

Report title:	<b>UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) Investment Panel Establishment and Investment Plan Development</b>
Report to:	<b>Basildon Borough Investment Panel</b>
Date	<b>27 May 2022</b>
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On 13 April 2022, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published the [UK Shared Prosperity Funding \(UKSPF\) Prospectus](#), which set out how it required Basildon Borough Council to work with partners to prepare an UKSPF Investment Plan for the borough, which needs to be submitted to the DLUHC between 30 June 2022 and 1 August 2022, setting out how the area intends to spend the £1,281,877 of UKSPF that Basildon has been allocated between March 2022 and March 2025.

At the same time as publishing the UKSPF Prospectus, the government also published a number of supporting papers including:

- The proposed [UKSPF interventions, outputs, outcomes and indicators](#) were (essentially explaining what the government envisages the money can be used for) and
- The structure of the [UKSPF Investment Plan questions and proformas](#) (which essentially provides the template that places across the UK will need to use to submit their Investment Plans).

This report is designed to provide the members of the Basildon Borough UKSPF Investment Panel with a high level briefing on the objectives of the UKSPF, the potential range of investment options and the process being proposed to develop a UKSPF Investment Plan for Basildon Borough, in time for the deadline set by the UK government of the 1 August 2022.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Terms of Reference for the Basildon Borough UKSPF Panel and the proposed Agenda for the first meeting, both of which accompany this report.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

**That the members of the Basildon Borough UKSPF Investment Panel:**

- **Familiarise themselves with the objectives of UKSPF, so members can discuss how best to address these goals.**
- **Familiarise themselves with the list of interventions, outputs and outcomes UKSPF funding can be used to support, so members can discuss where they think funding would best be directed.**
- **Familiarise themselves with the proposed process and timelines for developing the Basildon Borough UKSPF Investment Plan, so they can raise any issues they foresee**
- **Familiarise themselves with the proposed process for exploring opportunities for collaborating with other areas**
- **Consider whether they would like to see us propose any bespoke interventions not prioritised in the intervention framework proposed by central government**

## 3. BACKGROUND

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. UKSPF will provide £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.

Alongside UKSPF, the Department for Education (DfE) published details of Multiply, a three-year £559 million scheme to improve adult numeracy skills, which will primarily be delivered by upper tier and unitary councils, who will need to submit their Multiply Investment Plans to DfE by 30 June. This report deals predominantly with UKSPF, with arrangements for working with Essex County Council on the delivery of Multiply being picked up later in our discussions.

The overall funding invested in UKSPF is effectively the equivalent to the 'match funding' that the UK government used to provide to support European Union programmes in the past. The UKSPF supports the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boosting productivity, pay, jobs & living standards by growing the private sector, especially in places where they are lagging
- Spreading opportunities and improving public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empowering local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

**The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK.** This aligns with Levelling Up White Paper missions, particularly: *'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 the top performing and other areas closing.'*

Recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the pandemic, UKSPF aims to improve the places people live in, support individuals and businesses, drive noticeable improvements that matter to local communities, foster local pride in place and increase life chances including health outcomes. Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities:

### 1. Communities and place

- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
- Building resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

### 2. Supporting local business

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

### 3. People and skills

- Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low level qualifications and skills in maths, and upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers.
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity [footnote 1] through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.
- Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.
- Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based, and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

DHLUC has published detailed objectives associated with each of these priorities which are aligned to the relevant Levelling Up White Paper mission (see Section 5.2 for a summary of these and the kind of things that can be supported).

## 4. DEVELOPING AN INVESTMENT PLAN

In order to implement UKSPF in the UK, DHLUC has asked lead local authorities (of which Basildon Borough Council has been designated as one) to work within a UK-wide framework to develop and deliver an Investment Plan. This approach is designed to recognise that strengthening pride in place and increasing life chances can be best achieved by delivery close to local people and businesses; by authorities that understand each place's unique local context and identity, and with established governance.

### Working with other areas on development and delivery

Whilst DHLUC expects a separate Investment Plan for each delivery geography (including Basildon Borough), individual places are strongly encouraged to work with other areas in the delivery of UKSPF interventions, where it meets the needs of the area, achieves greater value for money or better outcomes for local people or businesses. In particular, DHLUC appear keen to see places working together to commission people and skills and business support activity over a larger functional economic area.

Lead local authorities can determine, with partners, the most appropriate scale for each intervention and local partners should consider value for money, effectiveness and current arrangements. To this end, we have already commenced discussions with other partners across Greater Essex about potential collaboration opportunities and will set out in our presentation at the first Basildon Borough UKSPF Investment Panel how we envisage this process might work over the coming months.

