

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Date: 29 July 2022

Subject: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Greater Manchester Investment Plan

Report of: Councillor David Molyneux, Portfolio Lead for Resources & Investment and
Steve Wilson Lead Chief Executive for Investment

Purpose of Report

This report provides background to the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the domestic replacement for EU Structural Funds such as ESF and ERDF and details of the Greater Manchester UKSPF Investment Plan. The report sets out the:

- GM governance model for UKSPF
- engagement and development process undertaken by GMCA to build the GM UKSPF Investment Plan
- key elements of the Investment Plan for approval prior to on-line submission to Government by 1 August 2022; and
- next steps to implementation of the GM UKSPF programme.

Recommendations:





The GMCA is requested to:

1. Approve the GM UKSPF Investment Plan set out within this report.
2. Agree GMCA should submit the GM UKSPF Investment Plan to government by 1st August.
3. Note the next steps on implementation
4. Agree the GM UKSPF Implementation Plan should come to GMCA in October 2022 for agreement.

Contact Officers

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Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:

Impacts Questionnaire		
Impact Indicator	Result	Justification/Mitigation
Equality and Inclusion	G	
Health	G	
Resilience and Adaptation	G	
Housing		
Economy	G	
Mobility and Connectivity		
Carbon, Nature and Environment	G	
Consumption and Production		
Contribution to achieving the GM Carbon Neutral 2038 target		Zero carbon and environment are cross cutting priorities across the entirety of the GM UKSPF programme therefore it is expected that all funded activity will make a positive contribution, particularly in terms of carbon reduction. The Investment Plan also includes a specific
Further Assessment(s):	Equalities Impact Assessment and Carbon Assessment	
 Positive impacts overall, whether long or short term.	 Mix of positive and negative impacts. Trade-offs to consider.	 Mostly negative, with at least one positive aspect. Trade-offs to consider.
		 Negative impacts overall.

Risk Management

Key risks identified in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan are:

1. Programme Finances - Grant funding from UKG is not secured in line with the published timeline by GMCA as anticipated resulting in delays to delivery.
2. Contract and Legal - Delays to the execution of the legal documents.
3. Staffing and Recruitment – Insufficient staff recruited to deliver the UKSPF programme in Greater Manchester.
4. Contract Monitoring – UK Government radically alters its proposed UKSPF monitoring expectations midway through the programme.

Mitigation has been identified and there will be further refinement and updating of the risk register over the lifetime of the Fund

Legal Considerations

As projects and programmes are identified over Summer 2022. GMCA legal will ensuring identified routes to market (e.g. grants, commissions, etc) are compliant with subsidy control and grant funding agreements and contracts are fully compliant with UK law and ensure risk is managed appropriately.

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The GMCA allocation of non-Multiply UKSPF over the three years to 2024/5 is £83,850,595 - £10,176,043 2022/3, £20,352,086 2023/4 and £53,322,466 2024/25.

Indicatively, a maximum of £69,522,727 of this allocation will be revenue as the UKSPF national prospectus sets a minimum capital spend of 10%, 13% and 20% respectively for each year of the Fund. The total annual allocation will be received by GMCA in October 2022, April 2023 and April 2024.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The GMCA allocation of non-Multiply UKSPF over the three years to 2024/5 is £83,850,595 - £10,176,043 2022/3, £20,352,086 2023/4 and £53,322,466 2024/25.

Indicatively, a minimum of £14,327,868 of this allocation will be capital as the UKSPF national prospectus sets a minimum capital spend of 10%, 13% and 20% respectively for each year of the Fund. The total annual allocation will be received by GMCA in October 2022, April 2023 and April 2024.

Number of attachments to the report: 2 (annex A and B)

Comments/recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers

Tracking/ Process

Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution

Yes

Exemption from call in

Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the relevant Scrutiny Committee on the grounds of urgency?

No

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

27th July 2022

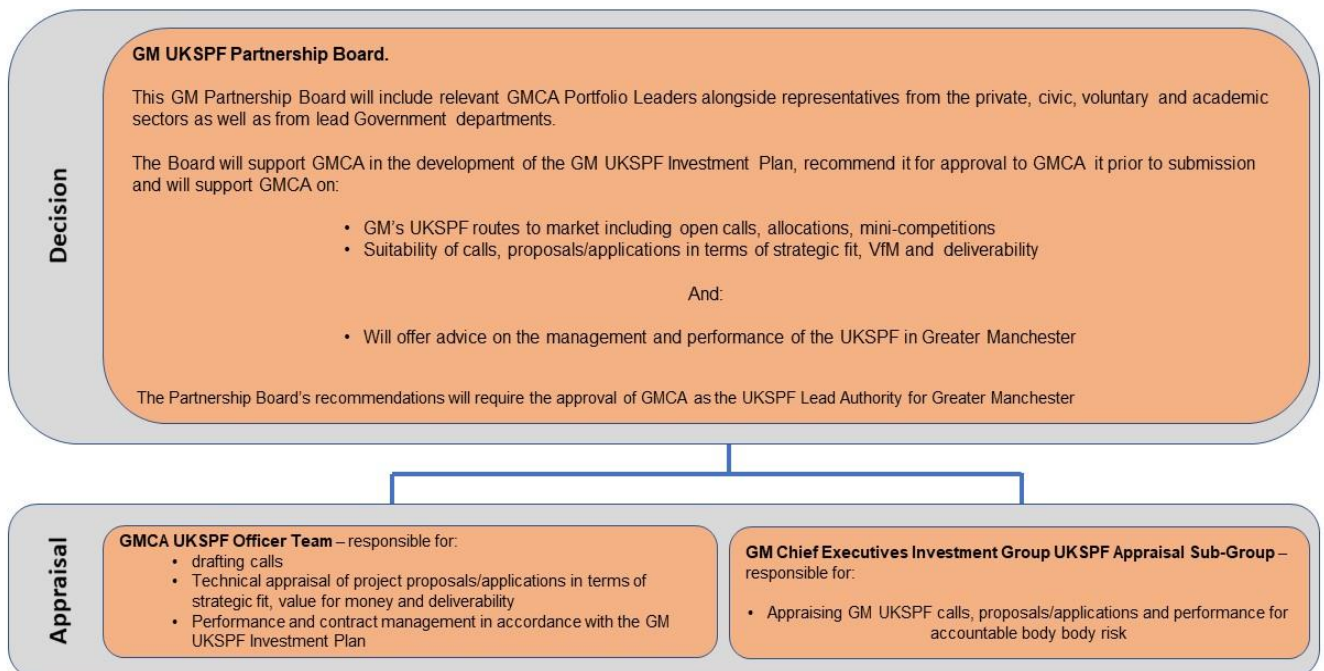
1. Introduction

- 1.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a replacement domestic fund for EU European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF), which covered funds such as ERDF and ESF following the UK leaving the EU. The current ESIF programme period spend extends to late 2023, with many of Greater Manchester's business support and skills and employment programmes funded until 2023.
- 1.2 The Levelling Up White Paper released early in 2022 set out how UKSPF will support the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the four parts of Levelling Up:
 - Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards, especially in those places where they are lagging.
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency
- 1.3 The primary goal of UKSPF is building pride in place and increasing life chances across the UK, while recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the Covid pandemic. This will be achieved across three Investment Priorities:
 - Communities and place
 - Local business; and
 - People and skills.
- 1.4 GMCA has been identified as the UKSPF Lead Authority for Greater Manchester. This means that GMCA will be the accountable body for the three-year GM UKSPF non-Multiply allocation of £83,850,595 and will be responsible for the management and administration of the fund. GMCA is also the Lead Authority for the Multiply adult literacy programme element of UKSPF, which is running slightly ahead of the non-Multiply UKSPF process. The GM Investment Plan principles for Multiply were agreed at GMCA in June and the Multiply Investment Plan has been submitted to Government earlier in July.
- 1.5 In mid-April 2022, Government published the UKSPF Prospectus that set out the requirements for GM's UKSPF allocation to be secured. GMCA will be required to produce and submit to Government a high-level UKSPF Investment Plan by 1 August 2022, subject to Government approval of the Investment Plan UKSPF will then be released to GMCA from October 2022 onwards.
- 1.6 This report sets out the key areas of GM's UKSPF Investment Plan which are compliant with Government guidance and focus on how UKSPF can help to deliver the agreed Greater Manchester Strategy shared commitments.

2. GM UKSPF Governance

- 2.1 The UKSPF Prospectus sets out that lead authorities should establish a comprehensive, representative and balanced UKSPF Local Partnership Board. The Board's role is to provide guidance and offer advice to GMCA on strategic fit and deliverability of the activity funded by UKSPF over the next three years, however, GMCA will remain the accountable body for UKSPF and will need to ensure all programme risks are effectively managed as well as having final sign off on all activity.
- 2.2 This Board re-purposes and builds on the successful Greater Manchester ESIF/SUD Sub-Committee membership put in place when GMCA secured Intermediate Body/Co-Financing status for ESIF. GMCA's UKSPF governance is fully compliant with Government guidance as set out in the UKSPF Prospectus and includes public, private and VCSE representatives.
- 2.3 The Board will be supported by a GMCA UKSPF Officer Team as well as by senior Greater Manchester officers with relevant GM policy portfolio responsibility and serviced by GMCA Democratic Services Team as set out below.
- 2.4 Prior to submission of the GM UKSPF Investment Plan, the Local Partnership Board will have met twice with opportunity to input into the development of the Investment Plan and to ensure they are sighted and supportive of the Plan, subject to GMCA

GM UKSPF Governance



approval.

