

Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny Committee

19 December 2022

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update



Report of Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director of Regeneration Economy and Growth

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), setting out details of the UKSPF Investment Plan for County Durham. It also includes an update on the Multiply, an adult numeracy programme funded through UKSPF, and the new Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF).

Executive summary

- 2 The prospectus for the UKSPF was launched on 13 April 2022 by the Government's Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. It is a replacement domestic fund for EU European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF), which covered ERDF and ESF.
- 3 The primary goal of the UKSPF is to 'build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK'. UKSPF can be used to deliver activities under three investment priorities, Communities and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills.
- 4 Lead authorities have been identified to deliver the funds, for County Durham this is the County Council, and the government has given each lead authority an allocation to manage. County Durham has a conditional UKSPF allocation of £30,830,613 and a Multiply allocation of £2,803,077, over the next three financial years (2022/23 to 2024/25).
- 5 To unlock the UKSPF allocation, the County Council was required to produce and submit a high-level UKSPF Investment Plan to government by 1 August 2022. For Multiply, its Investment Plan needed to be submitted by 30 June 2022.

- 6 Through the CDEP+ arrangements a programme of active engagement with a broad range of local and regional stakeholders was undertaken to develop the Plans. A robust evidence base was 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 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.
- 7 Subject to Government approval of the investment plans funding would then be released. County Durham's Multiply Investment Plan was approved in September and activities have commenced. UKSPF Investment Plans were approved on 5 December 2022. While the Investment Plan was approved later than anticipated, the Council, in partnership with local stakeholders has been developing an implementation plan to identify potential activities and timescales for delivery, particularly for year one.
- 8 On 3 September 2022, the Government announced a new £110m Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). The new fund supports the aims of the Government's Levelling Up White paper and Future Farming Programme. It is aligned to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and seen as a 'rural top-up' to this funding. It will provide capital grants to support activities that address challenges that rural businesses and communities face. As with the UKSPF, the REPF is an allocation and not a competition. Under the formula established by Government, County Durham has been allocated £3,500,000. To unlock this funding an addendum to the UKSPF Investment Plan needed to be submitted to government by 30 November 2022.
- 9 Durham County Council, as lead authority, will be the accountable body for these funds. It will be responsible for the ongoing management of allocation, including assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day to day monitoring. As per the guidance, it is required to establish a representative and balanced local partnership to guide and advise on the delivery of UKSPF funds. The existing, well-established County Durham Economic Partnership was broadened to incorporate wider representation, reflecting the nature of the Fund, for this purpose, forming a CDEP+ group. It has helped to develop the Investment Plans and will have an ongoing role in the Fund's governance arrangements.

Recommendations

- 10 Economy and Enterprise Overview and Scrutiny are recommended to:
- Note the content of the report.
 - Receive further reports as the programme continues to be implemented over the life of the programme (currently 2022/23-2024/25).

Background

- 11 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 UKSPF 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. A breakdown of this funding is provided in Appendix 2.
- 12 The overarching aim of UKSPF is to build '*pride in place and increase life chances*' through three core investment priorities: Local Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills (including Multiply, a new programme aimed at addressing low level adult numeracy). It is a central pillar of the government's Levelling Up agenda and 'will support its 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.'
- 13 To access UKSPF funding a high-level investment plan needed to be submitted to Government by 1 August 2022. This needed to set out how the fund would be delivered and what priorities it would support. This included identifying local opportunities and challenges, and the selection of 'interventions' to be chosen from a menu of 41 different options, provided by government. Bespoke local interventions could also be identified where there was a clear theory of change provided to support this.
- 14 The Investment Plan required 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 therefore was to agree and prioritise the investment priorities and interventions that would likely deliver the maximum local impact. To inform this a detailed evidence-based approach was taken, which included:

- 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,
- A stakeholder event, attended by over 90 partners to identify local challenges and opportunities. Thematic discussions explored what activities would have the biggest impact. What has worked in the past, and what hasn't? What could be done differently and whether there are any opportunities to work collaboratively to deliver the maximum impact under UKSPF
- 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 Conversation and the emerging priorities in the Inclusive Economic Strategy, to ensure strategic alignment.

