

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Annex 1: List of interventions for each theme

1. Communities and place

Objectives

- Strengthening social fabric, a sense of local pride and belonging, activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as **community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects**.
- Building resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, investment in quality places through targeted **improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention**.

This theme supports the following missions from the 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.

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.

Interventions

- E1: improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people.
- E2: community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including resilience to flooding.
- E3: New and existing local green spaces, watercourses, incorporating natural features into public spaces.
- E4: **Existing** cultural, historic and heritage institutions.
- E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
- E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- E7: Active travel enhancements.
- E8: Wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
- E9: Volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital.
- E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues.
- E11: 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 - energy efficiency, combat fuel poverty and climate change.
- E14: Relevant feasibility studies.
- E15: Digital infrastructure for local community facilities

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.

2. Supporting local business

Early engagement with local business representatives is required.

Objectives

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, investments that build on existing industries and institutions, support for starting businesses to **visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities**.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, bringing together businesses and partners to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, targeted support for SMEs for new-to-firm innovation, productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow exports.

This theme supports the following missions from the 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.

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.

Interventions

- E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.
- E17: 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.

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[footnote 1].

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[footnote 2]. Further research has also found that firms that invest in R&D have 13% higher productivity than those who do not[footnote 3]. Social returns from R&D investment, are typically 2 to 3 times larger than private returns[footnote 4].

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 and Enterprise Research Centre 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.

3. People and skills

Multiply

Review [Multiply prospectus for England](#) - adult numeracy interventions for 2022/23 to 2024-25 and take account of the aims, objective and priorities when developing local plans.

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.
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity [\[footnote 1\]](#) 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.
 - 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).
- 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.

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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.

Interventions

Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic 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.

1. 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)

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.