

Cabinet

13 July 2022

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Investment Plan**

Ordinary report



Report of Corporate Management Team

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Councillor Elizabeth Scott, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Economy and Partnerships

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide.

Purpose of the Report

- 1 This report provides an update on the approach and progress made so far in the development of an Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- 2 This report seeks approval for the submission of the UKSPF Investment Plan for Durham.

Executive summary

- 3 In April Government announced the prospectus and initial funding allocations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which will replace the previous European funding arrangements. The County has a conditional UKSPF allocation of £30,830,613 and an additional £2,803,077 allocation for Multiply – a new adult numeracy programme. Funding is available across three financial years 2022/23 to 2024/25.
- 4 To secure the UKSPF allocation, an Investment Plan must be developed and submitted to Government by 1 August 2022. An Investment Plan for Multiply needs to be submitted by 30 June 2022. These Investment Plans should be developed in conjunction with a range of local partners and for UKSPF should specifically include the active engagement of the County's six Members of Parliament. The existing, well-established County Durham Economic Partnership has been broadened to incorporated wider representation to reflect the

nature of the Fund, this CDEP+ group has guided and provided insight into the development of the Investment Plan.

- 5 Through the CDEP+ arrangements a programme of active engagement with a broad range of local and regional stakeholders has been undertaken to develop the Plan. A robust evidence base has been developed to identify local challenges and opportunities, which has been used to inform and prioritise activities that should be funded using UKSPF. This includes building a key statistical data set, analysis of feedback from the recent Big Econ-versation and mapping priorities with the County Durham Vision and the emerging Inclusive Economic Strategy. This has been used to inform the prioritisation of investment priorities and activities that will delivery maximum impact and meet local needs.
- 6 UKSPF can be used to deliver activities under three investment priorities, Communities and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills. However, activity under People and Skills is not due to start until 2024/25, with ESF due to cease in December 2023, this will create a significant funding gap and service disruption in employability support to those residents furthest away from the labour market. This also directly impacts on the County Council, as a recipient of EU funding to deliver these services across the County.
- 7 Durham County Council, as lead authority, will be the accountable body for this funding, and will be responsible for the ongoing management of allocation, including assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day to day monitoring.

Recommendation(s)

- 8 Cabinet is recommended to:
 - (a) note the approach and progress that is being made to develop investment plans for UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the emerging priority areas;
 - (b) note the implications and risks to the Council as EU funding comes to an end and give further consideration on how to ensure an effective transition arrangement from EU funding and UKSPF;
 - (c) delegate authority to the Council's Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Leader to approve the investment plan's submission to Government before the deadline of 1 August 2022.

Background

- 9 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) prospectus was published on 13 April 2022 alongside details of the three-year funding allocations. County Durham has a conditional allocation of £30.8 million, this is predominantly a revenue grant scheme, with an element of capital funding, this starts at a minimum 90:10 revenue to capital split in 2022/3, increasing to 80:20 by 2024/25. The funding allocation is as follows:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Total
UKSPF	£ 3,741,580	£ 7,483,160	£ 19,605,878	£ 30,830,618
Multiply	£ 847,442	£ 977,818	£ 977,818	£ 2,803,077
Total	£ 4,589,022	£ 8,460,977	£ 20,583,696	£ 33,633,695

- 10 The overarching aim of UKSPF is to build '*pride in place and increasing life chances*' through three core investment priorities: communities and place, supporting local business and people and skills. It is a central pillar of the government's Levelling Up agenda and is a significant component to achieving the Levelling Up Missions, as set out in the illustration below:



UKSPF Investment Plan

- 11 To access UKSPF funding, an investment plan must be submitted to Government for its approval, this needs to set out how the fund will be delivered and what local priorities it will support. This includes identifying local opportunities and challenges, which will inform the selection of measurable outcomes and interventions under each investment priority. Interventions can be chosen from a menu of 41

different options. Bespoke local interventions may also be identified where a clear theory of change is provided to support this.

12 The Investment Plan requires the funding allocation to be broken down against the interventions which most closely meet the needs, opportunities and strengths of the county. A wide range of initiatives and schemes qualify for the fund, much broader than that previously funded through ESIF investment. A key challenge has therefore been to agree and prioritise the investment priorities and interventions that will have the maximum local impact. To inform this a detailed evidence base has been developed.