15 This information was collated to develop an evidence base setting out a clear local model to underpin the prioritised areas of activity and chosen 'interventions' and how these lead to outcomes and outputs that meet local needs.

16 A number of guiding principles were also agreed to inform the development of the Investment Plan. Given the relatively short timescale given to submit the Plan it meant that places did not have to identify projects for funding at submission stage, or routes to market, and thus a more strategic approach its development to take advantage of the significant flexibilities UKSPF offer in comparison to previous EU structural funds could be adopted. A guiding principle has therefore, been to focus on a limited number of high-level interventions and outcomes that enable County Durham to maximise flexibility, as well

as adopt a more holistic approach to delivery over the funding period. It is also recognised that the challenges and opportunities faced by Durham's residents, businesses and communities can not be addressed by a single intervention in isolation, and an integrated response is required. It is therefore expected that delivery of the interventions will maximise synergies across these, with partners ensuring activity is coordinated and complementary, adds value and does not duplicate existing activity and funding.

County Durham UKSPF Investment Plan

- 17 The County Durham UKSPF Investment Plan sets out the evidenced challenges and opportunities under the Fund's three Investment Priorities of Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills. The specific UKSPF Interventions chosen to address these are set out in Appendix 3. A summary of the priority areas of focus are:

Communities and Place

- 18 Findings from Our 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.
- 19 Support for the wider promotion of the County, building on the work undertaken to support the City of Culture bid and subsequent 'Culture County' programme, raising the profile of County Durham, 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.
- 20 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 is 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.

Supporting Local Business

- 21 Activities that increase productivity within the county, providing a comprehensive and coordinated 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 social enterprise development linked to community wealth building.
- 22 Fostering of innovation and growth, including creating business accelerator programmes, incubators and workspace provision.
- 23 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 funding schemes.

People and Skills

- 24 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.
- 25 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.
- 26 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. This will include for example, provision for green skills and those needed within local carbon sectors.
- 27 It should be noted that 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 activity 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. For Years 1 and 2, provision was made in the UKSPF Investment Plan for continuation of VCS activity funded by ESF and at risk, this includes the Reaching Out Across Durham (ROAD) project, delivered by Groundwork North East and Cumbria and DurhamWorks activity currently delivered by partner VCS organisations.

UKSPF Implementation

- 28 We received Government approved of the UKSPF Investment Plans on 5 December 2022, this was later than anticipated and therefore at this stage no projects have been formally approved. The council, however, has been developing an Implementation Plan to identify potential activity, this has included working in partnership with local stakeholders to co-design activity. A 'proposal' form was issued in the summer, while this was not an application form, it asked partners to register areas of interest for use of UKSPF in County Durham. A stakeholder event was then held in October, attended by over 120 people, with the aim of local partners collaborating on the co-design of potential activity, these proposals helped inform these discussions. Given the annual allocation in this financial year there has been a particular focus on identifying activity that can be delivered within 2022/23. This has looked pragmatically at projects and initiatives that are already in development to ensure we can meet delivery timelines and maximise the funding available to County Durham.
- 29 UKSPF will be delivered through a blend of open calls giving grants to public or private organisations, commissioning third party organisations, procurement of service provision and some in-house provision. The emerging Implementation Plan will include a framework on how activities will be brought forward, including delivery approaches and business process. This plan will be published on the website early in the new year following sign off by the Economic Partnership.

Multiply

- 30 In October 2021, the Government announced that a new £559m scheme to improve numeracy across the United Kingdom would be launched. In April 2022, the Government subsequently published an investment prospectus that provides guidance on how local authorities can access funding to improve the numeracy skills of adults through a new programme called Multiply, as well as details of indicative funding allocations for each Local Authority or Combined Authority.
- 31 Multiply is the first priority of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and is aimed at helping individuals to improve their ability to use maths in their everyday lives, both at home and in work. Funding is available to local authorities for the following three financial years to 2024-25, to enable adults aged 19+ without a level 2 or equivalent qualification in maths, to improve their numeracy through access to free and flexible courses.

