



# UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

## Local Partnership Group

July 2022

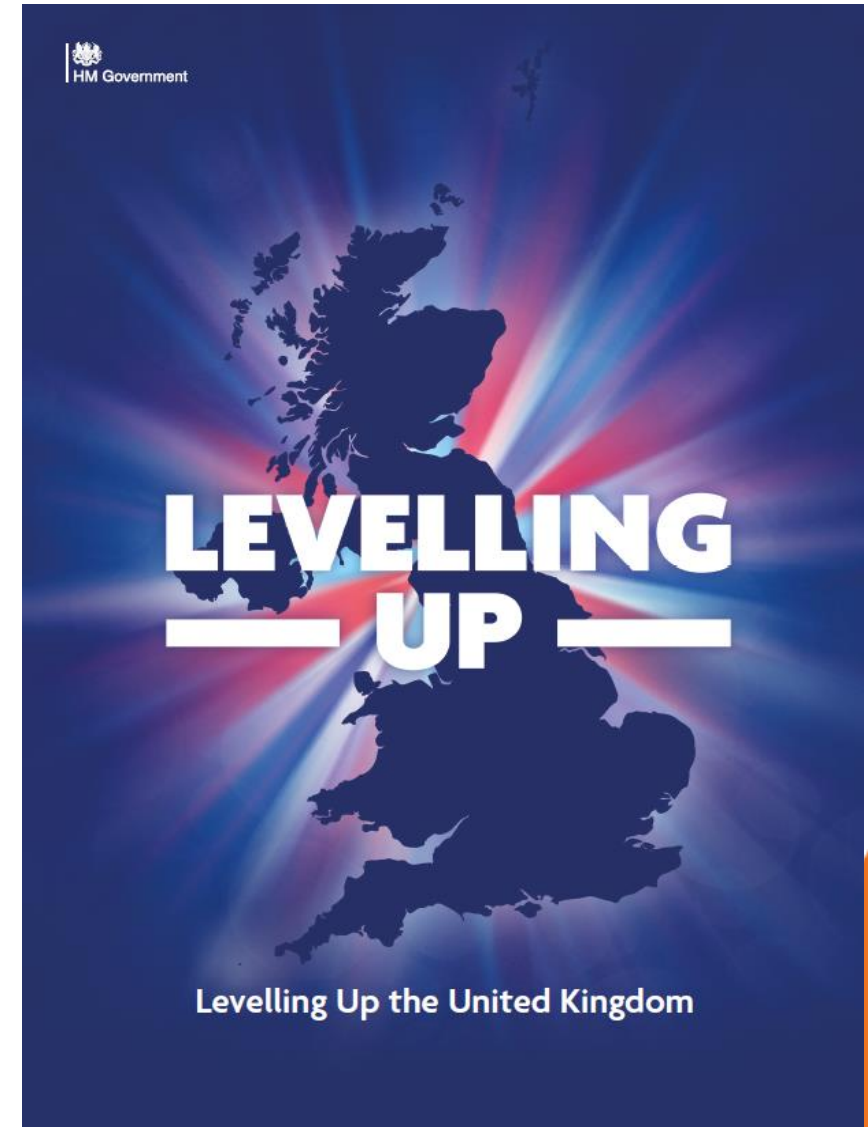
# Levelling Up

“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.

An 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. We 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 a UKSPF allocation via a funding formula for 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25

Annual allocations, with any funds not spent within the financial year to be returned to HMT. They cannot be carried over to subsequent years.

Minimum capital spend 10-20%, no max spend

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

<b>Allocation by financial year</b>			
	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
Core UKSPF	£10,729,170	£21,458,339	£56,220,848

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.

# Stakeholder engagement



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, meetings and events
- Series of open webinars

Local Partnership Group

MP engagement group

Approval via the CA governance process

# Local Partnership Group – representatives



Chair: Cllr Ian Brookfield, Economic Growth Board

West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

Each of our 7 Local Authorities: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Wolverhampton

Young Combined Authority

Race Equality Taskforce

Homelessness Taskforce

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

Regional Business Council

Chambers of Commerce

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP)

Further Education Colleges

Universities

Unions

Faith Strategic Partnership Group

Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)

Department for Work and Pensions (DWP)

Employment Support

Culture/Heritage – Cultural Leadership Board

Housing – WM Housing Association Partnership

Nature/environment – Natural Capital Board

Public Health

# Role and Remit



**Purpose:** To provide regional insight and expertise to support the WMCA in its role as Lead Authority, with the development, delivery and ongoing oversight of the UKSPF Investment Plan.

**Accountability:** The Local Partnership Group will be accountable to the WMCA Economic Growth Board. The group will not be required to vote on formal decisions. Feedback from Partnership Group Meetings will be provided to EGB for final decision.

## **Function:**

- Provide local insight and expertise that can be used to identify and address need and opportunity, and to respond with the right solutions for the WMCA 7 Met area.
- Support the development and ongoing review of the WMCA UKSPF Investment Plan.
- Provide advice on the strategic fit and deliverability of the investment plan, ensuring the Fund investments complement other activities in the area and meets Fund and local objectives.

**Frequency:** The group will meet a minimum of two times per year; more frequently if required.

## **Transparency, fairness and expertise:**

- Representing your sector/area of expertise, not your organisation – declaring any conflicts of interest
- Proactively consult and engage with others in your sector/area of interest – representing and feeding back to them
- Membership details and an account of meetings will be shared on the WMCA UKSPF webpage.
- Substitutes may be permitted by prior agreement.
- Meeting papers will be circulated at least one week in advance of the meeting.



# Developing our Investment Plan



High-level Investment Plan – no proposals for funding at this stage

## 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.**
- Support for those areas where there is **limited or no investment elsewhere.**
- 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.

## Broad parameters:

- **50% to 'support local business'**, taking forward recommendations from the West Midlands business support review. Developed with LAs to ensure a broadly consistent approach across the region, whilst also ensuring support is locally targeted and adds value to other local business support and services.
- **50% prioritised by individual local authorities,** particularly in terms of directing local place and communities, people and skills provision.
- significant focus on **employment support,** recognising the particular challenges faced in each local area and the need to preserve critical local infrastructure
- Commitment to **use existing skills funding** (e.g., AEB) to support people priorities thereby reducing the pressure on UKSPF.

# Timescale & Next Steps



## Funding period:

April 2022 – March 2025

## Development of high-level Investment Plan

Engagement and consultation

Approval of UKSPF Investment Plan, CA Board

Deadline for submission of UKSPF Investment Plan

Investment plans to be approved by DLUHC

May-early July 2022

15 July 2022

1 August 2022

October 2022 onwards

## Development of detailed Investment Plan

Detailed work with LAs

Local Partnership Group meeting

Economic Growth Board

Mayor and Met Leaders

CA Board for approval

Aug-Sept 2022

September 2022

September 2022

October 2022

November 2022

## 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>

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For further queries, please email [ukspf@wmca.org.uk](mailto:ukspf@wmca.org.uk)