13 The approach taken to developing this evidence base includes:

- establishing a core data set - including a baseline position for the county against the Levelling Up White Paper Missions, data from the recent economic analysis undertaken for the Inclusive Economic Strategy, and a detailed statistical evidence base, together with analysis of previous EU programmes, produced by the NELEP Evidence Hub,
- thematic working groups of local stakeholders, looking at each of the three SPF priorities, to identify challenges and opportunities, share best practice on what works and look at gaps in provision,
- regional consultation events and round-table discussion with the main business representative organisations;
- reviewing key strategies, for example the County Durham Vision, feedback from the recent Big Econ-versation and the emerging priorities in the Inclusive Economic Strategy.

14 This information has been collated to develop an evidence base which has been mapped against the UKSPF Investment Priorities and Interventions, this sets out a clear local model to underpin the prioritised areas of activity and how these lead to impacts and outcome and outputs that meet local needs.

15 Sitting along this evidence base, a set of principles has also been identified to inform the prioritisation of activity areas. These guiding principles are:

- Ensuring Flexibility – the list of the 41 UKSPF Interventions cover a wide spectrum of potential activities; some have a broad focus while others are narrower and are limited to a single activity. Interventions have therefore been identified to allow of a broader set of activities to come forward to ensure maximum flexibility is built into the programme from the start. This will enable UKSPF

to adapt to changing circumstances and flex to meet new needs. An example of this is support for social enterprise, there is a specific intervention focused solely on delivering this activity, however, delivery of this is also possible under an intervention that provides for much broader business support activity, which tactically has been proposed to be selected instead, still allowing for social enterprise provision to come forward but not restricting an amount of funding just for this. There is a danger that larger numbers of smaller interventions would also result in more money being spent on individual project management and less on front line delivery, and so prudent programme management is to select a few, wide ranging interventions that permit flexibility;

- Maximising Synergies – there is a broad set of interventions that can be supported by UKSPF, much broader than the funding it replaces. There are also significant linkages between the different priorities and interventions, to ensure we make the utmost use of limited resources we will ensure judicious commissioning of activity to maximise synergies, ensuring projects brought forward deliver multiple impacts and benefits;
- Addressing funding gaps – ensure it will fund programmes that complement, provide added value and do not duplicate other activity. UKSPF should be focused on where there are clear gaps in funding availability and in the provision of activity;
- De-risking annualised funding - the Government has made it clear that the annual allocation of grant needs to be spent in year otherwise it will have to be given up and lost to the area. The allocation for this financial year (2022/23) is £3,741,580, this includes a minimum capital spend of 10%. To ensure this is committed and defrayed before the end of March 2023, work has been undertaken to identify activities that can commence and spend this year, without prejudicing the take-up of grant in future years;
- Net Zero – cutting across, regardless of whether they are focused on specific low carbon interventions, such as increasing green skills and business energy efficiency measures, all activities are expected to contribute towards net zero.

Evidence Base and Emerging Priority Areas

- 16 A golden thread through the UKSPF Investment Plan for County Durham is a focus on achieving a thriving economy, that tackles the root causes of deprivation and inequality, creating more and better jobs for

everyone, with activity under all Investment Priorities and Interventions contributing to this.

- 17 The following is a summary of the evidence base, identifying key challenges and emerging priority areas of focus for UKSPF, set out under the Fund's three investment priorities.

Supporting Local Business

- 18 The evidence base under this theme suggests that County Durham has:

- a low business base, with fewer businesses per head, reflecting the relatively small size of the private sector in the county. There's a need to increase the size of the business base for the economy to be successful – stimulating new business creation, attracting more inward investment and helping existing business stock to survive and grow;
- there is a consistently low business birth rate, demonstrating a need for a step change in the numbers starting up and succeeding and growing;
- there is a widening productivity gap. The GVA per head of population is significantly lower in the County than the regional or national average. There's a need to improve productivity and jobs in key sectors. The R&D investment rate within the county is relatively low (both public and private sector), fewer patents granted and with low access and use of Innovate UK funds across the county and limited participation and access to full Catapult support networks;
- talent attraction and return, mismatch of skills and skills shortages are impacting on the growth of the economy and enabling of key sectors;
- there is a significant shortage of quality industrial space and market failure in provision of light industrial units for small scale manufacturing and service businesses.

- 19 Consequently, the proposed areas of focus for the County through UKSPF are:

- activities that increase productivity within the county, providing a broad business support offer, strengthening the local business ecosystems, and providing support at all stages for businesses to start, sustain, grow and innovate. This will include support for the de social enterprise development linked to community wealth building;

- the fostering of innovation and growth including creating business accelerator programmes, incubators and workspace provision;
- there will be a focus on green technology and support for decarbonisation, recognising the County's climate change emergency. There will also be a focus on nurturing the county's sector specialisms and clusters, such as advanced manufacturing and engineering, as well as those sectors not well supported under previous ERDF funding, such as retail and tourism and developing creative industries.

