



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

South Yorkshire Investment Plan

1st August 2022

Location: South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

Details:

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South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority

South Yorkshire's Strategic Ambition Statement

We will use the SPF to build a ***stronger, fairer, and greener local economy*** that materially improves the life chances of our whole population (especially the most deprived) and boosts pride and confidence in South Yorkshire. Delivering on this ambition is vital to our communities who are still focused on post-pandemic recovery and now face a cost of living crisis and with our national economy braced for another contraction.

Rising cost of living and climate crises risk reinforcing entrenched poverty and inequality

South Yorkshire is wrestling with the persistent challenges of deep-rooted structural poverty. Compared to other English regions, South Yorkshire has low healthy life expectancy, significant health inequalities, high levels of deprivation, high child poverty and fuel poverty rates, low skills attainment, and lowered aspiration. Over time, this multitude of re-enforcing challenges has encouraged a regional identity that too often lacks confidence and risks undermining ambition and pride in place. These have only been exacerbated by the COVID pandemic.

All of these are contributory factors to high levels of economic inactivity: 1 in every 4 of the adult working population in the region is not participating in the local economy (compared to a national average of 1 in 5).

This is creating a lag effect on our economy. Our growth and productivity rates are some of the lowest in England. We have fewer new jobs, lower average wages, and markedly low business density. We lack sufficient high skilled jobs which leads to talent leaking out of the area, and in turn contributes to a deficit in capable candidates ready to take up the few new jobs that do become available. We cannot turn around without reversing economic inactivity.

Whilst redundancies during the pandemic were relatively low and the employment growth rate is increasing, we know certain sectors cannot fill vacancies because there are insufficient economically active, appropriately skilled individuals. COVID and Long COVID have only added to levels of long-term sickness which was already one of the principal drivers of labour market inactivity in the region. In addition, the pandemic has disproportionately impacted deprived communities, Black, Asian and minoritised ethnic people, women, the disabled and other vulnerable groups; reinforcing and sometimes exacerbating many existing health and economic inequalities.

Intractable structural challenges, made worse by the pandemic, mean our local communities are now particularly exposed to the potentially profound negative impacts of the growing cost of living crisis. That exposure is compounded by the high number of energy-intensive businesses in the region which leaves us especially vulnerable to the escalating cost of fuel. The critical risk is that existing inequalities will become even further entrenched unless we act now.

As we look ahead to the unfolding climate crisis, we see further cause for immediate action. In tackling our structural economic challenges, we must address environmental as well as social priorities. We need to not only decarbonise our existing economy and safeguard our natural environment, but also protect our civic infrastructure, enhance our domestic and commercial energy efficiency, and ensure people and businesses are well-placed to take advantage of the increasingly well-capitalised green economy. We must address this now or risk simply increasing the hurdles South Yorkshire faces in levelling up to the rest of the UK.

Smart targeting of SPF will leverage maximum impact

Whilst we are realistic that the total value of SPF to the region delivers a net reduction in funding (compared to previous EU levels), we are determined to use the increased freedom around how we direct this funding to deliver the greatest impact.

Economic growth is vital but on its own is not enough to meaningfully improve life chances. To deliver our primary ambition of driving up levels of economic activity and community participation, as a region, we must address the broad range of barriers to employment and participation across typically hard-to-reach and currently inactive groups. We will use SPF to ensure local people can develop their skills, to find, stay and progress in work, and to share fairly in the prosperity this brings. That could mean incentivising individuals to take up volunteering or training, take part in civic or cultural activity, or helping them to start a new business or innovate to grow an existing one.

South Yorkshire already boasts outstanding productive businesses, exceptional innovators and remarkable academic, cultural and community institutions – but we need more of them. We want SPF to support *responsible* growth and productivity that ensures the benefits of a thriving economy are fairly shared and experienced across our communities. That means we need more businesses and social organisations creating the right kinds of jobs and opportunities, and a population with the necessary qualifications and capabilities.

The way we support organisations to grow and look after their people matters, as does the types of businesses we choose to encourage. We want to pursue interventions that protect worker wellbeing and help address in-work poverty. We know that better quality of work will help tackle health inequalities and healthy life expectancy which, combined with appropriate support for targeted individuals, will in turn support more people to become economically active, promoting a virtuous circle that drives up wellbeing and quality of life alongside GVA.

Addressing employability alongside health and wellbeing will enable innovation, enterprise, and growth. If we get this right, we will boost cultural and entrepreneurial momentum, release pent up talent in our own population and attract greater investment capital and capability from outside the region. We know that innovation can transform an economy and we will direct some SPF to support the work already underway to accelerate and intensify this in our economy and communities.