- 32 The rationale behind Multiply is that nearly half of the working-age population in England (approximately 17m adults) have everyday maths skills that are equivalent to those expected of a primary age school child, with certain areas of the country (including the North East) being particularly affected. Through improving numeracy skills, the Government believes that more individuals will be able to access employment opportunities, leading to higher levels of income and wellbeing. The Government also believes that improving numeracy levels will have a positive impact on economic productivity.
- 33 An allocation of £2,803,077 of Multiply funding has been made to County Durham as part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It will be available across three financial years from April 2022 to March 2025. Funding, not spent within each financial year, will be returned to DfE.
- 34 To secure the funding an Investment Plan needed to be submitted to Department for Education (DfE) by 30th June 2022. This was developed in partnership and built on a clear evidence base This was approved in September 2022 and work has progressed to develop and start delivering activities through this programme. Detail of this activity is set out in Appendix 4.

Rural England Prosperity Fund

- 35 On 3 September 2022, the Government announced a £110m Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF). The new fund supports the aims of the Government's Levelling Up White paper and Future Farming Programme. It is aligned to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and seen as a 'rural top-up' to this funding, providing capital grants to support activities that address challenges that rural businesses and communities face.
- 36 The aim of the REPF is to improve productivity and strengthen the rural economy and rural communities. The Rural Fund objectives sit within the UKSPF investment priorities for Supporting Local Business and Community and Place and will provide capital funding to support:
- new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. This includes farm businesses looking to diversify income streams
 - new and improved community infrastructure, providing essential community services and assets for local people and businesses to benefit the local economy
- 37 The REPF will be able to fund projects within eligible rural areas. These are defined by Defra as areas with settlements with populations below 10,000 and market or 'hub towns' with populations of up to 30,000 that

serve their surrounding rural areas as centres of employment and services.

- 38 County Durham has been allocated £3,500,000, over the two financial years 2023/24-2024/25. To unlock this funding a Rural England Prosperity Fund addendum to the UKSPF Investment Plan needed to be submitted to Government by 30 November 2022. It is anticipated Government will then assess the REPF submissions with approval anticipated in January 2023 and first payments to local authorities expected in April 2023.
- 39 Through the CDEP+ arrangements a programme of engagement with a broad range of stakeholders has been undertaken to develop the addendum. This has been informed by a strong evidence base used to identify local challenges and opportunities and prioritise interventions that make maximum use of the grant available through the REPF, while complementing and maximising the delivery of the UKSPF programme in the county.
- 40 The interventions prioritised for the REPF will allow a wide range of activity under each, as well as the ability to flex delivery to meet changing economy conditions, and are set out below:

Rural Business

- 41 Intervention 1.1 - Small scale investment in micro and small enterprises – encouraging start up, expansion and scale up of rural businesses. Supporting business innovation, including new processes/technologies and routes to market, adoption of digitisation and greater energy efficiency measures. Encouraging diversification of the rural economy. Investment through the REPF will be coupled with a coordinated investment readiness support package provided through UKSPF, to provide an holistic response to growth ambitions.
- 42 Intervention 1.3 - Developing and the promoting the visitor economy – developing the County’s tourism attractions and cultural offer, and enhancing local visitor experiences, providing capital to support local arts and creative activities, including events.

Rural Communities

- 43 Intervention 2.2 - Investment in Capacity Building and Infrastructure Support for Local Civil Society and Community Groups. This is a broad intervention that provides opportunity for a wide range of projects to come forward that will support community-based solutions, providing investment to enhance community infrastructure needed to deliver local services, which supports rural prosperity. This activity is aligned to UKSPF, which supports the delivery of impactful volunteering and social

action projects that are rooted in our communities, mobilising and engaging people to help them improve access to employment and providing wider health and well-being benefits. By providing capital investment in technology and infrastructure it will support communities with their move towards net-zero, digitalisation and improve functionality to provide flexible spaces to meet future need, creating new opportunities that build community sustainability and resilience.