Community and Place

20 The evidence base under this theme suggests that:

- County Durham suffers from poor health outcomes and health inequalities, it has lower than average healthy life expectancy. There are a wide range of population level health issues, most strongly linked to poverty and deprivation;
- County Durham experiences proportionately more crime and public disorder than England (excluding London). Violent and sexual offences are nearly 1/3 higher than the England average. Anti-social behaviour is an issue, the county has the highest ASB rate (per 1,000 population) among the seven LAs in the region, this is clustered within particular hotspot areas (10 locations in the county make up a third of reports);
- small area deprivation is more common in County Durham than nationally with 12% of small areas in the most 10% of deprived areas in England (IoMD 2019). The county also has a relatively high number of 'left behind' neighbourhoods as identified by the 2019 Local Trust research, the second highest rate amongst local authorities nationally;
- the rate of increase in the proportion of children living in low income households has accelerated since 2019. Income Deprivation Affecting Children is high, with Durham ranked 38th of 151 upper tier local authorities in England on this measure (1 = worst) and the % of households experiencing worklessness is also relatively high;
- participation in cultural activities in the County is lower than regionally and nationally and there is a lower prevalence of Creative Industries jobs and business in Durham;

- feedback from the Big Econ-versation, and supported by the County Durham Vision, show that residents are dissatisfied with their local town centres and high streets. Residents were asked to rate their priorities for the future across a range of areas, the top priority with over 91% of respondents was improving town centres.

21 Specific to this Investment Priority emerging areas of focus include the following:

- findings of the recent Big Econ-versation and priorities within the County Durham Vision and emerging Inclusive Economic Strategy show there is a clear rationale for focusing investment to support improvements to town centres and high streets and stimulating vitality in these areas. Improvements to community and neighbourhood infrastructure will also be prioritised, including measures to increase community resilience, address digital exclusion and improve green infrastructure at a local level;
- support for the wider promotion of the County, building on the work undertaken to support the County of Culture programme, raising the profile of the County, its culture, tourism and heritage offer to encourage people to visit and explore the area. This will be supplemented with activities that support local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, including events;
- the County Durham Vision and Big Econ-versation highlighted the strong community spirit that exists within the county, building on this a focus of activity will be to support impactful volunteering and social action projects, particularly those that maximise impact by delivering community infrastructure and environmental improvement schemes, while also mobilising and engaging people to help improve access to employment and provide wider health and well-being benefits. Capacity building to support the delivery of this will be built in. This activity will also include a focus on preventative activities for young people to address NEETs and tackle anti-social behaviour;
- the latest figures from the ONS show that inflation is at the highest level for four decades. This particularly impacts low-income households that spend a larger proportion than average on energy and food, so will be more affected by price increases. Given this, a focus of activity will be on measures to reduce the cost of living and aiming to ease financial pressures on families. This also aligns to delivery of the Multiply programme within County Durham (the Government's new national adult numeracy programme, funded via UKSPF), which over the next three years,

will work with VCS organisations in appropriate local venues/settings in the county, to engage harder to reach learners, particularly those within communities that are experiencing economic and educational deprivation. As well as supporting individuals who may be taking initial steps towards formal qualifications, support will be provided to help with the cost of living through every-day tasks such as managing budgets and household finances, cooking and shopping.

People and Skills

22 The evidence base under this theme suggests that County Durham has:

- high and rising levels of economic inactivity, made worse by Covid. High numbers are out of the labour market due to long-term health issues and face multiple barriers to employment, the County also has a greater proportion of disabled residents;
- the employment rate is lower with higher numbers of people receiving state benefits. There are higher levels of low pay with lack of progression;
- the county has an ageing population with a higher % of older workers. Its workforce population is relatively smaller and is decreasing;
- the County has a lower qualification profile than England with a lower level of higher level skills. Compared to national averages, a lower proportion of residents are qualified to Level 3 and above and a large proportion have no qualifications. Significantly, fewer people are occupied in managerial, professional or technical occupations and there is evidence that higher skilled people commute out of the county for work;
- a significant skills gap exists. Employers report a range of technical and soft skills gaps, with the largest gap compared to nationally being specialist skills or knowledge. There's a need to upskill the existing workforce in light of these skill shortages. There are also increased difficulties recruiting into key sectors.