A critical part of the innovation story is ensuring we have the skills and capability in our employee and business population to achieve our ambitious net zero targets and support *sustainable* economic growth. SPF must build on our strong research capabilities, local engineering and manufacturing supply chains and existing expertise in low carbon technologies to grow opportunities for places and individuals. However, we also know climate change threatens economic stability and so poses a disproportionate threat to the poorest and most vulnerable. This means SPF must also help communities protect themselves from fuel poverty and other energy-related cost of living challenges.

We need to be smart about when and where we invest SPF. Recognising the cost of living crisis is immediate and SPF for skills and employability is backloaded, we are phasing our approach.

We will focus on highly flexible, hyper-localised deployment of funds in and with local communities during Year 1 to help address cost of living and grow opportunities for civic and cultural participation. As we move into Year 2, we will strengthen our broad and inclusive approach to supporting local businesses and social organisations with a particular focus on enabling innovation and growth. From Year 2 into Year 3, we will pick up the tapering of key

skills funding streams and use SPF to boost our direct support those that need it the most, into economic activity and employment.

A more effective way of working for South Yorkshire

It is vital that SPF is deployed in a way that builds pride in all the places that make up South Yorkshire. Our collaborative approach to co-designing South Yorkshire's SPF Investment Plan is indicative of a new and important change in how the region is working together.

The Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA) has come together with the local authorities (LAs: Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham, and Sheffield) and the wider stakeholder network to ensure we invest these funds as a whole region, targeting our interventions at the right scale to leverage the greatest impact, distributing leadership of key interventions across local areas, and targeting outcomes that bring benefit to our whole population.

The MCA has worked closely with all relevant partners to identify six critical principles that have informed (and will continue to inform) the SPF process, including:

1. **Strategically aligned regional approach:** We have ensured the logic of our strategic ambition runs down through our local delivery themes and specific interventions - and aligns with the existing strategies of the MCA, the LAs and other key partners.
2. **Lock in local responsiveness and delivery flexibility:** We have set out in our Investment Plan to retain the flexibility to be as responsive as possible to evolving local delivery priorities and to deploy funding in the most impactful way, including by:
 - Selecting interventions that support a broad range of activity types.
 - Identifying the level at which it makes most sense for intervention activity to take place, from region-wide down to hyper-local initiatives.
 - Avoiding defaulting to simply funding existing projects, so we can use this opportunity to review how we deliver the highest social impact at the best value for money.
3. **Collaborative implementation:** The MCA, LAs and partners will continue to work collaboratively to ensure that local stakeholder voices continue to have meaningful opportunities to influence spending choices through the Partnership Board.
4. **Devolved local delivery:** We will make collective choices about what level an intervention activity will take place at, and even where an initiative is delivered at regional level, the MCA will look to LAs and partners to lead on where possible (respecting their relative capacity to do so). Our presumption is that the majority of funding will be commissioned at the local level and typically final funding decisions on specific projects will be made as close as possible to the communities they will impact.
5. **Leverage regional advantages:** The MCA will only act to add value, including:
 - Providing resources to enable local partners to channel funding appropriately (in design and roll out of commissioning and distribution).
 - Bringing places together where there are common priorities and aligned initiatives and collaborative working.
 - Identifying where the strongest opportunities exist to generate match-funding and leverage the scale of the region where appropriate.
 - Ensuring that all funding distribution activity includes some form of environmental sustainability impact assessment taking into account both intended and unintended consequences.
6. **Intelligent and effective deployment:** We acknowledge that SPF cannot solve South Yorkshire issues if considered and deployed in isolation. We will use SPF as

one of a range of support mechanisms to address the deep-rooted issues facing South Yorkshire. To be effective we must work with partners to utilise other funds such as Levelling Up Fund, Towns Fund, Gainshare and other devolved funding allocations to maximise regional impact and delivery against the ambitions of the Strategic Economic Plan.

The MCA has welcomed reassurances over recent weeks in its direct dialogue with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) that acknowledges:

- The need for in-year and in-programme flexibility, recognising that funding priorities across the region, target groups, and sectors will evolve.
- Allowing for funding to roll-over across the three years of the programme, where appropriate.
- That monitoring and reporting requirements will be proportionate and light-touch.

These commitments will help us use SPF in a smart and targeted fashion to encourage and enable higher levels of purposeful activity and help to bring about a profound and necessary step change in our region. Ultimately, by increasing access to higher incomes and skills and reducing deep-rooted poverty, particularly for groups who have often not shared in the rewards of a growing economy, we will boost the confidence of our local communities and raise up pride in South Yorkshire.