Governance

- 44 As Lead authority, the council is tasked with working with a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders, in a partnership setting to not only develop the Investment Plans but also to provide guidance on the delivery of the Funds. 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.
- 45 The CDEP+ Board is supported by its Technical Funding Support Group, which has delegated responsibility to act on behalf of the Board providing guidance and advice to the County Council on the strategic fit and deliverability of activity funded through UKSPF and REPF over the next three years, The County Council will remain the accountable body for the funds, responsible for the ongoing management of allocation, including assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day to day monitoring, ensuring the programme is effectively managed.

Conclusions

- 46 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund, including Multiply and The Rural Fund provides vital funding to support investment in innovation, businesses, skills and employment, creating jobs and growth in the County. It will play a key role in delivering the priorities in the county's new Inclusive Economic Strategy.
- 47 The Investment Plans have been developed in partnership, with broad engagement with stakeholders informing the evidence-based approach to its design, including collaboration on the co-design of potential activity. Through the CDEP+ arrangements a representative and balanced partnership will continue to engage partners in the delivery of the Funds. The CDEP+ Board will have oversight of this work as it develops, and this partnership and its networks will be utilised to

animate and mobilise both REPF and UKSPF programmes in order to raise awareness of the opportunities of the funding.

Background papers

- UKSPF: Prospectus 13 April 2022 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108422/UK_Shared_Prospersity_Fund_prospectus_-_GOV.UK.pdf)
- REPF: Prospectus 3 September 2022 [Rural England Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108422/Rural_England_Prospersity_Fund_prospectus_-_GOV.UK.pdf)
- Multiply: Prospectus 13 April 2022 [Multiply Investment Prospectus \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108422/Multiply_Investment_Prospersity_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Lead local authorities will receive a grant determination letter and Memorandum of Understanding setting out Fund requirements and obligations.

The council must comply with subsidy control rules for administering and awarding grant funding through the UKSPF and REPF. The granting of public subsidies to private enterprise is now regulated by the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (UK-EU TCA). The current 'de-minimis' threshold is £350,000 over a three-year period. It will be important to ensure that delivery of the funding as implemented adopts and follows the subsidy control rules in any payment to projects.

Internal rules relating to grant and procurement (in line with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which remain in force) will also need to be followed.

Finance

Durham County Council has been allocated £37.1m of UKSPF and REPF. Release of this funding is dependent upon Government approval of the UKSPF Investment Plan and REPF addendum. The funding will be paid annually in advance at the start of each financial year and will be paid over two years. DLUHC will consider withholding the next annual instalment until they have received credible plans setting out how the lead local authority will utilise underspends in the next year and/or appropriate milestones and spend have been achieved for the previous year. No funding will be provided for activity after 31 March 2025 and government will expect underspends in the final year of the programme (2024/25) to be repaid to them.

No formal requirement exists for matched funding for UKSPF/REPF however, Government would expect projects to identify match funding and leveraging options from the private, public and third sectors to demonstrate value for money.

Consultation

The Prospectus sets out the requirements for engagement with partners into both the development of the Investment Plan / Addendum and the ongoing management and implementation of the programme. A strong partnership approach has been adopted, through the existing CDEP+ arrangements. Broad stakeholder engagement has taken place to inform UKSPF and REPF. Stakeholder events were held on 4 July and 4 October 2022, attended by over

80 and 120 partners, respectfully. The latter event providing partners an opportunity to collaborate and inform the co-design of activity. The consultation material from the recent Our Big Econversation has also informed the evidence base used to develop the investment plans.

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 and REPF. At this stage the plans have identified interventions and not individual projects. All project proposals in appraisal, prior to their approval, will review the assessment impact and whether they have a positive or neutral impact on the duty.

