

Sunderland UK Shared Prosperity Fund Programme

Update to Economic Prosperity
Scrutiny Committee - Tuesday 7 March 2023

James Garland, Principal Funding
and Commercial Officer

Background to the UKSPF

- UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the successor to ERDF and ESF: £2.6bn fund over 3 years – 2022/23 to 2024/25 – across UK, mostly revenue based.
- Primary goal of UKSPF is “to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK” aligning to Levelling Up White Paper missions.
- Devolved to Combined and Local Authorities - create local plans, manage and monitor spending.
- No requirement for match funding, but encouraged.
- Delivery options can include open calls, commissioning projects/programmes, procurement or in house activity.
- UKSPF Prospectus – investment plans must focus on supporting project activities across 3 investment priorities: (1) Communities and Place; (2) Supporting Local Business; (3) People and Skills.

UKSPF - Sunderland

- Sunderland UKSPF Investment Plan - £14.94m programme submitted in July 2022 and approved by DLUHC in December 2022 (36% in Years 1-2 / 64% in Year 3).
- UKSPF allocation is mainly revenue funding, with ~21% capital funding (~£3.2m).
- Multiply Investment Plan - £1.63m programme submitted in June 2022 and approved by DfE in September 2022.
- Multiply commissioning took place in Sept/Oct 2022 with 11 providers selected and delivery started.
- Sunderland's first UKSPF targeted call for projects under Communities and Place was published in November 2022 and closed at the end of January 2023.
- People and Skills call for evidence was launched in December 2022 and closed in January 2023, followed by a stakeholder workshop in February 2023 to discuss findings and shape provision.
- Targeted local calls for the People and Skills and Supporting Local Business investment priorities are being developed and will be published shortly.
- Sunderland's UKSPF Investment Plan Executive Summary, Evidence Base Review and guidance documents can be found on the Council's [UKSPF website](#).




Sunderland City Plan: 2023-2035

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



Key themes

- by 2030 Sunderland will be a **dynamic smart city** with more and better jobs, a low-carbon economy and a great choice of housing. It will be a leading digital city, deploying smart and sustainable technologies for the benefit of residents, businesses and visitors.
- it will be a **healthy smart city** where people will live healthier, independent lives for longer. It will be a clean and attractive city with great transport and travel links.
- and it will be a **vibrant smart city** with more resilient people feeling safe in their homes and neighbourhoods. There will be a range of opportunities for people to participate in their communities and in cultural events and activities.

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

Investment Plan - Local priority interventions

Communities and Place £4,232,418 (28%)	Supporting Local Business £5,911,260 (40%)	People and Skills £4,792,483 (32%)
<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

Summary of the outputs and outcomes to be achieved


1,500

Businesses supported

500

Jobs created


1,000

**People helped into
employment**


800

**People helped to get work
ready**


980

**Number of households and
businesses supported to
reduce carbon emissions**


110

**VCSE organisations
supported**


1,800

**People engaging in
activities and events**

Investment Priority 1: Communities and Place

- The first targeted call for projects under the Communities and Place investment priority closed on 27/01/23.
- The call covered the following priority interventions:
 - 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
- The call allowed for a mix of capital and revenue projects to come forward depending on the activity.
- Project appraisals are currently underway with the first decisions on projects expected in March/April 2023.

Investment Priority 2: Supporting Local Business

- Strategic objective 2: Boosting local enterprise, entrepreneurship and innovation, and transitioning towards a net-zero low carbon economy.
- Addressing key challenges and bringing forward new opportunities:
 - Continuing to diversify the economic base
 - Promoting a start-up culture and closing the enterprise gap
 - Improving business survival rates by creating a stronger local enterprise ecosystem
 - Ensuring that all population groups have access to the best advice, support and resources to start up a business.
- A range of activities will be prioritised for support, such as:
 - Local interventions to address low levels of enterprise activity, including start-up and social enterprise development.
 - Supporting established enterprises with recovery, resilience and growth including focus on innovative solutions to economic, social and environmental challenges, such as low carbon, climate mitigation and adaptation, digital adoption and exclusion, health and ageing.

