

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2
May 2022

Your location

To be eligible for funding, you will need to be applying on behalf of a lead authority in one of the [delivery geographies](#).

Select the lead authority

For Scotland and Wales only: Who else is this investment plan being submitted on behalf of? Select all that apply

Your details

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Organisation name Stroud District Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Stroud District is a largely rural one, served by the main town centres of Stroud, Dursley, Nailsworth, Stonehouse, and Wotton-Under-Edge and formed of a number of smaller parishes and villages. As experienced in each of the districts across Gloucestershire, there is a decline in the proportion of Stroud's population that is of working age, although this decline is the 2nd slowest in the county, behind Gloucester. A large proportion of Stroud's residents are affluent, however, there is a higher level of deprivation in some LSOAs around areas including: Cam, Stonehouse and Stroud town.

Stroud District is home to the second largest population in the County, and with the noted decline in working age population combined with a predicted increase in the older population, there is a need to prioritise that communities have access to support across all abilities and ages. Support available is currently delivered through the voluntary sector, NHS and Local Authorities. However, with a declining budget for support services, these communities are turning to the Voluntary and Community Sector and adding to the pressures these organisations face.

As a largely rural location delivering safe space for young people is essential across all areas of the District; improvements to destinations such as play areas and activity pitches for example, hockey or football pitches to deliver a positive engagement for young people is essential. The impact of youth provision is a positive one and supports with positive outcomes such as developing social skills, emotional and intellectual capabilities as well as being linked to supporting the transition to adulthood.

Whilst the district is generally affluent, with pockets of deprivation, much needs to be done over the coming months to support residents with the cost of living crisis. There is an urgent priority as to how communities are supported to navigate the increase costs on foods, fuels and bills. The pockets of deprivation across the district are made up from the rural and built up areas, with the built up locations sitting in close proximity to our towns and high streets.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Stroud District has a wide variety of communities with unique challenges, meaning one size does not fit all across the parishes that make up the district. The District and Parish Councils work closely with the communities to understand the challenges they face and how to support them. This partnership grew over the last three years whilst the District worked collaboratively to navigate the Coronavirus pandemic. Offering continued support to the Parishes through the funding will offer the ability to continue to develop locally led initiatives in partnership with one another.

Whilst the relationship between communities and the Council has vastly improved over recent years, the issues the communities face were heightened during the pandemic, with many of these remaining. The latest Thriving Places index, a collation of open source data, draws attention to a lower than average score within mental health, housing, local environment, employment opportunities and public transport accessibility; evidencing the need to work alongside our communities to create a sense of pride and cohesion across the District.

The District has an excellent community spirit, with hubs across the parishes who are focussed on improving the local area for residents, and a desire to set up hubs in more areas, ensuring a greater reach across the district. Whilst the district is home to a range of community organisations and hubs, there is the opportunity to better support hubs at grass roots levels, giving them confidence to bid for various funding streams to managing their internal processes more effectively.

Further to supporting our communities, there is an opportunity to support residents consider ways to reduce their need to use energy and their dependency on fossil fuels through retrofitting and energy education programmes. Being able to offer support and advice to the District residents on how they can retrofit their homes and safeguard against the cost of living crisis encourages a reduction our overall carbon footprint. Further to this, making improvements to footpaths and cycle ways as well as making access the pedal and E-Bikes more accessible can both improve the health and wellbeing of our district and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels also.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Stroud has a large amount of business activity, hosting 20% of the county's businesses – the second highest share. The vast majority of businesses are small with 98.8% employing less than 10 employees and only 0.2% of businesses exceeding 250 employees.

The type of business is very varied, but the largest number are classed as within the Professional, Scientific and Technical sector, followed by Construction and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing. However, the sector with the greatest number of employees is Manufacturing which employs 20% of the workforce. This could be significant if the forecast loss of jobs in this sector is realised.

One concern with Stroud's economy is that it there is a low business start-up rates in comparison with the rest of the county. This is coupled with the second largest decline in business births between 2015 and 2020; a 16% decline compared to the national (7%) and regional (5%) levels. There is a need to work more closely with business support provision, seeking to reduce barriers to entry and increase entrepreneurship activity locally.

The weekly earning by residence and workplace are both lower than the UK average, with the levels of productivity and Gross Value Added (GVA) at £47,262 per filled job, ONS, 2019. Support is required to support businesses become more productive, and work toward the district becoming a top performing entrepreneurial location in the South West. Further to low productivity levels, businesses struggle with recruitment and staff retention and the district is faced with a skills drain to the larger towns and nearby cities.

