

# Carlisle City Council

## Report to Council

### Report details

Meeting Date:	08 November 2022
Portfolio:	Economy, Enterprise and Housing
Key Decision:	Yes
Policy and Budget Framework	No
Public / Private	Public
Title:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Year One Delivery of Investment Plan
Report of:	Corporate Director of Economic Development
Report Number:	ED.29/22

### Purpose / Summary:

The UK Shared prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has allocated funds to all local authorities in the UK to fund revenue and capital projects over a three-year period 2022-2025. The Government has allocated £4.1 million for the Carlisle area.

To access the allocation, the Council has submitted an Investment Plan to the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities setting out how it intends to use and deliver the funding. The submitted Investment Plan sets out that first year of this allocation will be managed and delivered by Carlisle City Council, whilst the second and third years of delivery will be managed and delivered by the new Cumberland Council.

The Investment Plan for Carlisle is due to be approved in November 2022. However, there is a pressing need to confirm the delivery and spend for Year 1 of the programme, which has an allocation of £498,138. This report sets out the proposed projects and grant programmes that would comprise the delivery programme for Year 1 of the programme.

### Recommendations:

The Council is asked to:

1. Note the delivery programme for Year 1 of the Carlisle UKSPF programme, as set out in Table 1 of this report
2. Approve a budget of £52,000 to be added to the Council's Capital Programme, according to the financial profile for 2022-23, as set out in Table 1 of this report

3. Approve a budget of £446,138 be added to the Council's Revenue Budget, according to the financial profile for 2022-23, as set out in Table 1 of this report

### **Tracking**

Executive:	24 October 2022
Scrutiny:	
Council:	08 November 2022

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The £2.6bn UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the government's domestic replacement for the funding from the European Union. All areas of the UK have received a UKSPF allocation via a funding formula, which is based on that used previously for distributing European funding.
- 1.2 The UKSPF represents a much more localised approach to the previous European Union funding, which was co-ordinated at a regional level and managed by government departments and agencies. The UKSPF is a delegated fund, which not only gives local discretion for targeting local issues and opportunities but also more scope for supporting bespoke local delivery.
- 1.3 The UKSPF is mainly revenue funding, but with small proportion of capital spend across the three-year programme. The types of eligible interventions / projects that can be supported fall within three Pillars that are aligned with the Levelling Up White Paper:
- **Communities and Place:** including public realm projects, community-led initiatives, and cultural and heritage projects,
  - **Support for Local Business:** including support for starting businesses, promoting networking and collaboration within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
  - **People and Skills:** including support to help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and enable them to move towards employment and education.
- 1.4 The UKSPF allocation for Carlisle is £4,104,659 for the period 1 April 2022 - 31 March 2025. The UKSPF allocations for the other Cumberland districts are as follows:
- |             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| - Allerdale | £3,842,852 |
| - Copeland  | £2,638,112 |

Therefore, the total allocation for the new Cumberland geography is £10,585,623

## 2. Carlisle UKSPF Investment Plan

- 2.1 In order to access their UKSPF allocations, each area must produce and submit an individual UKSPF Investment Plan, setting out how the funds will be used. The government guidance issued stated that close cooperation was expected between the three district councils forming the Cumberland unitary footprint, as, after vesting day on 1 April 2023, the plans will be merged.
- 2.2 Consequently, the three councils have adopted a coordinated approach to the development of their Investment Plans, which were submitted to government at the end of August 2022. Through supporting evidence and direct engagement with local

stakeholders, each council has identified the issues and challenges in their respective areas. For Carlisle, these are articulated in the Investment Plan included as Appendix 1.

- 2.3 As with the process of identifying the issues and challenges, coordinated approach was adopted for selecting the interventions. The interventions were selected based on their alignment and ability to address the issues and challenges across the Cumberland area. The funding allocated to the selected interventions for Carlisle district is outlined in Appendix 2.
- 2.4 The delivery of the first year of the UKSPF programme (2022-23) and the interventions / projects identified will be undertaken by the Carlisle City Council, whilst the second and third years (2023-24, 2025-25) will be managed and delivered by Cumberland Council.
- 2.5 Government approval of the Carlisle Investment Plan is expected by the end of 2022. This gives a relatively short time frame for the mobilisation and delivery of the first year of the programme. Consequently, the projects selected for the first year have been done so based on their alignment to the Investment Plan and crucially, their level of development and deliverability by 31 March 2023.
- 2.6 The Carlisle UKSPF programme and spend profile is outlined in Table 1 below.

**Table 1: UKSPF Year One Spend Profile**

Intervention	2022-23		Project / grant spend
	Capital	Revenue	
<b>COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>			
	Capital	Revenue	
E1: Funding for improvements to <b>town centres and high streets</b> , including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.	£42,000	-	High Streets Business Grants
E4: Enhanced support for existing <b>cultural, historic and heritage</b> institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.	-	£57,600	Uncovering Roman Carlisle (Phase 3)
E6: Support for local <b>arts, cultural and creative</b> activities.	-	£72,000	Cultural events to be delivered by 31 March 2023
E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which <b>encourage people to visit and explore the local area</b> .	-	£33,600	Develop branding, story and content for Cumberland
E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.	-	-	No allocation for 2022/23

E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to <b>support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.</b>	-	£19,200	Longtown Place Plan - development of the Borderlands Town Investment Plan
E14: Funding to <b>support relevant feasibility studies.</b>	-	£94,320	Grants for feasibility studies for capital and revenue projects
<b>Total: Communities and place investment priority</b>	<b>£42,000</b>	<b>£276,720</b>	
<b>SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>			
	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	
E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.	£10,000	£67,893	High Streets Business Grants (£40,000 Revenue)  Carlisle Enterprise Fund (£10,000 Capital, £27,893)
E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.	-	£33,600	Development of a heritage trail in the city centre
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.	-	-	No allocation for 2022/23
E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.	-	-	No allocation for 2022/23
E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.	-	£48,000	Supporting existing activity delivered by JobCentre Plus / DWP/ Inspira
<b>Total: supporting local business investment priority</b>	<b>£10,000</b>	<b>£149,493</b>	
<b>PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>			
	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	
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 (via	-	-	No allocation for 2022/23

Multiply) and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.			
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.	-	-	No allocation for 2022/23
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.	-	-	No allocation for 2022/23
<b>Total: People and skills investment priority</b>	-	-	
	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	
Total (Excluding Management Fee)	£52,000	£426,213	
Management Fee (4% of Total Spend)	-	£19,925	
<b>Total (Including Management Fee)</b>	<b>£52,000</b>	<b>£446,138</b>	
<b>Total 2022/23</b>	<b>£498,138</b>		

### 3. Year One Programme Delivery

3.1 The UKSPF guidance states that the Council has flexibility over how the UKSPF and its Investment Plan is delivered. Consequently, the programme for year one has been developed to include projects that will be delivered through a combination of competition, procurement and in-house delivery.

#### **E1: High Street Business Grants**

3.2 Carlisle City Council launched the City Centre Growth Grants pilot scheme for the financial year 2021-22. The purpose of the scheme is to support the repurposing of vacant properties by providing a small fund which new or expanding city centre businesses could apply. This scheme supports the larger regeneration programme (e.g., Future High Streets Fund) to drive city centre high street diversification and vitality, while giving local businesses confidence to invest in Carlisle following from the impacts of COVID-19.

3.3 To date over £35,000 has been awarded to nine businesses, bringing nine vacant units back into use, and the redevelopment of 1261m<sup>2</sup> in floorspace in the city centre. In total the funding has secured a total of £264,000 in additional business investment into the

city centre. As a result of the success of the Pilot Scheme, the Council has allocated a further £40,000 of funding for this financial year 2022-2023.

- 3.4 It is proposed that £42,000 capital funding allocated under Intervention E1 is used to increase the budget for the scheme. It is also proposed that £40,000 revenue from intervention E16 is also allocated (as outlined in 3.25-3.26 below). The policy governing the scheme has been widened so that businesses located in the neighbourhood shopping areas [e.g., Brampton, Longtown, Dalston, Denton Holme, Currock, Stanwix and Wigton Road] are eligible for funding.

#### **E4: Uncovering Roman Carlisle**

- 3.5 The project under this intervention will build on the successes of the Uncovering Roman Carlisle (URC), a community archaeology project undertaken at Carlisle Cricket Club. The project will be delivered by a partnership of the Council with Carlisle Cricket Club and Wardell Armstrong LLP who have worked on previous phases of URC including the National Lottery Heritage Funded project that is nearing completion.
- 3.6 It is proposed that £57,600 revenue funding allocated under Intervention E4 is used to deliver a further phase of archaeological investigation at the site.
- 3.7 Continuing support for URC will provide unique experience for local residents to engage with the heritage within the city centre. The project will support both the objectives of the Hadrian's Wall Partnership and future phases of archaeological investigation in the area.

#### **E6: Supporting cultural activities**

- 3.8 In Summer 2022 Carlisle City Council ran an Expression of Interest process, to identify potential project proposals and ideas for UKSPF funding for this financial year, and future years (up to 2024/25). This process identified a number of projects under the 'Communities and Place' theme for support for local arts, cultural and creative activities.
- 3.9 It is proposed that £72,000 revenue funding allocated under Intervention E6 is used to support the delivery of those projects that are in a position to proceed during this financial year, 2022/2023.
- 3.10 Support for local arts and cultural creative activities to increase accessibility, engagement and creation sustainable cultural provision in Carlisle and across Cumberland is a key driver for community and place impacting positively on the economy, social cohesion and the health and wellbeing of our communities.
- 3.11 Understandably, there has been a strong level of interest / demand in funding for support for local arts, cultural and creative activities. Therefore, it is proposed that a

competitive application process is launched, following approval of the Investment Plan, to identify projects that have the strongest alignment to the priorities in the investment plan and can be delivered by the end of March 2023.

- 3.12 Application forms for funding to support local arts, cultural and creative activities have been created (refer to Appendix 3). Applications will be assessed against strategic fit, deliverability and risk.

### **E8: Development of branding, story and content for Cumberland**

- 3.13 Tourism is a significant contributor to the economy in Cumberland and has potential to grow. The reorganisation of local government arrangements presents an opportunity for the Districts of Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland to significantly strengthen their 'tourism offer'. The visitor economy is a competitive marketplace, and there is an opportunity for the new local authority area of Cumberland to be stronger than the sum of its parts within this market.
- 3.14 It is proposed that £33,600 revenue funding allocated under Intervention E8 is used to support the development of a new destination management plan and enhanced destination management brand to be developed for Cumberland, which draws on the distinctiveness of the area. The strategy would seek to maximise the potential of tourism activity and the new destination marketing brand would act as an anchor for corporate and non-corporate marketing activity.