- 2.5 The UKSPF Prospectus also sets out the role of MPs in UKSPF, in that MPs should be closely engaged in the design and delivery of UKSPF and should be invited to join the Local Partnership Board. GM has 27 MPs which would make this impractical and

as the Prospectus allows, GMCA has established a GM MP UKSPF Engagement Group to which all GM MPs are invited. This sits alongside the regular engagement LAs have with MPs. As well as ensuring MPs views have been sought on the development of the Investment Plan, MPs will be asked to review the GM UKSPF Investment Plan prior to submission and should indicate their support for the Plan. Failure of one or more MPs to support the Investment Plan would not prevent consideration of the Plan by Government.

3. Partner and stakeholder engagement

- 3.1 GMCA has worked closely with all ten local authorities on the development of the Investment Plan. This has included seeking views from the ten Greater Manchester local authorities using briefings, questionnaires and a series of workshops to shape the high-level priorities reflected in the Investment Plan. Named GMCA officers have also been working with each Local Authority alongside GMCA senior Policy Leads to coordinate and inform the development of the Investment Plan.
- 3.2 GMCA has also worked with a range of policy leadership groups including for example Greater Manchester's Directors of Place where membership is the senior Economic Development officers across GM organisations and LAs; the Local Economic Strategy Programme Development Executive which includes public, academic and health leads; the Economic Resilience Group including local authority economic leads, business organisations and other partners; and the GM Employment Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP) which represents wider networks of core public private and civic stakeholders and partners across Greater Manchester's education, skills, employment support and health landscape as well as a number of national partners on the Plan development.
- 3.3 GMCA has engaged with and sought the views of the Greater Manchester private sector and business network representatives as well as a range of providers through our wider governance structures via presentations and discussions. This includes the Greater Manchester Business Representative Organisations and the GM Local Enterprise Partnership. GMCA has also engaged with Greater Manchester universities outlining the GMCA approach to UKSPF investment via existing regular meeting mechanisms.
- 3.4 GMCA recognises the critical importance of VCSE organisations in supporting and delivering the ambitions of Greater Manchester as recognised by GM VCSE Accord framework for collaboration. As a result, officers have worked with the VCSE sector represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group, in the development of the high-level Investment Plan including a VCSE webinar hosted by the VCSE Leadership Group. GMCA officers will ensure the VCSE sector are involved in the Implementation planning stage which will follow submission of the Investment Plan.

4. GM UKSPF Investment Plan Approach

- a. The GM UKSPF Investment Plan builds upon the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) published in early 2022. The principles and shared commitments set out

within the GMS align closely with the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and the primary goal of the UKSPF to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Not only does the GMS make clear the contribution Greater Manchester will make to the national Levelling Up ambitions and missions, but it also recognises the importance and urgency of the need to level up within Greater Manchester, particularly post-pandemic.

- b. The UKSPF Prospectus asks Lead Authorities to develop a high-level Investment Plan for the use of their UKSPF allocation and submit it for approval to Government by 1 August 2022. The short timescale to develop and submit an Investment Plan means that places do not have to identify projects for funding at submission stage, or routes to market, and that places should take a strategic approach to the Plan development in order to take advantage of the significant flexibilities UKSPF offers when compared to previous EU structural funds. Taking this approach, the GM Investment Plan is focussed on a limited number of high-level interventions and outcomes that will allow GM to retain maximum flexibility as well as a holistic approach to delivery over the three-year funding period.
- c. As the GMS recognises the importance of a limited number of cross-cutting priorities, so does the GM Investment Plan. This means that rather than identifying a limited number of dedicated UKSPF interventions across the Investment Plan, our approach to realising our carbon neutrality and environmental ambitions will be woven across all UKSPF investment and implementation in Greater Manchester. The same approach will be taken to reducing inequalities and embedding social value, which are key pillars of the GMS, in that all investment will contribute to increasing equity within and across GM.
- d. Many of the challenges and opportunities outlined in the Investment Plan below cannot be addressed by a single policy area or intervention in isolation; rather, they require an integrated response. Therefore, as part of a wider funding and investment landscape that includes the devolved and integrated Adult Education Budget and Working Well programmes, Future High Streets Funding, Levelling Up Funding, Community Renewal Funding, Community Ownership funding, and local resources raised in the city-region such as through Business Rates, GMCA and partners will work to ensure that all UKSPF programmes are complementary, add additional value and do not duplicate existing activity.
- e. Within the Investment Plan, GMCA has set out the evidenced challenges and opportunities across the three UKSPF Investment Priorities of Communities and Place, Local Business and People and Skills as reflected in the GMS and summarised below (and set out in full in **Annex A**):
 - Communities and Place – the GM Investment Plan focusses on the importance of and challenges our city and town centres and high streets face, as well as our cultural offer and our green spaces, both pre and post pandemic. This sits alongside the importance of using UKSPF to support a strong and sustainable VCSE sector across GM, a sector that evidenced their reach and trusted status within communities during the extended

lockdowns much of GM faced, using the GM VCSE Accord. The Investment Plan highlights the opportunities to use UKSPF to restore and improve our green spaces, city and town centres and high streets, and how culture, creative and heritage assets, organisations and events can re-animate our centres to create exciting places residents and visitors want to visit and business wants to locate.

- Local Business – as evidenced in the GMS and the Local Industrial Strategy, the challenges and causes of low and differential productivity are reflected in the GM UKSPF Investment Plan. The Plan highlights the opportunities for UKSPF investment to support increasing innovation across the frontier and foundation businesses in all parts of GM, support entrepreneurship and the start-up and scale up of new and micro-businesses, as well as creating new economic models via social businesses, and new attractive spaces for businesses to innovate and grow across the city-region's towns and growth locations.
 - People and Skills - There are multi factorial challenges highlighted in the GMS, Prosperity Review and the Local Skills and Labour Market Plan, particularly in the areas of low skills and access to digital inclusion low earning, these more acutely impact the those not in education, employment or training (NEET) the over 50's and those in areas with higher levels of deprivation. With all of these factors in mind, GMCA and Greater Manchester's Employment and Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP) have established four core strategic priorities under which the opportunities and actions around People and Skills can be marshalled, and to which the UKSPF interventions identified will contribute:
 - Young people leave education and training ready to succeed in the labour market, with a balance of academic, technical and 'life ready' skills
 - Adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs throughout their lives, from entering employment for the first time through to highly skilled careers and retraining
 - Employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs in the rapidly changing 21st century world of work, driving a sustainable economic future for GM in which companies compete on the basis of high productivity, good quality work, and excellent employment practices
 - Residents are supported by a welfare system, under Universal Credit, that provides access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't.
- f. The GM UKSPF Investment Plan focusses on a limited number of “overarching” UKSPF interventions, outcomes and outputs within each of the three UKSPF

Investment Priorities that GMCA will report to Government, in order to allow maximum flexibility on delivery over the three years of the fund. These “overarching” interventions will allow a wide range of activity under each, as well as the ability to flex funding over the lifetime of UKSPF, and are set out below

Table 1: GM UKSPF Overarching Interventions

Communities and Place	Local Business	People and Skills
E1 – Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs. (capital and revenue)	E19 – Investment in research and development at the local level	E33 – Employment support for economically inactive people
E3 – Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces	E23 - Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.	E34 – Courses including basic, life and career skills
E6 –Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.	E22 – Enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation sites	E37 – tailored support for the employed to access courses
E11 – Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	E26 – Growing the social economy	

- g. Interventions E11 and E26 are specifically targeting VCSE sector capacity, however GMCA will work with GM local authorities and the GM VCSE Leadership Group to ensure that the VCSE sector plays a significant role across all interventions.
- h. Cross cutting themes reflecting GMS “fairer, greener, more prosperous” and set out in 4.3 above, will be reflected and embedded across all Interventions rather than stand alone.
- i. The Investment Plan will require spend to be identified each year across each of the Interventions identified as well as indicative outcomes/outputs to be achieved by the end of 2024/25. These can be refined as projects and programmes are defined in the coming months.
- j. The interventions, financial allocations and indicative outcomes and outputs are set out in **Annex B**.

5. GM UKSPF Implementation Plan development

- a. As described elsewhere in this report and following the guidance set out in the UKSPF Prospectus, the GM UKSPF Investment Plan is a high-level plan setting out challenges and opportunities GM faces and ensuring the overarching UKSPF

interventions and outcomes identified align with addressing these. This sits alongside assurance that strong governance is in place and that GMCA and partners will be able to develop and deliver on these interventions.

