

Sunderland UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme

Update to Economic Prosperity
Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 6 February 2024

James Garland, Principal Funding
and Commercial Officer

UKSPF Investment Plan – Recap



- Government publication of UKSPF prospectus and guidance - April 2022 – following the White Paper on Levelling Up.
- Council designated a Lead Authority for UKSPF.
- Submission of Local Investment Plan in July 2022.
- Sunderland UKSPF Investment Plan - Approved by DLUHC in Dec 2022 with allocation of £14.94m.
- Currently, this phase of the UKSPF programme ends in March 2025, with a reporting deadline in May 2025.
- UKSPF allocation is mainly revenue funding, with ~21% capital funding (~£3.2m).
- City Board report in December 2022 sought nominations from City Board members to represent the Board on Sunderland's UKSPF investment panel.
- Since March 2023, the panel has met 12 times to review project appraisals, make outline recommendations and support the Council in its role as Lead Authority.

Investment Plan – Local priority interventions

Communities and Place £4,232,418 (29.5%)	Supporting Local Business £5,826,708 (40.6%)	People and Skills £4,279,589 (29.8%)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1. Improvements to town centres and high streets • E4. Enhancing existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions offer • E5. Built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime' • E6. Local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities • E11. Capacity building and infrastructure support to local groups • E13. Community measures to reduce the cost of living • E15. Digital connectivity for local community facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E19. Investment in research and development at the local level • E23. Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems • E24. Training hubs, business support offers, incubators and accelerators • E25. Bid for and host international business events and conferences • E26. Growing the local social economy • E29. Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E33. Employment support for economically inactive people • E34. Courses including basic, life and career skills • E35. Enrichment and volunteering activities • E36. Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills • E37. Tailored support for the employed to access courses • E38. Support for local areas to fund local skills needs • E39. Green skills courses • E41. Funding to support local digital skills

Sunderland City Plan: 2023-2035



Funded by
UK Government

Sunderland's UKSPF Investment Plan is strongly aligned to the City Plan and other key local strategies

 <p>A DYNAMIC SMART CITY</p>	 <p>A HEALTHY SMART CITY</p>	 <p>A VIBRANT SMART CITY</p>
<p>A lower carbon city with greater digital connectivity for all</p>	<p>Reduced health inequalities enabling more people to live healthier longer lives</p>	<p>More resilient people</p>
<p>More and better jobs</p>	<p>Access to equitable opportunities and life chances</p>	<p>More people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods</p>
<p>More local people with better qualifications & skills</p>	<p>People enjoying independent lives</p>	<p>More residents participating in their communities</p>
<p>A stronger city centre with more businesses, housing & cultural opportunities</p>	<p>Great transport links with low carbon and active travel opportunities for all</p>	<p>More people visiting Sunderland and more residents informing & participating in cultural events, programmes & activities</p>
<p>More and better housing</p>	<p>A cleaner and more attractive city and neighbourhood</p>	



UKSPF Investment Plan – key milestones



DATE	ACTIVITY
Apr-Jul 2022	Development and submission of Sunderland’s UKSPF Investment Plan
Aug-Dec 2022	Government assessment and approval process
Nov 2022-Jan 2023	<u>First</u> local call for projects (Communities and Place)
Dec 2022-Apr 2023	Call for evidence, stakeholder workshop and preparation of the second call for projects (People and Skills)
18 Apr-9 Jun 2023	<u>Second</u> local call for projects (People and Skills – <i>Economic inactivity</i>)
12 Jun-21 Jul 2023	<u>Third</u> local call for projects (Supporting Local Business)
11 Jan-23 Feb 2024	<u>Fourth</u> local call for projects (People and Skills – <i>Improving skills to progress in work and responding to local skills needs</i>)
Mar 2024-Mar 2025	Final contracting, performance monitoring and evaluation of delivery, ongoing review of project pipeline.
Mar-May 2025	Three-year funding period ends, financial completion and final review of impacts