### **E12: Longtown Place Plan programme**

- 3.15 In 2020, as part of the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, Longtown was selected for inclusion in the Borderlands Place Programme as the candidate for the Carlisle area.
- 3.16 The Borderlands Place Programme is a two-stage process with:
- An overarching Place Plan set by the local community. The purpose of the Place Plan is to articulate the long-term vision for the regeneration, resilience and growth of the town, and to describe how this will be achieved in practice. The Place Plan will be primarily focused on describing the overarching strategy for the Town, how this aligns with other key strategies, areas for intervention and why they are needed, and the evidence base.
  - A focused Borderlands Town Investment Plan (BTIP) covering those elements to be funded directly through Borderlands funding. The purpose of the BTIP is to provide further detail and justification of the projects prioritised in each Place Plan for Borderlands investment. It is a light touch business case, aligned to the Treasury Green Book five case model.
- 3.17 During 2022, Carlisle City Council have been co-producing a Place Plan for Longtown in a series of community workshops. The Longtown Place Plan is expected to go for



endorsement to its relevant governance bodies towards the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

- 3.18 It is proposed that £19,200 revenue funding allocated under Intervention E12 is used to support the development of the Borderlands eligible projects outlined in the Longtown Place Plan and support the development of the BTIP.

#### **E14: Grants for Feasibility Studies for capital and revenue projects**

- 3.19 In Summer 2022 Carlisle City Council ran an Expression of Interest process, to identify potential project proposals and ideas for UKSPF funding for this financial year, and future years (up to 2024/25). This process identified a number of projects under the 'Communities and Place' theme at early development stage that either requested funding for feasibility studies or would potentially benefit from funding for a feasibility study to develop their proposals/project further.
- 3.20 It is proposed that £94,320 revenue funding allocated under Intervention E14 is used to fund feasibility study development in 2022/2023. These feasibility studies will support the successful applicants to bid for funding in future rounds of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and provide a stronger evidence base for their business cases for other funding streams.
- 3.21 There has been a strong level of interest/demand in funding for feasibility studies- therefore it is proposed that a competitive application process is launched, following approval of the Investment Plan, to identify projects that have the strongest alignment to the priorities in the investment plan (and can be deliverable in the timescales).
- 3.22 Application forms for funding to support local arts, cultural and creative activities have been created (refer to Appendix 3). Applications will be assessed against strategic fit, deliverability and risk

#### **E16(a) High Street Business Grants (Revenue)**

- 3.23 As outlined above under the E1 intervention, £40,000 of revenue funding is proposed to provide a revenue element to the grant scheme. This would enable the scheme to offer businesses moving into vacant premises with support for revenue expenditure relating to:
- Marketing and promotion
  - Employee training and development
  - Market research and growing customer bases
  - Contribution to overhead costs, for example, rent, utilities and business rates

#### **E16 (b) Carlisle Enterprise Fund**

- 3.24 One of the key strategic priorities of the Carlisle Economic Strategy 2021-2016 is to drive the economic recovery from Covid-19, and a key objective is support local businesses across the district to grow and innovate.
- 3.25 Therefore, and building on the success of the business grants scheme outlined in 3.2 – 3.5 of this report, it is proposed to establish a Carlisle Enterprise Fund that would provide funding for local businesses to help with capital investments, growth, productivity improvements or efficiency gains.
- 3.26 It is proposed that £10,000 capital funding and £27,893 revenue funding is allocated under Intervention E16 to support the scheme.
- 3.27 The Fund would provide capital and revenue funding for local business that are growing and expanding or have good growth potential. The Fund would support the following types of activity:
- Physical improvements to the premises
  - The purchase of significant capital items
  - Intellectual Property costs
  - Marketing
  - The development of new products or services
  - The cost of consultancy support
  - Support for participating in trade fairs

#### **E17(a): Heritage trails grant - Carlisle City Museum in the Community Trails**

- 3.28 Inspired by the 2015 museum trail project “Hoots Route” in the city of Chester, this project would create a ‘museum’ in the city centre using selected pieces of the Tullie House and Carlisle Museum collections.
- 3.29 Artefacts relevant to specific areas and businesses will be put on public display in premises across the city centre in shops and commercial venues, with attached interpretation and trail features. In selection of the businesses, consideration will be made to accessibility and moving visitors into the historic quarter, signposting local attractions.
- 3.30 In addition to showcasing Tullie House and Carlisle Museum collections, the project would promote exploration of Carlisle and the Historic Quarter, with the purpose of promoting and supporting local businesses, local attractions and the visitor economy.
- 3.31 It is proposed that £30,000 revenue funding is allocated under Intervention E16 to support the project.

## **(b) State Management - Celebrating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

- 3.32 The State Management Story was developed in 2017, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The Project told the story and collected oral histories of the unique Carlisle story of the State Management Scheme. In 2023 it will be the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the scheme.
- 3.33 The project delivered under this intervention will reprint the State Management Story trail map with the intention of increasing footfall, highlighting food and beverage businesses in the city centre and district. The project will also provide the foundation for 2023 State Management scheme anniversary events.
- 3.34 It is proposed that £3,600 revenue funding is allocated under Intervention E16 to support the project.

## **E30 Supporting existing business support activity**

- 3.35 There are a number of business support activities currently being delivered within the district from a range of providers including the Cumbria Business Growth Hub, Job Centre Plus / DWP and Inspira. The Growth Hub provide a range of support to established businesses, young businesses and potential start-ups. Job Centre Plus / DWP also provide support and schemes to assist in moving from benefits into self-employment. Inspira also work with Job Centre Plus / DWP to support young people in moving from benefits into self-employment.
- 3.36 The Expression of Interest process identified a number of business support activities run by the Cumbria Business Growth Hub, Job Centre Plus / DWP and Inspira that required ongoing funding support. Therefore, it is proposed that £48,000 revenue funding is allocated under Intervention E30 to support these schemes.

## **4. Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement**

- 4.1 Carlisle City Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council have worked closely in conjunction to engage local stakeholders. A joint workshop was held on 18 July 2022 with attendance from 49 organisations from across the Cumberland geography. Stakeholders were presented information on the objectives of UKSPF according to DLUHC guidance and challenges / opportunities in Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland identified by a review of local data and policy.
- 4.2 In addition to the workshop, one-to-one discussions with stakeholder and partners have also been held. Local MPs have also been briefed and kept updated on the development of the Investment Plans. Cumbria County Council have also been involved, particularly regarding the management of the Fund and learning from the Local Enterprise Partnership on delivery models.

- 4.3 Local stakeholders across public, private and civil society organisations were also given the opportunity to share details of potential UKSPF projects to be delivered across the three authorities by sharing potential projects in the form of Expression of Interests (EOIs). In excess of 80 EOIs across all the Cumberland area were received. Analysis of information shared provided a view of the scope of potential projects to be delivered locally through UKSPF funding.
- 4.4 In response to UKSPF requirements, a Local Partnership Group has been formed and the decision has been taken to create a Cumberland-wide partnership group from the onset, given the timescale of local government reorganisation. A meeting was held on the 24 August 2022, prior to submission of the Investment Plan to provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability of both the Investment Plans and the constituent projects. The group includes representatives from:
- Carlisle City Council
  - Allerdale Borough Council
  - Copeland Borough Council
  - Cumbria County Council
  - Local colleges and educational providers
  - Chamber of Commerce
  - Arts and culture representatives
  - Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership
  - DWP/Job Centre Plus
  - Cumbria Police
  - Local businesses
  - Members of Parliament for the Cumberland area

## 5. Risks

- 5.1 The following risks have been identified in relation to the Council being the accountable body for Year 1 of the UKSPF programme

<b>Risk</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
Some of the projects set out in Year 1 of the programme do not proceed	Outputs and outcomes set out in the UKSPF Investment Plan are not achieved.	Projects identified in the Year 1 programme have been assessed in terms of deliverability and the ability to deliver by 31 March 2023
The Council fails to spend the full allocation for the Year 1 programme	Any underspend will be clawed back by DLUHC	Projects identified in the Year 1 programme have been assessed in terms of deliverability and the ability to deliver by 31 March 2023
The projects set out in Year 1 of the programme that are to be delivered by	Outputs and outcomes set out in the UKSPF Investment Plan are not achieved.	Project sponsors will be required to complete the application for included in Appendix 3, which asks

external partners are not delivered as agreed.	Potential underspends that could be clawed back by DLUHC.	for details on the commercial, financial and management elements of the project.  Funding agreements will be drawn up on the content of the application form. The Agreements will form the basis of the monitoring and evaluation of the projects through development and delivery.
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## 6. Contribution to the Carlisle plan priorities

6.1 The Scheme will support the delivery of the vision set out in the Carlisle Plan, which is to enable Carlisle to grow and prosper as the capital of the Borderlands region. It also contributes directly to the priority of delivering inclusive and sustainable economic growth, by making Carlisle a more attractive place for investment, improving skills and drive key sector development.

### Contact details:

Contact Officer: Steven Robinson

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### Appendices attached to report:

- Appendix 1: UKSPF Investment Plan
- Appendix 2: Carlisle City Council UKSPF Interventions and allocation of funding
- Appendix 3: Shared Prosperity Fund – Application Form 2022-23
- Appendix 4: Equalities Impact Assessment

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None

### Corporate Implications:

Legal	The Equality Act 2010 replaced the previous discrimination legislation in Great Britain relating to sex, race, discrimination, sexual orientation, religion or belief and age. It affects the Council in a number of ways, particularly in respect of our role as an employer and a service provider. Public bodies are subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) in all their decision-making and should ensure that they meet these obligations when taking decisions on UKSPF.
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	<p>Any specific application for grant funding or policy in relation to distinct pillars of the UKSPF should include a statement within that application/policy on how the PSED will be discharged when making decisions on how to allocate the grants.</p> <p>Any linked policies on allocation of grants should include a statement on how the Council is to comply with the subsidy control regime and how the applicants will need to assist the council in this compliance on application.</p> <p>The Council has a legal duty to comply with the Subsidy Control Regime (SCR) in force at the time of accepting grant funding and its onward transmission to projects or third parties. At the time of this report the United Kingdom remains bound by its international commitments, including subsidy obligations set out in the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) with the EU. The Council should ensure its acceptance of the UKSPF is compliant with the SCR and that any recipient on onward transmission of funds is aware and compliant with their obligations of the SCR.</p>
Finance	<p>If the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan is approved, there will be a requirement to spend £498,128 in 2022/23 (year 1) and this report provides details of the projects which form part of the years allocation. If the report is approved, the Council's budget will be increased for these schemes to recognise both the costs and the grant funding, subject to approval by full Council.</p> <p>It is recommended that the City Council is the accountable body for year 1, with years 2 and 3 being the responsibility of the new Cumberland Council post 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The report sets out the risks, rewards and opportunities associated with accountable body status, so that a transparent decision can be made by the Executive in this respect.</p> <p>Several of the schemes will be delivered by external partners, and Grant Funding Agreements may be required. At all times the Council's Partnership and External Funding Policy and guidance should be adhered to, to ensure that roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities are clearly set out and understood by all.</p>
Property Services	<p>If the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan is approved, there will be a requirement to spend £498,128 in 2022/23 (year 1) and this report provides details of the projects which form part of the years allocation. If the report is approved, the Council's</p>

	<p>budget will be increased for these schemes to recognise both the costs and the grant funding, subject to approval by full Council.</p> <p>It is recommended that the City Council is the accountable body for year 1, with years 2 and 3 being the responsibility of the new Cumberland Council post 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023. The report sets out the risks, rewards and opportunities associated with accountable body status, so that a transparent decision can be made by the Executive in this respect.</p> <p>Several of the schemes will be delivered by external partners, and Grant Funding Agreements may be required. At all times the Council's Partnership and External Funding Policy and guidance should be adhered to, to ensure that roles, responsibilities, and accountabilities are clearly set out and understood by all.</p>
Equality	See legal comments
Information Governance	There are no information governance implications with the report.



# UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Carlisle

Version 2  
August 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

Name: Jane Meek

Email address: Jane.Meek@carlisle.gov.uk

Phone number: 01228 817190

Organisation name: Carlisle City 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**

Carlisle faces a number of key challenges which fall under the Communities and Place investment priority. Evidence from desk-based research, insights from existing policy context and strategies, as well as our stakeholder engagement and public consultations have identified the following challenges:

- **Limited population growth, ageing population and challenges in labour supply:**  
Carlisle is characterised by its relative remoteness from other major population centres and the district is home to a relatively small and ageing population. According to ONS 2021 Census<sup>1</sup>, the usual resident population in the district totals 110,000. Although Carlisle has experienced population increase of 2.3% since 2011, the growth rate is lagging behind the average in England where the population grew by 6.6% over the same period. Residents aged 65 and above account for 22.2% of the population in Carlisle, compared to 18.5% in England. With an ageing workforce driving an increasing need for replacement demand, compounded by the changing immigration policy post-Brexit, Carlisle is more likely to experience acute labour supply issues in the absence of effective measures to attract and retain a relatively stable workforce, particularly in the industries where a significant proportion of job posts were previously filled by EU labour. This demonstrates the need for Carlisle to grow its population and economy in order to stabilise and increase its working age population. To achieve this, Carlisle must improve the liveability offer and critically, employment prospects for a younger demographic.

<sup>1</sup> ONS Census (2021). Available at: [Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/population-and-household-estimates) [Accessed August 2022]

- **Changing roles of city/town centres and high streets:**

The role which city/town centres and high streets play within their communities is likely to change post-pandemic. The increased amount of home working has reduced both demand for office space and daytime footfall in centres<sup>2</sup>. Online shopping was already gaining increasing popularity prior to the pandemic, but COVID-19 has accelerated this shift. The impacts of this for towns and cities including Carlisle are wide ranging and could include a permanent reduction in city centre footfall, retail, leisure and other services, office space demand and commuting. Diversifying the city centre to include more experiential leisure and retail spaces to encourage visits and footfall and improve vitality and vibrance to ensure that Carlisle attracts people to work, live and play has never been more necessary than now.

- **Visitor economy compromised by under-marketing:**

Current and past marketing is not considered to have advertised Carlisle attractions to its fullest potential, and this has prompted Carlisle to adapt its marketing strategies and adopt a wider campaign to advertise its position in Cumbria by both dispelling the perception that Carlisle is a long distance from the Lake District and marketing it as a destination with rich natural, cultural, historic and heritage assets on its own right. Adapting and improving marketing strategies is one of the key activities required to reverse the trends of declining visitor numbers since 2017<sup>3</sup> and stays and fulfil the potential of Carlisle's visitor economy.

- **Rural deprivation and connectivity:**

Carlisle City area has a significant rural hinterland, with over 30% of the population of Carlisle living in the rural area<sup>4</sup>. Rural Carlisle contains some of the most remote parishes in England, such as Bewcastle, and significant challenges in terms of access to services, employment opportunities, affordable housing and digital and transport connectivity, are faced by local communities, which create pockets of rural deprivation. This is represented by 26.5% of areas (predominantly rural parts of the district) in Carlisle falling within the most deprived in England for access to housing and services.

Both transport and digital connectivity are key inconsistencies that impact Carlisle, (in particular the rural areas) Only 46.2% of people have access to superfast broadband in Carlisle, compared to 95% nationally<sup>5</sup>. Public transport provision is inconsistent in rural areas, and there is a lack of integrated walking and cycling routes. As a result, over 60% of travel to work journeys in Carlisle are made by car<sup>6</sup>. This lack of connectivity acts as an impediment to growth for our communities- impacting quality of life, and population growth (as perceptions of connectivity dissuade people from living/staying in the area). Meanwhile, over-reliance on private vehicles impacts on both health and wellbeing and climate change.

- **Health, Wellbeing and Cost of Living:**

Pockets of deprivation within Carlisle impact on the health and wellbeing for some communities. Nearly a quarter of Carlisle's Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are in the top 10% most deprived nationally on the living environment domain. This considers both the quality of the housing in the district but also the outdoor environment (including road traffic accidents involving pedestrians and cyclists). 20% of Carlisle's LSOAs are within the top 10% most deprived for crime. Perceptions of place, safety and poverty are known to have strong implications for wellbeing, and recent ONS wellbeing surveys indicate a drop in wellbeing. In 2019-2020, 42.22%, 37.47% and 46.03% of Carlisle residents reported that they were doing very good on the measures of Anxiety, Happiness and Worthwhileness, respectively, while in

<sup>2</sup> Investment Framework for responding to COVID-19 in Carlisle city centre (available upon request)

<sup>3</sup> STEAM, Global Tourism Solutions, 2009-2020 Available at: [STEAM model | Tourism Research | UK | Global Tourism Solutions \(UK\) Ltd](#) [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>4</sup> ONS Census (2021). Available at: [Population and household estimates, England and Wales - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>5</sup> "Connected Nations 2019 Update", Ofcom, 2021. Available at: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/research-and-data/multi-sector-research/infrastructure-research/connected-nations-2019/data-downloads> [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>6</sup> ONS Method of travel to work (2020). Available at: [Method of travel to work - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed August 2022]

2020-2021, only 27.29%, 21.54% and 24.03% of residents reported that they were doing very good on the three measures, respectively<sup>7</sup>. Carlisle was awarded a healthy city status in 2009, recognising the challenges Carlisle faces in terms of health and wellbeing and committing to ensuring the city makes relevant interventions to improve its health and wellbeing. To ensure that investments support healthy lifestyles, health and wellbeing needs to be imbedded in investment decisions. The current rises in cost of living are expected to exacerbate issues of wellbeing, as poverty and economic insecurity have strong implications on health, mental health and general wellbeing. Wages in Carlisle are below the Cumbrian and national averages with 2020 gross weekly pay at £522, £554.4 and £575.8 in Carlisle, Cumbria and UK, respectively<sup>8</sup>, indicating that our communities are more vulnerable to rising costs.

**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**

Evidence from desk-based research, insights from existing policy context and strategies, as well as stakeholder engagement and public consultations have identified the following key opportunities that fall under the Communities and Place investment priority:

- **Strong cultural, historic and heritage offer:**

The cultural, historic and heritage offer is a key strength and attraction for the city of Carlisle. The Castle, Tullie House Museum & Art Gallery and Cathedral draw many people into the city each year. Tullie House was praised for its wide-ranging and well-marketed events. Carlisle's links to Hadrian's Wall could be better advertised to attract more visits and expanding upon Hadrian's Wall experience on the western side of the route can unlock additional opportunities for Carlisle's visitor economy. The presence of, and better cohesion between, many cultural, historic and heritage attractions in Carlisle represents opportunities for a well-rounded visitor economy offer.

- **University of Cumbria's plan to move into the Citadels:**

Attraction and retention of a greater amount of younger people is needed to address challenges from the ageing population and help to support sustainable growth in the city and wider district of Carlisle. The University of Cumbria's move into the Citadels is welcomed by stakeholders as it brings wider opportunities to encourage more activities for young people and increase the vitality of Carlisle City Centre, which can help generate additional job opportunities and attract and retain working age population.

- **Emerging evening and leisure economy in Carlisle City Centre:**

There is an emerging evening economy to the south of the city centre around Lowther Street, Devonshire Street and Warwick Road. Activity in this area has focused on cafés, bars and restaurants, targeting an older and/or family audience. There has been a publicly funded £25m redevelopment of the Sands Centre to the north of the city.

The delivery of improved facilities at the Sands Centre is currently underway, with completion due in late 2022.

This will help repurpose the city into a leisure destination following its previous role at a centre for retail.

- **Repurposing and diversifying the city/town centre offer:**

<sup>7</sup> ONS Wellbeing Survey (2021) Available at: [Personal well-being estimates by local authority - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/people-and-work/health-and-wellbeing/articles/personal-well-being-estimates-by-local-authority/2021-08-18) [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>8</sup> Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings 2020. Available at: [Earnings and hours worked, place of residence by local authority: ASHE Table 8 - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk/employment-and-labour/most-popular-statistics/earnings-and-hours-worked) [Accessed August 2022]

Government interventions, such as the Future High Street Fund, Town Deal, and the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal (2021) have been established to address the changing nature of town and city centres, and support growth in smaller urban centres. For Carlisle, there is a need to draw further support for the change in use of city centre vacant units and increase footfall, dwell time and spend. Suggested uses include: entertainment space (e.g. a cinema), exhibition space, food and beverage space (e.g. an indoor food market), a community hub, a multicultural centre, a cookery school, business incubation space, and a creative space for local artists.

- **Borderlands Place Programme: Community-led place planning**

Borderlands Place Programme will support the development and renewal of towns across the Borderlands region, which forms a central part of Borderland Inclusive Growth Deal. Developed at local level, each Place Plan will set out the community's vision for the future of their area and enable them to apply for investment through a range of matched funding beyond the Deal's investment. It will give local communities the opportunity to regenerate and revitalise their local towns and villages and ensure that inclusive growth is encouraged in rural areas. Borderlands Place Programme is providing significant opportunities for community development, local economic inclusive growth and learning from good practice. The roll out to other communities would benefit rural areas in particular. Funding projects stemming from Place Plan would deliver against community priorities.

## 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

Carlisle faces a number of key challenges which fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Evidence from desk-based research, insights from existing policy context and strategies, as well as our stakeholder engagement and public consultations have identified the following challenges:

- **Low levels of business start-up rates and lack of enterprise culture:**

Carlisle is home to a greater percentage of relatively small businesses compared to Cumbria and nationally and 26% of enterprises have a turnover below £50,000 compared to Cumbria at 19% and England at 15%<sup>9</sup>. Carlisle has fewer business births, business deaths and active businesses as a percentage of the working age population in comparison to Cumbria. In 2019, there were 57, 56 and 615 births, deaths and active businesses in Cumbria, respectively, while there were 56, 46 and 533 births, deaths and active businesses in Carlisle, respectively<sup>10</sup>. The sectors that are most exposed to COVID-19 impacts are highly represented in Carlisle, for instance, 27% of employment relies on wholesale and retail trade in Carlisle City Centre<sup>11</sup>. Supporting business start-ups and providing a suitable space for their scale-ups is needed to strengthen Carlisle's enterprise culture and present Carlisle city centre as an attractive location for business development.