Local challenges and opportunities

Below we set out the specific local challenges, where we believe SPF can make the most difference, and the opportunities that have shaped our investment priorities:

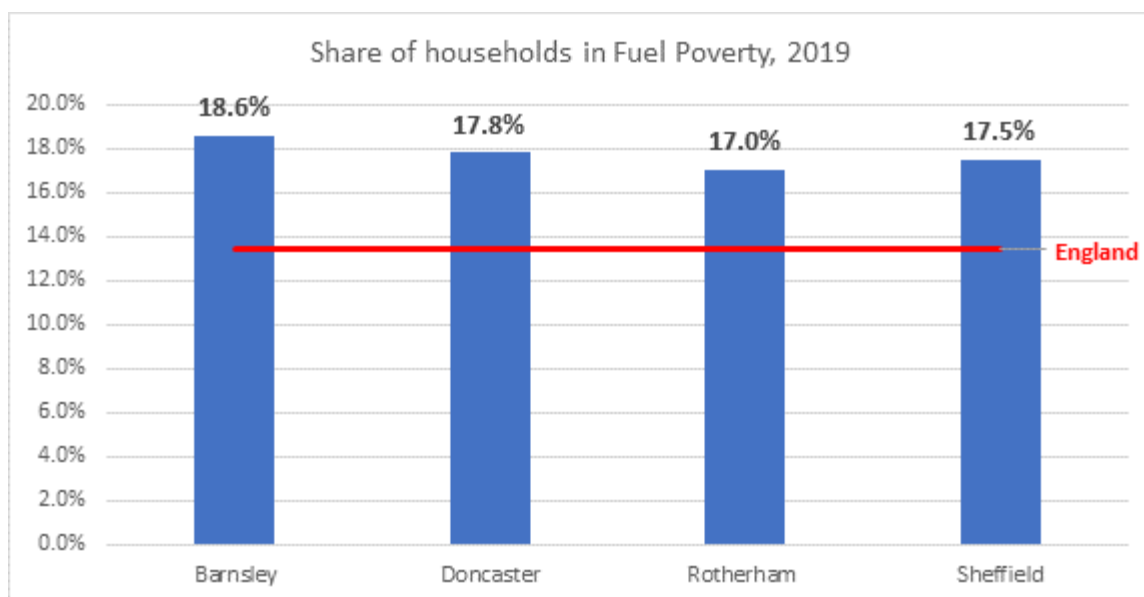
ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

South Yorkshire has deep, structural poverty and existing inequalities are even more exposed post-pandemic. Despite being the 16th largest LEP area by economic output, South Yorkshire is the 7th most deprived LEP area. All four South Yorkshire local authorities have high shares of lower super output areas in the most deprived 10% nationally, ranging from 21.6% in Rotherham to 23.8% in Sheffield.

