillars genuinely reflects local priorities and will make the highest local impact.

The exception to this rule is large transport bids (up to £50 million) and bids submitted by eligible applicants who have a 'transport-only' bid as set out in the [eligibility section](#) – these must be for at least 90% transport.

In addition, for the second round of the Fund, we are prepared to fund up to two large bids for up to £50 million under the Fund's culture and heritage investment theme. These bids must be for flagship projects and be in line with the Fund's focus on highly visible interventions that boost local pride in place. These must be for at least 90% culture.

This government's [net zero and wider environmental ambitions](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>) represent a key part of our commitment to building back greener – and this is particularly important with regards to capital and infrastructure projects, which have a more visible impact on our surroundings. Projects should be aligned to and support net zero goals, including those set out in the UK government's [net zero strategy](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/net-zero-strategy>) and sector-specific plans such as the Heat and Buildings Strategy where relevant. For instance, projects are encouraged to demonstrate low or zero carbon best practice; adopt and support innovative clean tech and/or support the growth of green skills and sustainable supply chains.

Bids should also consider how projects can work with the natural environment to achieve project objectives – considering at a minimum the project's impact on our country's natural assets, as well as the resilience of any capital infrastructure project to potential hazards such as flooding. Projects may include capital infrastructure proposals that better protect against flooding and coastal erosion where they form a coherent part of a wider transport, regeneration, and/or culture and heritage bid.

The government recognises that reducing crime and delivering safe and secure towns and cities where people want to live, work and visit is essential to our levelling up mission. Where applicable, proposals should consider how they strengthen the work of councils and multi-agency partners in tackling a range of community safety issues and reducing crime.

Applicants are encouraged to include detail of how their Levelling Up Fund projects would complement other sources of funding, for example the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

## Transport

Investment in local transport networks can revitalise local economies by boosting growth, improving connectivity, and making places healthier, greener, safer, and more attractive places to live and work. Almost all local journeys start and finish on local transport networks, so investment can make a real, tangible difference to local residents, businesses and communities. Local transport projects can play a pivotal role in enhancing local places and efforts to level up. This could be upgrading and improving the safety and security of bus and cycling infrastructure to improve access to jobs whilst supporting cleaner air and greener, healthier travel; targeting local road enhancements at congestion pinch points; and repairing bridges to ensure that communities are not isolated from key services.

We expect that any local road projects will also deliver or improve cycling and walking infrastructure and include bus priority measures, unless it can be shown that there is little or no need to do so. Proposals for investment in new and upgraded cycling infrastructure must meet the standards outlined in [local transport note 1/20: cycle infrastructure design](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-120) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cycle-infrastructure-design-ltn-120>).

The first round of the Fund saw over £450 million invested in transport across the UK. From renewing links to isolated communities to reducing congestion in our cities, and from connecting residential areas with employment centres to widespread upgrades to electric vehicle charging networks, places will soon see these benefits realised.

Projects submitted for appraisal under this investment theme may include:

- investments in new or existing cycling provision
- improved priority for local bus services (e.g., bus priority lanes or signal priority at junctions)

- enhanced public transport facilities, such as bus stops and stations, and improving their security
- accessibility improvements to local transport networks for disabled people
- enhancements and upgrades to local road networks (e.g. bypasses and junction improvements)
- structural maintenance works to local roads, including bridges;
- multi-modal proposals which combine two or more interventions to enhance transport across modes

### Case Study: Bishop Auckland, Durham

£20 million from the first round of the Levelling Up Fund will reopen Whorlton Bridge, the UK's oldest suspension bridge, and the conversion of part of the attached structure into a visitor centre, re-routing of the existing A68 to a bypass road, providing structural improvements to tracks used by steam heritage trains and improved visitor parking. The project will increase visitor numbers to the cultural site and improve transport links for local people, particularly those in deprived rural communities. The area will also benefit from a 18km walking and cycling route alongside the railway, further connecting rural communities to jobs and education in Bishop Auckland and Newton Aycliffe. This proposal effectively identified health benefits, journey quality and decongestion improvements that would be achieved from the interventions.