Progress so far

- Jan-Mar 2023 – Formation of the Sunderland UKSPF Investment Panel
- Jan-May 2023 – *Communities and Place* Call for Projects and assessment of 20 Business Cases - 9 projects approved and operational, 5 deferred and 6 rejected. £3.34m allocated.
- Mar-Apr 2023 – Identification of 4 priority project investments under the Supporting Local Business investment priority, working with regional partners. £2.29m allocated.
- Apr-Jun 2023 – People and Skills Call for Projects ‘Support for residents who are economically inactive.’ Successful local delivery partnership selected in Oct 2023. £1.48m allocated.
- May-Oct 2023 – *Supporting Local Business* Call for Projects and assessment of 14 Business Cases – 5 projects approved, 2 deferred and 7 rejected. £2.88m allocated.
- Oct 2023-Feb 2024 – Ongoing review and assessment of 8 deferred/pipeline projects, resulting in 5 recommendations for approval and 1 project subject to appraisal - £1.13m allocated/embargoed.
- Jan-Feb 2024 – People and Skills Call for Projects launched - ‘Improving skills to progress in work and responding to local skills needs’ - with an indicative budget of ~£2.8m.
- **Sunderland’s UKSPF Programme has awarded £10.0 million to 19 projects across the city to date. A further 5 projects have been approved £0.87m UKSPF grant but are currently embargoed. The full list of successful bids (excl. the 5 new awards) can be found in the slides below.**

Projects supported to date



Investment Priority 1: Communities and Place

Project Name	Applicant / Delivery Partners
Enhancing the development of the former Norfolk Hotel	Marengo Estates Limited
St George's Church Community Annexe and Café	St George's Church, Fatfield
Sunniside Animation and Activation	Sunderland Business Improvement District
STEF's Community Hub	Sunderland Training & Education Farm Ltd (STEFs)
Cost of Living Support in St Chads, Silksworth and Barnes	Youth Almighty Project
Sunderland Museum and Park Community Garden	Sunderland City Council, OASES (Outdoor and Sustainability Education Specialists)
Strengthening Communities	Sunderland Voluntary Sector Alliance
Community Digital Health Hub Project	Sunderland City Council on behalf of health, VCS and multiple local partners
Connecting and Catalysing Our Culture, Creativity and Engagement	Sunderland City Council, Sunderland Culture, The Cultural Spring, MBC Arts Wellbeing

Projects supported to date



Investment Priority 2: Supporting Local Business

Project Name	Applicant / Delivery Partners
North East Screen Industries Programme (NESIP)	North East Screen
Regional Business Growth Fund	UMi Commercial Ltd
Business Intellectual Property Centre and City Life	Business & IP Centre North East (BIPC)
Business and VCSE Decarbonisation Project / Business Renewables Energy Efficiency Sunderland (BREEZ)	Sunderland City Council
Enterprising Sunderland	North East Business & Innovation Centre, Back on the Map, Sunderland BME Network, Transmit/ Smarta, University of Sunderland, Princes Trust, SB International Centre, Sunderland City Council
Esports Business Cluster	British Esports Federation, Sunderland Software City

Projects supported to date



Investment Priority 2: Supporting Local Business

Project Name	Applicant / Delivery Partners
Local Automotive Business Support - Sunderland (LABS-S)	North East Automotive Alliance
Wear Together	North East Business & Innovation Centre
Sunderland Innovate and Grow (SIG)	University of Sunderland, Sunderland Culture

Investment Priority 3: People and Skills

Wise Group Relational Mentoring (Sunderland)	The Wise Group, Pallion Action Group, Springboard Sunderland Trust, Humankind, Foundation of Light
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Examples of outputs and outcomes to be monitored & reported



Communities and Place

- Commercial buildings developed or improved
- Public realm created or improved
- Low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed
- Neighbourhood improvements undertaken
- Volunteering opportunities supported
- People attending training sessions

Supporting Local Business

- Enterprises receiving non-financial support
- Enterprises receiving grants
- Decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support
- Potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be enterprise ready

People and Skills

- Economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services
- People supported to access basic skills
- People supported to engage in job-searching
- People supported to participate in education

As well as quarterly reporting, projects report on evaluation plans (internal and external), case studies and communications and publicity

Examples of outputs and outcomes to be monitored & reported



Communities and Place

- **473m²** - Area of commercial buildings developed or improved
- **4,611m²** - Area of public realm created or improved
- **719m²** - Area of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed
- **56** - Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken
- **751** - Number of volunteering opportunities supported
- **1,092** - Number of people attending training sessions