Uptake of business support within are Agriculture businesses is low. Land based businesses are one of the top three sectors in the District, with an excess of 400 farming and land owners, they do not currently get the same support and interventions as other sectors. Being able to deliver specific

business support, enabling increased productivity and decrease of the sectors carbon footprint is critical for the sector. This is critical as the landscape post Brexit is still uncertain for the sector.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

The District is home to one of the sites under consideration for the UK's STEP project to generate electricity through a fusion energy plant. The project is expected to play a key role in low-carbon energy, create thousands of high-skill jobs and attract billions of pounds in investment. The Severn Edge site has been promoted under Nuclear South West and the Western Gateway and is to involve sites at Berkeley and at Oldbury-on-Severn in South Gloucestershire. The opportunity to be considered for the STEP scheme works alongside the districts focus on green sectors; with the opportunity to focus on research and development into green tech and how we stimulate the growth of the green sector.

The District is well-positioned to take advantage of the increase in 'staycations' and positive impact this has on the tourism and visitor economy. Connected to this, the district's town centres, which have suffered from reduced footfall since the start of the pandemic, are to be marketed as destinations in their own right. Encouraging increased footfall to our market towns by working with our parishes and business community on localised initiatives including improved accessibility and access points and improving local facilities

Whilst a challenge for the district, supporting our businesses to thrive offers the opportunity to deliver positive impacts on the communities of our district, with many micro and small businesses who were started by residents. These businesses, like all, will be feeling the impact of the cost of living at home and at work. Furthermore, access to supply chains and gaps in the market as a repercussion of the pandemic, shipping price increase and Ukrainian war offer multiple and sometimes complex issues.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The Indices of Deprivation, IOD, measures levels of deprivation across 7 different areas, one of which is within skills. The District has 19 wards that sit in the 50% of the most deprived areas, and one ward within the District in the top 10%. This means there is lower skills attainment levels in these areas than average.

Whilst the district has low unemployment rates, the rates are higher than before the pandemic; businesses are also reporting issues with recruitment of staff, particularly within the sectors that were most impacted by the lockdowns such as retail and hospitality.

Stroud District is home to South Gloucestershire and Stroud College, based in close proximity to Stroud Town Centre, however, the take up of adult education provision is lower than expected. This is due to various factors including, poor public transport links and anecdotally, reluctance to attend classes in a college with young people.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

The district is home to a number of advanced manufacturing and medical based businesses, whose requirements are for high skilled staff, and access to higher apprenticeships within these businesses. Further to this, there is a need for lower skills staff within these sectors; and sustainable employment should offer opportunities across all levels.

Although there is good levels of employment, with low numbers of economically inactive residents, we need to ensure when people are furthest away from the labour market they have access to

support and training that will encourage them back into work and increase their confidence to find work and aspiration levels also.

There is opportunity to work with our employers in the district to create a vibrant local economy through employing people from the local community, increasing diversity across the workforce and through holistic support, address other issues such as homelessness and poverty. Creating sustainable employment opportunities takes a multi-agency approach and could offer first class support to our residents if realised.

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	√
Jobs safeguarded	√
Increased footfall	√
Increased visitor numbers	√
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	√
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	√
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	√
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	√
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	√
Increased use of cycleways or paths	√
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	
Improved perception of safety	
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	
Improved engagement numbers	√
Improved perception of events	
Increased number of web searches for a place	√
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	√
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	√
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	√
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	

None of the above	
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SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.

E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.

E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.

E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.

E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.

E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

N/A

Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

Each intervention that has been chosen to support the Communities and Place priority area and the needs of the District. Each intervention will support all areas of the District and will encourage our residents to take up community-led projects that seek to improve the sense of pride and belonging in Stroud District.

Developing interventions that support community-led organisations and offer the opportunity to deliver locally led initiatives is key to supporting our communities become more resilient and future proofing the work they deliver. This will be achieved through intervention “E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups” Focussing on how we work with community hubs and voluntary sector organisations to safeguard them against the future, making them more robust and confident in their abilities.

Supporting E11 will offer excellent value for money due to the legacy this work will leave on the community hubs supported as well as meeting the following outcomes: jobs created; jobs safeguarded; improved perception of facilities / amenities; increased users of facilities / amenities; improved engagement numbers; volunteering numbers as a result of support.