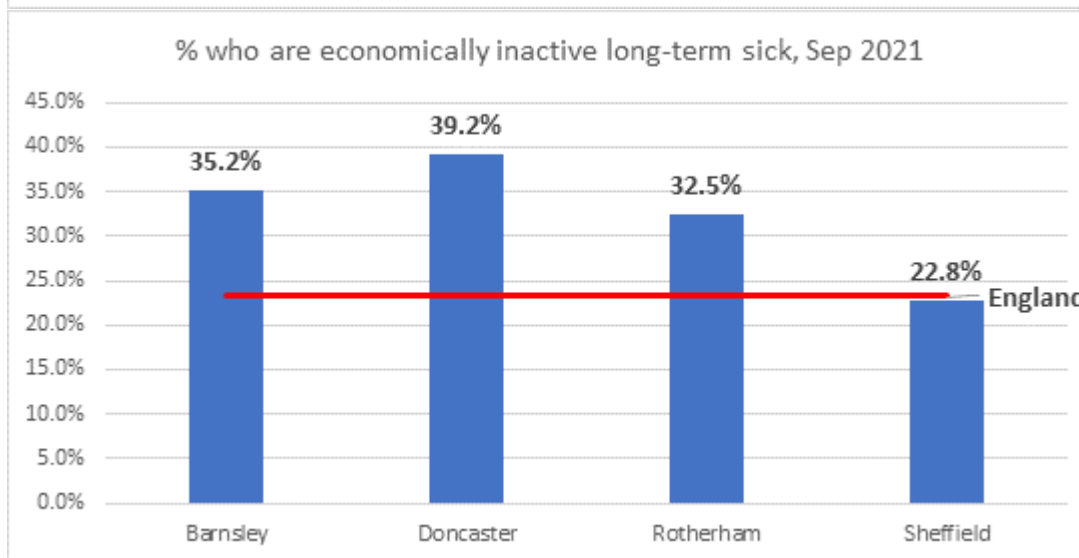
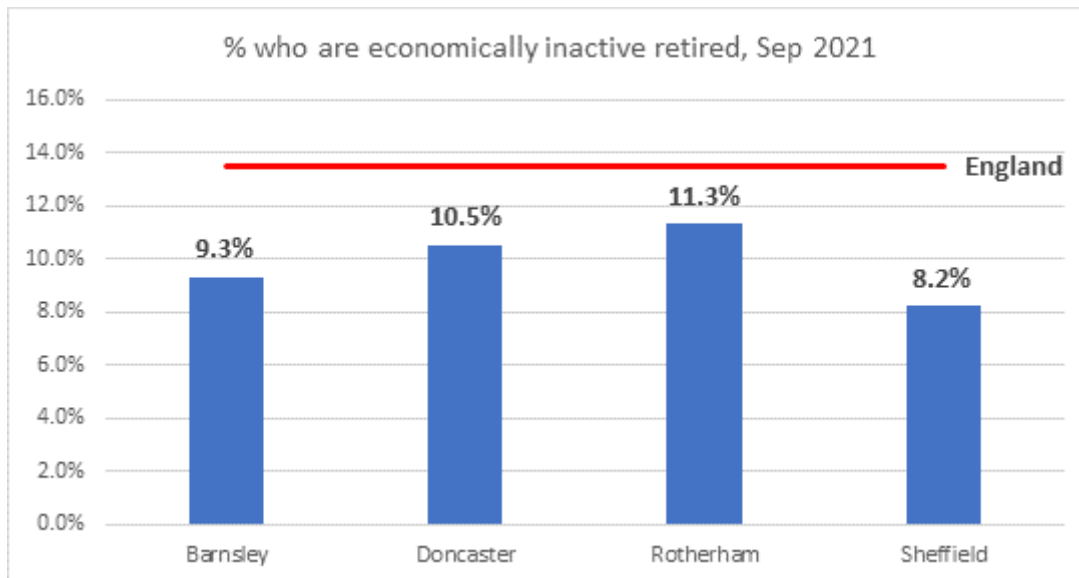
Despite some recent employment growth, poverty remains a persistent problem. In-work poverty (Universal Credit claimants in employment as a percentage of working age population) is higher in Barnsley (6.3%), Doncaster (6.6%), and Rotherham (5.9%) than the national average (5.6%). Concerningly, child poverty (percentage of children aged 0-15 in low-income families after housing costs) is much higher in South Yorkshire (35%) than the national average (30%). One third of the regional workforce is employed in the four sectors most strongly associated with in-work poverty and low wages: wholesale and retail, accommodation and food, administrative and support services, and residential care.

Fuel poverty is a powerful illustration of the challenges faced. In 2019, the proportion of households in fuel poverty in England was 13%. It is much higher across South Yorkshire:



This masks the differences within places. Despite the fuel poverty rate being high in Sheffield compared to the national average, it is only the third highest in South Yorkshire. However, Sheffield has huge local differences. Some wards have between 35%-40% of households in fuel poverty, which are some of the highest in the country. And it is not just in Sheffield – Doncaster and Rotherham also have wards with rates above 35%. These numbers help reveal just how vulnerable South Yorkshire communities are to the current cost of living and energy price crisis.

As we try to lift individuals and families across the region out of poverty and deprivation, we find our economy is facing a profound problem. Almost 1 in every 4 of the adult working population in the region is not participating in their local economy, compared to 1 in every 5 adults in the national economy. With an economic activity rate of 77%, all four areas in the region are below the national average. The region is home to 267,000 economically inactive individuals (23%), ranking the 10th lowest performing area out of 38 LEP areas. Whilst in other parts of the country people have largely left the labour market during and following pandemic for lifestyle reasons, the primary driver in South Yorkshire for economic inactivity is long-term health conditions:



Our towns and cities, particularly centres and high streets, suffered economically during pandemic. A longer-term economic restructuring is underway, and many businesses and business models may not survive. We have already seen high-profile retail closures and downsizing. Footfall in urban centres declined across the UK by around 80% during ‘lockdown’.

This has had an enduring impact on participation in cultural activity. In addition, only Sheffield (63.3%) is above the national average (60.5%) of the share of population participating in cultural activities, with rates in the other three South Yorkshire boroughs at just over 50%.

All of this contributes to an impact on levels of wellbeing and pride in place. Sheffield scores lowest on happiness of the eight core cities in England and 2nd highest on anxiety. It also ranks 294th out of 380 on UK Social Fabric Index – considered strength of relationships, civic institutions, norms and behaviours, physical infrastructure, and economic value. In terms of personal wellbeing, only Barnsley (7.5%) meets the national rate, with Doncaster (7.2%), Rotherham (7.4%), and Sheffield (7.4%) all being marginally below the average.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Though the region faces significant economic challenges and can sometime be perceived as lacking confidence in itself, nonetheless we boast strong and proud communities across urban and rural settings that hold a deep sense of identity.

