



UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

June 2022

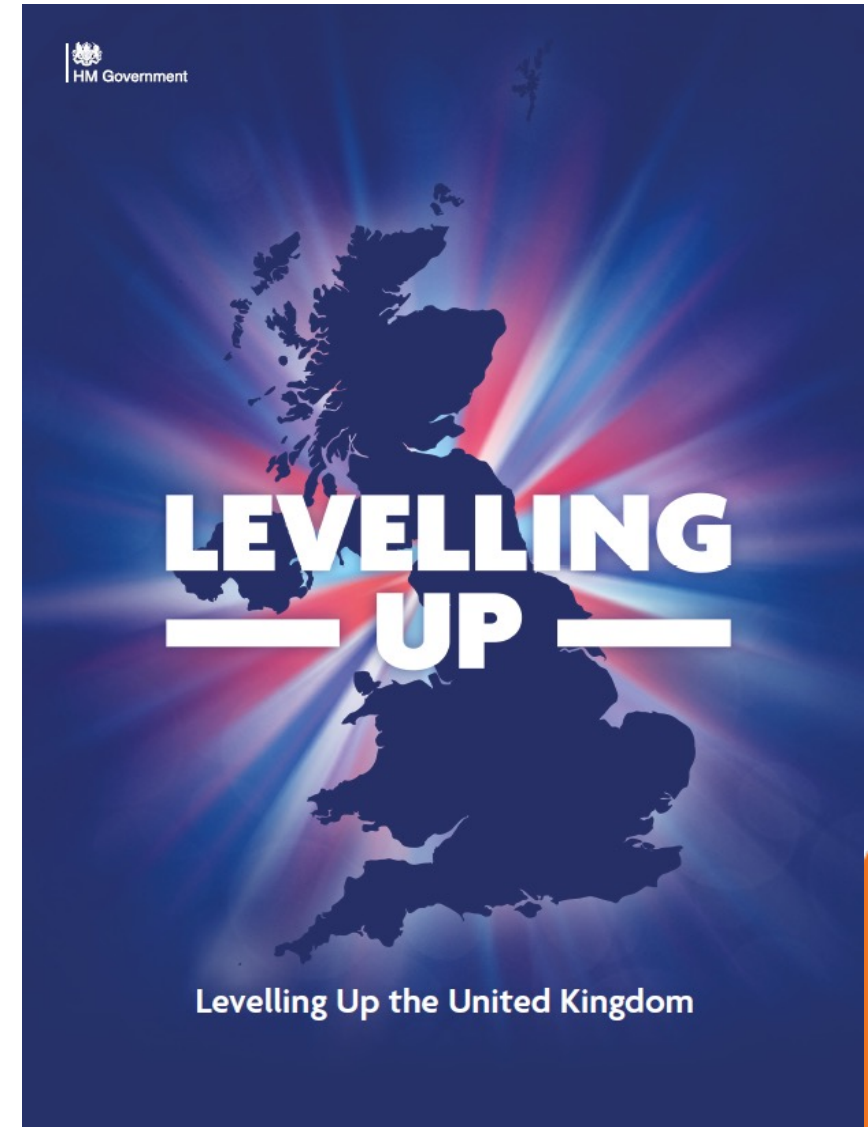
Levelling Up

“By levelling up, we will make people’s lives better and in doing so, grow the economy and ensure we flourish as a country.

This involves:

- unleashing the full potential of the private sector, boosting pay, productivity, innovation, and economic growth;
- improving public services, including giving everyone access to higher quality schools and training, improving people’s health, particularly in disadvantaged communities, and increasing the supply and standard of housing; and
- regenerating town centres and high streets, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour to make streets safer, and ensuring everyone has access to culture.

The **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** is a key part of this plan”



UK Shared Prosperity Fund



- Central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda £2.6 bn of new funding for local investment by March 2025 to **build pride in place and increase life chances** across the UK. And welcome the
- 3 investment priorities:
 - Community and Place;
 - Supporting Local Business;
 - People and Skills – Multiply programme, followed by broader investment from 24/25
- West Midlands Combined Authority is identified as the lead authority for the 7 Met area. This involves:
 - developing an Investment Plan for approval by the UK government
 - receiving an area's allocation to manage
 - assessing and approving project applications
 - processing payments and day-to-day monitoring.
- We welcome the opportunity to lead a **strategic joined-up approach** to identifying investment priorities that will support our levelling up ambitions. It is an opportunity to do things differently and better.
- **BUT** – the funding is not sufficient to do everything that we would want to, and the timetable for 'people and skills' priority in particular creates a risk to provision and capacity to deliver.
- We are working to identify the impact of this within the region – and to raise these issues with central government, in order to explore how we minimise the impact, and strategically focus future investment.