Being able to work alongside the district community organisations, offering them autonomy to deliver interventions which will offer real change at a local level is a priority of the funding; these will encourage local community organisations to develop initiatives that create quality places for residents to live, work, play and learn in. This will be achieved through interventions “E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces” “E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places”, “E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change” and “E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together”. Offering access to community spaces that are both out and inside and will encourage positive change across the district.

Each intervention will be delivered across a number of parishes in the district, delivering value for money to the reach and amount of residents supported. These interventions will seek to achieve the following outcomes: jobs created; jobs safeguarded; increased visitor numbers; Improved perceived/experienced accessibility; Improved perception of facilities/amenities; Increased users of facilities / amenities; Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project; Improved engagement numbers; Volunteering numbers as a result of support; Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support; and Increased use of cycleways or paths.

As with all parts of the UK, residents are faced with increased cost of living crisis, impacting on the quality of life our residents have. The funding will support residents with needed measures to reduce the cost of living, including community cafes, food banks and access to training. Through the UKSPF we will also seek to support residents to utilise support to reduce their carbon footprint whilst also positively impacting on the cost of living. Furthermore, supporting residents and workers to improve their health and wellbeing whilst reducing the reliance on the private vehicle would not only support reduce the cost of living due to fuel prices, but improve the pinch points on our road network. This will be achieved through the following interventions *“E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change”* and *“E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area”*

Realising the benefit of these interventions will support the district positively in both practical and holistic ways. This will be supporting wide reaching projects and offer good value for money due to the communities supported and the outcomes delivered against; which include: jobs created; increased footfall; increased visitor numbers; greenhouse gas reduction; increased users of facilities / amenities; improved perception of facility / infrastructure project; increased use of cycle ways or paths; improved engagement numbers; increased take up of energy efficiency measures and volunteering numbers as a result of support.

Supporting our market towns and high streets to develop, offering the ability to improve facilities, access to high streets and consider ways to redevelop the public space will positively impact both communities and businesses. The ambition is this will increase footfall and drive up visitor numbers, extending the tourism season through improved micro-tourism numbers (an increase in local visitors). This will be met through the intervention *“E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs”*. Offering opportunities to improve the market towns will deliver value for money as a way to bring projects forward, this would seek to achieve the following outcomes: increased footfall; increased visitor numbers; greenhouse gas reduction; improved perceived / experienced accessibility; improved perception of facilities / amenities.

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention’s planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

Recipient’s will not be receiving an economic benefit.
The UKSPF will not distort or harm competition, trade or investment.

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?	
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
Recipient's will not be receiving an economic benefit	
The UKSPF will not distort or harm competition, trade or investment	

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	√
Jobs safeguarded	√
Increased footfall	√
Increased visitor numbers	√
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	√
Number of new businesses created	√
Improved perception of markets	
Increased business sustainability	√
Increased number of businesses supported	√
Increased amount of investment	
Improved perception of attractions	
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	√
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	√
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	√
Number of new to market products	
Number of R&D active businesses	
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	√
Increased number of innovation plans developed	
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	√
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	√
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	√
Number of businesses with improved productivity	√
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>
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.

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.

E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

N/A

Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

Understanding the needs of our local businesses is essential to deliver effective support and will in turn enable the UKSPF to boost the business community through making them more productive, supporting to create and safeguard jobs as well as ensuring businesses have access to networking opportunities. Ensuring our businesses have access to the required expertise will stimulate economic growth and offer space for businesses to consider innovative ways to work.

Developing opportunities that allow our businesses to consider new technologies and become more productive whilst also reducing their carbon footprint is a priority for the district. As a high percentage of the District business base is made up of micro and small businesses, owners are often embedded in the daily running of their company and cannot always offer time to considering strategic initiatives and new ways of working. Offering support to enable this would be done through intervention "*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.*"

This support can be offered to all sectors and to businesses across all parts of the District; offering the ability to increase the district GVA. The support can be as advice or as access to knowledge from experts. The anticipated outcomes are: Jobs safeguarded; greenhouse gas reductions; Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm; Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity; Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services; and Number of businesses with improved productivity.