As stated above, we have outstanding businesses and remarkable academic, cultural and community institutions. This offers significant opportunities to build on. But we need to protect and build capacity in our communities today to support them through what will be an incredibly challenging 18 months, as the cost-of-living crisis arrives just as we are starting to see some post pandemic uplift. We need to support measures that will enable recovery in our cities and town centres, helping retail, hospitality and leisure sectors to keep going.

The UK Prosperity Index 2021 measures institutional, economic, and social wellbeing and ranks local authorities against three broad domains of Inclusive Societies, Open Economies and Empowered People. While South Yorkshire's local authorities perform average to good on Open Economies, they rank poorly on Inclusive Society putting all four local authority areas in the bottom quartile on the Index overall. This indicates that conditions for enterprise and growth exist but suggests that social factors are among the reasons for lower prosperity in the region. We have the opportunity to use SPF funding to help address those social factors in a targeted way that helps to support wider community and economic recovery.

The region has outstanding natural, heritage, cultural and artistic assets with significant economic potential. The culture, arts and heritage sector is vital to the region's economy with £370m economic and social benefits and 6,500 jobs. Its potential is vast with many currently underutilised assets. There is enormous potential within the creative industries in South Yorkshire, particularly in the growing global demand for creative content and services. Growing our potential can reinforce a distinct identity for the area and help address the uneven distribution of opportunities, skills, finance, and knowledge in this sector.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

South Yorkshire continues to wrestle with profound challenges in our private sector, including low productivity, low wages and a mismatch in skills and work.

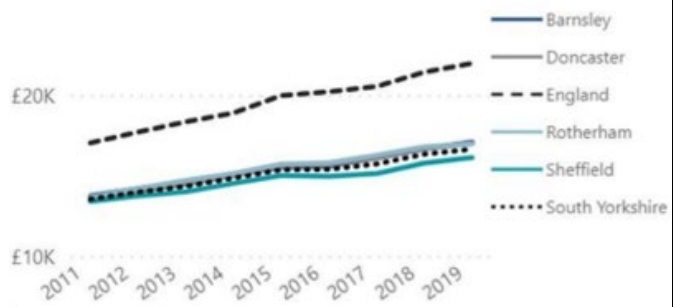
Our productivity (despite some growth in recent years) is one of the lowest of all LEP areas for GVA per worker (33rd out of 38 LEPs). The area suffers from above average levels of unemployment, particularly among young people, those from Black, Asian, and other Minoritised Ethnic backgrounds and those with disabilities. Additionally, 30% of working households claim in work benefits, compared to a national average of 24%.

Unemployment challenges are compounded by low average wage levels. Prior to COVID-19, average wages in the South Yorkshire were 15% lower than the national average. Furthermore, pre COVID-19, almost 1 in 3 of local people worked in low wage jobs and these have been disproportionately affected as evidenced unemployment and furloughing statistics. Post-crisis, the pay gap may well get worse. There is a need to address the quality, as well as supply, of job opportunities to ensure a structural increase in welfare and prosperity.

The business base and economy are dominated by several low pay sectors that dominate although well paid jobs do exist in these sectors. Using location quotients as a measure of specialisation and concentration of high value sectors, only manufacturing (1.3) scores above 1.0 (national rate) in South Yorkshire. Other sectors like public administration and defence (1.2), human health and social work (1.2), education (1.2), and transportation and storage (1.2) are all strengths but classed as largely low value sectors. South Yorkshire has a much lower share of jobs in knowledge intensive business services (13%) compared to the England average (20%).