- **Barriers to growth for the rural economy:**

Rural businesses face particular challenges in terms of achieving their growth objectives. These challenges are driven by poor digital and transport connectivity, remoteness from both key

<sup>9</sup> Table 11: Number of VAT and/or PAYE based enterprises, UK Business: Activity, Size and Location, ONS. Available at: [UK business: activity, size and location - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/business/enterpriseandemployment/articles/uk-business-activity-size-and-location) [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>10</sup> Business Demography, ONS. Available at: [Business demography, UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/businessandindustry/articles/business-demography-uk) [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>11</sup> Business Register and Employment Survey, ONS, 2019. Available at: [Employees in the UK - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/articles/employees-in-the-uk) [Accessed August 2022]

services and consumers, and a small working-age population. Rural and agricultural sectors will face some significant changes as the UK transitions out of the EU, and many of the funding streams are phased out or replaced, alongside the move towards achieving net zero, which will have significant impacts on rural land management.

- **Low productivity and difficulty in recruiting skilled workers with deficit in digital skills playing a key role:**

Digital Skills are a gap within the existing workforce in Carlisle. Of businesses responding to the Cumbria Business Survey 2020, 23% of those in Carlisle reported skills gaps among their existing workforce, including 8% reporting gaps in basic computer literacy and in using ICT, and a further 11% reporting gaps in advanced ICT and software skills. This represents 232 businesses reporting basic ICT gaps and 320 reporting advanced ICT gaps<sup>12</sup>. In turn, difficulty in recruiting skilled workers makes Carlisle less attractive for business start-ups, growth and investment. As the working age population is shrinking there is a risk that this challenge becomes a long-term issue for businesses in the absence of appropriate intervention.

- **Lack of suitable office space and infrastructure:**

There is a lack of modern commercial premises in the city centre that provide suitable office space and infrastructure, which results in a number of private-sector employers (such as the Cumberland Building Society) having chosen to relocate to out-of-town premises citing the lack of quality office space in the city centre. University of Cumbria highlights graduates are leaving Carlisle due to lack of suitable business space for the creative, digital and IT sector<sup>13</sup>.

- **Lack of attractiveness for investment in Carlisle city's visitor economy:**

Carlisle's limited leisure and evening economy (especially during the week) may have led to a perception of a lack of vitality and vibrancy. A low skilled and shrinking working age resident population in Carlisle is also likely to have made investment less attractive for new businesses and start-ups in the visitor economy. Even before COVID-19, Carlisle saw a decrease in the total number of overnight stays and the overall contraction of the visitor economy in the city. There was a 5% reduction in the number of tourists staying overnight in 2018 compared to the previous year and total spend has dropped from £48m to £32m between 2011-15<sup>14</sup>. There is a lack of both quantity and quality of hotels in Carlisle city and this is likely to have constrained the growth in the visitor economy. Inadequate marketing and campaigns to advertise Carlisle's strong cultural and heritage offer are also considered to have discouraged private-sector investment in tourism assets and thus contributed to the contraction of the visitor economy.

## **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**

Evidence from desk-based research, insights from existing policy context and strategies, as well as stakeholder engagement and public consultations have identified the following key opportunities that fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority:

- **Digital Skills and Community Learning Hub supporting the growth of new businesses with a BIPC centre:**

<sup>12</sup> Cumbria Business Survey 2020 - Report

<sup>13</sup> Infrastructure Development Working Group (2019) Cumbria County Council/ Carlisle City Council Available at: [Infrastructure Development Working Group notes.pdf \(cumbria.gov.uk\)](#) [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>14</sup> Carlisle Future High Streets Fund - Regeneration Framework, March 2020 (available upon request)

Carlisle City Council has secured £2.35 million for the delivery of a Digital Skills and Community Learning Hub project from Towns Fund. Digital skills courses could enable owners of new businesses to develop their social marketing, entrepreneurial and e-commerce skills. In addition to skills provision, the inclusion of the British Library's Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) services within the hub will support businesses to become established and grow. It will provide access to expert support, resources and information on businesses and intellectual property records and targeted one-on-one sessions and events. The hub will form part of the BICP National Network, aimed at supporting businesses across the country. This network has reportedly supported the creation of 12,288 new business and helped to generate 7,843 new jobs between 2016 and 2018<sup>15</sup>. The BIPC centre will also have a particular focus on supporting underrepresented communities to establish and grow businesses, in line with the remit of the BIPC programme.

- **University of Cumbria's plan to move into the Citadels:**

Funded through the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, developments of the Citadels by University of Cumbria work (including the provision of enterprise and flexible office space), in tandem with the ongoing Carlisle station developments, creates an opportunity to capitalise on Carlisle's strategic location and good transport connectivity. It will increase provision of dedicated space for businesses to meet partway between England and Scotland. The Council is working with the University through the Citadel Business Infrastructure project to support entrepreneurship, for instance, the Council will increase its engagement with the University on how to support students wanting to start businesses in Carlisle and help facilitate active interactions between students and prospective Carlisle-based employers.

- **Positive business growth prospect post-pandemic:**

There was an increase in start-up businesses after the first lockdown from March to June 2020 and relatively strong business growth in Carlisle compared to Cumbria and UK with approximately 5% of business experiencing a 10% increase in employment and/or turnover in Carlisle (around 3.9% in Cumbria and 3.8% in UK) between July and December 2020<sup>16</sup>, suggesting that those businesses that do survive might be on average more successful in Carlisle than the UK. A high number of grant and loan recipients in Carlisle present optimism for a more dynamic business environment and strong rebound of the economy post pandemic.

- **Local business opportunities from the pandemic and EU exit:**

During the pandemic, people have become more aware of shopping locally, both due to travel restrictions but also due to a desire to support local businesses. The 'Buy Local Carlisle' campaign launched in 2021 by the Growth Hub and the Small Business Support Carlisle Group has supported small businesses in Carlisle and aims to continue the interest in shopping locally from the pandemic. Carlisle Ambassadors also provides a network for business support through the pandemic. Increased bureaucracy for exports after the EU exit may increase the supply of goods and services to the domestic economy as it presents a more cost-effective alternative than shipping to an international market. Increase in import cost for consumers and business may encourage purchases closer to home and 'buying local'. Both factors are inductive to boosting local business opportunities.

- **Growth potential in the visitor economy:**

With the increasing popularity of 'staycation' and domestic tourism market, it presents Carlisle with an opportunity to capitalise on its good national, regional and local transport links, proximity to outstanding natural, heritage and historic assets, such as the Lake District National Park,

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<sup>15</sup> Source: [British Library's Business & IP Centre helps create over 12,000 new businesses across the UK since 2016 | The British Library \(bl.uk\)](#)

<sup>16</sup> Source: FAME. Note: Data collection for some periods was inhibited due to COVID-19

Hadrian's Wall, the Solway Coast and the North Pennines, and the presence of Tullie House, Cathedral and Castle in the city, which can help enhance its tourism and leisure offer and level-up the visitor economy.

**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**

Carlisle faces a number of key challenges which fall under the People and Skills investment priority. Evidence from desk-based research, insights from existing policy context and strategies, as well as our stakeholder engagement and public consultations have identified the following challenges:

- **Undersupply of skilled labour and skills gaps:**

Carlisle demonstrates comparatively lower qualification levels than Cumbria and England (ONS 2011 Census). Only 22.2% of the population aged between 16 and 64 achieved Level 4 qualifications and above in Carlisle (24.6% in Cumbria and 27.4% in England, respectively) and 24.9% had no qualifications (24.2% in Cumbria and 22.5% in England, respectively). According to Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019, 35.2% of the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Carlisle were located in the first two most deprived deciles in the Education domain. Carlisle's rural communities face challenges in accessing training providers, due to poor transport and digital connectivity, which means that communities face additional challenges in accessing the skills they need, and in turn, for businesses to access the skilled workforce that they need to grow.

Prolonged school closures in response to the Covid-19 pandemic caused disruption on education with students from disadvantaged socioeconomic background being disproportionately affected. This posed the challenge that there could be rising youth unemployment in the short to medium term due to the increase in unfinished learning, early drop out of school and widening skills gaps, which requires targeted measures to address the lost opportunities from schooling for young people and improve their skills and employability.

- **Income inequality and in-work poverty:**

Occupational breakdowns among the economically active working age population in Carlisle district clearly indicate that employment in less skilled occupations is more prevalent in Carlisle compared with Cumbria and England<sup>17</sup>. Up to 23.5% of the working population are in process, plant and machine operatives and elementary occupations (18.4% and 14.9% for Cumbria and England, respectively) and only 37.3% are in the top 3 skilled occupations<sup>18</sup> (40.4% and 50% for Cumbria and England, respectively). The median annual pay in Carlisle is significantly lower than that in Cumbria and England for both male and female full-time workers.

**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**

Evidence from desk-based research, insights from existing policy context and strategies, as well as stakeholder engagement and public consultations have identified the following key opportunities that fall under the People and Skills investment priority:

<sup>17</sup> ONS Annual Population Survey (2021) Available at: [Nomis - Official Census and Labour Market Statistics \(nomisweb.co.uk\)](https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/) [Accessed August 2022]

<sup>18</sup> These are: (1) Managers, directors and senior officials; (2) Professional occupations; and (3) Associate professional & technical occupations.

- **Digital Skills and Community Learning Hub:**

The Digital Skills and Community Learning Hub will deliver increased capacity and accessibility to new or improved skills facilities. The Hub will be equipped with advanced training equipment, majoring on digital skills, including web enabled conferencing and learning facilities, superfast broadband, state of the art ICT equipment enabled with web design and graphics capabilities. The Department for Work and Pensions will be a key partner in this facility, delivering a Youth Hub from the nearby City Council building, which will be primarily focused on getting young people into employment through the development of new skills based on skills gap audits for the area. This hub will respond to both the recent skills audit undertaken in Cumbria and the emerging need for digital skills which are currently undersupplied in the area.

- **Borderlands Growth Deal (2021):**

UK Government will invest, subject to business case, in the city regeneration of Carlisle as a focal point for higher education, business and cultural interaction, serving the Borderlands region. Government has provided £250,000 in funding to support the development of a robust proposal and local partners, working with the University of Cumbria and other key local stakeholders, are exploring options to deliver higher level skills improvements and new job opportunities, including at the site of the historic Citadel buildings<sup>19</sup>. The Council is dedicated to improving digital infrastructure and access through the Borderlands digital voucher scheme, providing a new innovation centre for the digital sector at the Citadels and improving skills through the proposed digital and community learning hub.

