



UK Government

**LEVELLING  
— UP —**

# UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2  
May 2022

Your location

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

Select the lead authority

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

Your details

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Organisation name Mid Suffolk District Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

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

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

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

Mid Suffolk is amongst the least deprived third of Local Authority areas in England, but relative deprivation is rising. Deprivation is made more challenging as it is often hidden, dispersed amongst areas with more affluent households. Housing costs are high, which when combined with low wages and skills levels, and now increased unemployment and significantly more people claiming out of work benefits, leads to financial hardship, ill health and inequality. Homelessness has risen during the pandemic, as has food poverty. We have comparatively high levels of fuel poverty. As an aging demographic, dementia is a growing issue and there is a need to support our growing aging population to remain independent and in good health for as long as possible. Mental health issues have increased during the pandemic for all age groups and referrals to mental health services have risen significantly. Domestic abuse has also increased. Isolation and loneliness has become an even bigger issue over the last year for both young and old. A quarter of the population don't take regular exercise and 1:4 year 6 children are overweight or obese. Anti-Social Behaviour and County Lines drug related issues are an issue of concern in some parts of the districts. As predominantly rural districts, many of our places lack adequate transport provision and sometimes also broadband. Access to green spaces, parks and woodlands involves more travel and has a lower reported rate of use than might be expected. Some residents therefore experience barriers to opportunities and social mobility.

**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**

Comments from stakeholders reflected that they had observed the above similar patterns and were keen to see these prioritised. They were also keen to see an increase in support for families and young people as they were concerned about lasting social, economic, emotional, and educational impacts of the pandemic for these groups. Digital isolation was also an area of concern as there was recognition that increasingly digital isolation can also exacerbate social isolation, having become an important part of community connectivity and communication in addition to in person contact.

Overall, there was recognition of the importance of enabling and supporting individuals at greatest risk, and those experiencing the greatest health inequalities, to be better able to take care of themselves and their health. Similarly, there was concern to identify groups and communities who find it more difficult to seek help.

The importance of delivering wellbeing improvements through behavioural change, integrated working and pooling resources and expertise was also recognised.

Stakeholders were keen to build on the unprecedented levels of community volunteering during the pandemic to increase social capital and strengthen civic participation. Similarly, they wanted to see a continuation of the collaborative approaches and innovative ways of working adopted by partners during this period.

The importance of prevention and early intervention was an underpinning theme in many of the discussions. Finally, our engagement work identified a shared ambition to enable communities to live and stay well, take control of their own mental and physical wellbeing and to be able to do so locally, where they live and work.

**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**

2021 Inter Departmental Business Register (ONS) data showed that 98.2% of businesses within Babergh are classed as micro or small business.

**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**

**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 average pay (both weekly and hourly) in Babergh and Mid Suffolk remains below the average for the UK, but more significantly below the average for the East. However from April 2020 to April 2021 ONS reported the highest level of growth in median weekly pay figures for full-time employees since 2008. The average increase in the UK was 4.3% however both districts have

seen higher than average increases with a weekly median increase of £41 (8.3%) for Babergh and £86 (16.8%) for Mid Suffolk. This is really encouraging evidence of growth within BMSDC for our residents, but it is important to focus on ways to continue to reduce this gap further

ONS data from 2020 shows that qualification levels in Mid Suffolk are below average compared to the rest of the UK with only 29.2% of those aged between 16-64 having a qualification level of NVQ4 and above (the UK average for this qualification being 43.1%) as well as 7.3% of the population having 'no qualifications'.

**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**

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

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

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

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

Improved engagement numbers	X
Improved perception of events	?
Increased number of web searches for a place	X
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	?
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	X
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	X
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: Improvements to town centres & high streets

E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces

E4: Enhancing existing cultural, historic & heritage institutions offer

E5: Built & landscaped environment to 'design out crime'

E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities

E7: Support for active travel enhancements in local area

E8: Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of local area

E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects

E10: Local sports facilities, tournaments, teams & leagues

E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups

E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living

E14: Relevant feasibility studies

E15: Digital connectivity for local community facilities

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

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

No

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

n/a

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

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

Yes	<b>No</b>
<b>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</b>	
n/a	

<b>HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?</b>	
<b>Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.</b>	
<b>Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?</b> <b>All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as <a href="#">set out in the guidance</a>.</b>	
Yes	<b>No</b>
<b>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</b>	

<b>WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.</b>	
<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Tick if applicable</b>
Jobs created	?
Jobs safeguarded	?
Increased footfall	X
Increased visitor numbers	X
Reduced vacancy rates	X
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Number of new businesses created	X
Improved perception of markets	?
Increased business sustainability	X
Increased number of businesses supported	X
Increased amount of investment	X
Improved perception of attractions	?
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	X
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	X
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	X
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	X
Increased number of innovation plans developed	X
Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support	X
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	X
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	X
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	?
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
None of the above	

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

**Intervention**

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

E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector

E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy

E19: Investment in research & development at the local level

E21: Development of innovation infrastructure at a local level

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators & accelerators

E26: Growing the local social economy

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth


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

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

No
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**Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.**

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

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

Yes  No

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

n/a

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

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

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

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

Yes  No

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

As above

**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	X
Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	X
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	X
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	X
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	X
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	X
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	X





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

n/a

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

Yes

No

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

n/a

**ENGLAND ONLY:** People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.

**HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?**

Yes

**Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.**

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

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

Yes

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

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

Yes		No	
<b>(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.</b>			
<b>Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.</b>			
<b>What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.</b>			
2022-2023		2023-2024	2024-2025
<b>Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.</b>			
<b>Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as <a href="#">set out in the guidance</a>.</b>			
Yes		No	
<b>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</b>			

<b>SCOTLAND, WALES &amp; NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY</b>	
<b>HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?</b>	
Yes	No
<b>Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.</b>	
n/a	
<b>Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as <a href="#">set out in the guidance</a>.</b>	
Yes	No
<b>Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.</b>	

n/a

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

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

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

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT**

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

Public sector organisations	Private sector organisations	Civil society organisations
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**Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.**

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

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

Yes	No
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**Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?**

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





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

Babergh District Council  
West Suffolk Council?  
East Suffolk Council?  
Suffolk County Council?

**PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY**

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

Review LUF and/or Freeport bids Equality statements and amend accordingly

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

As above

**RISKS**

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

Yes  No

**(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.**

**Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?**

Yes  No

**(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.**

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

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

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

Answer as honestly as possible.

<b>TEAM RESOURCE</b>
<b>How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?</b>
<b>Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.</b>

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

<b>CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY</b>		
<b>How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?</b>		
Very experienced	Some experience	No previous experience
<b>How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?</b>		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
<b>How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?</b>		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
<b>How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?</b>		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
<b>How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?</b>		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
<b>How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?</b>		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity



**COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?

Yes  No

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

Strong capability  Some capability  Limited capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

*DRIFT*

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

*DRIFT*

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

Strong capability  Some capability  Limited capability

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

*DRIFT*

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

*DRIFT*

**SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**

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

Yes  No

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability  Some capability  Limited capability

**Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.**

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

**How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?**

Strong capability

Some capability

Limited capability

**Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.**

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

**PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**

**Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?**

Yes

No

**How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?**

Strong capability

Some capability

Limited capability

**Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.**

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

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

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

Approvals

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

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

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

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

Yes

No

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

n/a

#### Additional documents

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

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

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

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

Yes

No