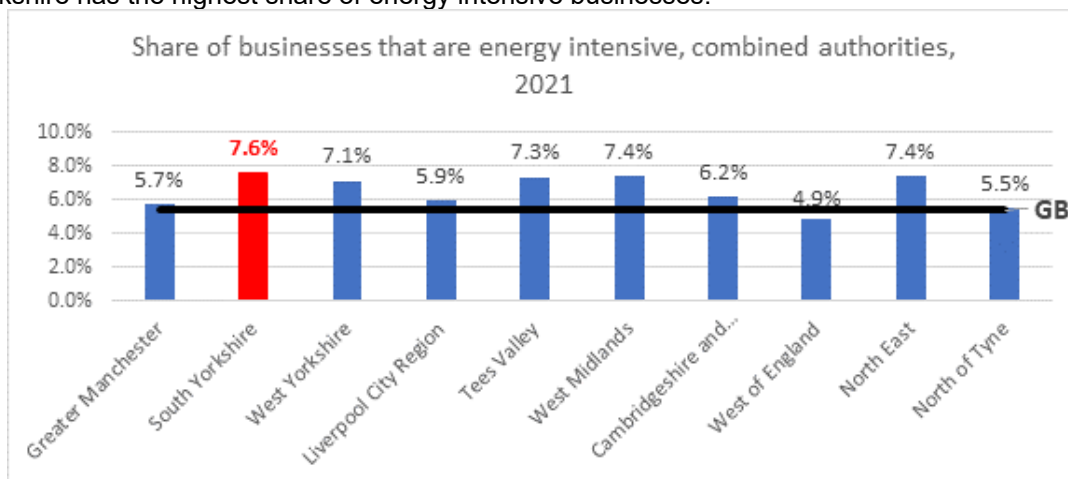
Median weekly gross pay in South Yorkshire - Barnsley is the lowest at £536 and Sheffield is the highest at £591 - is well below the national average (£613). Household income across South Yorkshire is also significantly below the national rate.

Household Income
GDHI Per Head £



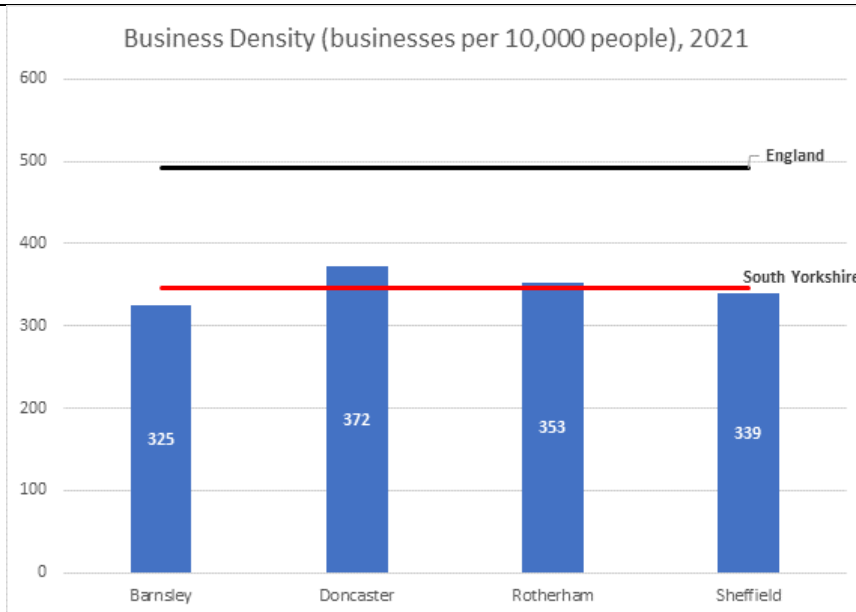
The widespread closure of businesses, including SMEs and large corporations, due to a lack of demand and/or inability to operate in the wake of pandemic, continues to pose a significant challenge. Many employers suspended recruitment altogether during pandemic, though that has opened up again more recently.

The anaemic growth in business turnover will only be made worse by rising costs, particularly of fuel. South Yorkshire has a high proportion of households vulnerable to energy price rises. But it is not just its people – businesses are also vulnerable. Of all Combined Authority areas, South Yorkshire has the highest share of energy intensive businesses.



To address these profound challenges we need to rapidly grow the numbers of individuals participating in our local communities and economy. However, we have a shrinking working age population: over the next 20 years more individuals will leave the workforce than enter it (-27,500); and presently the combination of job availability and low wages is driving a talent leak from the area, with very average graduate retention rates, just 18th of 38 LEP areas.