## 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.**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Tick if applicable</b>
Jobs created	
Jobs safeguarded	✓
Increased footfall	✓
Increased visitor numbers	✓
Reduced vacancy rates	✓
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	

<sup>19</sup> UK Government (2019). *Borderlands Growth Deal, Heads of Terms of Agreement*, p.5. Available at: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/816873/Borderlands\\_Growth\\_Deal\\_-\\_Heads\\_of\\_Terms\\_2019.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/816873/Borderlands_Growth_Deal_-_Heads_of_Terms_2019.pdf)



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	

**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.

E4: Enhanced support for existing **cultural, historic and heritage** institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.

E6: Support for local **arts, cultural and creative** activities.

E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which **encourage people to visit and explore the local area**.

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

E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to **support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration**.

E14: Funding to **support relevant feasibility studies**.

**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**

Not applicable.

**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.**

N/A

**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](#).**

Yes

**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.**

N/A

**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.**

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](#).**

Yes

**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.**

Carlisle Council has not yet determined the final projects to receive support. As we do, we will consider whether there will be a subsidy for each project and choose the specific measures to make sure the subsidy is permitted on a case-by-case basis. The Council is aware of and understands its obligations in respect of subsidy control. The Council will consider in relation to each intervention whether the UKSPF investment will be used to provide a subsidy, and if so, whether the subsidy will contravene the UK's obligations on subsidy control, or the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

In order to comply with its obligations in respect of subsidy control, the Council will apply a combined approach of internal legal advice and external legal specialist advisory support to establish a process for managing subsidies in relation to UKSPF funded interventions. This process takes into account the risk of subsidies arising from different interventions and proposes an approach to establishing the subsidy control compliance of interventions based on a number of factors including the risk of a subsidy arising.

In some cases (deemed to be low to moderate subsidy control risk) applicants will be asked to explain their approach to subsidy control in respect of their proposed intervention. These responses will be reviewed by the Council and any concerns will be escalated to external lawyers where necessary. High risk interventions will be reviewed directly by external lawyers, and lower risk interventions will be reviewed by the Council and any concerns will be escalated to external lawyers when required. This approach is intended to ensure that every intervention is reviewed for its subsidy control compliance, and that those interventions which are deemed to be more likely to give rise to a subsidy are subject to scrutiny by external specialist lawyers.

Carlisle City Council will consider and apply appropriate routes to ensure subsidy control compliance. It is envisaged that a number of interventions will not give rise to subsidies (those involving public authorities carrying out pure public realm infrastructure projects, and those which only benefit individuals for example). Where an intervention does give rise to a subsidy, the Council may use the minimal financial assistance provisions for low value subsidies or streamlined subsidy routes where these are available and appropriate. In each case the Council will comply with the specific requirements of the Subsidy Control Act and the Scheme in question (where relevant). Where no exemption applies, the Council will analyse a subsidy's compliance with the Subsidy Control Principles (and where appropriate the energy and environment principles) before deciding to make the subsidy.

Carlisle City Council will use its standard grant agreement in connection with interventions. The Council's grant agreement contains provisions requiring recipients to comply with the subsidy control rules and to support the Council in complying with its obligations. However, additional project specific provisions will be inserted into grant agreements where this is considered necessary in order to appropriately manage subsidy control risk.

A collaborative approach to subsidy control is being developed by the constituent authorities of the new Cumberland Council to support transition in delivery.

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

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Tick if applicable</b>
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**

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

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

E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.

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.**

N/A

**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](#).**

Yes

**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.**

N/A

**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.**

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](#).**

Yes

**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.**

We have not yet determined the final projects to receive support. As we do, we will consider whether there will be a subsidy for each project and choose the specific measures to make sure the subsidy is permitted on a case-by-case basis. The Council is aware of and understands its obligations in respect of subsidy control. The Council will consider in relation to each intervention whether the UKSPF investment will be used to provide a subsidy, and if so, whether the subsidy will contravene the UK's obligations on subsidy control, or the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

In order to comply with its obligations in respect of subsidy control, the Council will apply a combined approach of internal legal advice and external legal specialist advisory support to

establish a process for managing subsidies in relation to UKSPF funded interventions. This process takes into account the risk of subsidies arising from different interventions and proposes an approach to establishing the subsidy control compliance of interventions based on a number of factors including the risk of a subsidy arising.

In some cases (deemed to be low to moderate subsidy control risk) applicants will be asked to explain their approach to subsidy control in respect of their proposed intervention. These responses will be reviewed by the Council and any concerns will be escalated to external lawyers where necessary. High risk interventions will be reviewed directly by external lawyers, and lower risk interventions will be reviewed by the Council and any concerns will be escalated to external lawyers when required. This approach is intended to ensure that every intervention is reviewed for its subsidy control compliance, and that those interventions which are deemed to be more likely to give rise to a subsidy are subject to scrutiny by external specialist lawyers.

The Council will consider and apply appropriate routes to ensure subsidy control compliance. It is envisaged that a number of interventions will not give rise to subsidies (those involving public authorities carrying out pure public realm infrastructure projects, and those which only benefit individuals for example). Where an intervention does give rise to a subsidy, the Council may use the minimal financial assistance provisions for low value subsidies or streamlined subsidy routes where these are available and appropriate. In each case the Council will comply with the specific requirements of the Subsidy Control Act and the Scheme in question (where relevant). Where no exemption applies, the Council will analyse a subsidy's compliance with the Subsidy Control Principles (and where appropriate the energy and environment principles) before deciding to make the subsidy.

The Council will use its standard grant agreement in connection with interventions. The Council's grant agreement contains provisions requiring recipients to comply with the subsidy control rules and to support the Council in complying with its obligations. However, additional project specific provisions will be inserted into grant agreements where this is considered necessary in order to appropriately manage subsidy control risk.

A collaborative approach to subsidy control is being developed by the constituent authorities of the new Cumberland Council to support transition in delivery.

**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)	
<b>Multiply only</b> - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
<b>Multiply only</b> - 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 (via Multiply) and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

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.

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.

**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.**

N/A

**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](#).**

Yes

**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.**

N/A

**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.**

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.**

We have not yet determined the final projects to receive support. As we do, we will consider whether there will be a subsidy for each project and choose the specific measures to make sure the subsidy is permitted on a case-by-case basis. The Council is aware of and understands its obligations in respect of subsidy control. The Council will consider in relation to each intervention whether the UKSPF investment will be used to provide a subsidy, and if so, whether the subsidy will contravene the UK's obligations on subsidy control, or the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

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Principles (and where appropriate the energy and environment principles) before deciding to make the subsidy.

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A collaborative approach to subsidy control is being developed by the constituent authorities of the new Cumberland Council to support transition in delivery.

**HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?**

**Yes** | No

**(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.**

Inspira currently delivers three ESF-funded projects ('The Key', 'Launchpad' and 'The Link') throughout Cumbria, responding to either the DWP or ESFA as managing authority, on behalf of the Cumbria LEP. Inspira meets the terms of a voluntary organisation as set out in the UKSPF guidance.

'The Key' and 'Launchpad' respond to the People and Skills challenges that Carlisle faces, such as the barriers to the labour market which results in a relatively high proportion of individuals who are economically inactive, identified skill gaps and shortages which are likely to worsen as the potential labour pool contracts as a result of an ageing population, etc. NEET<sup>20</sup> issues feature; young people can become NEET as a result of many different factors reflecting a range of personal issues, labour market conditions, availability of appropriate provision and other background circumstances. NEET amongst 18-24 year olds is an increasing issue nationally, and we know that being NEET at this age presents serious implications for future outcomes. Failure to continue this provision would mean the loss of opportunities to address the structural barriers to labour market entry and improve employability of economically inactive people, negatively affecting especially young people's employment prospect and resulting in widening skills gap. The ESF funding end date for this current provision is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, however, active delivery of 'The Key' will cease by Autumn 2022 to enable outcome-based funding to be claimed.

'The Link' provision responds to the significant demographic threat ahead of the district, and the need to retain young people to meet current and future labour supply needs. It also facilitates a responsive skills supply, by equipping young people with the confidence and skills to meet employer demand. The loss of this provision would reduce employer engagement, contributing to less awareness among young people of the opportunities and needs of Carlisle's economy and a further widening of the skills gap. The ESF funding end date for this current provision is 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023, however, active delivery will cease by summer 2022 to enable outcome-based funding to be claimed.

**Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.**

The Key: ESF-5002  
 The Launchpad: ESF-07S20P04070  
 The Link: ESF-07S20P04140

**What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.**

2022-2023 | **2023-2024** | **2024-2025**

<sup>20</sup> NEET is an acronym for 'Not in Education, Employment, or Training', which refers to a person who is unemployed and not receiving an education or vocational training.



**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.**

'The Key' is a successful, high impact employability programme that helps people get into work quickly. It connects job seekers with local employers who have immediate job vacancies, provides essential industry skills and training, insights into workplace requirements, and expert practical coaching for applications and interviews. It meets the needs of both job seekers and employers. Inspira currently delivers 'The Key' across Cumbria, working with unemployed adults and employers of all sectors and sizes.

'The Launchpad' engages, develops and integrates young people in Cumbria who are not in education, employment and training (NEET), especially those from marginalised backgrounds or who face complex barriers. The project offers NEET young people across Cumbria a range of personalised support, tailored development opportunities, experiences and encounters with employers to help them progress into mainstream labour market opportunities. Inspira delivers 'The Launchpad' throughout Cumbria with young people aged 16-24 years.

'The Link' is a project that connects young people with employers throughout Cumbria. 'The Link' provides a single, managed route for employers to engage in career education activities, to inform their future workforce about local opportunities and articulate their skill needs; and coordinated activities that allow young people to encounter employers, gain insights into the workplace and learn about future career routes. Employers showcase growth opportunities, career routes and skill challenges to their potential future workforce, to inform and excite them about the local labour market. Inspira delivers 'The Link' throughout Cumbria targeting young people and SMEs.

These projects will be delivered in Carlisle and across the new Cumberland geography. They will respond to the selected intervention themes of E33: Employment Support for economically inactive people and E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. Increased provision for digital skills training in these projects will deliver against intervention E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion.

**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**

**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.**

We have not yet determined the final projects to receive support. As we do, we will consider whether there will be a subsidy for each project and choose the specific measures to make sure the subsidy is permitted on a case-by-case basis. The Council is aware of and understands its obligations in respect of subsidy control. The Council will consider in relation to each intervention whether the UKSPF investment will be used to provide a subsidy, and if so, whether the subsidy will contravene the UK's obligations on subsidy control, or the Subsidy Control Act 2022.

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A collaborative approach to subsidy control is being developed by the constituent authorities of the new Cumberland Council to support transition in delivery.

**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** | **Private sector organisations** | **Civil society organisations**

**Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.**

Carlisle City Council has worked closely in conjunction with the other two district authorities (Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council) that, alongside Carlisle, will make up the Cumberland authority from April 2023.