Investment Priority 3: People and Skills

- Strategic objective 3.1: Supporting economically inactive people and those furthest from labour market to overcome barriers to accessing sustainable work and learning
- Strategic objective 3.2: Improving skills to progress in work and responding to local skills needs
- Addressing key challenges and bringing forward new opportunities:
 - High levels of economic inactivity and unemployment, especially among young people, reducing overall workforce productivity and economic prosperity.
 - In-work poverty and deprivation, due to more low wage, low skilled, insecure work in the area.
 - Low skills and qualification levels in the workforce, including lack of basic and technical skills, limiting opportunities for people to progress into better paid, higher skilled, more secure work.
 - Growing recruitment and skills shortages for businesses across many sectors, as the labour market recovers from the pandemic and more people leave the full-time workforce.
 - Changing nature of jobs and employers' skills requirements, driven by growing use of digital technologies, automation of some basic job roles (e.g. retail, distribution), and higher skilled job opportunities growing faster than low skilled occupations.

Investment Priority 3: People and Skills

- The first targeted People and Skills call is focused on support for the economically inactive (Strategic objective 3.1) and will be informed by key findings from the 'call for evidence' and stakeholder workshop discussions on 09/02/23.
- The opportunity will be open to VCSE and public sector organisations, working in partnership, enabling targeted support and interventions to be delivered.
- Under this call, activities will need to meet local needs, build on 'what works', demonstrate strong progression routes into training, education and employment and complement existing local provision.
- Skills funding for other priority interventions - under Strategic objective 3.2 - is only available to Lead authorities from year 3 (2024/25) of the programme.
- This will be the focus of a further call for projects / commissioning later in 2023. This will address local sector skills challenges and workforce development priorities.

Investment Priority 3: People and Skills – Call 1

- The focus of activity, outputs and outcomes will be on intervention:
E33: Supporting economically inactive people to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.
- Activities which could be supported may include, but are not limited to:
 - Personalised and intensive support delivered through keyworkers
 - Life skills, basic skills support, volunteering and work experience opportunities
 - Supported employment provision and placements for individuals with health and disability needs.
 - Person-centred emotional, practical or financial support for carers, and advice on how to balance caring and work responsibilities, where this presents a barrier to work.
 - Debt advice to help manage money, housing support, financial support for clothes or travel, and childcare support.
 - Enrichment activities for the socially isolated delivered in community centres such as sports, arts and other interactive activities.
- Provision should have a focus on face to face support but will consider a ‘blended deliver model’ of in-person and digital support to meet individual need.

UKSPF Investment Plan – key milestones

DATE	ACTIVITY
Apr 2022	Launch of the UKSPF Prospectus and guidance
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-Mar 2023	Call for evidence/workshop (on economic inactivity), preparation and launch of <u>second</u> local call for projects (People and Skills)
Mar-Apr 2023	Preparation and launch of <u>third</u> local call for projects (Supporting Local Business)
Jan-Jul 2023	First phase of assessment, contracting, review, monitoring and evaluation
Jul-Dec 2023	Review of project pipeline and preparation/launch of future calls and/or commissioning plans for Years 2/3
Mar 2025	Three-year funding period ends

Multiply Investment Plan

- Multiply commissioning and evaluation of tenders took place in Sept/Oct 2022.
- Contracts have been awarded for the full term of the Multiply Programme.
- Eleven providers have been selected and the full amount of grant has been provisionally allocated. Local interventions include:
 - 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.
- Further information is available on the Sunderland Multiply webpage: [Multiply - Sunderland City Council](#)

Multiply Investment Plan

Sunderland Multiply providers

Apextra C.I.C	Penshaw View Training Limited
Eden Training Academy Limited	PeoplePlus Group Limited
First Face to Face Limited	Training in Childcare Limited
Groundwork NE & Cumbria	City of Sunderland College Limited
Optimum Skills Limited	Cool Blue College Limited
Pallion Action Group	