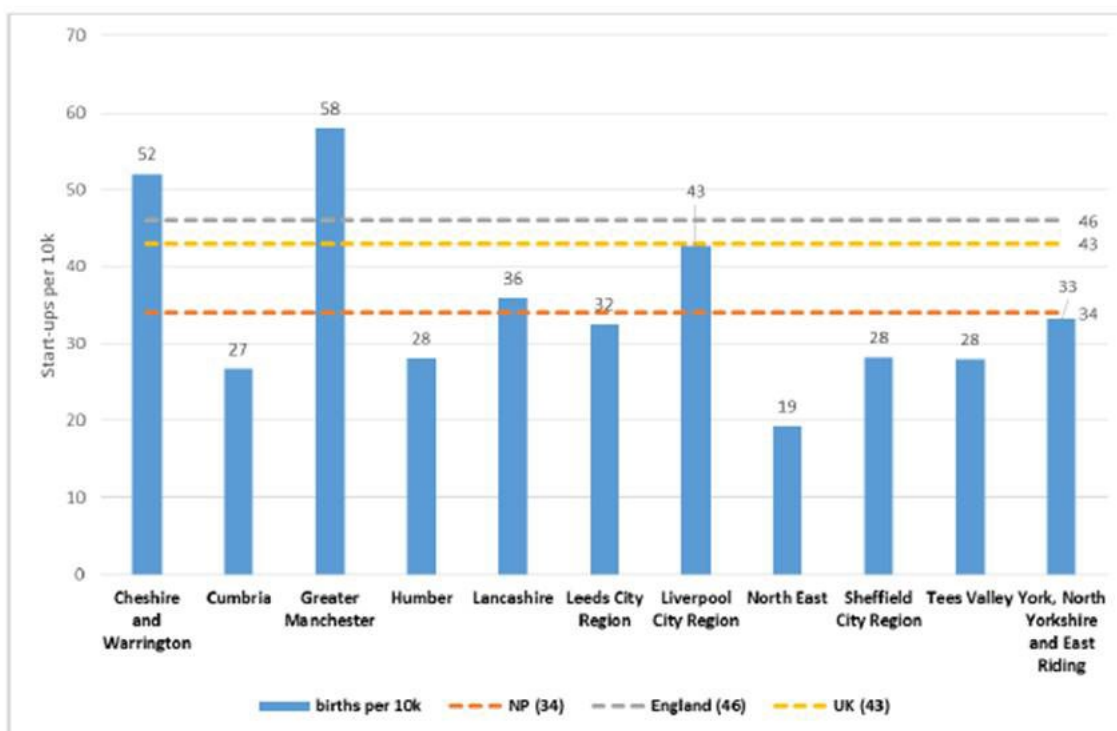
One way to address this is to increase the number of businesses in the region, thereby increasing the number of available jobs and levels of spending power within the local economy. However, South Yorkshire has some of the lowest business density rates of in England.



South Yorkshire currently has 49,000 business, which means that to get to the England average of business density it would need another 20,600 (42%) businesses.

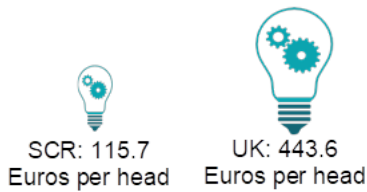
Start-ups in South Yorkshire are also low suggesting that this gap is not going to close on its current trajectory:

Start-ups per 10,000 population in the Northern Powerhouse LEPs (2018)



South Yorkshire business investment in innovation is significantly below the UK average and acts as a drag on productivity as illustrated in the figure below.

Business Enterprise R&D expenditure, 2015



GVA per job, 2015



The breakdown of spending on R&D by businesses shows it is lower in the Sheffield City Region (SCR) compared to wider UK, highlighting a potential weakness in innovation for many businesses in South Yorkshire. Data at a region level shows low levels of R&D spend per person employed by businesses and government.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Despite the scale of the challenges, there are strong reasons to be optimistic about South Yorkshire's ability to drive up levels of economic activity, thereby uplifting productivity and increasing numbers of businesses.

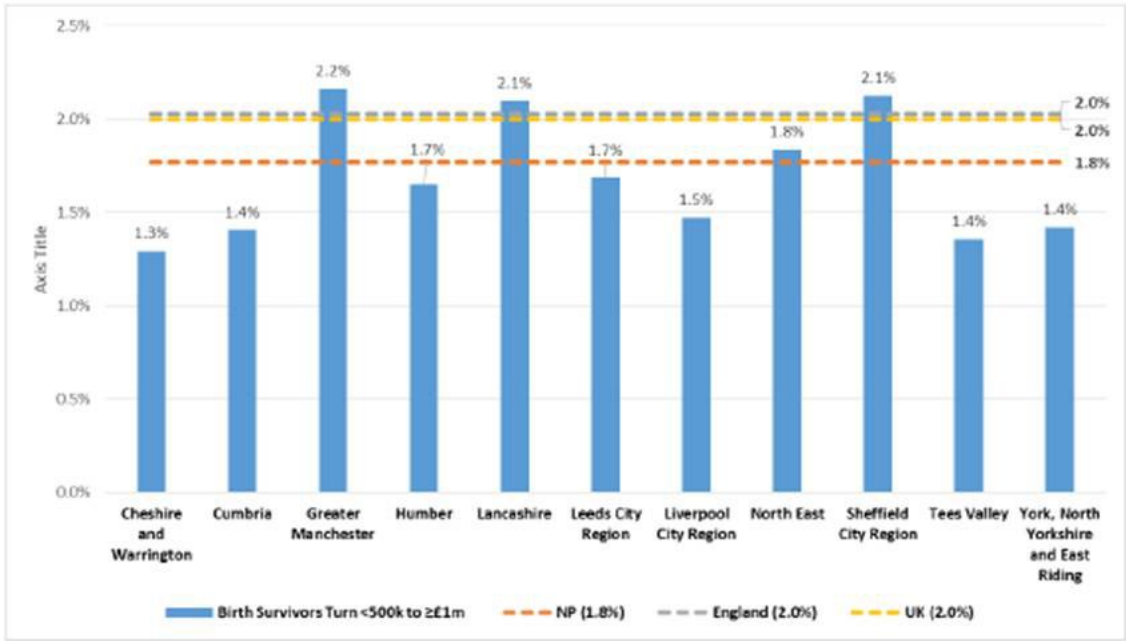
South Yorkshire fundamentally has a growing economy with huge untapped potential. The region is home to world-class companies and universities and has powerful strengths in high-precision engineering and design, materials, manufacturing, healthcare, digital and creative technologies, future mobility, and clean energy.

