

Report to: Cabinet



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## UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus

### Report summary:

The prospectus for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was published on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. This will provide an important source of funding over the next three year period. This report provides an overview of the main provisions of the prospectus as they apply to the Council. Three particular aspects are highlighted – the need to work in partnership to develop and submit an Investment Plan by the 1<sup>st</sup> August, the relationship with the County Deal process and the importance of robust programme management.

### Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes ☒ No ☐

Policy Framework Yes ☒ No ☐

### Recommendations:

That Cabinet;

- Notes the publication of the prospectus for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and its associated provisions
- Endorses the establishment of a local partnership group with external partners to guide the development of the Investment Plan for the District and advises on the proposed membership of this group
- Approves use of the initial £20k administration payment to secure resource to help formulate the Investment Plan submission
- Agrees establishing a Programme Management Panel reporting to Cabinet to have oversight of the deployment of the Fund. The panel to be comprised of a cross-party group of members, comprising the Leader, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holders for Finance and Climate Action & Emergency Response, two Conservative members, one of the Independent members and one Cranbrook Voice member, to be nominated by the respective Groups.
- Receives a further report on the Investment Plan prior to it being submitted to government

### Reason for recommendation:

To ensure that the Council is properly prepared for the introduction of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and is able to access the associated funds.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- ☒ Climate Action and Emergency Response
- ☒ Coast, Country and Environment

- ☒ Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- ☒ Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- ☒ Economy and Assets
- ☒ Finance
- ☒ Strategic Planning
- ☒ Sustainable Homes and Communities
- ☒ Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

## **Equalities impact** High Impact

The Shared Prosperity Fund is intended to support the key objectives of the Levelling Up White Paper.

## **Climate change** High Impact

**Risk:** Medium Risk; This report highlights the need to quickly establish a local partnership group to guide the development of an Investment Plan which will need to be submitted to government by the 1<sup>st</sup> August. There will be an ongoing need for robust programme management to ensure that the key interventions contained in the Investment Plan are delivered.

**Links to background information** [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus) [Levelling Up White Paper \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-white-paper) [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: pre-launch guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-pre-launch-guidance) [Delivery geographies - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/delivery-geographies)

## **Link to [Council Plan](#)**

Priorities (check which apply)

- ☒ Better homes and communities for all
- ☒ A greener East Devon
- ☒ A resilient economy

# **1. Background and context**

1.1 The prospectus for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) was published on the 13<sup>th</sup> April. Following hot on the heels of the Levelling Up White Paper, the Fund is intended to help deliver each of the four objectives set out in this, namely;

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, 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

1.2 The primary goal of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Underneath this overarching aim are three investment priorities: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills. The prospectus is at pains to highlight how these investment themes are expected to help to realise seven of the twelve missions set out in the Levelling Up White Paper. These range from improving life expectancy to increasing pay, employment and productivity.

1.3 The UKSPF is the successor to European structural funds and subsequently the publication of the prospectus has been keenly anticipated. Every place in the UK has been allocated a share of Fund and funding is confirmed for three financial years. This starts at a 90:10 revenue to capital split in 2022/3 which changes to 80:20 by 2024/25.

## 2. Investment Plan

2.1 East Devon is defined as a delivery geography and therefore the District Council will act as a lead authority. The financial allocation is confirmed as £1,796,363 of which up to 4% can be utilised to fund administration alongside a one off payment of £20k. Whilst there is no match funding requirement, the prospectus makes it clear that account should be taken of the wider funding landscape. Lead authorities are strongly encouraged to consider match funding from the private, public and third sectors and leverage options when selecting communities and place and supporting local business interventions to fund.

2.2 Proposed interventions should reflect local need and opportunity and need to be set out in an Investment Plan. An interventions list for England was published alongside the prospectus and is contained at Appendix A. Places are encouraged to review the interventions and identify activities that would support UKSPF objectives in their area, including any interventions that are best delivered at a larger scale in collaboration with other places, or more locally. Places will be able to select bespoke interventions that do not feature in the menu of options. Interventions will also need to consider local and national policies and priorities including the contribution to net zero and nature recovery objectives.