### Case Study: AMIDS South, Renfrewshire

Almost £39 million from the first round of the Levelling Up Fund will provide new, improved and high-quality links for mixed modes of transport. This will establish a comprehensive and sustainable network that links residential, educational, employment, cultural, retail and leisure centres. The Advanced Manufacturing Innovation District Scotland (AMIDS) is now one of the largest and most advanced outcomes of the Glasgow City Region deal. Building on prior investment from the UK government, Scottish Government and Renfrewshire Council, AMIDS South will help reduce carbon emissions, support growth and improve the experience of transport users across Paisley, Renfrew and Inchinnan. This proposal united local stakeholders in its urgent need to facilitate local recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Regeneration

Town centres are a crucial part of our communities and local economies, providing both a focal point for retail and hospitality trade and a meaningful centre of gravity for local communities. The UK government recognises that in recent years, changing consumer behaviour has made things tougher for retailers in our town centres and high streets, an issue made even more apparent by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, while some local areas have benefited from programmes such as the Towns Fund, others, such as smaller towns have not been able to access this investment.

At the 2018 Budget, the UK government published '[Our Plan for the High Street](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-for-the-high-street-budget-2018-brief)' (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-plan-for-the-high-street-budget-2018-brief>), spearheading a number of initiatives including the Towns Fund, to renew and reshape town centres and high streets so they look and feel better and can thrive in the long-term. In January 2022, the UK government committed to proactively identify and engage with up to 20 places in England to catalyse economic transformation, by bringing together different pots of locally-led funding, including the Levelling Up

Fund, Towns Fund, and the UKSPF alongside DLUHC's £1.8 billion brownfield and infrastructure funding and private investment. This recognises the success of the regeneration pillar of the Levelling Up Fund that has already supported 51 projects to revitalise town centres, help clean growth and the transition to net zero, provide education and support local health and environmental outcomes. We want to help communities transform derelict, vacant or poorly used sites into vibrant commercial and community hubs that local people can be proud of.

Projects submitted for appraisal under this investment theme may include:

- regenerating key leisure and retail sites and improving their security, in order to encourage new businesses and public services to locate there
- removing derelict buildings and other eyesores to make way for new developments
- acquisition and remediation of abandoned or brownfield sites, for both commercial and new residential use
- improving the public realm including high streets, parks and green spaces, designing out opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour
- creating better connectivity between and within key retail and leisure sites, including the addition and/or enhancement of infrastructure to help make town centres and high streets more accessible for people with disabilities

### **Case Study: Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel Road**

£9.3 million from the first round of the Levelling Up Fund will help Tower Hamlets regenerate an area which suffers from crime and anti-social behavioural issues, significant noise and air pollution, limited evening economy and poor urban realm spaces. Whitechapel Road is a well-established commercial centre with a longstanding outdoor street market the cultural heart of the area, with a number of heritage assets. The Whitechapel Road Improvement Programme seeks to transform the Whitechapel Road area to maximise the economic growth and net zero carbon opportunities whilst making the area safer and more accessible.

The proposal demonstrated high levels of local stakeholder support and alignment with levelling up opportunities that exist to complement wider existing and planned investment in the area.

### **Case Study: Antrim Integrated Economic and Physical Regeneration**

£1.2 million from the first round of the Levelling Up Fund for the Antrim Integrated Economic and Physical Regeneration scheme will help to drive long-term economic growth by supporting the regeneration and revitalisation of the economic and physical town centre environment. The scheme seeks to re-establish Antrim as a vibrant location for people to visit, live and work and a key destination for inward investment. This will be achieved by the development of a suburban flexible business workspace hub in a prime town centre location, riverfront boardwalk regeneration and extension to provide access to the river and the high street from the property and to Antrim Castle Gardens. Sustainable transport measures will be supported and funded as well as a unique blue/green infrastructure offer. This proposal put together a compelling case that this was a local priority and displayed good evidence of local support.

