

TO: **All members of Council**

Our reference CS
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21 July 2022

Dear Councillor

Extraordinary Council - Tuesday 26 July 2022

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at next Tuesday's meeting of Council, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

**Agenda
No** **Item**

4. **Leader's statement (Pages 1 - 6)**

Paper number: **COU/WS/22/014**

6. **Referral from Cabinet: UK Shared Prosperity Fund: investment plan allocations (Pages 7 - 18)**

Report number: **COU/WS/22/015**

Yours sincerely

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West Suffolk
Council

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Leader's statement

Report number:	COU/WS/22/014	
Report to and date:	Extraordinary Council	26 July 2022
Documents attached:	None	

Leader's Statement – July 2022

1. I wanted to start with a thank you to you all for attending this extraordinary meeting. The reason for bringing us together is to help make sure our communities and businesses benefit from nearly £1.9 million of new Government funding over the next three years.
2. This funding is very welcome and will be used to support a range of initiatives that will help the local economy, our rural areas and town centres. It will provide new job opportunities through improved skills and training, as well as supporting our families and community work.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

3. I will not dwell on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and will if necessary, share my thoughts at the meeting. That said, I am pleased we have been able to meet the very challenging timescales and engage with a range of stakeholders, including councillors, to help crystallise the opportunities and projects that will best help our communities and businesses.
4. Therefore, I need and want to thank everyone who has taken the time to help shape these opportunities and this will assist in developing the detailed plans going forward. Once again, with our forward-thinking work around families and communities, as well as economic development, we are in the driving seat to both secure and make the most of the £1.9 million funding.

NHS update

5. I wanted to mention briefly the structural changes in the health and care system that the NHS has introduced nationally. You will have seen in the helpful message sent out by Councillor Mildmay-White to all members a concise explanation and film produced to explain what a is a very complex area. This has also been included in our regular newsletter update to all members with an explanation of the changes and links for further information, including the film.
6. These changes focus on the introduction of Integrated Care Systems which came into operation from 1 July as a result of the Health and Care Act 2022.

The Suffolk and Suffolk and North East Essex Integrated Care Board (SNEE ICB) became operational and legally established from July 1, 2022, designed to assist closer working between health and social care partners for the benefit of local communities.

7. From the beginning of this month the NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk, NHS West Suffolk and NHS North East Essex clinical commissioning groups (the CCGs) were abolished.
8. While the NHS as a whole can perhaps be complex to understand, I am pleased to say that we all as partners, continue to share the same goal of driving forward better health and wellbeing outcomes for our residents. The way we continue to work across the system and boundaries delivering for example award winning facilities such as Mildenhall Hub, leisure centres, our parks and even our markets, as well as our families and communities work all play a part in improving the health of our communities.

Environmental Update

9. I have just been looking through the papers for Cabinet which includes our update on the work we have been doing around helping to tackle climate change. This is something close to my heart and one of the first things we agreed as the newly formed West Suffolk Council. I am really pleased to see not only are we making great leaps in reducing our impact, but we are improving on our pre-pandemic levels too; here are some of the highlights.
 - Total emissions down 41 percent compared to 2010 baseline and down 15 percent compared to 2019-2020.
 - Renewable energy generated up 138 percent compared to 2012 and up 41 percent compared to 2019-2020.
 - Total owned vehicle emissions down 13 percent compared to 2010-2011 baseline and down nine percent compared to 2019-2020.
 - Business travel down 68 percent compared to 2010 baseline and down 51 percent compared to 2019-2020.
 - Total water consumption down 43 percent compared to baseline and down 35 percent compared to 2019-2020.
 - During 2021-2022, we held six Green Flag status parks.
 - Public electric vehicle (EV) chargers installed by WSC can support 67 EVs charging at the same time.
 - Energy delivered to drivers powered 353,170 miles.
 - 318 trees and 560 hedge plants planted during 2021-2022.
10. Here at West Suffolk House, where we are holding Council this evening, we also continue to make improvements.
 - Total West Suffolk House waste down 58 percent compared to 2012 baseline.
 - The recycling rate is 82.34 percent, up 51 percent compared to 2019-2020.
 - Total West Suffolk House waste down 56 percent compared to 2019-2020.