2.3 Investment plans will need to set out how the lead authority intends to use and deliver the funding. There is an expectation that the plans are developed in conjunction with local stakeholders. A local partnership group needs to be established to consult with when developing the investment plan. The list below is a guide for the types of groups that should be represented;

- Representatives from the lead local authority (this may also include neighbouring authorities or constituent authorities where relevant and to maximise alignment)
- Local businesses and investors (large employers and small and medium sized employers)
- Business support providers or representatives, including sectoral representatives relevant to the place (for example – cluster bodies, tourism organisations)
- Local partnership boards and strategic bodies where relevant (for example, Local Enterprise Partnerships or Local Skills Improvement Partnerships in England)
- Regional representatives of arms-length bodies of government where appropriate
- Prominent local community & faith organisations
- Voluntary, sector social enterprise and civil society organisations, including Third Sector Interface Groups in Scotland
- Rural representatives unless there are no rural communities within the area
- Education and skills providers – for example higher education institutions and further education colleges, adult learning providers
- Employment experts and providers – for example Jobcentre Plus representatives and employment related service providers
- Nature, environmental or associated representatives
- Public health representatives
- Police and crime representatives (such as Police and Crime Commissioners where relevant)
- Members of Parliament

There is an expectation that the investment plan will be able to demonstrate local consensus for it. Each plan will need to detail the MPs involved in the local partnership group and whether each are supportive of the final plan submitted for UK government consideration.

2.4 The prospectus makes it clear that investment plans should feature three broad stages;

**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 stage of the investment plans and is broken down into the following:

**a. Approach to delivery and governance:** where places outline the structures and processes that will support the delivery of their chosen interventions. We will also expect places to set out the engagement they have undertaken as part of the development of their Plan, including their engagement with MPs.

This section 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.

Expenditure profiles must be accurate and deliverable. Each place must set out a minimum amount of capital funding to invest each year in their investment plan, which will be monitored.

**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.

2.5 Investment plans need to be submitted via an online platform during a submission window which opens on the 30<sup>th</sup> June and closes on the 1<sup>st</sup> August.

### **3. Assessment**

3.1 The UKSPF is a significant opportunity to secure substantial investment for the District. From an initial assessment there are considered to be three stand out items that need early consideration;

- The need to work in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders to develop an Investment Plan for the District and to meet the demanding timeline for submission

3.2 There is a maximum period of 12 weeks between the date of the Cabinet meeting and the end of the window for submitting investment plans. It would be very hard to meet this timescale if we starting from a blank sheet of paper. Thankfully the recently refreshed Council Plan and the suite of accompanying strategies (Poverty, Climate Change, Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Tourism) which have either recently been completed or are currently under development provide an excellent starting framework from which to consider potential interventions. This includes the

relative balance between addressing need (such as reducing poverty) and promoting opportunities.

3.3 The following are some examples of how the interventions listed in Appendix A could be expanded and developed to help implement particular strategies;

#### E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.

Work is currently underway to develop a cultural strategy for the District. One of the emerging themes from this is as follows;

- Strengthen and support the 'people-that-do': Support the unique, community-led cultural organisations whose efforts enhance the high quality of life and wellbeing in East Devon's towns and villages

It should be possible to engage with the Arts & Culture Forum to identify a package of support for community-led cultural organisations that matches this theme.

#### E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.

With funding support through the Welcome Back Fund, the Council has commissioned the *East Devonly* campaign including three films focusing on the themes of family, food and adventure. Working with representatives of the tourism industry and in conjunction with the development of the tourism strategy, there may be an opportunity to develop this campaign further.

#### E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

The work to develop the dashboard accompanying the Poverty Strategy is highlighting the significant impact that rising energy prices are having on a significant number of households in the District. Working with partners such as Exeter Community Energy we may be able to secure further tailored support to help more households to reduce their energy bills.