One large stakeholder workshop was held jointly with Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland on the 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022. Stakeholders were presented information on:

- The objectives of UKSPF according to DLUHC guidance
- Emerging UKSPF needs and opportunities in Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland identified by a review of local data and policy
- Potential interventions according to the assessment of needs and opportunities
- Potential critical success factors which would underpin the scoring of proposals

A total of 49 organisations attended the workshop and a feedback meeting to discuss plans and next steps will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2022. There were one-to-one discussions with stakeholder partners such as Multicultural Cumbria, University of Cumbria, etc, and local MPs. Cumbria County Council was involved in discussions on the management of the fund and learning from the Local Enterprise Partnership on delivery models.

Local stakeholders across public, private and civil society organisations were also given the opportunity to share details of potential UKSPF projects to be delivered in Carlisle by sharing potential projects with Carlisle City Council in the form of Expression of Interests. Proposals of prospective projects could be submitted to the Council through June and July 2022. A total of 53 responses applicable across all the Cumberland area were received and 10 additional responses were applicable to Carlisle only.

In response to UKSPF requirements, a Local Partnership Group was formed which includes: representatives from Carlisle City Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council, Cumbria County Council, local colleges and educational providers, Chamber of Trade, arts and culture representatives, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership, DWP/Job Centre Plus, Cumbria Police, local business representatives and Members of Parliament for the Cumberland area. The Cumberland Local Partnership Group will provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability of both the investment plan and constituent projects of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

programme for the Cumberland area. It will ensure it responds to the challenges and opportunities relevant to Cumberland in order to create a sustainable future for its communities, places, businesses, natural assets and people.

One Local Partnership Group meetings was held on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2022 prior to submission of the Investment Plan. The meeting was held face to face with the option to join online to enable members of the Local Partnership Group to attend. It set out the purpose of the group, the UKSPF process and timetable, the approach taken to building the investment plans for Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland, and explored areas of need and opportunity to reach a view on emerging investment plan themes and priorities.

**Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up**

A Local Partnership Group has been formed. Composition of the group is wide and representative in nature, consisting of many of the groups on the suggested list in the UKSPF prospectus. Terms of Reference have been drawn up.

Carlisle, Allerdale and Copeland councils held a workshop with identified leads from across sectors and individual meetings have been held with MP's, senior politicians and key stakeholders across Cumberland.

Decision making on the Investment Plan is an Executive function and is currently delegated to the Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer, The Mayor and the Monitoring Officer.

As Carlisle City Council transitions into the new authority, the Cumberland Shadow Authority has provided oversight and approval in submitting this plan.

**Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.**

<b>Yes</b>	No
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**Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?**

Yes	<b>No</b>
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**(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.**

Not applicable

**PROJECT SELECTION**

**Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?**

<b>Yes</b>	No
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**(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.**

Carlisle City Council intend to select projects by a mix of competition and direct commissioning, depending on the need to commence work on the project quickly, the scale of the investment required or the degree to which the project in question is a continuation of an existing and successful scheme. All projects will submit a formal expression of interest in response to a series of 'calls' structured to meet Year one, two and three deliverables. A Delivery Plan for UKSPF delivery in the district and across the Cumberland geography is currently in development and will establish a programme and process for undertaking project calls, appraisal and selection. This will include a project selection framework which provides a robust basis for appraising and scoring proposals. The framework will identify a set of objectives and Critical Success Factors such as strategic fit against identified local challenges and opportunities, affordability, deliverability and value for money. External support may be procured to independently assess these proposals. The LPG will be invited to comment on the findings and recommendations of this process. Final decisions will be made by the Executive.

Proposals for direct awards to meet the time imperative of Year one deliverables will be scrutinised in each respective case and a full business case will be required based on the size of the grant ask (e.g., potential exemption can be made to small grant projects), including provision of a service level agreement with the council.

**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>	
E1: Funding for improvements to <b>town centres and high streets</b> , including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.	
E4: Enhanced support for existing <b>cultural, historic and heritage</b> institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.	
E6: Support for local <b>arts, cultural and creative</b> activities.	
E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which <b>encourage people to visit and explore the local area</b> .	✓
E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.	
E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to <b>support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration</b> .	
E14: Funding to <b>support relevant feasibility studies</b> .	

**Describe any interventions not included in this list?**

N/A

**Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?**

As Carlisle transitions into the new authority, mechanisms are being put in place to support collaboration across the new Cumberland geography. For the development of this plan, there has been close working with Allerdale and Copeland to align intervention themes and approach.

**DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS 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>	
E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.	
E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.	✓
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.	
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.	

**Describe any interventions not included in this list?**

N/A

**Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?**

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**DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS 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>	
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 (via Multiply) and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.	✓
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.	✓
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.	✓

**Describe any interventions not included in this list?**

N/A

**Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?**

As Carlisle transitions into the new authority, mechanisms are being put in place to support collaboration across the new Cumberland geography. In developing this plan, there has been close working with Allerdale and Copeland to align intervention themes and approach. There is a potential that the Council may work with Westmorland and Furness on delivery of **E33: Employment support for economically inactive people**, as both authorities have selected to fund this intervention.

**PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**
**How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?**

The design, implementation, and management of the Investment Plan will be governed by equality considerations in accordance with UK law and the Council's Equality policy detailed in the Equality for All in Cumbria framework. It will support the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the

Public Sector Equality Duty (2011) in relation to protecting people from discrimination in the workplace and in wider society. It will ensure, where it lies within its powers, that the project is undertaken without any form of discrimination in terms of age, disability, gender, marital status, maternity, race or ethnicity, faith/belief, or sexuality; and make sure that there are no barriers that would limit participation by under-represented groups. The project has been considered in relation to PSED protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, and sexual orientation).

**How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?**

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken alongside the production of delivery plans. Equality issues will be integrated into all aspects of project planning, and will also be incorporated into the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the project, reflecting the commitment to equality. This will include ensuring that:

- Equality concerns extend to the appointment of professional advisers and contractors during the design and construction stages of the project by confirming that appointed firms have appropriate equality policies and will abide by them. In addition, the appointed contractor would be expected to respect equality issues in relation to local employment and training including undertakings that may be negotiated;
- At the operational stage, the appointed operator will be required to demonstrate that it will operate under UK and EU equality provisions, in terms of both anti-discrimination practices and positive actions where possible; and
- In terms of monitoring and evaluation, equality issues will be included as part of factors taken into account in the assessment of the project.

**RISKS**

**Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?**

<b>Yes</b>	No
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**(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.**

**Risk Overview** - A full risk assessment and live risk register is being developed based on the risks, implications and mitigations detailed below. This risk assessment and register will support the development and delivery of the respective investment plans as well as the associated joint working arrangements across the Cumberland area. This assessment will be based on standard scoring matrix of likelihood against impact and include a RAG rating to provide an early warning system as to any potential issues that need addressing.

1. **Risk:** Lack of project staff to help support development and delivery of projects  
**Implication:** Delays to delivery and possible pressures on budgets  
**Mitigation:** Involvement of ED team in development process, plus grant application review process will provide assurance on capability of applicants to deliver
  
2. **Risk:** Lack of technical expertise to support development and delivery of projects  
**Implication:** Delays to delivery and possible pressures on budgets  
**Mitigation:** Combined approach across districts becoming part of Cumberland authority to ensure deliverability

3. **Risk:** Complexity of local government review impacting on joined up approach across Cumberland area  
**Implication:** Delays to delivery and loss of staff capacity and capability  
**Mitigation:** Development of shared approach around governance, management and appointment of supporting consultants for years 2 and 3
  
4. **Risk:** Lack of expertise to support programme monitoring and assurance process  
**Implication:** Negative impact on creditability of programme and potential clawback of funding from Government  
**Mitigation:** Year 1 delivery to be managed by district council supported by external consultants. In readiness for delivery in Years 2 and 3, the four councils will combine resources for the new Cumberland Council, bringing together the capability and capacity supplemented by additional external support as required.
  
5. **Risk:** Unable to appoint delivery partners to take forward delivery interventions and associated outputs  
**Implication:** Gaps in delivery which could undermine achievement of outputs, delivery of wider programme and any future funding support  
**Mitigation:** The Expression of Interest process has demonstrated strong demand, and through the LPG we will keep partners engaged in order to receive good quality applications that are capable of delivering the outputs.
  
6. **Risk:** Unable to agree joint approach across Cumberland Councils to aid LGR transition  
**Implication:** Fragmented approach impacting on costs, timeframes and overall delivery of outputs  
**Mitigation:** Joined up approach being agreed by all four councils and towards ensuring that joint arrangements are put in place
  
7. **Risk:** Overspend of budgets due to inflationary pressures  
**Implication:** Unable to deliver the level of outputs identified in Investment Plan  
**Mitigation:** Budgets will need to be assessed at application stage and the cost risk for delivery will lie with the grant beneficiary.
  
8. **Risk:** Lack of support from local and strategic partners  
**Implication:** This will underline credibility of programme and ability to develop sustainability approach for projects  
**Mitigation:** Convene and run local partnership group (already in place) to help manage stakeholder input and support
  
9. **Risk:** Lack of awareness and support from the general public resulting in a lack of take up of proposed programmes by those targeted for support  
**Implication:** Delays to programme and inability to spend funds and achieve outputs  
**Mitigation:** Expressions of Interest indicate strong demand. The process for inviting project calls will be well publicised and will give people sufficient time to prepare good quality applications.
  
10. **Risk:** Insufficient funding to address local challenges and opportunities  
**Implication:** Proposed outputs and outcomes are not met  
**Mitigation:** Comprehensive project procurement, assessment and delivery arrangements put in place to ensure targeted delivery addresses challenges and targets the opportunities identified
  
11. **Risk:** Delay in the investment plan being approved by Government  
**Implication:** Negative impact on ability to deliver in year one



<p><b>Mitigation:</b> Ongoing discussion with Government officials to understand and plan timeframes and early work on putting in place delivery arrangements</p>	
<p>12. <b>Risk:</b> Uncertainty regarding Cumbria wide continuation projects  <b>Implication:</b> Negative impact on any potential economies of scale from provision across a wider geography  <b>Mitigation:</b> Early engagement between the Shadow Authorities has explored joint working. Looking ahead, aligning project calls with Westmorland and Furness Council to enable applicants to prepare two matching bids that can be delivered as a single programme but with two grant agreements.</p>	
<p>13. <b>Risk:</b> Poor delivery arrangements  <b>Implication:</b> Delay to delivery, increased costs and outputs and outcomes not met  <b>Mitigation:</b> Establishment of joint working arrangements underpinned by shared governance and management and working practices underpinned by project management principles and disciplines</p>	
<p>14. <b>Risk:</b> Weak procurement processes  <b>Implication:</b> Delay to delivery, increased costs, outputs and outcomes not met and reputational damage to councils  <b>Mitigation:</b> Public Contract Standing Orders in place at district level with commissioning strategy to be developed to ensure district approaches are aligned prior to transition into Cumberland authority.</p>	
<p>15. <b>Risk:</b> Fraud  <b>Implication:</b> Loss of funds, reputational damage to councils and potential claw back of funds  <b>Mitigation:</b> Comprehensive assurance framework in place including due diligence checks of all those organisations and individual receiving funds</p>	
<p>16. <b>Risk:</b> Uncertainty created by Subsidy control  <b>Implication:</b> Unable to secure delivery partners resulting in delays in delivery and outputs and outcomes not being met  <b>Mitigation:</b> The Council will apply a combined approach of internal legal advice and external legal specialist advisory support to establish a process for managing subsidies in relation to UKSPF funded interventions.</p>	
<p><b>Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?</b></p>	
Yes	<b>No</b>
<p><b>(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.</b></p>	
<p>No key fraud risks have been identified. All applications will be subject to independent assessment and due diligence prior to approval and may be subject to individual conditions of funding which must be cleared or complied with. Claims will be based on actual costs and appropriate evidence of expenditure provided and verified prior to approval to pay being made by the S151 Officer.</p> <p>Performance monitoring will be undertaken on a regular basis with evidence of outputs being provided in line with that specified in individual grant funding agreements.</p> <p>All grant funding agreements will include provision for the claw-back of grant in circumstances where the project has not been delivered as approved.</p>	

### 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?

A core team of eight people have been allocated to work on this UKSPF. The total 2 FTE is disaggregated in the question below.