11. We are not only investing £9 million ourselves in various actions to help us reach carbon neutral, but I would also highlight that there are successful initiatives such as 'Solar for Business' which supports employers to go green and save money.
12. Not only does this scheme provide an income but it has saved more than 900 tonnes of carbon from being released into the atmosphere each year. It has also saved the businesses taking part a total of around £125,000 a year on reduced electricity bills.

Local Plan

13. I want to take this opportunity to remind not only councillors, but our businesses and communities that there is still time to 'have your say' on the new Local Plan. These views will help shape the future of West Suffolk, including where new homes can be built and where employment growth may take place, as well as issues around health, transport and the environment.
14. As you know, we are now running the preferred options consultation. This will end on the day of Council, 26 July 2022, and people can find out more by visiting our virtual exhibition at <https://westsuffolk.exhibition.app/>
15. Once finalised and adopted, the West Suffolk Local Plan, will cover the period up to 2040. As well as helping to decide planning applications and where new developments take place, it will also contain the policies that will secure the delivery of affordable housing, new play areas, green public open space, health and education facilities, and transport provision.
16. The Government sets out the stages of public consultation that a draft local plan must go through. The draft West Suffolk Local Plan completed its first stage of public consultation in 2020, on the issues and options.
17. From that feedback, national guidance and emerging evidence, the Council has dismissed some sites and included others for potential development – and it is now seeking further feedback , as part of our "preferred options" consultation.
18. The Council is also carrying out another "call for sites' to ensure it has explored all possible options before it concludes the sites selected for the final draft local plan, which is due to go out to consultation next year.
19. In total, the future housing need identified by Government, means that 15,200 more homes will be needed in West Suffolk by 2040. Whilst 8,600 of these already have planning permission, at least 6,600 homes will need to be identified through the new local plan. The preferred options stage includes land for 7,134 homes (only 2,600 of which are on new sites put forward). This over allocation is because the Council needs to provide a level of choice and certainty that it will meet its housing needs.
20. People have been given the chance in various ways to have their say including online, a virtual village hall exhibition, and face to face at a number of public

exhibitions and engagement in this process has been pleasingly good and continues.

Cost of Living

21. We all understand the issues the nation and our local residents and businesses are going through due to the high cost of living. This is of course a countrywide issue effecting all but is a daily struggle for many.
22. There are many initiatives we are delivering, or supporting, to help our communities and businesses in this respect. Once again, our work around families and communities as well as economic development means we are on the front foot in proactively addressing these challenges both in the short and long term. This is however something that needs to be tackled together, and everyone from national Government, public services and local community groups and businesses has a part to play.
23. Just over a month ago Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, which includes ourselves, other Suffolk councils, police and health, agreed around £1 million to help the county's hardest hit due to the cost of living crisis. The money is earmarked to help the continuation of hardship support services which were set up during COVID and are now being called upon again due to the challenges of the cost of living.
24. We have also recently announced an increase to our Community Chest Fund to help communities with the cost-of-living crisis.
25. We have increased the total available by 10 percent to now offer more than half a million pounds in help. The West Suffolk Council Community Chest grant scheme is open to community groups, charities, voluntary organisations, faith groups and social enterprises. Applications are now open, and I would urge you to encourage those who might benefit and meet the criteria to apply.
26. In the past three years, organisations and charities across West Suffolk have been awarded a total of £1.39 million in Community Chest funding by the Council to help them deliver vital local initiatives.
27. But we can of course always do more to build on the already good work we are doing to improve the lives of the communities we serve, and future generations; and given some of the challenges we are facing are beyond our remit control, I very much hope we will work continue to work together, and even better, with others on this vital issue.

And finally

28. Suffolk Libraries celebrate their tenth birthday this year and I have wished them many happy returns on the Council's behalf. These are vital community centres that are much more than places to get books; they play an active role in education and the welfare of residents as well as the support of the most vulnerable. We have a long relationship with the library service and an excellent example of the need for such a facility at the heart of a community is demonstrated at the Mildenhall Hub. This new modern facility linked to other

services has seen an amazing 54 percent rise in books borrowed from 2018-2019 to 2021-2022 (that is an extra 19,070 books being borrowed) and over the same time the number of borrowers jump by 78 percent (an additional 970 people).