#### 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.

Exeter Science Park provides a hub for research and development activity in the District. Working with the Science Park Company it may be possible to put together a programme that helps to boost this activity and spread the benefits across the District. This could potentially lever wider investment through the Enterprise Zone programme.

#### 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.

Cabinet considered and endorsed a proposed vision for clean growth for the West End of the District at the 2<sup>nd</sup> February meeting. This work identified sustainable aviation as one of four investment themes. Working with the Airport and others such as Exeter College it may be possible to craft a package of support that helps the Airport to develop as a hub for sustainable aviation. This would build from the trial of hybrid-electric flights that took place in the summer of 2021.

**E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.**

Exeter College have established a Green Construction Skills Advisory Panel which meets at the Future Skills Centre. Through this group it may be possible to identify a programme of courses, for example to develop retrofit skills which would help improve the energy efficiency of the Council's housing stock.

3.4 Whilst the above are intended only as illustrative examples, they help to demonstrate how a logic chain can be developed between local needs and opportunities, strategic priorities and specific interventions. Throughout the process of developing the Investment Plan for the District there will be a need to engage widely to develop such proposals and build consensus.

3.5 As set out above, the expectation is that the input of stakeholders will be marshalled through a designated local partnership group. There is no pre-existing group that is considered to meet the guidance in the prospectus in this respect. Therefore a priority action is to constitute such a group comprising relevant partners and stakeholders. Based on the guidance as set out in paragraph 2.3 above, a proposed membership is set out below;

- Citizens Advice
- Coordinator of the East Devon Community Network
- Devon Association of Local Councils
- Cosmic
- Exeter Science Park Company
- Exeter Airport
- Axminster Tools
- Tourism sector representative e.g. from East Devon Excellence
- LED
- Representative from Arts & Culture East Devon
- Devon Climate Emergency Tactical Group
- AONB Partnership
- National Trust
- Clinton Devon Estates
- NFU
- Job Centre plus
- Further Education – Exeter College or Bicton College
- Public Health representative e.g. DCC Director of Public Health
- Police and Crime Commissioner
- MPs – Simon Jupp, Neil Parish, Mel Stride



3.6 Members of Cabinet are asked to consider this list and advise on any additions or alternatives. A first meeting of the group will then need to be convened as a matter of urgency.

- The relationship with the County Deal

3.7 The prospectus makes it clear that that delivery arrangements set out in the document will continue until March 2025. Thus whilst it is anticipated that the delivery responsibility for the Fund will align with the County Deal in due course, the expectation is that a standalone investment plan will be produced for the District.

3.8 This is not to say that each of the Districts in Devon should develop entirely separate investment plans. There is clearly a benefit in seeking to coordinate activity and indeed the prospectus specifically encourages this in areas such as employment and skills and business support. The future of legacy programmes, such as to support young people not in education, employment or training, which are currently commissioned on a County wide basis with the benefit of European funds will also need to be carefully considered. In reality it is anticipated that a blend of in-District and pan District measures will be required. An officer meeting is being convened through Team Devon to consider how the development of investment plans can best be coordinated across the County, for example in relation to employment and skills activity.

- The need for robust programme management

3.9 The prospectus makes it clear that the relevant Investment Plan will need to be agreed between the lead authority and the UK government in order to unlock the allocated funds. Whilst the precise content of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding is not currently known, it is also clear that the UK government will maintain a careful overview of the deployment of the funds. This includes 6 monthly reporting and the potential clawback of funds on an annual basis if there is an underspend relative to the submitted expenditure profile.

3.10 Robust programme management will be required to ensure that the funds are deployed successfully. This will require focused effort and dedicated resource from a range of services in the Council. In order to coordinate this activity and provide the necessary oversight it is proposed to establish a programme board of eight Councillors with politically balanced representation. This builds from experience with the deployment of discretionary grant schemes over the past two years where the role of an equivalent group has proved to be invaluable in ensuring that the funds are deployed to best effect whilst meeting demanding timescales. An internal cross service officer group will also be formed to support the programme board.