## Culture and Heritage

Investment in cultural assets can rejuvenate places, leading to positive economic and social outcomes at a local level. It can help to retain and grow a highly skilled workforce, attract visitors to bolster local businesses and institutions, and provide opportunities to grow people and communities' connections with and pride in places. Additionally, supporting the development of a more positive relationship between people and place can have a positive impact on both mental and physical health. In short, culture and heritage are things that up and down the country bring people together and strengthen communities. So far, the Fund is supporting 31 places to achieve those goals.

Perception of place is an important 'pull' factor in investment and business location decisions and can affect a place's capacity to attract talent – especially young people – and retain workers. Many towns already have a strong cultural heritage and sense of place. These towns benefit from their cultural and civic assets both directly, from tourism and visitor revenue, and indirectly, by inspiring a sense of local pride and boosting community cohesion, making places more attractive to live and work in. Alongside towns, rural areas also often possess their own equally rich tapestry of local cultural and heritage assets.

Preserving heritage is not limited to simply attracting visitors; many town and city centres across the UK are historic and beautiful in their own right. Maintaining these assets, and protecting them from crime and anti-social behaviour, can be crucial for local business and supporting residents' pride in the places they live. The first round of the Fund exemplified this through investment in the creation of arts centres and cinemas, alongside upgrades to unique coastal attractions and improvements to valued historic sites.

Proposed investments should actively complement, rather than duplicate or compete with funding already delivering or set to deliver in a given area (such as through the High Streets Heritage Action Zones programme or the UKSPF). Investments in cultural assets should be driven by an evidenced place-sensitive need or opportunity and have clear outcomes that align with areas' vision for place-based economic and social development, as well as the health and wellbeing of local people.

Projects submitted for appraisal under this investment theme may include:

- upgrading and creating new cultural and creative spaces including sports or athletics facilities, museums, arts venues, theatres, galleries, libraries, production facilities, film/TV facilities, visitor attractions, prominent landmarks, historical buildings, sites, parks, or gardens
- protecting cultural sites from crime and anti-social behaviour
- new, upgraded, or protected community hubs, spaces or assets (and associated green spaces) e.g., village halls, community centres:
- acquiring, renovating, and refurbishing key cultural and heritage sites including hostels and historic buildings and sites, including accessibility improvements where needed
- developing local assets that support the visitor economy.

### Case Study: Houghton Regis Community Wellbeing Hub

Nearly £20 million from the first round of the Levelling Up Fund, will help the area of Houghton Regis in Bedfordshire to create a new Houghton Regis Community Wellbeing Hub. The hub will feature indoor and outdoor leisure facilities, adult social care and community facilities, a café and children's play area. There will be new paths, cycleways, parking and bus drop off areas all designed to support the local community. The scheme will be complemented with beautiful landscaping and new planting, all in keeping with the area.

This development will complement the re-provision of a local secondary school and provide amenities for the 7,000 new homes currently being developed in the local area and provide vital local social infrastructure and address deprivation in the local area, to support local regeneration. This proposal provided a compelling case that the investment will support community cohesion and create a sense of belonging for all.

### Case Study: Rhondda Cynon Taf Muni Arts Centre

£5.3 million from the first round of the Levelling Up Fund will help redevelop the Muni Arts Centre, one of a number of listed buildings in Pontypridd which constitute the Town's architectural and social heritage. It will provide a high-spec cultural venue offering music, cinema and theatre, support the leisure and night-time economy and enable a wide range of arts, culture, event and community activities. Investment in the building reflects the value and significance of Pontypridd's arts and culture in the quality of the facilities provided and will be future proofed to ensure sustainability – designed to increase energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

As a demonstration of its long-term commitment to its redevelopment the council, with support from Welsh Government had invested almost £400,000 into undertaking key enabling and preparatory works to ensure the project could begin on the ground as quickly as possible. This is a key example of the UK government working with local government and the devolved administration to bring about a strategic levelling up project. The proposal also demonstrated thorough consultation with local businesses, the local community and other stakeholders as well as making a strong case for intervention in the area.