29. This is testament to how councils, public and private services can and should work together to drive better outcomes.
30. Suffolk Day was held last month. It is a good way of celebrating all the great things going on in the county, and especially in West Suffolk. Indeed, many counties are now following Suffolk's lead on this. Here at West Suffolk Council, every day is of course "Suffolk Day" and I know that is something that connects all of us, no matter what side of the chamber we sit. It is that ethos that will see us continue to meet the many challenges and seize the opportunities ahead. Indeed, this ethos has helped to ensure we have the measures already in place and in a good position to continue to deliver for our businesses and communities whom we all serve.

With best wishes,

Councillor John Griffiths
Leader of West Suffolk Council

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Referral from Cabinet: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – investment plan allocations

Report number:	COU/WS/22/015	
Report to and date:	Extraordinary Council	26 July 2022
Cabinet members:	<p>Councillor John Griffiths Leader of the Council Telephone: 01284 757001 Email: john.griffiths@westsuffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>Councillor Sarah Broughton Portfolio Holder for Resources and Property Telephone: 01284 787327 Email: sarah.broughton@westsuffolk.gov.uk</p>	
Lead officer:	<p>Ian Gallin Tel: 01284 757001 Email: ian.gallin@westsuffolk.gov.uk</p>	

Decisions Plan: This item is included on the Decisions Plan and was referred by Cabinet on 19 July 2022 to Council for a final decision. It was, therefore, not subject to call-in.

Wards impacted: All wards

Recommendations: It is recommended that Council:

- 1. Approves the West Suffolk UK Shared Prosperity Fund investment allocations (at Appendix B to Report number: COU/WS/22/015), for submission to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). These were approved by Cabinet on 19 July 2022.**
- 2. Endorses Cabinet’s decision that officers complete the full DLUHC investment plan template in line with the details contained in this report, COU/WS/22/015.**
- 3. Endorses Cabinet’s decision to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to make minor adjustments to the investment plan allocations before submission to Government, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.**
- 4. Endorses Cabinet’s decision to delegate authority to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Property to implement the approved investment plan once funding has been received from DLUHC, including implementing minor variations in the funding amounts for each intervention, in order to respond to changing circumstances over the lifetime of the Fund.**

1. Context to this report

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Government guidance

- 1.1 On 13 April 2022, the Government announced a £2.6 billion fund to support implementation of its Levelling Up White Paper, known as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The fund is a successor to EU Structural Funds, but the quantum of funding is anticipated to be considerably less, given the complexity of the EU Structural Fund landscape. The UKSPF is for the period 2022-2025.
- 1.2 The Government's stated aim for the fund is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK, aligned with the Levelling Up White Paper goals. The vision for the fund is that 'it will lead to visible, tangible improvements to the places where people work and live, alongside investment in human capital, giving communities up and down the UK more reasons to be proud of their area.'
- 1.3 The overall £2.6 billion fund includes two elements:
- **Multiply**, which is focused on adult numeracy, in order 'to enable all adults without the equivalent of a GCSE Grade C or 4 in maths to be able to access a free flexible course'. For this, lead local authorities are county councils. Suffolk County Council (SCC) has already submitted an investment plan for this element of the fund, to which West Suffolk Council contributed. If the plan is approved, SCC's allocation for Multiply will be £3,752,462.
 - The remaining **UKSPF** – where lead local authorities are district councils (or Combined Authorities). This element is the focus of this report.
- 1.4 UKSPF funding is allocated to local authorities through a formula (based on deprivation and population) but can only be accessed through an investment plan, which needs to be submitted to DLUHC by 1 August 2022. Every local authority will receive at least £1 million. West Suffolk Council's allocation is £1,943,467. Payments are expected to be made by October 2022 for the first of the three years' allocations.
- 1.5 UKSPF must be spent on 'interventions' listed by DLUHC, under three main investment priorities:
- Communities and place
 - Supporting local business
 - People and skills (2024-2025 only)

The full list of 41 interventions is available on the DLUHC website at this link: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: interventions, outputs and indicators - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

1.6 In their investment plans, councils are required to say how much of the funding they intend to allocate to each of their chosen interventions and what outcomes and outputs they expect to see as a result of the funding being distributed. There is insufficient funding for all of the interventions to be funded. While councils may have types of projects in mind when allocating funding, the investment plans are written at the level of **interventions**, not **projects**. Therefore, specific localities, groups and projects will not be mentioned in West Suffolk’s investment plan.