- b. Work will now start on the development of a comprehensive GM UKSPF Implementation Plan. Working with partners and stakeholders GMCA will agree a proportionate and inclusive approach to the development of projects and programmes alongside their strategic fit and deliverability and appropriate routes to market to ensure the highest level of impact over the three years of the UKSPF investment, as well as developing robust communications, reporting, monitoring and performance management systems again proportionate to the scale of investment.
- c. To align with the expected approval of the GM Investment Plan by Government, the Implementation Plan is expected to come to GMCA for approval in October 2022.

6. **Recommendations**

- 6.1 The recommendations can be found at the front of this report.

Annex A:

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Template

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

Overarching strategic context for the UKSPF

Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has a comprehensive understanding of the myriad challenges and opportunities facing Greater Manchester and its people, businesses and places. These are encapsulated in the shared commitments made in the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) – a highly integrated strategy which aims to make Greater Manchester a greener, fairer and more prosperous city-region.

Published in early 2022, the principles and shared commitments set out within the GSM align closely with the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and the primary goal of the UKSPF to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Not only does the GSM make clear the contribution Greater Manchester will make to the national Levelling Up ambitions and missions, but it also recognises the importance and urgency of the need to level up within Greater Manchester, particularly post-pandemic.

As such, the GSM is at the heart of this Investment Plan for UKSPF.

The GSM and the plans and reports contained within will be referenced throughout the three individual Investment Priorities that make up this Investment Plan. However, we wanted to also highlight how the GSM commitments align with the required cross-cutting local and national policies and priorities of the UKSPF as outlined in point 2.6 of the Prospectus and shown below:

Net zero and nature recovery, and supporting green growth

Greater Manchester has already adopted a science-based commitment which gives us a total carbon budget and a carbon neutral target date of 2038 which makes clear our overall net zero ambition and vision for Greater Manchester.

Meeting this ambition requires working in different ways and is why GMCA launched the UK's first regional Clean Growth Mission for Greater Manchester. The Mission focuses both on rapidly reducing our carbon emissions and stimulating business innovation to achieve our goals. It does this by intentionally moving away from 'policy silos' by breaking down the barriers between traditional sectors and groups, thereby enabling the whole of the system to be responsive to the climate emergency and work together to achieve carbon neutrality to the benefit of all our people and places.

In the same way, all partners in Greater Manchester also have a clear commitment to taking the actions outlined in the [Greater Manchester 5-year Environment Plan](#), which sets out what needs to be done – both in terms of urgent action and innovation that will accelerate future change – that will put Greater Manchester on the pathway to become a clean, carbon neutral and climate resilient city-region with a thriving natural environment and circular, zero-waste economy.

In light of the above, this means that rather than identifying a limited number of dedicated UKSPF interventions across the Investment Plan, our approach to realising our carbon neutrality and environmental ambitions will be woven across all UKSPF investment and implementation in Greater Manchester.

Addressing inequalities

The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS), which has equity as one of its three key pillars, has been shaped and informed by the Independent Inequalities Commission and the Marmot review of health equity in Greater Manchester, which have provided expert insight and intelligence into the scale of the inequalities challenge in Greater Manchester, as well as proposing potential solutions.

Their work shows how historical and contemporary systemic and institutionalised discrimination and prejudice has resulted in entrenched inequalities, rooted in long-standing structural issues of poverty and disadvantage. In addition, the impacts of the pandemic have been unequal and unfair, highlighting and deepening inequalities which have existed for many years, and also created new inequalities.

When inequalities are reduced, everyone benefits. This Investment Plan for UKSPF therefore aims to help Greater Manchester level up both across our city-region and nationally and move towards a more equitable society, with all people able to access the opportunities to progress, develop and flourish in their lives. It will do this by making sure that all investment supports our diverse communities appropriately, but it will also actively target resource at the people and places facing the greatest obstacles in life. More information on how GMCA will ensure the UKSPF helps to address inequality can be found in the *Public Sector Equality Duty* of this Investment Plan.

Wider funding landscape

Many of the challenges and opportunities outlined in this Investment Plan cannot be addressed by a single policy area or intervention in isolation; rather, they require an integrated response. Therefore, as part of a wider funding and investment landscape that includes the devolved and integrated Adult Education Budget and Working Well programmes, Future High Streets Funding, Levelling Up Funding, Community Renewal Funding, Community Ownership funding, and local resources raised in the city-region such as through Business Rates, GM will work to ensure that all UKSPF programmes are complementary, adds additional value and do not duplicate existing activity.

Other key principles informing implementation and delivery

In a similar vein to the cross-cutting local and national policies and procedures discussed above, we will also be ensuring that a number of key principles are embedded across all UKSPF programmes, projects and investment throughout the Implementation Plan development phase, which will take place over Summer 2022. These include social value (which will be discussed in more detail in the *Project Selection* section) and the importance of building in and growing digital inclusion across interventions, where appropriate, will also be a key theme.

Further details on the Implementation Plan development can be found in the *Stakeholder Engagement and Support* section of this Investment Plan, but in essence it will see GMCA continue to engage widely with stakeholders across the public, private and VCSE sectors as we determine criteria for the prioritisation of investment, develop projects and programmes or calls as relevant, identify the preferred routes to market and confirm the appraisal, monitoring and risk frameworks.

Local Challenges in Greater Manchester for Communities and Place

Our Places

Although there is a real sense of pride in our local places, the GMS shows the strength of this varies across Greater Manchester, creating a levelling up challenge within the city-region. In 2020/21, the Greater Manchester Police and Crime survey of 13,000 GM residents showed that 72% felt proud of their local area. This ranged from 62% among residents of GM's most deprived areas, up to 85% of those living in least deprived areas. This figure has remained fairly stable since 2019; however it rose to 80% of GM residents during the first lockdown (April to June 2020, total sample of 3,250). This trend has not been sustained among all groups however, with perceptions among younger people rapidly falling below pre-pandemic levels following the first lockdown, potentially as the economic realities set in. Our challenge is to invest in our communities and places to recapture the sense of pride in place evidenced during the pandemic.

As a conurbation, Greater Manchester is unique – a complex and interconnected city-region. Our ten localities are diverse, home to distinctive neighbourhoods, towns, cities, and the regional centre, each with its own identity, its own characteristics and its own community and cultures, alongside six strategic growth locations – strategic sites that that will drive transformational economic growth alongside our city and town centres.

Many of our high streets, town and city centres were struggling pre-pandemic, with the growth in online retail, lack of diversity in the high street and a tired day and night-time offer leading to increases in vacant units, decreasing footfall and increases in anti-social behaviour. The impact of the pandemic on

our town and city centres and high streets has been significant and unequal across Greater Manchester, and has in many places only served to accelerate the pre-pandemic challenges. This has been reflected in a number of surveys conducted with residents across Greater Manchester's towns. One, focussing upon one of our larger town centres, found that:

- 85% of respondents visit the town centre in the daytime but only 27% visit in an evening
- Features of the town centre that were rated 'bad' by residents included:
 - feeling safe after dark (32% of respondents)
 - places to go for entertainment (25%)
 - places to eat / drink (24%).
- A further resident survey of another Greater Manchester town centre found there was:
- A lack of diverse offer: According to the survey findings, 45% of respondents said investment in better leisure facilities would encourage them to visit the town.
- A lack of employment opportunities: The survey showed 40% of respondents would not live in the town centre due to a lack of employment opportunities.
- Varying quality of public realm and disconnected Town Centre: 84% of respondents would not live in the town centre, identifying the town centre environment as a contributing factor.
- Poor maintenance of existing assets: 69% of respondents considered the market and square to be either average or poor.

Post-pandemic, return to town and city centres has been slow and geographically and demographically uneven. The closure of the hospitality sector – as well as cultural assets – during the extended lockdowns Greater Manchester experienced has reduced residents' desire to return, something exacerbated by the staffing/labour market challenges that many businesses in the sector are reporting. We face a significant challenge to bring residents and visitors back to these places and venues and restore pride in our places to ensure our town centres and high streets will once again become the engines of growth for our city-region. In consultation with the ten Greater Manchester local authorities as part of this Investment Plan development, all support regeneration of our city and town centres and high streets, the majority looking at how the culture, creative and arts sector can support the reanimation of these places to increase footfall, creating a more attractive day and night-time environment and in turn, diversifying the offer to rebuild places where people want to live, work and visit.

Greater Manchester's cultural offer has been hard hit by the pandemic, with audiences nervous about returning, and many of the volunteers essential to the operation of many venues unable to return. Nevertheless, Greater Manchester's cultural offer from local arts groups and community theatres to internationally significant organisations are described in resident consultations as one of the things they are most proud of. Greater Manchester faces a challenge to restore and grow easy access for all of our residents to high quality cultural opportunities, recognising the significant benefits this can bring for our places, economy and for resident health and wellbeing and community cohesion.