## Funding and targeting approach

The Levelling Up Fund remains a competitive fund for the second round, with funding distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection. In line with the Fund's goal to bring meaningful investment to every part of the UK, over the first and second round of the Fund at least 9% of total UK allocations will be set aside for Scotland, 5% for Wales, and 3% for Northern Ireland, subject to a suitable number of high-quality bids coming forward, with potential for total funding to exceed this amount.

As in the first round, funding will be targeted towards places in England, Scotland, and Wales that are most in need of the type of investment the Fund provides, as measured by an Index of Priority Places that takes into account the following place characteristics:

- need for economic recovery and growth
- need for improved transport connectivity and
- need for regeneration

The second round of the Fund will continue to use the Index of Priority Places for places in England, Scotland, and Wales, with the Index itself updated to use the latest available datasets.

In this round, places can move up to a higher priority category, or remain in their existing one, but will **not** move down to a lower priority category. We have expanded category 1 on an exceptional basis, and for the second round only, to capture local areas whose levels of need have increased since the

Fund was launched, for example due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, without disadvantaging those areas that remain in longer-term need, i.e. places that were in category 1 in the first round.

Any local authorities that move up to category 1 as a result of the Index update will, in line with the first round, receive £125,000 of capacity funding to support the preparation and submission of high-quality bids for this round of the Fund. This only applies to 'new' category 1 areas that are still [eligible to bid](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-f-a-guide-to-bid-allowance-for-england-scotland-and-wales-applicants-only) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-f-a-guide-to-bid-allowance-for-england-scotland-and-wales-applicants-only>). Places that already received this funding in the first round will not receive further capacity support.

Details of both the update and the methodology underpinning the Index, as well as a list of all places' categorisation for the second round of the Fund based on the updated index can be found in the [methodology note](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-updates-to-the-index-of-priority-places) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-updates-to-the-index-of-priority-places>).

As for the first round of the Fund, county councils, combined authorities, and the Greater London Authority are not listed in the Index. Transport bids from these authorities will be assessed with respect to the 'characteristics of the place' criterion by using the priority banding and Index categorisation of the lower-tier or single-tier authority where the bid is predominantly located.

## Approach to Northern Ireland

As for the first round of the Fund, a different approach will be taken in Northern Ireland. All areas in Northern Ireland are eligible for funding and applicants will be able to apply directly to the UK government.

Further detail on the specific application process and eligibility requirements in Northern Ireland can be found in the [relevant section of the technical note](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland>).

## Section 2: How the Fund will operate

### Delivery Model

The Fund is jointly managed by HM Treasury (HMT), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) and the Department for Transport (DfT).

At the 2020 Spending Review, the UK government committed an initial £4 billion for the Levelling Up Fund for England over its lifetime, subsequently increasing the total funding to £4.8 billion across the whole of the UK with a minimum of £800 million for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The first round of the Fund supported £1.7 billion of successful projects including over £170 million of funding in Scotland and £120 million in Wales, and £49 million in Northern Ireland.

The UK government will use the financial assistance power in the UK Internal Market (UKIM) Act to make the Fund available to the whole of the UK, enabling all communities to receive the investment and support they need to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Where appropriate, DLUHC and DfT will seek advice from the Scottish Government, Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive on projects in Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland respectively, including on deliverability and alignment with existing provision. DLUHC and DfT will also seek to engage other government departments with relevant expertise.

This prospectus sets out the approach for the second round of the Fund, open to projects that can demonstrate spend from the Fund in the 2022-23 financial year. We would expect all funding provided from the Fund to be spent by 31 March 2025 and by 2025-26 on an exceptional basis.

## Approach in England, Scotland, and Wales

As for the first round of the Fund, in England, Scotland, and Wales, funding will be delivered through local authorities. The Fund is open to all local areas with remaining bid slots. The amount of funding each area receives will be determined on a competitive basis according to the [published assessment criteria](#).