1.7 Once investment plans are approved, interventions are expected to be delivered through:

- grants to public or private organisations
- commissioning third party organisations
- procurement of service provision
- in-house provision

West Suffolk Council will use a blended approach of the above delivery methods, depending on what is most appropriate and taking account of the available providers.

Collaborative working between councils is specifically encouraged in the Government guidance, especially on the supporting local businesses and people and skills element.

1.8 Full details of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, including the guidance, are available in the Government’s prospectus: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
A summary of the types of investment the Government expects to see under each of the three main priorities is attached at Appendix A.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund – West Suffolk Council

1.9 Subject to the approval of a UKSPF investment plan by DLUHC, West Suffolk Council will be able to access the following funding:

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Funding amount (£)	235,858	471,715	1,235,894	1,934,467
Minimum capital element (%)	10	13	20	
Minimum capital element (£)	23,586	61,323	247,179	332,088

1.9 Since the publication of the Government’s prospectus in April, officers have been working on the development of the West Suffolk investment plan. This has involved two main processes:

1. Engagement with stakeholders (this is described in section 4 below)
2. Development of funding packages against the Government’s 41 interventions

1.10 Under the second process above, officers have considered for each of the interventions where funding should be allocated based on the following factors:

- the feedback from engagement
- where EU funding was previously applied
- whether outcomes are deliverable in the timeframes and with the levels of funding available
- how the intervention fits with West Suffolk’s existing strategic priorities
- what proposals are emerging from collaborative work across Suffolk
- Government criteria
- where there is evidence of need according to the evidence base (a pack of data and evidence has been prepared by the Suffolk Office of Data and Analytics).

This process has resulted in the proposals described in section 2 below.

2. **Proposals within this report**

Principles for West Suffolk’s investment plan

2.1 The following principles have underpinned the development of the West Suffolk UKSPF investment plan:

1. UKSPF is **additional to existing funding**, so will be applied where there are gaps or areas of most need

2. UKSPF will be invested **in line with our existing Strategic Framework**, ways of working and West Suffolk’s approach (partnership working, building capacity, prevention, behaving more commercially, subsidiarity, user pays, digital transformation etc)
3. Where possible, we will **fund projects with revenue funding for three years**, to give stability to partners, and will require an exit strategy or longer-term sustainable solution
4. As was the case for EU funding, there is an expectation of **match funding, commitment and support with delivery** where appropriate – for example, business support and town centre improvement initiatives
5. There will be a balance of investment according to **evidence of challenges, opportunities, outcomes and benefits**, across rural and urban locations
6. We will encourage projects that support **net-zero objectives** as a cross-cutting theme
7. Details of investments will need to **change or evolve over the three years**. Cabinet will take the lead in shaping future changes

Funding proposals – Suffolk-wide pooling

- 2.2 The Government has encouraged collaboration between local authorities on the Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills priorities. In Suffolk’s context, this would appear to be a sensible approach, given the economies of scale that can be achieved in programmes in these areas, and the existing examples of EU-funded skills and business support projects that were county-wide.
- 2.3 Officers have therefore worked up proposals for pooling in these priority areas, which have been supported in principle by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, subject to individual council approval. These proposals still leave West Suffolk with the majority of the allocated funding for district-level initiatives over the three years.
- 2.4 At this stage, while existing delivery partners for business support and skills initiatives have been consulted over the types of programmes that could be run across the county, no decisions have been made on who would take these forward in the future. The commissioning and procurement process will start in autumn 2022.
- 2.5 It is proposed that the pooled contributions would be used to deliver the following types of initiative:

Business support

- start-up support
- small to Medium sized Enterprise (SME) support to grow
- investor development
- inward investment

People and skills

Addressing:

- participation and youth employment
- long term unemployment
- apprenticeship support
- supporting progression, reskilling and upskilling across the Suffolk workforce in key growth and employment sectors.