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

Within Carlisle City Council, the UKSPF Programme will be managed by:

Role	FTE
Senior Responsible Officer for the programme – Corporate Director for Economic Development	0.1
Programme Manager and Head of Regeneration	0.5
Regeneration Officer	0.5
Corporate Director for Finance and Resources and S151 Officer	0.1
Programme Management in place comprising	0
Head of Administration and Performance	0.3
Programme Officer	0.3
Programme Administrator	0.2

Carlisle City Council has considerable experience and capability in managing and commissioning funding for projects and programmes relevant to the Community and Place priority.

This experience includes: being a Partner in the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal, delivery of Partnerships Schemes in Conservation Areas; Discover England Fund rounds 1 to 5 for major projects; Levelling up Fund applications for Tullie House. The Council has an extensive experience in delivering programmes including the Reopening High Streets Safely Funds, FHSF and Town Deal, public realm and capital projects. In addition, the teams have extensive partnership working experience with a range of business, community and cultural organisations through Carlisle Ambassadors, Carlisle Partnership and Cultural Carlisle etc.

Carlisle City Council is well versed in community engagement to deliver place plans not only as part of the Local Plan for Carlisle, Neighbourhood Planning and the St Cuthbert's Garden Village masterplan but also community led planning including: the Borderlands Place Plan and community led parish planning place plans for parishes within the district.

Carlisle City Council Regeneration Team have a strong track record in securing funding and delivering regeneration programmes, for example: £300m for the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal; £9.1m for Carlisle Future High Street Fund programme and £19.7m for Carlisle's Town Deal Programme, amongst others; all currently underway. In the past the Council has delivered for example schemes under European funding (ERDF); North West Regional Growth Fund, Discover England funding, Reopening the High Street Safely Fund. Carlisle City Council is accountable body for all but the Borderlands Initiative.

The Regeneration Team is managed by the Head of Regeneration, who is supported by a wider team who have significant expertise in HMT Green Book principles and accountable body functions.

In the development of the UKSPF Investment Plan the partnership approach adopted with Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council,

we are confident that the breadth of skills and expertise is in place to deliver the UKSPF programme successfully.

- 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**      Some experience      No previous experience

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?

**Strong capability**      Some capability      Limited capability

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capability      Some capability      Limited capability

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?

**Strong capacity**      Some capacity      Limited capacity

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong capability      **Some capability**      Limited capability

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong capacity      **Some capacity**      Limited 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**      No

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

**Strong capability**      Some capability      Limited 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.

Local Government Reorganisation is a key challenge in delivering Communities and Place interventions including: changes to working relationships with third sector bodies; changing funding streams; and the need to ensure that experienced staff are retained. The Councils that will form the new Cumberland authority have been working collaboratively to ensure that any issues going forward will be minimised.

A robust programme management and governance processes are in place based on a clear structure with lines of accountability running throughout the delivery team, connecting each part of the team to senior leadership within the Council, enabling monitoring of progress, accountability and the ability to escalate issues where required. The programme will be led by the council's highly experienced Project Management Office

In addition to thematic expertise within the council, our Local Partnership Group is highly engaged in the delivery of the programme which will provide additional expertise if required and will also ensure opportunities to complement and add value to other activities across the county are maximised.

Challenges will include the building on and continuing working relationships actors the new Cumberland footprint internally amongst teams within the authority and with partners working in the community and place sector.

**Describe what further support would help address these challenges.**

Collaborative working across the Programme and Project Management teams from Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council to draw in resource and expertise.

Working collaboratively on a Cumbria wide basis (Cumberland with Westmorland and Furness) on the delivery of projects to meet common objectives.

Good communications and forging relationships with the wider stakeholders, partnership groups and third sector bodies to ensure continuity during transition to the new Cumberland authority.

Opportunities of learning through UKSPF good practice would be positive as delivered alongside the Reopening the High Street Safely Fund administered by DLUHC.

Flexibility in spend profile across the 3 years. This is particularly the case for Year one as due to LGR the Council is not able to undertake spend against projects at risk and activity commence one the UKSPF funding is secured.

**How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?**

Strong capability	<b>Some capability</b>	Limited 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.**

Local authority resources in regeneration and economic development have significantly reduced over recent years due to a reduction in local government funding resulting in a move away from delivery of transformational projects. The revival of capital regeneration funding streams has placed a great deal of strain on existing resources and replacing experienced staff has been difficult.

**Describe what further support would help address these challenges.**

Commitments to longer term funding programmes would enable councils to recruit regeneration professional with greater confidence. Capacity funding to bring in resources to develop and deliver transformational schemes. Project management is a competitive field (particularly in Cumbria with the nuclear sectors demands) and that can make short term recruitment difficult.

**SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**

**Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?**

<b>Yes</b>	No
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**How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?**

<b>Strong capability</b>	Some capability	Limited capability
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**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.**

The Council has considerable experience of supporting local business interventions (e.g. ERDF, ESF, Towns Fund, RHSS, Leader). The council has a strategic commitment to supporting and engaging with businesses which will greatly assist within the delivery of the selected business interventions. This includes how the council supports and engages with the Carlisle Ambassadors, which is a business network made-up of a cross section of key local businesses. There will be a co-ordinated approach across Cumberland, and decisions will be taken by the Executive of the new Cumberland Authority in years 2 and 3.

Supporting Local Business interventions will be delivered on a locally and on Cumberland or Cumbria wide scale. This may present challenges in coordinating this approach across the whole geography, however, this can be mitigated by the close collaborative working between Cumberland and Westmorland and Furness as described earlier and there will be the advantages of economies of scale in delivery. Delivery partners would be required to demonstrate their capacity and capability which would be assessed by the Council.

The challenges to successful delivery include: lack of funding to deliver schemes; and lack of resource to deliver programmes of significant size or duration. Also, there will be a challenge in delivering these interventions in 2022/23 due to the short timeframe given to do this.

**Describe what further support would help address these challenges.**

Collaborative working across the Programme and Project Management teams from Cumbria County Council, Carlisle City Council, Allerdale Borough Council and Copeland Borough Council to draw in resource and expertise.

Working collaboratively on a Cumbria wide basis (Cumberland with Westmorland and Furness) on the delivery of projects to meet common objectives.

Flexibility in spend profile across the 3 years. This is particularly the case for Year one as due to LGR the Council is not able to undertake spend against projects at risk and activity commence once the UKSPF funding is secured.

**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.**

Local authority regeneration and economic development teams have significantly reduced over recent years as a consequence of reducing local authority resources but also a move away from regeneration based funds. This has placed a great deal of strain on existing resources especially the recent revival of capital regeneration based activity and replacing experienced staff has been difficult.

**Describe what further support would help address these challenges.**

Commitments to longer term funding programmes would enable councils to recruit regeneration professional with greater confidence. Project management is a competitive field (particularly in Cumbria with the nuclear sectors demands) and that can make recruitment difficult if that recruitment is to short terms projects.

**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.**

The Council has limited experience of delivering people and skills programmes as for many years these have been delivered through ESF directly with delivering organisations or through intermediaries such as DWP.

**Describe what further support would help address these challenges.**

Commitments to longer term funding programmes would provide local authorities with the confidence and opportunity to recruit suitably qualified staff.

**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.**

Whilst capability to deliver activity within the system is strong locally, it is limited within the local authority. The key challenge has been having the resources to support this type of activity and the budgets to support staff.

**Describe what further support would help address these challenges.**

Commitments to longer term funding programmes would provide local authorities with the confidence and opportunity to recruit suitably qualified staff.

**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%?

Yes  **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:**

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#### 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

## Appendix 2: Carlisle City Council UKSPF Interventions and allocation of funding

Investment Priority	UKSPF Allocation Annual Expenditure			
<b>COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>				
Intervention	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Annual Expenditure Totals
E1: Funding for improvements to <b>town centres and high streets</b> , including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.	£42,000	£100,000	£259,200	<b>£401,200</b>
E4: Enhanced support for existing <b>cultural, historic and heritage</b> institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.	£57,600	£115,200	£163,200	<b>£336,000</b>
E6: Support for local <b>arts, cultural and creative</b> activities.	£72,000	£67,200	£101,040	<b>£240,240</b>
E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which <b>encourage people to visit and explore the local area</b> .	£33,600	£39,648	£72,000	<b>£145,248</b>
E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.			£288,000	<b>£288,000</b>
E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to <b>support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration</b> .	£19,200	£38,400	£38,400	<b>£96,000</b>
E14: Funding to <b>support relevant feasibility studies</b> .	£94,320	£44,000	£72,000	<b>£210,320</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£318,720</b>	<b>£404,448</b>	<b>£993,840</b>	<b>£1,717,008</b>
<b>SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>				
Intervention	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Annual Expenditure Totals
E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.	£77,892	£95,977	£191,994	<b>£365,863</b>
E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.	£33,600	£144,000	£192,000	<b>£369,600</b>
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.		£72,000	£96,000	<b>£168,000</b>
E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.		£48,000	£72,000	<b>£120,000</b>
E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.	£48,000	£96,000	£144,000	<b>£288,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£159,492</b>	<b>£455,977</b>	<b>£695,994</b>	<b>£1,311,463</b>
<b>PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY</b>				



<b>Intervention</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Annual Expenditure Totals</b>
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 (via Multiply) and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.		£48,000	£288,000	<b>£336,000</b>
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.			£48,000	<b>£48,000</b>
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.		£48,000	£480,000	<b>£528,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£0</b>	<b>£96,000</b>	<b>£816,000</b>	<b>£912,000</b>
<b>Programme Total (exc. 4% management fee)</b>	<b>£478,212</b>	<b>£956,425</b>	<b>£2,505,834</b>	<b>£3,940,471</b>
<b>4% management fee</b>	<b>£19,925</b>	<b>£39,851</b>	<b>£104,410</b>	<b>£164,186</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL (including 4% Programme Management)</b>	<b>£498,138</b>	<b>£996,276</b>	<b>£2,610,244</b>	<b>£4,104,659</b>

## Shared Prosperity Fund – Application Form 2022-23

Carlisle City Council is allocating £478,213 from the Shared Prosperity Fund for the year 2022/2023 for the delivery of projects under the two pillars of Communities and Place and Supporting Businesses.