23 Consequently, the proposed areas of focus for the County through UKSPF are:

- providing a broad employment support offer, supporting inclusivity through tailored support, particularly for young people and adults from vulnerable groups to address their barriers to work and who have become disengaged from the labour market;

- there will be a focus on activities to increase basic skills, which will also provide wrap around support to enhance and complement the Multiply programme offer;
- there will be a broad skills support offer for the workforce, including skills support for redundancy. The offer will be adaptable to respond to sector pressures as identified through the emerging Inclusive Economic Strategy and meet the needs of growth sectors, aiming to address skills shortages. In particular this will include green skills and those needed within the local carbon sectors and increased digital skills.

Gap in employability provision

- 24 Government guidance states that funding from UKSPF for the People and Skills element is only to be introduced from year 3, April 2024. The exception to this where there is provision being undertaken by the VCS only and it can be demonstrated that the VCSE organisation is both at risk from funding running out and where the activity is agreed as a priority for it to continue into future years.
- 25 Current ESF funding is due to come to an end at the end of December 2023. This therefore creates a funding gap of at least three months. However, as projects start to wind down, and consequently staff potentially leave, this creates a much longer gap in the provision of employability support. A recent exercise to forecast when the last clients will be referred onto programmes show that this will be much sooner and depending on the scheme will be as early as Spring 2023 – therefore creating a much longer gap of potentially up to a year in the provision of activity to those most disadvantaged and furthest from the labour market.
- 26 Durham County Council has been a major recipient of ESF and ERDF receiving over £73 million in grant funding, using it to invest in key priority areas for the council and supporting the economy of the county. The transition from EU to UKSPF will have major implications therefore to the Council as these activities over the course of the next couple of years come to an end. This includes consideration to staffing and resources, currently 190 staff are employed by the council funded through EU projects. A separate report will come forward to the council on this, outlining proposals to maintain provision, mitigate risk and manage budgetary pressures.

Governance and Engagement

- 27 As Lead Authority, the Council is tasked with working with a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders, in a partnership setting to

develop the Investment Plan and achieve the Fund's outcomes. The guidance notes that in circumstances where a place already has a group that could be used, then the group can be designated for this Fund's purposes. Over the past 20 years, the County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP) has regularly fulfilled this role in developing funding programmes. The partnership's membership has been enhanced, with broader representation to reflect the guidance, including all the local MPs, and a CDEP+ model has been established for the purposes of UKSPF.

28 The CDEP+ Board is supported by its Technical Funding Support Group, which has provided insight to develop the local context, building an evidence base to identify opportunities and challenges through the lens of the three investment priorities for UKSPF. Under these CDEP+ arrangements there has been wide engagement with a diverse range of stakeholders, working collaboratively with them to develop the Investment Plan.

29 Four thematic groups, based around the key investment themes have also been convened. These groups are open invitation and have engaged a broad range of stakeholders, this is not an exhaustive list but includes representatives from the VCS, community and civic society organisations, housing providers, enterprise agencies, FE and HE, the private sector as well as colleagues from across the County Council. The Technical Funding Support Group continues to be involved on a regional level to discuss the possibility of wider cross boundary activity where appropriate. A wider stakeholder engagement event has also been held, so that partners and stakeholders have the opportunity to see the results of this work in the round, and input into identifying potential pipeline opportunities. This has been supplemented by numerous conversations with extended partners.

30 Key communication and summary of engagement includes:

Throughout May and July	Ongoing meetings of thematic groups with open invitation to develop detailed work on investment plan. Meetings of the CDEP Technical Funding group to guide and advise on the development of the plan.
18 May	DCC Cabinet briefing on UKSPF, proposed governance arrangements and approach
19 May	Regional stakeholder event to identify potential for cross boundary activity
20 May	County Durham Partnership Board – report of CDEP Vice-Chair on UKSPF and progress
24 May	CDEP Board – consideration of proposed governance arrangements, approach, progress and next steps
24 June	1 st CDEP+ meeting. To review approach and progress on Investment Plan and provide direction and reflections

4 July	Wider stakeholder engagement event
8 July	Member briefing session
13 July	Durham County Council Cabinet, to consider approval and submission of Investment Plan
22 July	2 nd CDEP+ meeting – to consider approval of Investment Plan and proposed arrangements for call for projects
22 July – 31 July	Sign off of Investment Plan (DCC Chief Executive, S151 Officer and Leader) and submission to Government