Climate Change –

The achievement of a green economy is a key priority of the UKSPF Investment plan, and the net zero agenda is a further cross cutting aspect of UKSPF and REPF. Supporting businesses and communities work towards net zero has emerged as priorities within the areas of focus for UKSPF/REPF funding. It is expected that some of the interventions will contribute positively to net zero. At this stage the plans have identified interventions and not individual projects. All project proposals in appraisal, prior to their approval will be asked to provide evidence on environment impact and longer-term sustainability.

Human Rights

Not applicable

Crime and Disorder

Not applicable

Staffing

The management and administration of UKSPF will require additional staffing input. 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 county council staff are currently delivering ESIF funded activity. This is particularly the case for staff delivering employability projects as UKSPF funding for under its People and Skills investment priority cannot be provided until 2024/25, potentially creating a gap in funding.

Accommodation

Not applicable

Risk

Overall, there is a 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.

There are also risks associated with the delivery of the UKSPF/REPF programme. Guidance published by the Government set out the headline criteria for the scheme, including the responsibilities of the Council in managing the grant. This included eligibility, procurement, publicity and monitoring processes. Other risks include fraud however, through a robust application process projects can be assessed before grant is awarded. The Council also has a successful track record in managing and delivering previous funded grant programmes, including the LEADER programme and being the recipient of over £73m of ESIF from the last programme period (2014-2020).

Procurement

Corporate procurement colleagues will be engaged in the process to ensure the Council delivers REPF in-line with the Fund's procurement guidance. As the Accountable Body, the council must ensure all proposed investment is compliant with Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and must follow the council's constitution and grant rules, processes and procedures where relevant.

Appendix 2 - UKSPF Funding Profile

	Year 1 2022/23	Year 2 2023/24	Year 3 2024/25	Total
UKSPF	3,741,580	783,160	19,605,878	30,830,618
UKSPF Capital	374,158	972,811	3,921,176	5,268,144
UKSPF Revenue	3,367,422	6,510,349	15,684,702	25,562,474
Multiply	847,441	977,817	977,817	2,803,075
REPF (Capital)	-	875,000	2,625,000	3,500,000
Total	4,589,021	2,635,977	23,208,695	37,133,693

Appendix 3 – Summary of Interventions and Investment

Communities and Place	Supporting Local Business	People and Skills
UK Shared Prosperity Funding		
UKSPF Investment £ 7.43m	UKSPF Investment £ 13.75m	UKSPF Investment £9.65m
<p>E1: Improvements to town centres and high streets.</p> <p>E2: Community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects</p> <p>E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities</p> <p>E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area</p> <p>E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects</p> <p>E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living</p> <p>E14: Relevant feasibility studies</p>	<p>E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks</p> <p>E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators and accelerators for local enterprise (including social enterprise) to support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth</p> <p>E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving natural environment whilst growing the local economy, and maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services</p> <p>E31: Support relevant feasibility studies</p>	<p>E33: Employment support for economically inactive people, intensive support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional specialist life and basic skills</p> <p>E34: Courses including basic, life and career skills, including digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL</p> <p>E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses 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.</p> <p>E38: Local areas to fund local skills needs, including technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications</p>
Rural England Prosperity Fund		Multiply
REPF Investment: £1.3m	REPF Investment: £2.2m	Multiply Investment: £2.8m
<p>Intervention 2.2 - Capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.</p>	<p>Intervention 1.1 - Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas.</p> <p>Intervention 1.3 Funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy</p>	<p>Intervention a - Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications.</p> <p>Intervention c - Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace.</p> <p>Intervention f - Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children and help with their own progression.</p> <p>Intervention i - Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners</p>

		aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners
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Appendix 4 - Overview of planned Multiply delivery

Intervention a - Delivery undertaken by subcontractors (those with existing contracts with DurhamLearn) and Durham Employment and Skills in Year 1. Procurement will take place in early 2023 for delivery in Years 2 and 3 which will be undertaken by subcontractors and DurhamLearn and Durham Employment and Skills.

Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications including for example:

- Cooking on a Budget
- Surviving Christmas
- Surviving January
- Money Management
- Navigating Cost of Living Increase
- Bespoke Numeracy related 'Clubs'

The target audience will be adults who have been referred from initial numeracy activities/ courses; those with low/ no skills; individuals with specific barriers to learning; hardest to reach/ furthest away from the labour market, although these courses can support individuals who are employed who would benefit from upskilling. There is potential overlap with the interventions below, but learners will only be counted once for the purposes of reporting to DfE. Work with local partners such as JCP and Citizens Advice will be required to support referrals.

Intervention c - Delivery undertaken by FE colleges, Durham Employment and Skills and DurhamLearn across all years.

Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace, with employers committing to offer career progression conversations for those achieving a qualification/completing a course. We know some of the biggest barriers that prevent adults from engaging in skills training are cost and time, including time off work. That's why we want to see local interventions that are delivered in partnership with employers, such as in the workplace and/or targeted at priority sectors to national and local economies (such as construction, manufacturing or adult social care).

The target group will include staff in local employers who are aged 19+ and who have not previously attained a GCSE Grade 4/C or higher maths qualification. They can either be already working towards a maths GCSE or Functional Skills Qualification but needing additional support alongside, need specific numeracy skills

for their work or progression, or just want to brush up on the skills to help them get on in life and work.

Courses are required in all areas of County Durham and where appropriate colleges should work with local partners to support access to Multiply and market/communicate the Multiply offer in their local communities/networks and via their own social media outlets. Multiply courses can be delivered either in classroom settings, remotely to suit the requirements of the learner, blended, or on a one-to-one basis.

Intervention f - Delivery undertaken by schools and Education Durham across all years.

Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children and help with their own progression - we know that evidence suggests that improving the education qualifications of a parent can also positively impact of the attainment of their child; as well as accrue benefits to the parent themselves. We are therefore interested in family numeracy programmes, such as those delivered through numeracy toolkits.

We would like to see a range of engaging activities which will provide parents with opportunities to develop their own numeracy skills, increasing their confidence and ability to support their child's learning, whilst at the same time helping their own personal and career progression. Courses/interventions should be designed to address the needs identified by the school in their own communities, based on their knowledge and experience of their pupils and parents, with the length and intensity of course/intervention created to suit those needs.

The target group will include parents/carers who are aged 19+ and who have not previously attained a GCSE Grade 4/C or higher maths qualification. They can either be already working towards a maths GCSE or Functional Skills Qualification but needing additional support alongside, need specific numeracy skills for their work or progression, or just want to brush up on the skills to help them get on in life and work.

Intervention i - Delivery by Multiply Champions from DurhamLearn across all years.

Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – We know that there is no one-size-fits-all when it comes to learning, that not all people will recognise that they necessarily have low numeracy, and that many future learners may not be close to stepping into a classroom.

We would like to see a range of short activities/courses designed to 'hook' learners, focusing on numeracy related themes determined by learner needs and being delivered within our communities. Partnership working is encouraged to engage harder to reach learners, particularly those within communities that are experiencing economic and educational deprivation and activities should support individuals who may be taking initial steps towards formal qualifications, as well as helping

individuals with everyday tasks such as cooking, shopping and managing household finances. Activities should support individuals who require better numeracy skills to help them to progress into more substantial learning and eventually and hopefully into employment. It is expected that links will be made where necessary with other Multiply providers to support progression to further appropriate numeracy courses.

The above courses/activities are required in all areas of County Durham, working with local partners such as voluntary and community sector organisations (food banks, housing associations, Citizens Advice etc), schools, One Point Hubs, other appropriate local services and other Multiply providers to support access to Multiply and market/communicate the Multiply offer in their local communities/networks and via their own social media outlets using the Multiply campaign branding.