2.6 The amounts of funding that it is proposed West Suffolk should contribute to pooled initiatives are set out in the following table. In line with Government guidance, each district council’s contribution is based on a proportionate share according to the amount of UKSPF each will receive from Government.

Note on the table: While People and Skills funding is not to be allocated until 2024-2025, the Government has made an exception for projects that are delivered by voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations (VCSE) who would be at risk due to EU funding falling away in 2022-2024. The funding amounts in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 in the table below therefore relate to this exception.

£	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
West Suffolk UKSPF allocation	235,858	471,715	1,235,894	1,934,467
Contribution to business support funding	0	135,647	153,728	289,375
Contribution to Suffolk business start up funding	39,000	78,000	78,000	289,375
Contribution to Suffolk skills funding	47,160	47,160	288,000	382,320
West Suffolk specific initiatives	149,698	210,908	716,166	1,076,772

Funding proposals – West Suffolk investment plan allocations

2.7 Based on the above proposals for pooled contributions, the following table sets out the proposals for how both the pooled and West Suffolk-only contributions should be allocated across the Government’s high level investment priorities.

£	West Suffolk contribution to Suffolk wide initiatives	West Suffolk only initiatives	Total
Communities and place	0	748,604	748,604
Supporting local business	451,877	137,927	589,804
People and skills	382,320	145,000	527,320
Fund administration		77,739	77,739
Totals	866,695	1,031,531	1,943,467

2.8 The proposed detailed allocations across the Government’s interventions are set out in the table at Appendix B, for approval by Council. These figures then need to be inputted to an online application form. A version of the form can be found at this link: [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus)

2.9 Once the proposed allocations have been approved, it is recommended that the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to make minor adjustments to the investment plan allocations before submission to Government by 1 August, in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

Implementation of the West Suffolk investment plan

2.10 Preparations will need to be made in advance of West Suffolk Council receiving the funding in October 2022 to ensure that local providers can spend the money and deliver the outcomes between October 2022 and 31 March 2023. Officers will develop procurement and commissioning processes to ensure this can be achieved in the timeframe.

2.11 Given the long timeframe associated with the UKSPF implementation as a whole, it is likely that there will need to be changes to the detail of the investment plan over time. This could be as a result of changing priorities for West Suffolk Council; changes in the provider landscape; or changes emerging in the national political or societal context.

- 2.12 It is therefore proposed to give delegated authority to the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Property to implement the approved investment plan once funding has been received from DLUHC, including implementing minor variations in the funding amounts for each intervention, in order to respond to changing circumstances over the lifetime of the Fund.

3. Alternative options that have been considered

- 3.1 It would have been possible for West Suffolk Council not to collaborate with other Suffolk authorities in the Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills elements of the funding. However, this would have been inefficient and wasteful, as individual district-level structures would have needed to be created to commission these elements, duplicating the efforts of the other Suffolk districts. This pooling approach still retains significant funds for local interventions.
- 3.2 West Suffolk Council could have taken the approach of determining which individual projects to support, rather than allocating funding at the intervention level. However, the timeframes for achieving this were prohibitive in order to submit an investment plan by 1 August 2022, and it would have meant deciding now how every bit of funding should be allocated up to 31 March 2025, by which time many things may have changed in the local context.

4. Consultation and engagement undertaken

- 4.1 A key part of the Government’s design of the UKSPF is engagement with local partners and stakeholders. West Suffolk Council therefore undertook a significant piece of engagement work in order to ensure a wide range of views were incorporated into the development of the investment plan. This included contacting each district councillor.
- 4.2 A number of methods were used, including:
- direct conversations
 - briefing meetings
 - letters and emails inviting stakeholders to respond either by email, phone or through online response forms.
- 4.3 Engagement with stakeholders who cover the whole of Suffolk was carried out jointly, through a letter from Suffolk district chief executives and a bespoke online response form.
- 4.4 The stakeholders included in the engagement were:
- Three MPs
 - All West Suffolk councillors
 - All parish and town councils

- Local business representatives
- Business support providers
- Local partnerships
- Visitor economy representatives
- Arms-length bodies
- Community and faith organisations
- VCSE and civil society organisations
- Education, employment support and skills providers
- Nature, environment groups
- Public health representatives
- Police and crime representatives.