### The Contents of an Investment Plan

The contents of a UKSPF Investment Plan will broadly comprise three main sections:

1. **Local context:** an opportunity for places to set out their local evidence of opportunities and challenges through the lens of the three investment priorities for UKSPF.
2. **Selection of outcomes and interventions:** where places will identify the outcomes they wish to target based on local context, and the interventions they wish to prioritise, under each investment priority, from the menu of options. These should be clearly linked to local opportunities and challenges.
3. **Delivery:** this will represent the most detailed section of the Investment Plan and is broken down into three further sections:
  - a. **Approach to delivery and governance:** where places outline the structures and processes that will support the delivery of their chosen interventions. DHLUC expects places to set out the engagement they have undertaken as part of the development of their Plan, including their engagement with MPs. In this section DHLUC will also ask places to set out how they intend to collaborate with other places in the delivery of specific interventions – for example with neighbouring places, or with places across the UK with common needs or challenges.
  - b. **Expenditure and deliverables:** detailing what places want to deliver with their investment plan, including the spend profile for the three years of the fund as well as outputs and outcomes figures, and where places have already identified specific projects they wish to fund under each of the investment priorities. As part of these spend and indicator profiles, lead local authorities will be asked to detail their intended budgets at priority and intervention level. UK government will use this information as part of the assessment and as initial performance management, along with additional performance management information set out in a Memorandum of Understanding. DHLUC expects expenditure profiles to be accurate and deliverable.
  - c. **Capability and resource:** to allow places to outline the resource they have to manage and work on UKSPF, as well as their capability and previous experience of delivering similar funds.

DHLUC will ask each lead local authority to notify them of any operational or financial risks, or issues, and any contingency measures put in place. This information will be requested in each place's investment plan and in each report thereafter.

Looking at the detailed Plan Structure in more detail, the structure of the Investment Plan contains the following sections:

- Local challenges and opportunities we intend to support & which UKSPF priorities these fall under
- Outcomes and Interventions we have chosen & rationale for selecting them (for each year of funding)
- Any bespoke interventions we want to invest in (and rationale/logic chain for adopting)
- Any existing, pre-identified projects which we want to prioritise (& their subsidy position and how we assessed this)
- Any local voluntary provision at risk, as part of the People and Skills Investment Priority
- Stakeholder Engagement/Support & Governance of the Investment Panel
- Confirmation that all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the Investment Panel
- Confirmation that all the MPs support the investment plan
- Processes for selecting projects (open competition is the default)
- Working with other places to jointly commission projects – by priority (and who we will work with)
- Public Sector Equality Duty
- Risks

- Our capacity and capability and resources to support UKSPF
- Administration and Overhead Charges
- Approvals (Chief Executive Officer / Section 151 Officer / Leader)
- Additional Documents / Spreadsheets (UKSPF Expenditure Profile, UKSPF Indicative Deliverables)

## **Project Commissioning**

Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund, by utilising a mix of commissioning approaches – from competitions for grant funding (which is the default approach set out in Cabinet Office Grants Standards), procurement, commissioning or deliver some activity through in-house teams. Lead local authorities should also design their project selection and contracting processes so they have mechanisms to recover funding where beneficiaries do not comply with fund parameters, UK law or any local requirements.

## **Delivering innovative provision**

While DHLUC have developed a broad set of interventions, to allow places flexibility, they recognise that there will be instances where their menu of options does not meet specific local challenges or priorities that have been identified. To mitigate against this, DHLUC suggests that places will be allowed to select ‘bespoke’ interventions that do not feature in their standard menu of options, but that we will need to provide evidence to support any bespoke interventions, including a logic chain or theory of change and demonstrate where they align with UKSPF investment priorities (although this latter point seems to suggest limited deviation will be allowed).

## **Submission of the Investment Plan**

Investment Plans need to be submitted via the online platform during the submission window, between 30 June 2022 and 1 August 2022. This is designed to enable places that are ready, to submit for assessment sooner.

DHLUC expects the contents of each investment plan to be coherent and broadly supported by relevant partners. The interventions, outputs and outcomes set out in the investment plan must be deliverable. DHLUC will require lead local authorities to set out how they will deliver a successful programme and provide a complete and accurate expenditure and deliverables profile. Once submitted, DHLUC will lead an assessment of the three areas in the investment plan. Where insufficient information is provided, DHLUC will ask for further information potentially on the following issues:

- Greater justification for selecting bespoke interventions
- Enhanced rationale on certain issues
- A more detailed expenditure and deliverables profile
- More information on governance, resources structures as well as delivery design and management of specific delivery elements (e.g. subsidy control/State Aid)

Plans will need to be agreed by the lead local authority and UK government to enable sign off. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will lead the government assessment process and will engage relevant departments as needed. Where a plan cannot be signed off first time, we will provide feedback to the lead local authority and work iteratively to secure sign off.