## **4. Conclusion**

4.1 The UKSPF offers the prospect of securing significant investment for the District. In turn this can help to gain traction on key Council strategies and priorities. It is important to act quickly to engage stakeholders in developing the required Investment Plan and to build consensus in this respect. In anticipation of the funds being unlocked there is also a need to instigate a robust programme management approach.

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### **Financial implications:**

The financial details are covered in the report.

**Legal implications:**

What is proposed is permissible and seems a sensible approach. Members should note some of Government's expectations around repayment of unused funds. At this stage there is no documentation to review and so Legal will review the outcome of any successful bid and the related documentation at the appropriate point.



# 1. Communities and place

## Objectives:

- 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.

## Interventions

- E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.
- 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. This could cover capital spend and running costs.
- E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.
- E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
- E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.
- E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.

- E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.
- E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
- E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.
- E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
- E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.

## 2. Supporting local business

Lead Authorities should consider segmenting their business population, focusing on specific interventions that will best meet local business need. This can be informed by early engagement with local business representatives.

### Objectives:

- 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.

# Interventions

- E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.
- E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level.
- 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.
- 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.
- E25: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors.
- E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.
- E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide.
- E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.

- 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.
- E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.
- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
- E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.

### 3. People and skills

Lead local authorities and partners must note that the Fund will focus on communities and place and local business interventions in 2022-23 and 2023-24, alongside support for people through the Multiply adult numeracy programme. This complements residual employment and skills funding from the European Social Fund. UKSPF investment to support people and skills will follow from 2024-25, when the funding pot reaches its full extent.

This means that places will be able to select people and skills interventions from 2024-2025 onwards, unless they meet the voluntary sector considerations outlined below.

#### Alignment with current provision

UKSPF will be the main source of funding to support employment provision for economically inactive people.<sup>[\[footnote 1\]](#)</sup> To reduce levels of economic inactivity, local areas should ensure investment in employment support is tailored to local needs. This should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services, through the use of keyworker support and community interventions to improve employment outcomes for economically inactive people, including engagement with integrated care systems where appropriate.

To maximise outcomes and avoid duplication local areas should collaborate with a range of local partners to consider the provision already available locally as well as through the Jobcentre Plus network and the Adult Education Budget.

Lead local authorities should consider current European Social Fund interventions for people and skills, emerging people and skills needs and proposed Multiply interventions, when developing a local investment plan. This will then inform proposed people and skills support from 2024-25 onwards.

## Alignment with Multiply

Each place should also read the [Multiply prospectus for England](#) which seeks proposals for adult numeracy interventions for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25, operating at upper-tier or Mayoral Combined Authority/London scale. They should take account of the aims, objective and priorities of Multiply when developing local plans for people and skills interventions.

## Voluntary and community sector provision

Lead local authorities have the flexibility to fund targeted people and skills provision in 2022-23 and 2023-24 where this is a continuing priority for 2024-25 and may be at significant risk of ending due to the tail off of EU funds. This flexibility may only be used where provision is currently delivered by voluntary and community organisations, having regard for the focus of the Fund and available funding.

## Objectives:

- 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.
- 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).

- 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.

## Interventions

*Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to 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. 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.

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.

*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.**

- E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.
- 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.

### *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. This includes supporting the retention of groups who are likely to leave the labour market early.
  - 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 is not being met through other provision.
  - E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.
  - E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors.
  - E41: Funding to support local digital skills.
1. Economic inactivity refers to those without a job who have not sought work in the last four weeks and/or are not available to start work in the next two weeks although in practice many people who are inactive will have been so for a long time. For UKSPF, people and skills investments the term includes people not in work who are on and off benefits, with the exception of Universal Credit, Jobseekers Allowance or Employment and Support Allowance claimants who are in the all work related requirements legal conditionality groups (i.e. Light Touch and Intensive Work Search). [↩](#) [↩<sup>2</sup>](#)