4.5 A total of sixty-six responses were received to the engagement. Some of these commented on the overall direction that West Suffolk's investment plan should take and others gave detail of specific projects that the stakeholder felt should be supported with UKSPF funding.

4.6 Each of the responses was collated and inputted into the process described in paragraph 1.10 above.

4.7 Government has asked local authorities to seek the approval of local MPs to the investment plan before submission. The plan will be sent to the three MPs covering West Suffolk Council's area following Cabinet consideration.

4.8 A requirement of the UKSPF is that a stakeholder advisory group oversees the implementation of the investment plan. This group will be established following submission of the investment plan to Government by 1 August 2022.

5. Risks associated with the proposals

5.1 Levels of expectation

The Government's chosen approach to UKSPF, and in particular the requirement for local authorities to engage widely has potentially led to high levels of expectation around the volume of projects that will be funded, and to what level. As can be seen from the investment plan allocations at Appendix B, once the funding has been allocated across the Government's three priorities and across three years, the amounts of funding available, while extremely welcome, are fairly modest. The council is therefore working to communicate this effectively with local providers who were involved in the engagement phase, including supporting them by signposting them to alternative sources of funding.

5.2 Deliverability of projects in year one

The short timeframes for delivery of projects in year one could reduce the scope of what it is possible to achieve. As soon as the investment plan is approved, work will therefore begin to enable potential

providers to 'hit the ground running' and to implement UKSPF projects in the autumn.

5.3 Partnership working

There are risks associated with the pooled elements of the UKSPF investment plan due to the involvement of four or five other councils, whose priorities may diverge during the lifetime of the programmes. The existing Suffolk-wide collaborative structures (Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, Suffolk-wide portfolio holder groups, Suffolk Chief Officers Leadership Team and supporting officer groups) are therefore involved in the agreement and commissioning of this work to minimise the risk of issues arising.

6. Implications arising from the proposals

6.1 Financial

If approved, the investment plan will result in £1.9 million of new funding being received and distributed by West Suffolk Council.

6.2 Legal Compliance

The Council will be required to abide by the terms and conditions of the funding, some of which have been set out in the prospectus, but more details of which will be received in due course. In particular, the council will be required to abide by subsidy rules in awarding funding to third parties.

6.3 Personal Data Processing

All personal data handled in conjunction with the UKSPF will relate to individuals in their professional capacity. No additional customer data will be handled by the council as a result of the funding. All personal information (for example, names of respondents, contacts at supplier organisations) received through the engagement process and through the implementation phase will be handled in line with the council's information governance policies.

6.4 Equalities

The proposals in the investment plan allocations support the delivery of the first two of the council's equalities objectives, namely:

- Champion and promote growth in West Suffolk that recognises the economic value of strong, diverse and healthy workforces and communities and a clean natural environment, alongside growth in productivity.
- Work in partnership with others to support initiatives that focus on prevention and early intervention, particularly on issues such as health, crime and social isolation. In particular, develop innovative new models of supporting residents and businesses to access public services, for example through the Mildenhall Hub and Western Way Development.

- 6.4.1 A number of the interventions it is proposed to support also have particular emphasis on groups with a protected characteristic, for example E1 (access to town centres for disabled people).
- 6.4.2 Each project or package of measures will be screened for equalities considerations in a proportionate way at the point of commissioning or procurement.

6.5 **Crime and Disorder**

The overall purpose of the UKSPF is to build social capital in communities and build pride in place, both of which support reductions in crime and antisocial behaviour.

6.6 **Environment or Sustainability**

The UKSPF prospectus invites local authorities to ensure that their investment plans contribute to net zero objectives. As such, as well as directly investing in active travel measures (E7) and green skills initiatives (E39), other projects that come forward under other interventions will be encouraged to build in carbon reduction measures. UKSPF will also sit alongside other funding from pooled business rates and the council's investment in net zero measures in order to reduce West Suffolk's carbon footprint over the period of the fund.

6.7 **HR or Staffing**

West Suffolk Council will draw down four per cent of the overall value of the funding to support the administration and delivery of the investment plan. Work is underway to determine the best way in which to do this, including the possibility of joint working around the pooled initiatives.