## Eligibility

In England, Scotland, and Wales, the institutions that are eligible to apply remain the same as the first round. The following institutions are eligible to bid:

- a) Unitary authorities (including metropolitan borough councils), London borough councils and district councils in two tier areas in England can submit a number of bids for any of the Fund's three investment priorities equivalent to the total number of whole and partial constituencies within their boundaries.
- b) All unitary authorities in Scotland and Wales, and unitary authorities in England with transport powers can submit a number of bids for any of the Fund's three investment priorities equivalent to the total number of whole and partial constituencies within their boundaries, and in addition can submit one further transport-only bid that **must be for at least 90% transport (by value)**.
- c) County councils with transport powers, combined authorities, mayoral combined authorities, and the Greater London Authority (GLA), can submit one transport-only bid which **must be for at least 90% transport (by value)**.

Further detail on how bid allowances have been determined for each of the above groups of local authorities can be found in the [technical note \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-2-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-england-scotland-and-wales\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-2-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-england-scotland-and-wales).

Any successful bids, including joint bids, from the first round of the Fund will be subtracted from places' bid allowances for the second round of the Fund.

A full list of eligible places and the number of bids they can submit for the second round of the Fund can be found in the [technical note \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-f-a-guide-to-bid-allowance-for-england-scotland-and-wales-applicants-only\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-f-a-guide-to-bid-allowance-for-england-scotland-and-wales-applicants-only).

Those applicants that were unsuccessful in the first round and that still have a bid allowance are eligible to re-apply with a version of their bid in this round, noting the small changes to the application, assessment, and decision-making processes for the second round.

## Approach in Northern Ireland

As in the first round, we will continue to take a different approach to delivering the Fund in Northern Ireland, which takes account of the different local government landscape compared to England, Scotland, and Wales. The UK government will accept bids at the most local level, from a range of local applicants, including but not limited to: businesses, voluntary and community sector organisations, district councils, the Northern Ireland Executive and other public sector bodies. Further

detail on the eligibility requirements in Northern Ireland can be found in the relevant section of the [technical note \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland).

## Role of local stakeholders and MPs

Applicants should consult a range of local stakeholders across the full geography of a place in developing their proposed investments for the Fund. Local stakeholders should be engaged as appropriate depending on the type of project being proposed which could include (but are not limited to): local businesses, public transport providers, community representatives, environmental representatives, public health representatives, police and emergency services and universities and further education colleges (FECs). In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, applicants should consult Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs), Members of the Senedd, and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) respectively as part of stakeholder engagement and support when preparing bids.

Where relevant, applicants should also consider how to involve stakeholders from harder to reach groups, for example rural communities, in formulating proposals. Applicants could, when evidencing this, also draw on past consultations, and use existing partnerships between local government, communities, and the private sector. Bids should demonstrate evidence of this stakeholder engagement and support as part of their strategic case through stakeholder letters or similar.

Alongside the stakeholder engagement and support process, in England, Scotland and Wales, Members of Parliament (MPs) will, as in the first round of the Fund, have a formal role in the bidding process to reflect their valuable local perspective. All MPs can provide formal priority support to **one** bid using the [Pro forma of Priority Support \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-d-member-of-parliament-pro-forma-of-priority-support--illustrative-copy-for-england-scotland-and-wales-applicants-only\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-d-member-of-parliament-pro-forma-of-priority-support--illustrative-copy-for-england-scotland-and-wales-applicants-only) regardless of whether they provided formal priority support to a successful or unsuccessful bid in the first round.

Formal priority support is not a condition or a requirement for a bid to be successful. If an MP does not make it clear which bid it relates to or provides formal priority support to more than one bid, it will not be considered as formal priority support. It will instead be considered as evidence of wider stakeholder support.

An MP can provide general support to one, or more, bids as a key local stakeholder. Further guidance for MPs can be found in the [technical note \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#mps\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#mps)

## Section 3: the bidding process

### Putting together proposals

Local areas should take a holistic approach to their infrastructure needs across transport, regeneration and cultural investment when developing their bids. Applications for funding should clearly demonstrate how proposed investments will support relevant local strategies and their objectives for improving infrastructure, promoting growth, enhancing the natural environment, and making their areas more attractive places to live and work.