*[Please note: Funding under E14: Feasibility studies may support the development of either capital or revenue projects that meet the objectives of the key interventions set out in the attached Investment Plan Guidance Notes.]*

In order to apply for funding, please complete the application form below

<b>Name of organisation</b>	
<b>Contact name</b>	
<b>Contact details</b>	

<b>1. Project Title:</b>		
<b>2. SPF Pillar</b>	Communities and Place <input type="checkbox"/>	Supporting Business <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>3. Primary Intervention supported by your Project (E number)</b>		
<b>4. Please state any additional interventions supported by your project (E numbers)</b>		
<b>5. Total project cost</b>	£ <input type="text"/>	
<b>6. UKSPF funding ask</b>	£ <input type="text"/>	
<b>7. Please confirm the type of UKSPF funding requested:</b>		
<b>Amount of Revenue spend requested:</b>	£ <input type="text"/>	
<b>Amount of Capital spend requested</b>	£ <input type="text"/>	

### Appendix 3

<p><b>8. Project description</b>  <i>Please describe your project in no more than 500 words</i></p>		
<p><b>9. Programme for delivery of project</b>  <i>Please provide an outline programme for the project (ie timeline and milestones)</i></p>		
<p><b>10. What are the projected outputs from the project which have been listed in Carlisle's UKSPF Investment plan?</b>  <i>Please ensure that these are linked to the outputs identified in the Investment Plan guidance note<sup>1</sup>. Where outputs are quantifiable, please provide estimate figures</i></p>		
Intervention (E number)	Output	Figure
<p><b>11. What are the additional projected outputs from the project (if any)?</b>  <i>Please list any additional outputs which have not been identified in the Investment Plan guidance note<sup>1</sup>. Where outputs are quantifiable, please provide estimate figures</i></p>		
Intervention (E number)	Output	Figure

<sup>1</sup> Please refer to Carlisle's UKSPF Investment Plan [\(LINK\)](#) and the guidance note provided.

## Appendix 3

**12. Why is the project needed? How does it address local problems, issues, challenges or opportunities set out in Carlisle's UKPSF Investment Plan?** (Refer to guidance note)  
*Please describe how your project supports the delivery of Carlisle's UKPSF Investment Plan in no more than 500 words<sup>1</sup>*

**13. Who will benefit from the project and how?**  
*(e.g., the local business community, supply chains, local residents, visitors to the town - in no more than 250 words)*

**14. Would any other organisations be involved in project delivery?**  
*Please provide details of any other organisations including contractors that would be involved in the delivery of the project with details of their role and availability - in no more than 250 words*

**15. Are there any plans for this project to be replicated across other local authorities?**  
*If yes, please list local authorities and any additional information which may be relevant (such as funding requested)*

## Appendix 3

### **16. Details of identified supplier(s)**

*If you are requesting over £10,000 from the fund to procure external services, we require that you have undertaken quotes of works from 3 separate suppliers.*

*Please outline the quotes you have received, and which proposal(s) you want to select and why?*

### **17. How far is the project developed?**

*Please provide details of the stage of development of the project*

- Project already in delivery – SPF funding required to continue delivery**
- Project fully developed / costed – needs SPF funding/match to commence delivery**
- Project in development stage – further work needed to finalise**
- Project at concept stage – at initial development stage**

### **18. Project Risk and Mitigation**

*Are there any deliverability issues/risks related to the project, if so, can you put mitigation plans in place?*

Carlisle UKSPF Year One			
Programme Level Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) Assessment			
Consideration	Response		
Summary of the main findings of project-level assessments undertaken:	<p>The interventions / projects included in the Carlisle UKSPF Year 1 programme are both capital and revenue in nature. The majority are grant schemes and feasibility studies that do not require Equality Impact Assessment (EIA). However, there are some projects that will require EIA, such as the Uncovering Roman Carlisle and Heritage Trails projects</p> <p>For these projects, the main consideration relating to protected characteristics centres on disability and the need to ensure that inclusive access for all groups has been considered. It will also be important to ensure that young people are able to access and experience these projects.</p> <p>As this stage, it is proposed that EIA are undertaken during the project development and final approval process.</p> <p>The table below sets out the proposed approach:</p>		
	E1: Funding for improvements to <b>town centres and high streets</b> , including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.	High Streets Business Grants	<p>This is a grant scheme and therefore there are no direct EIA implications.</p> <p>Individual projects supported by the scheme, depending on their nature, may need buildings regulations approval, which will ensure that any accessibility issues are addressed.</p>
	E4: Enhanced support for existing <b>cultural, historic and heritage</b> institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.	Uncovering Roman Carlisle (Phase 3)	<p>This project does have EIA implications as the project involves a community archaeological dig.</p> <p>Therefore, a full EIA will be undertaken during the project development and final approval process.</p>
	E6: Support for local <b>arts, cultural and creative</b> activities.	Cultural events to be delivered by 31 March 2023	This is a grant scheme and therefore there are no direct EIA implications.

**Carlisle UKSPF Year One**

**Programme Level Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) Assessment**

Consideration	Response		
	E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which <b>encourage people to visit and explore the local area.</b>	Develop branding, story, and content for Cumberland	This is a revenue project to develop a marketing brand for the new Cumberland Council and therefore there are no direct EIA implications.
	E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to <b>support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.</b>	Longtown Place Plan - development of the Borderlands Town Investment Plan	This is a revenue project to develop a business case for the Longtown Place Plan and therefore there are no direct EIA implications.
	E14: Funding to <b>support relevant feasibility studies.</b>	Grants for feasibility studies for capital and revenue projects	This is a grant scheme and therefore there are no direct EIA implications.
	E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.	High Streets Business Grants  Carlisle Enterprise Fund	This is a grant scheme and therefore there are no direct EIA implications.  Individual projects supported by the scheme, depending on their nature, may need buildings regulations approval, which will ensure that any accessibility issues are addressed.
	E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours, and tourism products more generally.	Development of a heritage trail in the city centre	This project does have EIA implications and therefore, a full EIA will be undertaken during the project development and final approval process.
	E30: Business support measures to drive employment	Supporting existing activity delivered by Jobcentre Plus / DWP/ Inspira	The funding will be used to support activity delivered by other business

**Carlisle UKSPF Year One**

**Programme Level Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) Assessment**

**Consideration**

**Response**

growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.

support / skills provides and therefore there are no direct EIA implications.



Carlisle UKSPF Year One	
Programme Level Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) Assessment	
Consideration	Response
Is there an additional cumulative impact at the programme level? <i>(e.g., whether the combined impact of more than one project on protected characteristic(s) has a different or more significant effect than when considered on a project-by-project basis)</i>	No clear in-combination / cumulative impacts have been identified.
Are there any other impacts of the Carlisle UKSPF programme which are not included elsewhere in the PSED assessment?	None
What actions (if any) have arisen from the assessment?	<p>The following actions have arisen from the assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need to ensure that local access and disability groups are involved in the scheme development to ensure that their needs are understood and considered at an early stage</li> <li>• The need to ensure that young people (future users and beneficiaries) to access and experience the projects</li> </ul>

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## EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 24 OCTOBER 2022

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### EX.133/22 UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND - YEAR ONE DELIVERY OF INVESTMENT PLAN

(Key Decision - KD.21/22)

\*\*(In accordance with Paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules, The Mayor had agreed that call-in procedures should not be applied to this item.)

**Portfolio** Economy, Enterprise and Housing

**Relevant Scrutiny Panel** Place Panel

#### Subject Matter

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder submitted a report regarding the UK Shared prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which had allocated funds to all local authorities in the UK to fund revenue and capital projects over a three-year period 2022-2025. (ED.26/22)

The Government had allocated £4.1 million for the Carlisle area. To draw it down, the Council had submitted an Investment Plan to the Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities setting out how it intended to use and deliver the funding. The submitted Investment Plan set out how that first year of the allocation would be managed and delivered by Carlisle City Council, whilst the second and third years of delivery would be managed and delivered by the new Cumberland Authority.

The Investment Plan for Carlisle was due to be approved in October 2022. However, there was a pressing need to confirm the delivery and spend for Year 1 of the programme, which had an allocation of £498,138. A number of projects had been identified through an expression of interest that can be delivered by the end of this financial year, 31 March 2023. The report sets out the proposed projects and grant programmes that would comprise the delivery programme for Year 1 of the programme.

The Economy, Enterprise and Housing Portfolio Holder moved the recommendations as set out in the report. The Leader seconded them.

**Summary of options rejected** Not to draw down the allocated funding for the Carlisle area

#### DECISION

That the Executive:

1. Approved the Council to be the accountable body for Year 1 of the Carlisle UKSPF programme.
2. Approved the projects and associated spend forming the first year of the delivery programme for the Carlisle UKSPF Investment Plan, set out in Section 7 of report ED.26/22.
3. Approved [for recommendation to Council] a budget of £49,920 be added to the Council's Capital Programme, according to the financial profile for 2022-23, as set out in Table 1 of report ED.26/22.
4. Approved [for recommendation to Council] a budget of £448,218 be added to the Council's Revenue Budget, according to the financial profile for 2022-23, as set out in Table 1 of report ED.26/22.
5. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Economic Development

following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Portfolio Holder for Economy Enterprise and Housing, the Corporate Director of Governance & Regulatory Services and Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, to:

- Approve the final details of the projects to be funded the first year of the delivery programme for the Carlisle UKSPF Investment Plan
- Enter into funding agreements and Memorandums of Understanding, as appropriate, with recipients of UKSPF grant funding to enable project delivery.
- The final terms of the contracts, funding agreements and Memorandums of Understanding to be agreed by the Corporate Director of Economic Development following consultation with the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services, Portfolio Holder for Economy Enterprise and Housing and the Leader of the Council.

6. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Economic Development, following consultation with the Leader, the Chief Executive, the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services and the Corporate Director of Finance and Resources, to decisions relating to any Change Controls, reprofiling and redistribution of UKSPF funding.

7. Delegated authority to the Corporate Director of Economic Development, following consultation with the Leader, and the Corporate Director of Governance and Regulatory Services to enter into contract(s) with the preferred contractor(s) for the delivery of the

- Uncovering Roman Carlisle project
- Heritage Trails project
- Cumberland Visitor Economy branding project
- Longtown Place Plan project

## **Reasons for Decision**

The Scheme would support the delivery of the vision set out in the Carlisle Plan, which was to enable Carlisle to grow and prosper as the capital of the Borderlands region. It also contributed directly to the priority of delivering inclusive and sustainable economic growth, by making Carlisle a more attractive place for investment, improving skills and drive key sector development.