Investment priorities



- **Communities and Place**
 - Strengthening social fabric
 - Fostering a sense of local pride and belonging
 - Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods
- **Local Business Support**
 - Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses
 - Promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth
 - Targeted support to help business growth e.g. innovation, productivity, energy efficiency, low carbon and exporting
- **People and Skills**
 - Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress in work
 - Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need
 - Funding local skills needs and supplementing adult skills provision
 - Reducing level of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest away from the labour market

Alongside the prospectus, government has also published a [menu of interventions and activities](#) to select from. Places are encouraged to consider how these can be adapted to suit local characteristics and reflect the distinct opportunities and challenges that communities face.

Our allocation



- All areas have received an allocation via a funding formula for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25, for both core UKSPF and Multiply.
- These are annual allocations and any funds not spent within the financial year must be returned to HMT. They cannot be carried over to subsequent years.

Core UKSPF allocation	Multiply	Total allocation
£88,408,357	£16,767,132	£105,175,489

Allocation by financial year			
	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Core UKSPF	£10,729,170	£21,458,339	£56,220,848
Multiply	£5,069,133	£5,848,999	£5,848,999

Allocation by capital/revenue split			
	Core UKSPF: revenue	UKSPF: capital	Multiply: revenue
2022-23	Max 90%	Min 10%	100%
2023-24	Max 87%	Min 13%	100%
2024-25	Max 80%	Min 20%	100%

No requirement for match. But we should consider where UKSPF can be used to lever private, public and third sector funding to maximise value for money and impact.

Partnership working



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Access to local insight and expertise is essential for each place to identify and address need and opportunity and respond with the right solutions for each plans.

- Extensive engagement and consultation with a wide range of partners
 - Strategic partners
 - Existing networks
 - Open webinars: Tuesday 7th June at 11.00am - 12:30pm & Friday 10th June at 12.00noon - 1:30pm
- Local Partnerships Group
 - Support the development of the Investment Plan
 - Provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability
 - Broad representation – transparent process
- MP engagement groups
- Approval via the CA governance process

UKSPF principles and approach



Principles

- The plan will seek to identify and **prioritise key areas for investment to deliver the most significant impact to the region's businesses and residents**. Each of the themes will reflect existing regional and local plans or evidence bases.
- UKSPF should be used to support those areas where there is **limited or no investment elsewhere**.
- Where possible, we are looking to **maximise leverage from funding** e.g., businesses supported should commit to wider employment and training outputs, to maximise benefits to communities.
- **Local Authorities and other partners will play a key strategic role in developing the investment plan**, identifying key priorities and ensuring a fair funding distribution that delivers maximum impact for all.

Proposed approach to allocations

- A significant proportion of funds will be used for the **'supporting local businesses'** strand, in recognition that UKSPF is the main source of funding for this type of activity. Interventions will be determined by the outcomes of the business support review. A combination of locally and regionally delivered activity.
- Funding for **locally delivered employment support** will also be prioritised (note funding not available until 24/25).
- **Communities and Place**: priorities to be determined by local authorities in partnership with local stakeholders.
- **Skills** activity will predominantly be delivered through other funds, and Multiply.

UKSPF Timescale



Funding period:	April 2022 – March 2025
May/June:	Engagement and consultation period
7 & 10 June:	Open webinars – engagement and consultation
End June:	Draft UKSPF Investment Plan developed
End July:	Approval of final UKSPF Investment Plan at CA Board
30 June – 1 August 2022:	Submission of UKSPF Investment Plan Further details on process to be published on the WMCA website
Oct 2022 onwards:	First investment plans to be approved

For further information

WMCA website: <https://beta.wmca.org.uk/what-we-do/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/>

UKSPF prospectus: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus>

UKSPF Interventions, outputs and indicators: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-interventions-outputs-and-indicators>

For further queries, please email ukspf@wmca.org.uk



**LEVELLING
— UP —**



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Community and Place

Our proposed approach

Allocations for each Local Authority.

Priorities to be determined by local authorities in partnership with local stakeholders.

Engagement through existing networks and groups.

To express an interest: Reach out to existing LA contacts or email ukspf@wmca.org.uk identifying which LA.





**LEVELLING
— UP —**

 **West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Supporting Local Business

Our proposed approach



Building on the **West Midlands Business Support Review** – creating a more effective, agile, collaborative, impactful and fit for purpose system for the region:

- Integrated customer journey built around the user
- New approach to account management
- New premium products aimed at specific sectors, supply chains and issues, and delivered region-wide at scale.
- Campaign to drive up demand and usage

Questions currently being discussed with local authorities/LEPs:

1. Balance between:

- Funding and structures for core business support activities to 2024/5.
- Funding for specialist commissioned activities

2. Relative priorities across those business behaviours the region has said are important

(e.g. decarbonisation, internationalisation and exporting, cluster leadership, R&D investment, entrepreneurship and start-ups, leadership & management training, scale-up and access to finance, etc.)