### Size of bids

As for the first round, the Fund will focus investment in smaller scale, local projects that require less than £20 million of funding. However, there is scope for investing in higher value projects, by exception.

Bids for up to £50 million may be accepted by exception for large transport and large culture bids and can be submitted by any applicant. **Large transport bids must be for at least 90% transport and large culture bids must be for at least 90% culture, by value.** Applicants will wish to note that we are prepared to fund up to two large culture bids. The cost of such bids cannot exceed £50 million and, as in the first round, they will be subject to a more detailed business case process. Further details can be found in the [technical note \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales) for large transport and large culture bids for Great Britain and [Northern Ireland \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland).

An applicant may submit a bid for an individual project or a package bid, consisting of up to a maximum of three projects. Package and joint bids must clearly explain how their component elements are aligned with each other and represent a coherent set of interventions. They can include a mix of projects from the Fund's three investment themes.

We expect applicants submitting bids to consider how to spread their proposed interventions fairly and equitably within the authority boundary and across their full range of constituencies, targeting pockets of deprivation as appropriate.

## Joint bids

Applicants may also wish to submit joint bids. In England, Scotland, and Wales this could include joint bids across borders in support of the Fund strengthening the Union objective.

The maximum bid size for joint bids will be determined by adding up the individual £20 million caps of each applicant allowing for larger bids to reflect larger combined geographies. In England, Scotland and Wales joint bids will count towards the maximum number of bids that each applicant involved is able to submit. For example, places with only one bid can submit either a joint bid or a solo bid, but not both. Further details on joint bids can be found in the [technical note \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales).

## Transport-only bids

Any 'transport-only' bids submitted by places in [groupings 'b' and 'c'](#) **must be for at least 90% transport (by value).**

Further details on how all the above information should be captured as part of applications and supporting documentation can be found in the technical note for [Great Britain \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-3-the-bidding-process-in-england-scotland-and-wales) and [Northern Ireland \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-5-the-bidding-process-in-northern-ireland\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-5-the-bidding-process-in-northern-ireland).

To apply for investment from the second round of the Levelling Up Fund, eligible local institutions must submit their bids using the online application portal by 12:00 noon Wednesday 6 July.

Bids supported by the Levelling Up Fund must comply with all relevant UK legislation, including relevant [equalities legislation, obligations on subsidy control \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-g-a-guide-to-subsidy-control-and-state-aid\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-g-a-guide-to-subsidy-control-and-state-aid) and for some applicants in Northern Ireland [due diligence \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#section-4-how-the-fund-will-operate-in-northern-ireland), to be eligible for funding.

In completing their application, applicants should have regard to the [Green Book](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-green-book-and-accompanying-guidance-and-documents) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-green-book-and-accompanying-guidance-and-documents>) including Annex A2: Place Based Analysis.

We are determined to learn all the lessons we can in continuing to improve our support for local places. Given we will have an opportunity to evaluate the success of the first round before spring 2023, we are not yet committing to the timing or format of future rounds. We would therefore encourage applicants who are in a position to do so to submit bids for this round.

## Gateway, assessment and decision-making

As with the first round of the Fund, assessment will focus on four criteria: characteristics of places, deliverability, strategic fit with local and Fund priorities, and the economic case in line with the published assessment framework.

There will be a three staged approach to assessment and decision making. The UK government will consider any relevant information provided in the bid proposal, as well as any publicly available data to test assertions made by applicants.

### Stage 1 gateway

The first stage is a pass/fail gateway. Bids that fail the gateway criteria will not be assessed and will not be eligible to be considered for funding. Further details on this stage and the minimum criteria to proceed are set out in the [technical note](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#gateway) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#gateway>) for Great Britain and [Northern Ireland](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#gateway-ni) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#gateway-ni>).