One of the positives of the pandemic has been a re-found pride in and use of our green spaces. Parks, public gardens and other outdoor spaces have been rediscovered, with clear demand to bring nature closer to and integral to our public realm. However, challenges exist with regards to financing the maintenance and accessibility of these spaces, ensuring they are reflective of and inviting and safe for all residents, and capitalising on the momentum of increased visits during 2020/21 to restore pride in these assets and start to "green" our public realm.

Our communities

The pandemic has highlighted the importance of strong communities who take care of each other, but also shone a light on inequalities such as health and digital access that exist and persist between Greater Manchester and the rest of the country, between localities in Greater Manchester, within localities and across specific groups within our population. The inequalities experienced by Greater Manchester's communities are entrenched, systemic and intergenerational. If we are to achieve equity, we must first understand and respond to the interconnected, complex, and personal causes of inequality. The Greater Manchester UKSPF Implementation Plan will therefore ensure that a focus on equity is woven across all UKSPF programmes, projects and investment.

The Greater Manchester Police and Crime survey mentioned earlier showed that all Local Authorities in Greater Manchester reported a significant improvement in perceptions of their area during the first pandemic lockdown as communities came together with support from our VCSE sector and wider public services. In this, we owe a debt of thanks to our VCSE sector, whose role during the pandemic was of critical importance in locally tailored delivery, as well as a stepping stone for residents and communities to the public sector. The reach and support these local organisations provided created a tangible sense of local pride, bringing communities together to get through difficult times.

It is important that we can build on the role and capacity of the VCSE sector across Greater Manchester to help address the challenges identified in the GMS and across all Investment Priorities in our UKSPF Investment Plan. This has been recognised in the development and application of a unified way of working across VCSE organisations, GMCA, GM Health and Social Care Partnership and the ten local authorities that make up GM – the [GM VCSE Accord](#).

The Accord sets out how signatories will work together with the GM VCSE sector represented by the GM VCSE Leadership Group, to further develop how we work together to improve outcomes for GM's communities and residents by sustaining the valuable work of VCSEs in GM and creating a more resilient sector, including through:

- A shared understanding of the contribution that VCSE organisations make towards tackling inequality in society, creating a more inclusive economy and addressing the climate crisis
- The building of effective partnerships and relationships between the statutory sector with VCSE organisations across different geographies (for example GM-wide, district-wide, or in neighbourhoods and communities)
- A 5-year programme of work which aims to maximise the ability of VCSE organisations to really make a difference in communities and localities

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

Although the challenges set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) relating to communities and place are considerable and will require long term investment at scale, we believe that UKSPF can sit at the heart of addressing some of these challenges, alongside the considerable amount of complementary investment in Greater Manchester's districts linked to the Government's levelling up ambitions.

Greater Manchester and its constituent local authorities understand that our city and town centres and high streets will be the drivers of growth and recovery in Greater Manchester, and that alongside a high-quality environment create places that people want to live, work and visit.

Many of our local authorities have Levelling Up Fund, Future High Streets or Towns Fund programmes that are focussed on regeneration of town and city centres, with a significant proportion focussed on driving restoration and repurposing of cultural and heritage assets in town centres or high streets.

After consultation with our ten local authorities as part of the development of this Investment Plan, we will focus UKSPF investment across four Communities and Place interventions that we believe offer the most impactful opportunities to restore pride in place in our city and town centres, high streets and much-loved green spaces as well as supporting critical social infrastructure. UKSPF activity will complement other levelling up funds and aim to leverage public and private sector investment wherever possible in order to build on the distinctive and unique identity of each place, maximising the local culture, heritage and recreational offers, providing safe, sustainable local centres which are reflective of, and responsive to, the needs of their communities supported by a sustainable VCSE sector.

Firstly, UKSPF will allow us to support our high streets and town centres with investment tailored to each place through a mix of capital and revenue funding to restore the town centre environment and improve the public realm. These investments will be tailored to each place and will drive interest, excitement, local pride and economic growth. The tailored nature of the response to each town centre will determine the scale and range of interventions that will be required to regenerate, diversify and improve the offer and environment in that place. This funding will respond directly to the challenges and opportunities set out in resident surveys about tired high streets and town centres, with a lack of diversity and vibrancy in the offer as well as issues of anti-social behaviour often exacerbating the challenges our centres face.

Secondly, the pandemic connected communities with local green spaces, from formal parks and nature reserves to more informal, and often smaller green and blue spaces. These now much-loved spaces provided opportunities to meet, relax or exercise, improving health and well-being and reducing social isolation, which is challenging when local authority maintenance budgets are limited. There is clear demand from residents for both more and improved existing green spaces which are accessible to all, as well as a strong environmental case for increasing and improving green spaces across Greater Manchester as reflected in the GM Five-Year Environment Plan. Examples could include the creation of new "pocket parks" or greening the public realm in town centres to restoring traditional features of some of our Victorian parks to supporting "Friends of" groups. Projects will be developed during the Implementation Planning phase working with local authority partners whilst ensuring wide community engagement to identify improvements that will create spaces that residents and visitors can be proud of.

Thirdly, there is a strong evidence base that cultural and creative led regeneration creates exciting and vibrant places that people want to live, visit and work in – examples include Manchester's

Northern Quarter, Liverpool's Baltic and Dublin's Temple Bar. More recently, Stockport has been awarded £2.63m from DCMS under the Cultural Development Fund for a new Creative Campus in the heart of the Town Centre, one of only six locations in the UK.

In 2021, the Arts Council published the "A High Street Renaissance". This report found that: 62% of UK adults agree that cultural experiences on the high street give them a sense of pride about their local area.

- More than two thirds of UK adults (69%) agree that cultural experiences on the high street make their local area a better place to live.
- Cultural participation can have a significant positive effect on civic pride among children and young people. The report cites recent academic work that found that children who engage with cultural organisations are 58% more likely to volunteer for those and other local cultural institutions in adulthood, and 78% more likely to donate to those organisations as they grow up.
- 83% of residents who had visited heritage sites or projects in their area agreed that visiting had helped them understand more about the history of their area.
- Multifunctional high streets re-establish them as hubs for social connection and celebrate their roots and unique character. Recent surveying sees tomorrow's city centre as fulfilling many roles: a place to meet friends (91%); and a place to go for arts and culture (83%).

Although challenging to quantify, the same report considered a series of case studies that showed positive impacts of investing in culture in our city and town centres and high streets. Some examples include:

- Vauxhall One16 created Summer Screen, a programme of free open-air screenings in an underused open space, which attracted over 7,000 visitors in its first year – a sharp increase in footfall.
- See No Evil, a street art project in Bristol, turned a derelict thoroughfare into a tourist attraction, with footfall increased by 75% and enquiries about vacant premises increased by 70%.
- 92% of visitors to Lincoln's Great Magna Carta weekend say that the festival inspired them to return to the city, with 18% of visitors to the festival spending over £100 on retail and hospitality in the city.

As described elsewhere, many of Greater Manchester's Levelling Up/Towns Fund/Future High Street programmes have culture-led regeneration at their heart, recognising the evidence set out above. Using UKSPF revenue funding aligned wherever possible with Levelling Up type funding, there is a significant opportunity to invest in arts, cultural and heritage activities to re-animate our city and town centres and high streets, changing a tired day and night-time offer into an exciting and diverse range of activity that is reflective of the unique nature of our places.

Activity will support arts and cultural organisations that are highly valued by Greater Manchester residents and visitors to create programmes of activity that will draw residents and visitors from farther afield, and drive spend, footfall and dwell time. A buoyant visitor economy / hospitality sector will also provide opportunities for employment, skills development, and in-work progression within relevant sectors.

There are multiple examples of cultural events large and small across Greater Manchester, from the internationally significant Manchester International Festival which showcases new talent and programmes to the world, to our first GM Town of Culture programme. The latter was awarded to Bury in 2020, alongside a £50,000 grant from GMCA. Bury put forward an ambitious and exciting programme called "Happy" celebrating the comedienne Victoria Wood in 2021. This hugely successful programme was delivered while the country was under some form of restrictions for more than half the year. Throughout the year there were a host of programmes, initiatives and events, including Happy Festival (with The Halle), investment in local artists and a final two-week festival, Burrs Live, which saw the Bury park play host to Head For The Hills featuring Everything Everything and Badly Drawn Boy.

UKSPF will provide the opportunity to invest in more cultural and creative activities and events across Greater Manchester, bringing arts and culture to much loved places and communities, increasing engagement, supporting places and again celebrating local pride in our places and cultural organisations.

We also recognise that the pandemic allowed residents to reconnect with their neighbourhoods and some of the wealth of heritage assets within Greater Manchester – from the Lancashire Mining Museum in Wigan to Stockport's Hat Museum and Salford's Ordsall Hall. We know that our heritage assets support extensive volunteering programmes that in turn support the health and wellbeing of our residents and reduce isolation. However, many have suffered during the pandemic, losing volunteers

and momentum after extended periods of lockdown but recognising the valuable support provided to many of our cultural and heritage organisations through the national Culture Recovery Fund, there is a real opportunity to grow with local support. We intend to use UKSPF to support our heritage assets to sustain and grow engagement with communities, reinforcing the tangible evidence of pride in our history we saw during 2020 and 2021. Investment will be tailored to each place and detailed plans and programmes will be developed during the UKSPF Implementation Plan development stage that will take place over Summer 2022.