Next Steps and Programme Delivery

- 31 The next steps are to finalise the Investment Plan, undertake briefings with Council members, Cabinet member leads, local stakeholders and the CDEP+, which membership includes the six local MPs, to ensure the Investment Plan is ready to be submitted before the 1 August deadline.
- 32 This report seeks delegated authority, as per the UKSPF guidance, for the Leader of the council, its Chief Executive and Section 151 officer to formally sign off the Investment Plan submission prior to the Government’s deadline.
- 33 Government has suggested that the first Investment Plans will be approved from October 2022. It will be a tight timescale to deliver this year’s allocation of funding and ensure the grant is fully maximised before the end of March 2023, therefore it is proposed to start identifying activities from Summer 2022, this will be through a range of mechanisms, including an open call for projects, commissioning and procurement, depending on the most suitable route for the activity.

Conclusion

- 34 The recent UKSPF prospectus launch and confirmation of local allocations provides an opportunity to set out an investment plan which best delivers against the County’s needs and opportunities, including addressing several of the Council’s main priorities, and delivering the emerging priorities in the Inclusive Economic Strategy.
- 35 A robust evidence base and needs assessment has been compiled to help identify preferred interventions and outcomes, this has been developed in a collaborative process, engaging with a broad range of stakeholders through the CDEP+ governance model.

Background papers

- CMT Paper, 27 April 2022

Other useful documents

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus DLUHC April 2022

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

The Management of the UKSPF will be covered by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). If this follows the format of the MOU issued for the recent Stronger Towns Funding this will not be legally binding but will provide the framework for the Council working with DLUHC in the resourcing and monitoring of the UKSPF programme.

Finance

UKSPF will be paid 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, allocations will be paid at the start of the financial year. As with the recent Future High Street and Stronger Towns Funds we will receive a grant determination letter and Memorandum of Understanding setting out Fund requirements and obligations.

The Prospectus identifies that Lead local authorities will be asked to return any underspends at the end of each financial year. With Investment Plan sign off not expected before October, careful consideration will be required relating to profiling to ensure 2022/23 funding is not lost.

No formal requirement exists for matched funding for UKSPF. However, the emerging investment plan should demonstrate alignment with existing funding and care will be taken not to create further funding pressures.

Consultation

The Prospectus sets out the requirements for broad inputs into the development of the UKSPF Investment Plan through a partnership approach. The emerging evidence base from the recently concluded E Conversation will provide a useful source of recent relevant consultation material. Broad stakeholder engagement is taking place through the CDEP+ arrangements, with a diverse range of representatives involved in the thematic working groups. A wide stakeholder event is also planned for late June/early July.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

The implications of the Public Sector Equality Duty are identified as a cross cutting theme throughout the UKSPF.

Climate Change

The Net zero agenda is a further cross cutting aspect of UKSPF. The emerging climate emergency response plan will provide an important reference point.

Human Rights

None identified.

Crime and Disorder

Initiatives to address crime and disorder are included in the Communities and Place thematic block of UKSPF.

Staffing

The administration of UKSPF will require additional staffing input, as yet undefined. The Prospectus identifies up to 4% of the programme allocation is available to support administration of the programme and proposals for administration will be developed alongside the investment plan.

With UKSPF replacing the former EU funding regime, careful consideration of the cessation of current EU programmes is required given the 190 staff currently involved. Some of the currently EU funded activity will need to continue. Further work on project exit plans will need to be reported to CMT.

Accommodation

Not applicable.

Risk

Overall, there is a significant risk that there will be considerably less funding going forward to support locally managed and delivered jobs and growth activity across County Durham by comparison with previous years.

Procurement

Activity delivered through UKSPF could include a mix of direct delivery, procurement and commissioned services. Corporate procurement colleague will be engaged in the process as the investment priorities begin to emerge.

Appendix 2: Menu of Interventions

Communities and Place

- E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.
- 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 cover capital spend and running costs.
- E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.
- E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
- E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.
- E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
- E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.
- E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
- E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

- E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
- E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.

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.
- E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
- 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 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.
- E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices.
- E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.
- E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level.
- 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.
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
- 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.

- E25: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors.
- E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.
- E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide.
- E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.
- 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.
- E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.
- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
- E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.

People and Skills

- 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. 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. 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). *via Multiply. Supporting people furthest from the labour market through access to basic skills

- 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. 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. **where not being met through Department for Work and Pensions provision.
- E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.
- 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. Skills to progress in work and to fund local skills needs.
- E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses. This includes supporting the retention of groups who are likely to leave the labour market early.
- E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that is not being met through other provision.
- E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.
- E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors.
- E41: Funding to support local digital skills.