6.8 **Changes to existing policies**

UKSPF does not require any changes in existing policies.

6.9 **External organisations (such as businesses, community groups)**

The role of external organisations in delivery of UKSPF is set out in the above sections of the report.

7. **Appendices referenced in this report**

- 7.1 Appendix A: UKSPF investment priorities (Government guidance)
- 7.2 Appendix B: West Suffolk UKSPF investment plan allocations

8. **Background documents associated with this report**

None

Appendix A: UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Investment priorities

Priority	Objectives	Examples
Communities and place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. To build resilient and safe 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. 	Visual improvements to town centres and high streets, cultural/visitor economy interventions, litter, waste and graffiti reduction, projects to fight antisocial behaviour, and capital funding to improve neighbourhoods or community projects and initiatives.
Local businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Promote 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. Increase 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. 	Support to increase town centre footfall, outdoor markets, the development of cultural, visitor and heritage assets, targeted business growth and innovation support.
People and skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boost 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. Support disadvantaged people to access the skills they need to progress in life and into work, for example the long-term unemployed and those with protected characteristics through funding life, and basic 	Technical and vocational qualifications in areas where there are skills shortages locally; and intensive, wraparound one-to-one support to address barriers to employment, supplemented by additional services. Additional services may include life skills, basic

	<p>skills where this is not delivered through national or local employment and skills provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local areas to fund local skills needs and supplement local adult skills provision for example by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. • Reduce levels of economic inactivity and move those furthest from the labour market closer to employment, through investment in bespoke 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. 	<p>skills and specialist support including achieving basic qualifications in alternative settings, work experience, supported employment, enrichment activities, counselling and advice, and community referrals. These interventions should be additional and complementary to existing employment and skills provision in each area.</p>
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Appendix B: West Suffolk UKSPF investment plan allocations

	Intervention	2022/2023	2023/24	2024/25	Intended purpose of funding
	Total	235,857	471,715	1,235,895	
	Admin Cost (4%)	9,434	18,869	49,436	
Communities and Place	E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs	0	47,709	192,662	Improvements to accessibility, wayfinding, public realm, quality of environment, town centre infrastructure.
	E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.	14,702	14,708	34,053	Contributions to the development of new, or improvements to existing: public art, museums, other cultural facilities, exhibitions, events, campaigns
	E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area	14,702	14,708	34,053	Match funding to support active travel schemes. (Town and rural focus)
	E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues to bring people together	14,702	14,708	34,053	Equipment and facilities
	E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	29,403	29,415	68,106	Support for volunteering, direct support programmes; support for rural community hubs
	E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency and combat fuel poverty and climate change	14,702	14,708	34,053	Research, support for advice and advocacy projects, community energy schemes
	E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies	10,000	4,000	50,000	Cultural, sports and community facilities, especially in villages
	Communities & Place Total	98,209	139,954	446,979	
Supporting Local Business	E16: investment in open markets and improvements in town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wraparound support for small businesses	8,910	8,916	10,000	Markets infrastructure, campaigns, events, start-up support
	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	23,612	23,624	44,053	Visitor Economy projects to develop local groups, attractions, events, infrastructure and wayfinding for attracting tourists to our places
	E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level.	9,532	19,545	20,698	Proposals for flexible co-working spaces
	E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.	39,000	213,648	231,729	Start up and further growth support for new and existing businesses. Growth hub-type support, investor development and inward investment
	Supporting Local Business Total	81,054	265,733	306,480	
People and 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.	47,160	47,160	288,000	Suffolk-wide skills support measures to support those furthest from the labour market, especially due to health issues (smaller contribution in Y1 and Y2) (continuation of Work Well Suffolk)
	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.	0	0	20,000	Skills projects supporting young people, women, people from ethnic minority background, those furthest from the labour market
	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.	0	0	100,000	Skills training in areas such as welding, lorry driving, logistics, health and social care, engineering, manufacturing etc
	E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.	0	0	25,000	Green skills training in a variety of areas such as biodiversity, green technologies etc
	People & Skills Total	47,160	47,160	433,000	

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