Finally, the challenge of the pandemic led to an increased sense of community spirit, where neighbours and communities came together to support each other, often supported by our local VCSE sector to reach into communities in a way that mainstream provision cannot, to ensure people were supported to access provision and to reduce the risk of isolation during a difficult period.

This often hyper-local activity created a pride in our communities with people getting to know neighbours and local places better and generating in many places a new sense of “ownership” or “investment” with many examples of new community activity from local volunteers litter-picking to new local interest groups forming, all of which create new social and human capital in places which in the past may have felt disconnected. This newfound active citizen empowerment may offer a significant opportunity to support previously disengaged residents and communities to access mainstream provision to help them move closer to employment or volunteering or to become more engaged in their local areas for example.

Again, UKSPF offers a real opportunity to build on this emergent opportunity and particularly how this could be supported and nurtured by our VCSE sector. Greater Manchester is home to over 17,000 voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations who are well-networked with strong, distributed leadership, established communications channels and have evidenced their ability to convene and act as a sector around general or specific strategic challenges. We will work with our localities and VCSE sector through the newly agreed GM VCSE Accord, investing UKSPF alongside GMCA, Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership and Local Authorities to strengthen the social infrastructure capacity across Greater Manchester, which will ensure the VCSE sector is able to support increasing engagement across communities to provide the vital stepping stone to public services.

In light of the challenges and opportunities identified above for the Communities and Place Investment Priority, we feel that the following four interventions will therefore be the most appropriate to meet the relevant shared commitments in the GMS:

E1 – Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, etc

E3 – Creation and improvements to local green spaces, etc

E6 – Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities

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

The GMS includes the following shared commitments that are relevant to the UKSPF Communities and Place Investment Priority:

- We will drive investment into our growth locations and use that to create opportunities in adjacent town and local centres
- We will enable the delivery of resilient, safe and vibrant communities
- We will reduce health inequalities experienced by GM residents, and drive improvements in physical and mental health
- We will create a carbon neutral GM by 2038, with better air quality and natural environment
- We will ensure digital inclusion for all.

The selected interventions will also contribute to the overarching national Levelling Up Mission 9: *By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing* as well as the associated objectives that link to Missions 7, 8 and 11.

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

The [Greater Manchester Strategy \(GMS\)](#) commits GMCA to creating a greener, fairer and more prosperous Greater Manchester. It also embeds a vision for our economy that will enable Greater Manchester to lead local and UK economic recovery and development. This will be done by

capitalising on Greater Manchester's assets and the opportunities for economic growth – through the regional centre, towns and our growth locations – recognising our city-region can, and needs to be, at the heart of driving social and economic innovation, and with a renewed focus on people and planet first.

This vision and ambition commits us to adopting new approaches to innovation, in order to diversify the business base, transform ways of working, build vibrant places, create future resilience, support pathways to work and tackle social issues. As our economy rebuilds and recovers from the challenges created and exacerbated by the pandemic, we will support our businesses to grow and develop. This includes recognising the key role that a skilled and talented workforce plays in a successful business and thus the importance of ensuring that our education and skills provision is focussed on business need. In tandem this requires us to ensure that employment opportunities are accessible for our residents – as they have the skills required by employers.

The GMS commits us to working with our diverse business base to attract new investment, drive innovation and development across sectors, and continue to develop collaborative, positive partnerships with our business community to drive prosperity throughout the city-region, supported by our five universities providing research and academic excellence.

The GMS includes the following shared commitments that are relevant to the UKSPF Supporting Local Business Investment Priority:

- We will drive investment into our growth locations and use that to create opportunities in adjacent town and local centres.
- We will realise the opportunities from our world-class growth and innovation assets, driven by our [Places for Everyone Plan](#), Local Growth Plans and [Industrial Strategy](#) to open up opportunities in all parts of the city-region.
- We will support our businesses to grow sustainably and be as prosperous as they can be.
- We will support the creation of better jobs and good employment that has a purpose beyond growing shareholder value, utilising the opportunity to positively impact on our communities.
- We will ensure businesses are able to access the skills and talent they need, and people are able to realise their full potential – by provision of high-quality learning and wrapping support around individuals – with access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't.

The GMS also integrates the science-based target GM has already adopted which gives us a total carbon budget and a carbon neutral target date of 2038. Urgent action is needed, together with innovation that will accelerate future change. Action needs to start now, using the tools and technologies already available as well as to stimulate innovation in new technologies and processes, in new business models and in how we are all engaged, educated and upskilled. GM recognises that moving quickly on decarbonisation holds the key to enabling better jobs, more sustainable businesses and good lives for all. This is why we launched the UK's first regional Clean Growth Mission for Greater Manchester via our Local Industrial Strategy, mobilising everyone around our mission for a carbon neutral city-region and breaking down the barriers between traditional sectors and groups. The Mission focuses both on rapidly reducing our carbon emissions and stimulating business innovation to achieve our goals. Our ways of working in support of the attainment of the Clean Growth Mission enables the adoption of approaches that are reflective of the links, complexities and roles of individuals, agencies and networks in delivering the agreed aims. The approach focuses on problem-solving challenges facing society, which require many different sectors' involvement to solve.

As well as the commitments on Low Carbon, the GMS adopts and takes forwards the other priorities in the Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy and the robust evidence base provided by the Greater Manchester Independent Prosperity Review (GM IPR) – the evidence base for Greater Manchester's Local Industrial Strategy and economic policy. In 2019 the GM IPR – chaired by Professor Diane Coyle – was led by a panel of six eminent economists¹ who provided an assessment of Greater Manchester's economy and the factors contributing to its performance. This included the challenges relating to productivity improvements and ensuring businesses and people in all parts of the city-region were becoming more productive and more prosperous. The review combined analysis of the latest official statistics available with bespoke commissioned research and insights from innovation and economic theory to provide recommendations for policy, strategy, devolution and commissioning / service design in GM.

The IPR placed a great deal of emphasis on tackling inequalities as part of GM's economic strategy, one example being the correlation between sluggish productivity improvements on the one hand and limiting long-term physical and mental health conditions on the other. The Reviewers noted that GM had begun responding to these issues through the roll-out of the [Good Employment Charter](#), and Working Well (Work and Health) Programmes (and now more recently the Real Living Wage campaign in the city-region), but recommended tackling inequalities should continue to be a core focus of economy strategy.

The primary challenges affecting Greater Manchester's business base and productivity identified by the review included:

- Productivity levels in Greater Manchester have long been around 10% lower than the national average, and the severity of the shock caused to UK labour productivity during the financial crisis and subsequent recession means productivity growth in GM (as nationally) has remained stubbornly low ever since.
- Differences in productivity within sectors account for more of the shortfall in productivity in GM than differences between sectors – i.e. there are high productivity and low productivity firms in every one of our sectors, meaning GM will continue to benefit from actions that improve the foundations of productivity across our whole economy.
- Key factors that were thought to explain GM's lower productivity compared to other cities in England include the lower proportion of highly-skilled residents; the lower number of managerial and professional jobs; and the proportion of jobs in science and technology sectors.
- The strong number of start-ups/per population appears to have been a significant driver of productivity performance for GM compared to other city-regions, and GM has a higher proportion of start-ups per head than the UK average (NB recent research shows this has fallen more in GM than elsewhere during the pandemic, but that GM still has a higher proportion of start-ups per head).
- There are a significant proportion of older small firms that have decided not to or have not been able to scale-up.
- GM's export value per head of population was £2,380 – significantly lower than comparator areas like Birmingham (£6,141), Bristol (£4,639), and Leeds (£2,582).
- Business investment in R&D and innovation was lower in GM than comparable city-regions, and analysis of total intramural R&D expenditure (i.e. R&D undertaken 'within the walls of firms') showed R&D spending had fallen since the 2008 recession. The main challenges identified by businesses were a lack of finance to support innovation, low in-house knowledge and skills to develop and manage innovation, and low knowledge of funding and support for innovation.
- The IPR also found a strong link between productivity and health in GM, citing the potential to reduce the productivity gap between the North and the UK average by 30% through increasing participation in the workforce by addressing ill health. It also found that working people in the North experiencing a spell of ill health were 39% more likely to lose their job compared to their counterparts in the rest of England.
- The picture of productivity change varies within GM, depending upon the mix of local employment sectors and the value of the economic activities within sectors performed locally.

In conclusion, the IPR Panel recommended that business support activity should therefore be coordinated to radically improve the productivity of businesses across all sectors by:

- Strengthening the leadership and management capacity of business leaders, including leaders from all minority groups and female business leaders.
- Increasing innovation adoption.
- Raising levels of exports and investment in international trade.
- Increasing Good Employment and job quality.
- Increasing skills utilisation.
- Supporting the evolution of sectors that are large employers in GM like retail, hospitality and care to increase their capacity for innovation and transition to higher value business models, providing good and well-paid work.
- More piloting and testing of innovative approaches to business support – particularly around support for better health in the workforce.