## **5. BUDGET AVAILABLE FOR BASILDON**

Basildon has been allocated £1,281,877 of UKSPF funding for defrayal between 2022 and 2025. In addition to this core allocation, the prospectus published on the 13 April 2022 also states that:

- Basildon Borough Council will be allocated £20,000 in 2022/23 to undertake initial preparatory work for the Fund, including developing their local investment plan for submission in the summer. This figure is over and above the local area UKSPF allocation and will be paid on sign-off of each place’s plan.
- Lead local authorities are able to use a small proportion of their UKSPF allocation (designated at 4%) to administer the day-to-day delivery of the fund (which includes contracting, processing payments, monitoring and evaluation, ongoing stakeholder engagement and assessing and approving applications).
- The local split of capital and revenue for the Fund in England in 2022-23 is 90% revenue and 10% capital; in 2023-24 is 87% revenue and 13% capital; and in 2024-25 is 80% revenue and 20% capital.

With only 4% of funding available to spend on management of the grant programme, we suggest there should be a preference for fewer, larger projects and opportunities to collaborate with neighbouring areas should be explored. Based on the above information, we calculate our overall budget is broadly as set out below (although more precise figures will be available in the UKSPF online platform).

	2022-23			2023-24			2024-25			Total (2022-25)
	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	
Fund Admin. & Mgmt	£7,888	£7,888	£0	£13,805	£13,805	£0	£29,582	£29,582	£0	£51,275
Available Fund	£189,323	£169,602	£19,721	£331,316	£286,450	£44,866	£709,963	£562,054	£147,909	£1,230,602
<b>Total</b>	<b>£197,212</b>	<b>£177,491</b>	<b>£19,721</b>	<b>£345,121</b>	<b>£300,255</b>	<b>£44,866</b>	<b>£739,544</b>	<b>£591,636</b>	<b>£147,909</b>	<b>£1,281,877</b>

## 6. INVESTMENT PLAN PRIORITIES

On the 13 April 2022 DHLUC also published a range of possible interventions, objectives, outcomes and outputs that we are expected to build our UKSPF Investment Plan around. Local areas are asked to select the main objectives/indicators they want to prioritise according to their defined local needs.

A high level list of the available interventions are set out in the table below, together with an initial RAG rating (indicating whether we might want to support particular interventions, or not, in Basildon). The reasons for potentially recommending that certain interventions are discounted have been set out in the notes column. This list of possible interventions requires further analysis, but we thought it worthwhile including our initial perceptions of the list of potential priorities, in order to try and focus down on those that we believe are the most relevant. It is our intention to enable the Investment Panel to discuss this list of potential interventions and the proposed RAG rating at the first Investment Panel Meeting.

	Possible Interventions	Implied Outputs/Outcomes		Comments
		Capital	Revenue	
BUILT ENVIRONMENT INTERVENTIONS	E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.	√		Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to deliver this priority (alone or in collaboration)
	E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.	√		Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to deliver this priority, although part funding of CCTV / street lighting might be possible (but reliant on other funds to get project away)
	E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.	√		Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to deliver this priority, although 'greening' town centres might be a possibility.
SPORTS & ACTIVE TRAVEL INTERVENTIONS	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.	√		Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to deliver this priority (alone or in collaboration)
	E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.	√	√	Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to improve/create new facilities (alone or in collaboration). Sponsoring tournaments, leagues etc. to increase participation in sport may be an option but LDP active in this area until 2025
HERITAGE AND TOURISM & CULTURE INTERVENTIONS	E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.	√	√	Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to improve/create new facilities (alone or in collaboration). May be an option to support cultural / historic / heritage institutions with revenue grants but this could also be achieved under E11.
	E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.		√	Revenue emphasis might make this a viable intervention. Implies support for stimulation of existing & new creative and cultural industries, so wider impact may be felt. CPP Programme active in this area, but not in enterprise support.
	E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.		√	Basildon is not a tourism 'attack brand' and generally visitors to the borough are day visitors. For this reason, it may be a challenge to have sufficient impact. Also, product developments (heritage trails etc.) could be supported under E11.
VOLUNTARY & COMMUNITY SECTOR SUPPORT INTERVENTIONS	E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding. Could cover capital spend and revenue.	√	√	Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to improve/create new facilities (alone or in collaboration). May be an option to support voluntary/community sector organisations with grants for events and activities.
	E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.		√	Understand there are lots of volunteering schemes currently being supported. Is there a market gap?
	E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.	√	√	Revenue and micro grant emphasis might allow for a wide range of organisations to be supported. Could also potentially support infrastructure organisations.



COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR REGENERATION	E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.		√	Revenue funding to build the capacity of local communities to get involved in local regen schemes (i.e., Business Improvement Districts, Community Ownership Fund etc.). Could be a route for developing larger funding applications.
PROMOTION OF COST SAVING MEASURES	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.		√	Outputs imply revenue (promotion only). No funding to subsidise capital costs. Do the poorest in society really have the funds to invest?
FEASIBILITY STUDIES	E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.		√	Significant current funding gap to enable the development of larger scale bids (Levelling Up Funding, Cultural Development Fund etc.)
COMMUNITY DIGITAL BROADBAND GRANTS	E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.	√	√	Insufficient capital funding to deliver large scale infrastructure investment (alone or in collaboration). Voucher based broadband voucher scheme is a possibility.
Thrust	Possible Interventions	Implied Outputs/Outcomes		Comments
		Capital	Revenue	
GENERALIST BUSINESS SUPPORT	E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.	√	√	First Stop Shop' style business support for emerging and existing businesses. Could solely be telephone and web based or also include face to face advisors
	E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.	√	√	Generalist business support, to drive employment growth
SPECIALIST TOWN CENTRE, TOURISM BUSINESS SUPPORT & INTERNATIONAL B2B EVENTS	E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.	√	√	Investment in 'pop-up' markets and 'meanwhile use' programmes to support the creation and development of Town Centre enterprises.
	E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.	√	√	Investment in business support programmes to support the Tourism, Hospitality and Leisure Sector. Could include investment in regional business support programmes and local initiatives (i.e., trails)
	E25: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors.	√	√	No major venue in the area to host such events
SPECIALIST MANUFACTURING ADVISORY SERVICE	E18: Supporting Made Smarter Adoption: Providing tailored expert advice, matched grants and leadership training to enable manufacturing SMEs to adopt industrial digital technology solutions including artificial intelligence; robotics and autonomous systems; additive manufacturing; industrial internet of things; virtual reality; data analytics. The support is proven to leverage high levels of private investment into technologies that drive growth, productivity, efficiency and resilience in manufacturing.	√	√	Investment in a Manufacturing Growth Programme to support the high productivity sector.
SPECIALIST INNOVATION BUSINESS SUPPORT, SECTOR NETWORKS AND INNOVATION	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.	√	√	Stimulating increased take up of innovation programmes. Grant support to help businesses to access support to help them access innovation opportunities.
	E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.	√	√	Supporting innovation and R&D at the level of the firm through the provision of R&D grants

LOCAL BUSINESS HATCHERY / INCUBATION / ACCELERATION / ENTERPRISE CENTRES	E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level.	√	√	Investment in Local Innovation Infrastructure. Description sounds like capital investment, but most outputs are actually revenue focussed
	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.	√	√	Insufficient Capital allocation to be able to deliver sufficient impact in this priority
	E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.	√	√	Acceleration and Incubation support. Basildon needs more of this kind of activity to stimulate renewal of the industrial base
SPECIALIST SOCIAL ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SUPPORT	E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.	√	√	Specialist business support for social enterprise sector
ANGEL INVESTMENT NETWORK	E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide.	√	√	No major Angel Investment Network Locally. Insufficient funding to make large scale impact
EXPORT GRANTS	E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.	√	√	Export Grants to match fund against DIT Internationalisation Fund
LOW CARBON BUSINESS SUPPORT	E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.	√	√	LOCASE Style programme to help businesses implement energy efficiency / low carbon measures
FEASIBILITY STUDIES	E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.	√	√	Revenue funding to support the commissioning of feasibility studies, possibly for larger scale projects.
RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE	E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.	√	√	Coastal erosion not relevant to Basildon. Insufficient capital funding allocation to be able to deliver this priority (alone or in collaboration)
Thrust	Possible Interventions	Implied Outputs/Outcomes		Comments
		Capital	Revenue	
SUPPORTING ECONOMICALLY INACTIVE PEOPLE TO OVERCOME BARRIERS TO WORK THROUGH TAILORED 1:1 SUPPORT & BASIC 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. This provision can include project promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives, alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to people aged over 50, people with a disability and health condition, women, people from an ethnic minority, young people not in education, employment or training and people with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence). *via Multiply	√	√	There will always be a requirement to provide employability support for economically inactive people. These types of services are likely to be delivered by the voluntary/community sector and be relevant for early intervention.