3. Details of spending priorities:

- November 2022 – March 2023
- 2023/4 and 2024/5 – especially given how SPF is different to previous funding streams



**LEVELLING
UP**



West Midlands
Combined Authority

People and Skills

Our proposed approach



- Funding for People and Skills not available until 2024-25 (apart from Multiply)
- Some flexibility for VCS provision, previously supported by ESF, at risk of closure
 - Business case process for funding in 2022-23 and/or 2023-24:
 - Describe the provision and rationale for supporting it
 - Project name and references
 - A description of what we would want to fund
 - Where it is located
 - How it is relevant to our plans for the people and skills investment priority
- If this applies to you email ukspf@wmca.org.uk to be sent a business case form.
- Recognition of risk to employment support and skills provision
- Skills procurement event: Email olivia.houlston@wmca.org.uk for further information



Multiply

The Government's new £570 million numeracy programme delivered through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Multiply funding distributed to the Greater London Authority, all Mayoral Combined Authorities, and upper tier / unitary authorities.

3 main strands

- **Local approach** - Enabling local areas to deliver bespoke adult numeracy interventions
- **Digital Platform** - A new national online platform that offers free digital training. Acts as a 'front door' and flexibility to learn at own pace and place.
- **Evaluation** - Building the evidence base on 'what works' in improving functional adult numeracy.

Why Multiply?

Approx. 17 million adults in England (half of the working-age population) have the numeracy skills of primary school children.

- People who improve their numeracy skills are more likely to be in employment, have higher wages, and better wellbeing.
- Improved numeracy also matters to businesses by helping boost productivity and improve employee retention.
- We need to raise awareness on the importance of good numeracy for getting on in life.
- We need to de-mystify maths by putting it into everyday, relatable contexts, and help boost adults' confidence with numbers and make training more accessible.
- We need to enable providers to deliver courses that better fit around the needs of adults.

L&W essential skills model

The OECD's adult skills survey showed that around one in four working-age adults in England had low literacy and/or numeracy.

In the CA area around 440,000 (24.1%) people have low essential skills. Of these:

- 17% are aged 16-24, while the vast majority (83%) are aged 25+. *This matches exactly with the age profile of our current learners*
- Most (64%) are in work, while 36% (134,267) are out of work. *This is direct contrast to the employment status of our current learners (39% employed; 61% unemployed)*



Multiply Outcomes

- Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to and including Level 2.
- Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to and including Level 2.
- Increased number of adults participating, acquiring and evidencing skills through non-qualification provision, or towards a qualification, including online learning.
- Improved labour market outcomes.
- Increased adult numeracy (by supporting learners to improve their understanding and use of maths in their daily lives, at home and at work).

Target Audience

- Adults aged 19+
- WM (7 met) resident.
- Those without a Level 2 qualification in maths.
- They can either be working towards a maths GCSE or Functional Skills Qualification.
- Need specific numeracy skills for their work or progression.
- Want to brush up on the skills to help them get on in life and work.

Multiply Prospectus

Menu of Interventions

- DfE have designed a menu of interventions which local areas can draw down from to ensure flexibility, delivery of high quality, innovative numeracy interventions that meet local needs and the national aims of multiply.
- Some interventions lead to attainment of a qualification, but non-qualification provision can be developed where more appropriate.
- The menu is based on the growing evidence base on the barriers that hold people back from addressing their numeracy skills.
- **Interventions must not displace, replace and / or duplicate any existing adult numeracy provision, such as activity funded through the existing Adult Education Budget statutory entitlement for maths qualifications.**

Focus of regional activity



Financial literacy

- Use of short introductory financial literacy modules to introduce maths and give people practical help
- Exacerbated by the cost of living crisis more people are needing to know how to make their money go further and manage household budgets
- Focus will be on community delivery and engagement, those further from the labour market or inactive

Universal credit claimants in work

- Use of short sessions using 'better off in work' as an intro to engage people in improving their basic maths skills. Packaged with an intensive IAG and career planning session that will include recommendations for further maths and other skills training
- Delivered in partnership with JCP who will refer all new UC claimants as they move into work for an introductory session
- Will be delivered on-line and in 'neutral' locations

In work residents learning on line with tutoring

- Work with universities to develop a tutoring model using undergrad and post grad students
- Testing a new approach to both delivery and workforce issues (lack of maths teachers)
- Focus will be on those in work with busy lives, delivery through on-line resources supported by on-line small group tutoring

Delivery through Employers

- Offer through employers to offer introductory maths sessions to their workers
- Focus will be on specific sectors
- Large employer and SME offers
- Advocacy work with mainstream intermediaries
- Development work with niche intermediaries



Multiply Investment Plan

Investment:

£16m over 3 years (provisional)

Timescale:

Part of an overall approach to skills investment – alongside AEB

Skills procurement event: Email olivia.houlston@wmca.org.uk for further information.

Investment Plan

Multiply Investment Plan to be submitted by 30th June for delivery from autumn 2022



**LEVELLING
UP**



West Midlands
Combined Authority

Questions?

For further queries, contact: ukspf@wmca.org.uk