The IPR Panel reconvened in 2020 in light of the pandemic, which reinforced the conclusions of the 2019 review, and led the panel to urge GM to take further steps to:

- [Support] businesses in the foundational economy in Greater Manchester to adopt a sustainable footing, enabling them to identify ways to adopt higher value business models while preventing further employment losses.
- Encourage better management in the 'long tail' of firms, including those whose sustainability is threatened by this crisis.

As part of the preparation for the UKSPF investment plan, Greater Manchester's local authorities and Business Representative Organisations were asked to define the challenges affecting businesses in their localities. Challenges that were identified by multiple stakeholders included the following, which echo the issues and calls to action in the IPR and commitments in the GMS:

- Limits around the availability of the right kinds of space for the different kinds of sectoral growth needed to e.g. shift more economic activity into technical and science-led activity as recommended by the IPR. Examples given included: creating spaces for Advanced Manufacturing in Bury; office space – inc. digital, innovation, start-up and grow on space in Wigan; good quality industrial and creative space in Salford; high quality office-based innovation spaces in Heywood, Middleton, Stockport and Littleborough; and grow-on space connected to Ashton Old Baths in Tameside.
- A declining town centre retail offer, in particular the presence of void / wrong-sized units and the need to diversify town-centres including by supporting the growth of the night time or experiential economy outside the regional centre.
- The need to address the uneven economic growth identified by the IPR, which noted accelerated growth around assets in areas such as the Regional Centre, Oxford Road Corridor, Salford Quays and Manchester Airport linked to tradeable frontier sectors and clusters of knowledge-economy jobs, whilst performance in GM's town centres has been more mixed, and areas of significant deprivation remain including in neighbourhoods close to growth assets.
- The complexity of transitioning from a low pay / low skills economy and growing knowledge economy jobs, as well as the need to increase businesses' resilience and ambition after the pandemic and during ongoing economic shocks.
- Transitioning businesses to net zero – which is both a challenge and an opportunity, as the IPR recognised. Some authorities highlighted this for specific types of business e.g. manufacturing, logistics and engineering firms and SMEs.
- The need to support businesses with a longer pipeline of innovation-related support than is presently available nationally – i.e. access-style support that would enable business leaders to subsequently connect with more ambitious programmes like Made Smarter or angel investors or University-led programmes and business innovation networks.
- The need for export grants and support in response to the new international trading regime post EU-exit, e.g. intellectual property advice and help financing market visits and meetings with potential partners.

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

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

The Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS) adopts the evidence from the Independent Prosperity Review (see challenges section above) and GM Local Industrial Strategy that sets out Greater Manchester's assets, research excellence (driven by a world class higher education sector), talent and innovation potential within the frontier sectors of clean growth: UK's first city-region Clean Growth Mission; health innovation: largest life sciences cluster outside South East England with high potential opportunities in diagnostics and healthy ageing; advanced materials and manufacturing: home of graphene and complementary advanced manufacturing base, and digital, creative and media: significant clusters in cyber security, broadcasting, culture, content creation and media.

The GMS recognises that a focus on our frontier and tradeable sectors has the potential to drive local and UK growth, create the jobs of the future, as well as address some of society's biggest challenges including achieving net zero carbon emissions and meeting the challenges of an ageing population. Driving the growth of these sectors through increased R&D and a culture of creative innovation across our wider business base will help to increase investment and productivity, and create future jobs, both locally and for the UK.

Our ability to connect with the world is also central to improving our productivity, promoting our strengths, attracting investment and talent, driving international research collaboration and increasing our export propensity. Following the pandemic, maintaining and developing our international links will be vital to the city-region's prosperity but our connections with other places will also support us to address shared challenges including climate change and inequality.

Ensuring our approach to industry and investment translates into growth, innovation and opportunity in all parts of Greater Manchester going forward is central to the GMS. Our focus is therefore not just on our frontier sectors, but also to develop the foundational economy within Greater Manchester, to support the creation of higher paid and better jobs.

The foundational economy supplies everyday but essential goods and services, ensuring the effective functioning of society and the economy, and it makes up a large proportion of the jobs and businesses in Greater Manchester. The true value of many of our foundational economy sectors and workers was never more apparent than during the pandemic response, with many foundational economy sectors employing key workers, providing the essential services needed through the emergency response and beyond. The value of these economies will also be essential to the recovery of our town centres, cities and high streets, not least the significant foundational jobs in the night time economy, and hospitality specifically, which needs our support to grow back better, stronger and fairer.

As we drive economic prosperity we will continue to celebrate, support and develop new economic models. The social economy currently makes up around 20% of the economy and the sector is important in addressing inequalities with The Kruger Report highlighting that 30% of jobs created in the poorest neighbourhoods are in social enterprises. As part of our wider programme of activity focused on foundational economy sectors, we will support the role of social enterprises, co-ops and 'non-extractive' business which can provide wider opportunities for Greater Manchester's people and places, enabling a different pattern of wealth distribution, to the greater benefit of more of our society, including Community Wealth Building, taking a people-centred, co-designed approach to economic development, which redirects a greater share of wealth back into local places and benefitting local people.

The Independent Prosperity Review also identified economy-wide factors affecting opportunities for economic growth and development in the city-region, including:

- Greater Manchester has the most diverse economy in the UK – creating many routes to growth and improvement – including through the development of new specialist sub-sectors and niches.
- GM has productive businesses in every sector of its economy, with the highest productivity being Financial and Professional Services, Utilities, Advanced Manufacturing, and Digital Industries.
- The frontiers of GM's economy include businesses, innovator and science and technology that has the potential to address some of society's biggest challenges, as well as increasing investment and creating future industries and jobs locally and for the UK.
- GM is the global gateway to the North of England, at the centre of the Northern Powerhouse with assets, particularly in our four frontier sectors, important to UK's global standing, driving innovation and technological change in solving some of the world's biggest social and environmental challenges.
- Productivity improvements have been achieved recently – despite a context that was far more challenging than the one that preceded the global financial crisis – driven by continued growth in output and employment in high value economic activities, and among GM businesses that are exporters or trade internationally.
- The potential for further GM-wide productivity improvements, along with the prospects for spreading the benefits of high value employment growth to all areas of GM, depend substantially on a continuation and strengthening of the positive trends seen in the last ten years. This has implications for a broad range of policy areas, including transport, planning and housing, and trade and inward investment.
- Over the long term, efforts to support the development of new business models and more effective services and management practices in the foundational economy should create opportunities for productivity improvements, better quality services and improvements in job quality and levels of equality in the city-region.

The IPR Panel reconvened in 2020 in light of the pandemic and provided further advice for accelerating progress against their recommendations relating to GM's business and economic opportunities. These included:

- Protecting and accelerating growth in GM's world-class strengths via substantial government investment and long-term R&D funding in strong local collaborations and supporting investment in places (e.g. within identified Manufacturing Innovation Parks).
- Building back better post-pandemic and reaping productivity rewards from pursuing higher value business models across the economy as a whole – including supporting international linkages, strong leadership and management, and better skills utilisation and innovation. These are proven, through the research for the Prosperity Review, to have tangible productivity outputs.
- Supporting businesses to raise employment standards in order to support the pursuit of higher productivity initiatives as a key priority post pandemic.
- Looking to take advantage of the opportunities from the technological innovation and behavioural and practical changes needed to avert an environmental crisis and reach GM's 2038 zero-carbon ambitions. This could include further training and opportunities for skilled employment in innovative green sector firms; mechanisms for spin-out companies to develop easily; and access to funding and support for green innovation activities.

As part of the development of the UKSPF Investment Plan, GM's local authorities and Business Representative Organisations were asked to define the opportunities to support businesses in their localities. Opportunities identified by multiple stakeholders included a number that directly confirm and carry-forward the IPR recommendations:

- Increasing business R&D capacity via specialist support linked to innovation / R&D including:
 - Developing the Innovation-Greater Manchester initiative, including seeking complementary alignment between UKSPF and the GM Innovation Accelerator Pilot with Government announced in the Levelling Up White Paper.
 - Stepping-stones on to Made Smarter and innovation programmes
 - Mentorship for firms completing innovation programmes
 - Engaging growth potential businesses to identify support for their future R&D activity
- Continuing to provide a core business support offer that adds value to existing support, working in conjunction with the already established Greater Manchester Growth Hub, to support GM's diverse business base including:
 - Greater support for district centres and smaller local centres particularly focused on retail (which was previously out of scope for ERDF)
 - Sector specific support (such as in the green tech, manufacturing, health innovation and digital sectors)
 - Start up and scale up support and support to improve business resilience amongst micro-firms
 - Moving to higher value, higher skill and higher wage business models – e.g. via Build a Business
 - Raising awareness of business support and related offers.
- Supporting the transition to Net Zero and industrial decarbonisation, including for manufacturing, engineering, and logistics firms. Stockport are already creating 110,000 sq.ft. of light industrial space at Cheadle Eco Park, which aims to achieve the highest sustainability standards and been net zero in both construction and operation.
- Working to support alternative enterprises (CIC, SE, Co-Ops etc) and social innovation.
- Support to attract high value businesses and jobs to Growth Locations – e.g. innovation roadmaps supported and promoted by local businesses and attractive to inward investors.
- Co-working spaces to address a lack of co-working capacity and support for very early-stage businesses.
- The potential to create attractive places for businesses to locate and invest in conjunction with developing the retail, night time, cultural and creative offers around town centres.