SUPPORTING PEOPLE FURTHEST FROM THE LABOUR MARKET THROUGH ACCESS TO BASIC SKILLS	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. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. **where not being met through Department for Work and Pensions provision.	√	√	There will always be a requirement to deliver basic skills provision. Evidence suggests ESOL, digital and English likely to be in demand (Maths resolved through Multiply)
	E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.	√	√	An already busy marketplace. Plenty of provision already available?
	E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.	√	√	There will always likely be a requirement for digital skills for inclusion.
SKILLS TO PROGRESS IN WORK AND TO FUND LOCAL SKILLS NEEDS	E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses	√	√	Emphasis appears to be on basic skills for employed people. Likely again to emphasise ESOL, English, Digital (with maths covered by Multiply)
	E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that cannot be met through mainstream funding	√	√	Could possibly modules or part courses, orientated towards the needs of the local labour market.
	E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.	√	√	Could be skills for emerging technologies - hydrogen, retrofit installation etc, although need to be aware of current standards.
	E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors.	√	√	Could be skills provision to manage transition to net-zero technologies.
	E41: Funding to support local digital skills.	√	√	Digital skills for employed people to progress.

## 7. PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE

The national UKSPF guidance makes clear that *“comprehensive and balanced local partnerships will be a core component of how the Fund is administered locally”*.

Essentially, lead local authorities will be required to work with a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders, civil society organisations, employer bodies responsible for identifying local skills plans, and businesses or business representative groups to develop a local UKSPF Investment Plan and administer the fund locally.

Once plans are approved, partners will be involved in assessing/appraising funding bids – advising on strategic fit and deliverability, whilst also taking care to avoid conflicts of interest. This will ensure that Fund investments complement other activities in the area and meets Fund and local objectives.

The attached Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Basildon Borough UKSPF Investment Panel set out more details about the proposed governance arrangements for the Basildon Borough UKSPF Panel.

## 8. THE ROLE OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN THE FUND

The UKSPF Guidance makes clear that, *“Members of the UK Parliament play an important role in representing the views of their constituents, working collaboratively with local authorities and other local partners to work for the good of local places. They should be closely engaged in the design and delivery of the Fund. In most cases, all MPs in the area should be invited to join the local partnership group”*.

They continue, *“They should provide an advisory role to lead local authorities, reviewing the investment plan prior to submission to UK government for sign-off. Each plan will need to detail the MPs involved in the local partnership group and whether each are supportive of the final plan submitted to the UK government for consideration.*



We expect lead local authorities to demonstrate that they have actively reached out to MPs and other partners. The investment plan needs to demonstrate local consensus for the plan. If it does not, ministers reserve the right to defer sign off until broad consensus is secured. Failure of one or more MPs to agree would not prevent consideration of the investment plan.

Lead local authorities are also encouraged to engage proactively and constructively with MPs on a periodic basis, post investment plan sign-off – including through a regular reviews and meetings of the partnership group in its delivery phase”.

## 9. TIMETABLE FOR DEVELOPING THE INVESTMENT PLAN

In light of the published timetable for developing and submitting a UKSPF Investment Plan, and the need to build their capacity of local partners to participate and contribute to this process, we have proposed the DRAFT timelines set out below:

Activity	Date
<b>MAY 2022</b>	
First Investment Panel Meeting (Virtual, via Microsoft Teams)	Friday 27 May 2022, 9.00-11.00am
<b>JUNE 2022</b>	
Second Investment Panel Meeting (Virtual, via Microsoft Teams)	Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2022, 3.00-5.00pm
<b>JULY 2022</b>	
Cabinet Approval (with final delegated decision to Portfolio Holder/Leader)	TBC (7 July 2022 – TBC)
Third Investment Panel Meeting for Investment Plan sign-off (Virtual, via Microsoft Teams)	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2022, 9.00-11.00am
Investment Plan circulated to MPs for sign-off and letter of support	Wednesday 20 July 2022
Bid Submission	25 July 2022

## 10. CONCLUSIONS

The final deadline for submission of the UKSPF Prospectus is the 1 August 2022. In order to hit the milestones set out above, we need to move quickly to develop the plan by prioritising the investments that we think make the most sense for Basildon Borough and identifying opportunities for collaboration.

We look forward to working with the Investment Panel members on the development of this plan.

### For more information, contact:

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