Ensuring companies have access to impartial and effective business support provision and expertise is crucial to ensuring they continue to grow. Further to this, having access to provision that will guide a new or developing commercial idea will encourage the business start-up rates increase for the district. Any business support provision that is offered in the district needs to have knowledge that different sectors will require varying support; understanding that our manufacturing businesses and local social enterprises will face different challenges is key to success in the

district. We will look to support this through the following interventions “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.”, “E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises” and “E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.”

Looking to deliver a wide range of support to businesses through specific, tailor made projects will ensure a wide reach and increased engagement with businesses, offering value for money and a good number of outcomes such as: Jobs created; Jobs safeguarded; Greenhouse gas reductions; New businesses created; Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity; Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services; Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support; Number of businesses with improved productivity; Number of businesses engaged in new markets; and increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed.

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention’s planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

Recipient’s will not be receiving an economic benefit
 The UKSPF will not distort or harm competition, trade or investment

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

Recipient’s will not be receiving an economic benefit
 The UKSPF will not distort or harm competition, trade or investment

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	✓

Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	√
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	√
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	√
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	√
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	√
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	
Number of people in education/training	√
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	√
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	√
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	√
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	√
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	√
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	√
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	√
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

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.

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.

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.

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.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

N/A

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

Ensuring our residents continue to have access to support provision which offers the opportunity to improve their skills base and grow in confidence to find work is essential. By delivering a bespoke programme of work that meets the needs of our residents and continues to reduce economy inactivity whilst increase skills levels for those far from the labour market will build pride in place and meet the ambitions of government to see people successfully complete skills training.

Delivering projects that seek to increase the skills levels, whilst raising confidence and aspiration levels in residents will benefit the district in many ways, decreasing the amount of residents who are economically inactive, or looking to further their career path will increase the areas GDP and reduce the number of residents who seeking support from additional services or living within poverty. The needs of individuals are unique and they will require skills in different areas; ensuring the support can be tailor made is crucial to the success. This will be delivered through a number of interventions including: *“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.”*, *“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.”*, *“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.”* and *“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.”*

These interventions will enable effective change in communities across the district and through partnership work with offer access to different services, increasing the reach of the support, ensuring the needs of the individual are met whilst value for money is obtained. Anticipated outcomes include: Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL; Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services; Number of people engaged in job-searching following support; Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support; Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months; Number of people in education / training; Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL); Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision; Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace; Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision; Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support; Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills; Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training; Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance .	
No	
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
Recipient's will not be receiving an economic benefit The UKSPF will not distort or harm competition, trade or investment	

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.		
HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?		
Yes		
Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.		
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance .		
No		
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.		
Recipient's will not be receiving an economic benefit The UKSPF will not distort or harm competition, trade or investment		
HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?		
Yes		
(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.		
Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.		
What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.		
2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.		
N/A		
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance .		
No		

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

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SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Yes	No
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Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

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Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes	No
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Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

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Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.

Public sector organisations - Yes	Private sector organisations - Yes	Civil society organisations - Yes
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Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.	
<p>One to one meetings with partners in all three sectors to discuss UKSPF, the priorities for the district and the needs of the local areas.</p> <p>Regular joint public sector meetings to discuss the UKSPF spend in the County as a whole, understanding joint requirements and best value for money</p> <p>Stakeholder meetings, focussed on UKSPF to discuss priorities and understand where interventions are needed.</p> <p>Attendance at stakeholder meetings to discuss the local priorities and needs for specific interventions.</p> <p>Emails out to all partners to offer opportunity for projects to bid for funding through UKSPF.</p>	
Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up	
<p>Governance of partnership groups has taken place within a number of groups, ensuring the District Council was able to engage with a range of partners from different areas of the communities. These included the following groups and meetings:</p> <p>Officer Meeting Market Towns Forum Business Forums Community Hub Meeting group</p>	
Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.	
Yes	
Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.	
<p>The district's MP' Siobhan Baillie and Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown have been invited to meet with Stroud District Council to discuss how the UKSPF will be used in the District. Following on from a number of emails to invite them to join this discussion, the district's draft Investment Plan has been shared with them both for comment prior to submission also.</p>	

PROJECT SELECTION	
Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?	
	No
(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.	
N/A	

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.	
Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
N/A	

Describe any interventions not included in this list?
N/A
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY
How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?
How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?

RISKS
Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?
Yes No
(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.
Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?
Yes No
(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE
How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?

Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?		
Very experienced		
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability		
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capacity		
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capability		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capacity		

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?		
Yes		
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability		
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability		
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF
All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?
<input type="checkbox"/> No
(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:



Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- Yes
- No