There are also opportunities that come from the 'Ways of Working' that set out how we will deliver the GMS. We are committed to linking different funding streams and activity to create added-value and 'crowd-in' investment around our core commitments. For the Supporting Local Business Investment Priority, the particularly relevant funding sources will be Retained Business Rates, Towns Fund, Levelling Up Fund and the funding that is agreed with Government under the Innovation Accelerator Pilot.

In light of the challenges and opportunities identified above for the Supporting Local Business Investment Priority, we feel that the following four interventions will therefore be the most appropriate to meet the relevant shared commitments in the GMS. In doing so they will also contribute to the overarching national Levelling Up Mission 9: *By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing* as well as the associated objectives that link to Missions 1 and 2.

- E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices.
- E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places.
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
- E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.

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

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

The evidence on Greater Manchester's primary labour market and skills-related challenges is contained in a number of key reports (for example, the [Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan](#), [Greater Manchester Strategy \(GMS\)](#) and the technical reports for its [Industrial Strategy](#)).

Greater Manchester's goal is to deliver ambitious improvements in skills and employment for the 2.8 million people living in the city-region. Central to this is developing a responsive, integrated labour market system that enables all people to achieve their full potential and which provides the talent that Greater Manchester's businesses need for the future.

The GMS includes the following shared commitments that are relevant to the UKSPF People and Skills Investment Priority:

- We will support the creation of better jobs and good employment that has a purpose beyond growing shareholder value, utilising the opportunity to positively impact on our communities;
- We will ensure businesses are able to access the skills and talent they need, and people are able to realise their full potential – by provision of high-quality learning and wrapping support around individuals – with access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't.

The pandemic has been felt unequally, hitting more deprived areas harder. As the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) data shows, Greater Manchester figures prominently in deprivation measures. Just over a fifth of the neighbourhoods in Greater Manchester fall into the bottom 10% of most deprived neighbourhoods nationally in respect of employment and income. Meanwhile, in terms of skills deprivation, 13% of Greater Manchester neighbourhoods fall into the bottom 10%, although this masks significant variation between districts (in Oldham, for example, 30% of neighbourhoods are amongst the most deprived on skills).

The pandemic has created particular problems around increased rates of economic inactivity. The economic inactivity rate at the end of 2021 in Greater Manchester was just under 25% (24.5% in GM compared with 23.4% nationally). As always, city-regional figures mask the scale in individual districts. In Oldham 32.4% were inactive (Rochdale and Bolton had 30% inactive).

These constitute high proportions and suggest a need for integrated programmes of bespoke support to help people facing multiple and complex barriers back towards/into the labour market. Evidence suggests the rise is driven primarily by health considerations and is concentrated among men.

For example, among 50 to 64-year-olds, inactivity rates in Greater Manchester were hovering just under 30% in 2021. For the UK as a whole the proportion was 26%. Among younger people, the Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rates are high (about 16% of 16 to 24-year-olds in Greater Manchester). Furthermore, inactivity remains a particular issue among certain social groups. Members of ethnic minority communities are significantly more likely to be inactive in Greater Manchester (32% for working age ethnic minority people compared with 21.5% for white working age people in 2021 – and the proportion inactive was as high as 43% among ethnic minority communities in districts such as Bolton).

In addition to heightened inactivity, Greater Manchester also has a range of other significant labour market challenges. These include:

- A traditional challenge is low skills (8.3% of the population in GM do not have qualifications). In some parts of GM this proportion goes higher (in Manchester, Oldham and Rochdale more than 10% of the population do not have any qualifications; this compares with a national average without qualifications of 6.7%). Meanwhile, there are clear gaps between GM and national averages at other qualification levels. For example, on level 4+ – the kind of skill levels associated with professional and managerial work – there is a pronounced gap, whereby 39% of Greater Manchester's residents have a level 4 qualification compared with 43% as the national average. In some of GM's districts, the proportion with level 4 skills is much lower – as low as 26% in Tameside and 29% in Oldham. This links to an ongoing issue with lower productivity in the city-region. Productivity is about 10% below the UK average and the gap seems to have widened in recent years.
- Basic and digital skills levels are also an issue, as is digital exclusion which, in an increasingly online world, goes beyond skills for residents with limited access to digital devices and experiencing data poverty. In turn, this affects the quality of life of GM residents, as well as their ability to participate in the labour market, and to access the skills and employment services/provision that might enable them to do so.
- The issue of job quality is also increasingly apparent. This is unlikely to be addressed by skills interventions alone. Job quality is a complex term, but if judged by wages, just under a fifth of GM's employees earn less than a living wage (a similar proportion fall below the low pay threshold of two thirds of the median). Again, some districts of GM have far higher proportions (e.g., In Tameside, 28.4% earn less than a living wage). It is difficult to progress from low wage work in many large sectors such as retail, hospitality, care and cleaning. The issue of low pay also links to concern about low productivity in the city-region and is a long-standing challenge; even prior to the pandemic, average pay in GM had not recovered to levels seen before the 2008/09 financial crisis.
- Ageing society and older workers: Whilst employers and funders often prioritise training for young people, demographic change means that by 2041 the over-50 population is expected to account for 83% of forecasted total population growth. GM has below national average economic activity rates for over-50s, a situation worsened by the pandemic, with older workers more likely to experience long-term unemployment and economic inactivity – in effect, entering unplanned and often involuntary early retirement. As many as 80% of the 'missing million' of individuals who have moved into economic inactivity as a result of the pandemic are aged over 50, and ONS data shows that one-third of unemployed people aged over 50 have been out of work for at least a year, while one in five have been out of work for at least two years; this compares with 20% and 8% of those aged under 50 respectively. With traditional employment support less effective for older workers, there is a need to maintain and update the currency of work-relevant knowledge and skills, and to build on the activity in partnership between GM and the Centre for Ageing Better that has made Greater Manchester the first place in the UK recognised by the World Health Organisation as an age-friendly city-region.
- In addition to the proportion of young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), ensuring that our young people have clear lines of sight into the labour market, together with the support, advice and opportunities to help them get there, is crucial. During the pandemic, the number of employer encounters and other opportunities shown to reduce the risk of periods of worklessness in the longer term dropped significantly, and the impact on young people's health, well-being and aspirations is likely to be significant. This was reflected

in the [Bee Well survey](#) carried out in 2021 that captured the voices of 40,000 young people and showed amongst other things that:

- Sleep: 40% of young people say they do not normally get enough sleep to feel awake and concentrate on schoolwork during the day. The average time spent on social media is 4.4 hours a day.
- Physical activity: 67% of young people are still getting involved in sport outside of school at least once a week, while 4 in 5 feel they have good, very good or excellent physical health. However, only 1 in 3 young people are reaching the recommended levels of physical activity.
- Ensuring the 'system' functions to enable transitions remains an important challenge for the city-region. Connecting skills providers with information from businesses about their needs, and connecting young people, job-hunters and those seeking to retrain/up-skill with information about careers, progression pathways and skills provision are both critical steps, enabled by sectoral Skills Intelligence [reporting](#) and close partnership working between different local actors and co-ordinated through the Employment and Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP).

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

Documents which set out GM's priorities for reform include the [Prosperity Review](#) (part of the process of developing the [Industrial Strategy](#)), the [Greater Manchester Strategy \(GMS\)](#) and [Local Skills Report and Labour Market Plan](#) referenced in the challenges section above.

Whilst the challenges are significant, so too are the opportunities. In particular, GM holds a unique range of devolved/delegated functions which, with strong alignment between devolved and national activity, has the potential to deliver substantially more in terms of positive outcomes than simply the sum of the parts. With our devolved adult skills functions/Adult Education Budget, the GM Working Well (Work & Health Programme) suite of employment support, devolved health & social care, and other individual programmes/initiatives, there is an opportunity to create progression pathways towards, into, and within the labour market – especially those sectors with inclusive growth potential – to help our residents get ahead in life and in work.

With all of these factors in mind, GMCA and Greater Manchester's Employment and Skills Advisory Panel (ESAP) have established four core strategic priorities under which the opportunities and actions around People and Skills can be marshalled, and to which the UKSPF interventions identified will contribute:

- **Young people leave education and training ready to succeed in the labour market**, with a balance of academic, technical and 'life ready' skills
- **Adults can acquire the skills, mindset and support they need** to fulfil their career potential and adapt to changing employer needs throughout their lives, from entering employment for the first time through to highly-skilled careers and retraining
- **Employers have access to a system that is flexible, resilient and adaptable, and which meets their needs in the rapidly changing 21st century world of work**, driving a sustainable economic future for GM in which companies compete on the basis of high productivity, good quality work, and excellent employment practices
- Residents are supported by a welfare system, under Universal Credit, that provides **access to good work for those who can, support for those who could, and care for those who can't**.