Examples of outputs and outcomes to be monitored & reported



Supporting Local Business

- **1,155** - Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support
- **434** - Number of enterprises receiving grants
- **122** - Number of decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support
- **286** - Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be enterprise ready

People and Skills

- **975** - Economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services
- **1,023** - Number of people supported to access basic skills
- **682** - Number of people supported to engage in job-searching
- **843** - Number of people supported to participate in education

Project updates (1)



Project Name	Progress to December 2023
St George's Church Community Annexe and Café	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction work began in September 2023 and the new community facility is due to complete and open in summer 2024
Sunniside Activation and Animation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5,206m² public realm improved (lighting programme in Sunniside Gardens) • 4 local events delivered • 2 volunteering opportunities supported
Cost of Living Support in St Chads, Silksworth and Barnes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 193 households supported in total with 490 people reached • 173 households supported with energy saving information • 104 households supported with energy saving packs including timers, LED light bulbs, radiator keys and draught excluders
Community Digital Health Hub Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 of the 24 Community Digital Health Hubs have been created and 48 volunteers have been recruited to date • 34 voluntary sector providers have secured grants from the Links for Life Grant Scheme to deliver community support services across the city
STEF's Community Hub	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 people have attended training sessions • 200+ increase in visitor numbers
Sunderland Museum and Park Community Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project commenced in October 2023 and the Community Garden Officer was appointed in November • As delivery partner, OASES are leading on community and school engagement and have started consultation events with project partners and participants.

Project updates (2)



Project Name	Progress to December 2023
Strengthening Communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33 local events or activities supported • 23 volunteering opportunities supported • 27 organisations receiving support
Enterprising Sunderland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project team is now in place and staff have been engaging partners to deliver community engagement events and tailored workshops
Regional Business Growth Fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 businesses have registered interest in the scheme
Business Intellectual Property Centre and City Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21 businesses supported • 16 potential entrepreneurs supported • 8 business support grant applications
Wise Group Relational Mentoring (Sunderland)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wise Group direct delivery team have been recruited • All delivery partners have been recruited • Key worker support to economically inactive participants underway
Connecting and Catalysing Our Culture, Creativity and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project delivery team in place and activity has commenced, with delivery partners holding multiple events across the city

Priorities for 2024

- Call 4 launch, technical workshop and assessment of Business Cases.
- Project Networking events planned.
- Remaining allocations committed and all projects appraised and contracted by March/April 2024.
- Performance monitoring and review of all projects.
- Annual review of Investment Panel membership and ToR
- Managing project changes and recycled grant where appropriate.
- Project and programme evaluations.
- Reporting to the Investment Panel, City Board and UKG.
- Planning for delivery post March/April 2025.

Multiply



- Multiply was subject to a separate Investment Plan process overseen by the DfE.
- Sunderland's programme is ~£1.5m with delivery of activities up to March 2025.
- Initial Multiply commissioning and evaluation of tenders took place in Sept/Oct 2022.
- Contracts have been awarded for the full term of the Multiply Programme, and the programme has been running for 15 months.
- Currently 10 providers are delivering a range of Multiply interventions as listed below:
 - Courses designed to increase confidence for those needing the first steps towards formal numeracy qualifications
 - Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money
 - Innovative numeracy programmes delivered together with employers
 - Courses aimed at people who are unable to apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in numeracy in order to access a certain job/career
 - Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression
 - Numeracy activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners.

Sunderland Multiply providers	
Apextra C.I.C	Pallion Action Group
Eden Training Academy Limited	Penshaw View Training Limited
First Face to Face Limited	Uplift
Groundwork NE & Cumbria	Training in Childcare Limited
Foundation of Light	Cool Blue College Limited



Achievements so far
723 enrolments
677 completions
Achievement Rate 94%
19.9% of participants have progressed onto other Further Education Programmes

Further information & next steps



- Please contact us at ukspf@sunderland.gov.uk if you have any further questions.
- Further information about UKSPF projects approved to date and key guidance documents can be found on the Council's [UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\) in Sunderland - Sunderland City Council website](#).
- Further information on Multiply is available on the Sunderland Multiply webpage: [Multiply - Sunderland City Council](#)