### Stage 2 assessment and shortlisting

Bids that progress from the gateway stage will be assessed on each of the criteria set out in the assessment framework:

- **Characteristics of place** – As for the first round of the Fund, for England, Scotland and Wales, each local authority has been placed into category 1, 2 or 3 based on objective criteria, with category 1 representing the highest level of identified need. The [methodology note](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-updates-to-the-index-of-priority-places) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-updates-to-the-index-of-priority-places>) gives more detail on how this Index has been updated since the first round.
- **Strategic fit** – Applications should set out how the bid supports the economic, community and cultural priorities of their local area and will further the area's long-term levelling up plans, complementing national (including delivering net zero carbon emissions and improving air quality), regional and local strategies and investments. This should include recent levelling up investments (including Freeports, Towns and High Streets Funding), forthcoming UKSPF investment plans, and funding made available through the first round of the Fund. It should also include any relevant local strategies (such as local plans, local industrial strategies or local transport plans). Applicants in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should clearly set out how bids align with or complement wider public service investments made available by the devolved administrations and their agencies. As set out in the [role of local stakeholders and MPs section](#), proposed bids and constituent projects should secure the support of, and be developed following consultation with, relevant local stakeholders and partners.
- **Economic case** – Bids should demonstrate how they represent public value to society. A range of benefits will be considered in our value for money appraisal of projects, including both quantitative and qualitative benefits. This includes potential to boost local economic growth,

environmental benefits (including contribution to achieving the UK government's net zero carbon commitments and improving local air quality), greater employment opportunities, reduced travel times to key services, increased footfall in town and city centres, crime reduction, improved health and wellbeing, and social value to local communities.

- **Deliverability** – All bids will be assessed for evidence of robust management and delivery plans including a procurement strategy, project management (including skills and experience) governance structures, risk management, project costings, and monitoring and evaluation. Bids must also be able to demonstrate spend from the Fund in the 2022-23 financial year.

In Northern Ireland, assessment will only be based on three out of the four criteria, this is because there is no 'characteristics of place' score for Northern Ireland.

## Stage 3 Decision-making

### England, Scotland and Wales

In England, Scotland, and Wales, once bids have been assessed and moderated, and the shortlist is drawn up, Ministers will make funding decisions. In making these, ministers will have the opportunity to exercise discretion to meet the following additional considerations:

- ensuring a reasonable thematic split of approved projects (e.g. across regeneration and town centre, transport and culture and heritage)
- ensuring a fair spread of approved projects across Great Britain within, and between, individual nations and regions, and between rural and urban areas
- ensuring a fair balance of approved projects across places in need
- prioritisation of either 'strategic fit' or 'deliverability' or 'economic case' over the other criteria (noting this must be applied consistently to all projects)
- taking into account other investment in a local area, including investment made from the first round the Fund to encourage a spread of levelling up funds across places

### Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, once bids have been assessed and moderated and a shortlist for Northern Ireland is drawn up, ministers will make funding decisions. In making these, ministers will have the opportunity to exercise discretion to meet the following additional considerations:

- ensuring a reasonable thematic split of approved projects (e.g. across regeneration and town centre, transport and culture and heritage)
- ensuring a fair spread of approved projects across Northern Ireland, and between rural and urban areas
- ensuring a fair balance of approved projects across places in need
- prioritisation of either 'strategic fit' or 'deliverability' or 'economic case' over the other criteria (noting this must be applied consistently to all projects)
- taking into account other investment in a local area including investment made from the first round the Fund to encourage a spread of levelling up funds across places.

## Monitoring and evaluation

The Levelling Up Fund provides a unique opportunity to improve our collective understanding of what types of interventions work well in addressing levelling up challenges, through programmes, individual projects, and across varying spatial scales. The development of a local growth and transport evaluation culture which promotes shared learning across the UK will be critical to this and reflects this government's greater emphasis on high-quality evaluation. Further detail on our overall approach to monitoring and evaluating the Levelling Up Fund, and what we will be expecting applicants and delivery partners to provide in their applications for the second round of the Fund can be found in the [technical note \(https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-e-levelling-up-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-guidance\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note/levelling-up-fund-round-2-technical-note#annex-e-levelling-up-fund-monitoring-and-evaluation-guidance).

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