The Local Industrial Strategy identifies several proposals as opportunities. These include ensuring business engagement, supporting quality learning provision, initiatives to help low earners progress in

work, supporting employers to retain older workers and those with health problems and securing high-quality apprenticeship opportunities.

The [Local Skills Report & Labour Market Plan 2022/23](#) identified a range of opportunities for the city-region relating to people and skills, including but not limited to:

1. Continuing to develop services and programmes that support life- and work-readiness for those furthest from the labour market, including skills and employment support but also wider life and career skills such as financial literacy, digital inclusion, and health & wellbeing support. This includes developing a commissioning strategy for the Adult Education Budget from the 2023/24 academic year onwards that complements and aligns with employment support and other skills activity, including relevant aspects of UKSPF and Multiply, while avoiding duplication, competition and displacement.
2. Developing targeted test and learn activity to tackle barriers and support progression towards, into and within work, including tailoring support for priority cohorts of residents and/or communities of identity, including those with protected characteristics, who might be disproportionately under-represented in the labour market or otherwise experiencing complex / multiple barriers to accessing education, training, employment and related services.
3. Aligning relevant skills and employment support services/interventions across GM's public services, including the VCSE sector and health/social care networks, in ways that maximise the reach and impact of those interventions and recognise the strong links between health, skills and work, especially for those who are (or who are at risk of becoming) economically inactive.
4. Completing/taking forward findings from employer-led industry skills and labour market intelligence reports in key sectors, to strengthen links between employers' needs and the skills offer/curriculum. In the short term, courses designed and commissioned in response to these intelligence reports have been delivered via GM's ESF Skills for Growth programme which concludes in Sept 2023, leaving a gap in tailored support for the employed to access skills provision.
5. Working with employers and education/training providers to increase opportunities in technical education for both young people and adults (including T-levels, Traineeships, Apprenticeships and higher technical qualifications), ensuring that GM has a thriving technical skills landscape that is shaped by timely labour market information, supported by a careers offer with clear lines of sight and progression pathways into/within careers, and delivered by a skills and employment support landscape that is easily navigated by individuals and employers alike.
6. Work with employers to shift the skills dialogue and drive demand for / investment in upskilling and better skills utilisation, leveraging mechanisms such as the [GM Good Employment Charter](#).
7. Greater Manchester's ambition for carbon neutrality by 2038 and the clean growth challenge as set out in GM's Five Year Environment Plan carries multiple skills opportunities and challenges, including (but not limited to) investing in innovation and development of new technologies, new approaches to the design, construction and maintenance of cleaner buildings, transport and other infrastructure, ensuring that the skills are in place to update and retrofit the existing infrastructure, and supporting businesses, communities and residents to develop their 'carbon literacy' and adopt cleaner practices. These matters are being considered in detail within the sector deep dives, both in relation to Low Carbon Buildings and the Green Economy, and to the wider implications in other sectors, such as Manufacturing, Logistics and Rail.
8. Our ambitions to be one of the best places in the world to grow up, get on and grow old, and to be recognised as a world-leading digital city-region, cannot be realised unless we focus on getting the foundations right. The ability to get online and to function safely and effectively is vital in an increasingly digital world, and baseline digital skills and proficiency in common software/tools are an entry ticket into the labour market. Greater Manchester has prioritised

access to digital skills and an enhanced entitlement within our devolved AEB funding policy that goes beyond the statutory minimum (Level 1), supporting relevant learning which meets the Essential Digital Skills Framework up to and including Level 2.

In addition, the recent dedicated consultation with local authorities that took place as part of the development of the UKSPF Investment Plan sought to understand district prioritisation of challenges and opportunities. This consultation included a workshop that brought partners together, including a local DWP representative. Key priority areas included:

- Employment support programmes for example Skills for Growth and Working Well
- Need for more skills development in areas for the future such as green skills
- Greater support for local schemes e.g. Youth Hub and New Pioneers projects, in-work progression projects and women's start-up networks.

Alongside these priorities were a series of ideas for future projects including ideas for better system functioning, proposals to address low skills, unemployment, inactivity, basic skills and green skills; and calls or greater efforts to address the preponderance of low wage, low skill work in local authority areas.

In light of the challenges and opportunities identified above for the People and Skills Investment Priority, we feel that the following three interventions will therefore be the most appropriate to meet the relevant shared commitments in the GMS. In doing so they will also contribute to the overarching national Levelling Up Mission 9: *By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing* as well as the associated objectives that link to Missions 1, 6, 7 and 8.

E33 – Employment support for economically inactive people

E34 – Courses including basic, life and career skills

E37 – Tailored support for the employed to access courses

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

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

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

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	•
Jobs safeguarded	
Increased footfall	
Increased visitor numbers	•
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	
Increased use of cycleways or paths	
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	

Improved perception of safety	
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	
Improved engagement numbers	•
Improved perception of events	
Increased number of web searches for a place	
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	•
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
None of the above	

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. (capital and revenue)

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

E6 – Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities

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

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

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	•
Jobs safeguarded	•
Increased footfall	
Increased visitor numbers	
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	•
Number of new businesses created	•
Improved perception of markets	
Increased business sustainability	
Increased number of businesses supported	
Increased amount of investment	
Improved perception of attractions	
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	•
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	•
Number of new to market products	
Number of R&D active businesses	
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	
Increased number of innovation plans developed	
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	

Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	
Number of businesses with improved productivity	•
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

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

Intervention
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>
E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices.
E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow, and innovate, including through local networks.
E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises.

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

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	
Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	•
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	•
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	•
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	•
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	
Number of people in education/training	
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	•
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	•
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	•
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing)	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	•

Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	•
None of the above	

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

Intervention

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

E33 – Employment support for economically inactive people

E34 – Courses including basic, life and career skills

E37 – tailored support for the employed to access courses

Annex B: GM UKSPF Intervention and Allocation Overview

IP	Intervention	Funding Allocation	As % of IP Allocation	Indicative Outputs / Outcomes
Communities & Place	E1 – Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs. (capital and revenue)	£ 14,553,000	54%	Outputs: • Commercial buildings developed or improved sqm: 7,577 sqm (incl. E22) • Rehabilitated land sqm: 5,038 sqm (includes E22) • Public realm created or improved: 1,000 sqm • Local events or activities supported: 53 • Organisations receiving grants: Min. 10 Outcomes: • Jobs created: 800 (includes E22) • % increase in visitor numbers: 5% • No. of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes: 53 • % improvement in VCSE engagement: 5% • Greenhouse gas reductions (tonnes): TBC
	E3 – Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces	£ 5,390,000	20%	
	E6 - Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities	£ 5,390,000	20%	
	E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.	£ 1,663,571	6%	
	Communities & Place Total	£ 26,996,571	32%	
Local Business	E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices	£ 5,775,000	18%	Outputs: • Potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready: 2,736 • Businesses receiving non-financial support: 4,394 • Businesses receiving financial support other than grants: 4,394 • Businesses receiving grants: 647 • Number of people attending training schemes to help set up new co-operative businesses: 393 Outcomes: • Jobs created/safeguarded: 1,744 • New businesses created: 1,233 • Businesses with improved productivity: 956 • Businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes 636 • Organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity: 152 • Greenhouse gas reductions (tonnes): TBC
	E22 (also under Communities and Place): Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places	£ 15,000,000	48%	
	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow, and innovate, including through local networks	£ 9,900,000	31%	
	E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises	£ 825,000	3%	
	Local Business Total	£ 31,500,000	38%	
People & Skills	E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.	£ 11,000,000	50%	Outputs: c10,000 people to be support under this intervention of which: • Economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services: 4,400 • People supported to access basic skills: 3,300 • People supported to engage in job searching: 3,300 • People receiving support to gain employment: 1,100 • People supported to engage in life skills: 2,600 • People in employment engaging with the skills system: 3,000 Outcomes: • Increased active or sustained participants in community groups (and/or) increased employability through development of interpersonal skills: 2,640 • People with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL): 4,425 • People engaged in job searching following support: 2,640 • People in employment, including self-employment, following support: 660 • People gaining qualifications, licences and skills: 2,250 • Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision: 1,560
	E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills** provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.	£ 4,400,000	20%	
	E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.	£ 6,600,000	30%	
	People & Skills Total	£ 22,000,000	26%	
Total	Investment Priority TOTAL	£ 80,496,571	96%	NB: All outputs/outcomes submitted with the Investment Plan will be indicative at this stage. MCAs/LAs are awaiting further technical guidance including output and outcome definitions & contract monitoring arrangements to assist discussions with DLUHC.
	Management Costs TOTAL	£ 3,354,024	4%	
	GM UKSPF Allocation TOTAL	£ 83,850,595		