The MCA and LEP also boast a track record of delivery at scale: between 2012-2020, the LEP and MCA have created 15,150 jobs and 2,200 apprenticeships; assisting 6,000 learners; leveraging £319m of investment and supporting 24,000 companies. The MCA and LEP are now two-thirds of the way through the delivery of a multi-year Growth Deal that is forecast to eventually create more than 68,000 jobs, support 14,000 learners and leverage £1.6bn of investment.

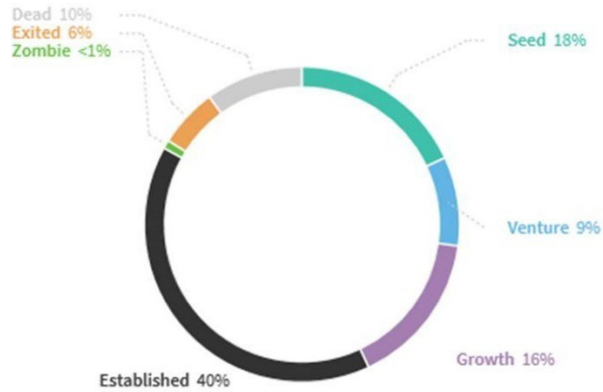
We have a significant opportunity to drive up growth, jobs, and business density by using our exemplary higher education institutions as a foundation to support start-up growth and innovation.

Data from the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey shows our two universities are active in graduate start-up creations and spin-offs from university-generated IP. Though rates are low today, this represents a huge opportunity to capitalise on. Higher Education Statistics Authority data tells us our two universities are on a par with peers in Leeds and Liverpool on numbers of patents filed and granted.

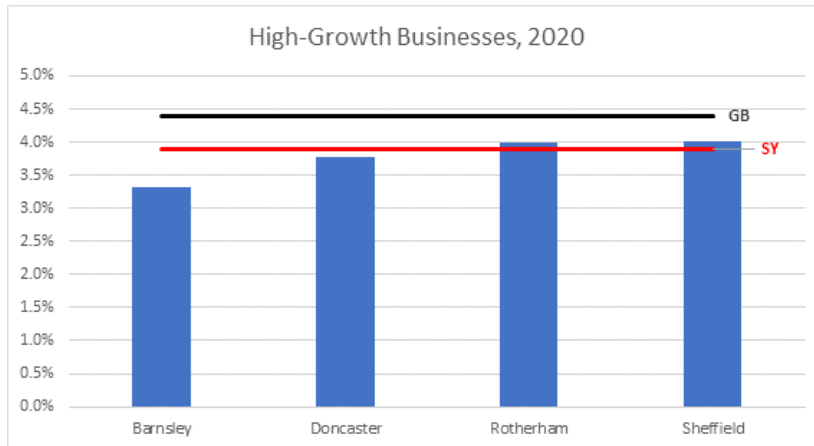
In addition, the region has lower-than-average rates of businesses survival and an above average proportion of start-ups, generating £1m+ revenues after three years. This suggests that new businesses stand a stronger chance of succeeding when they launch in South Yorkshire:



Alternative specialist high growth business data provided by Beauhurst, also shows that more new businesses are growing here, when compared to other regions like Liverpool City Region (12%) and Tees Valley (11%):



South Yorkshire has a high share of high-growth businesses of all sizes relative to our overall business base and compared to some other areas, though it still lags the national average (according to ONS data):



The economic impact of Covid lockdowns and restrictions, the economic impacts in the region were not as acute here as in other areas. In part, this is because the region is relatively less exposed in the size of sectors heavily impacted in the early part of the pandemic (retail, leisure, hospitality, and tourism). As the employment market has picked up, the region is seeing claimant rates falling at a similar trend to the national rate.

The region also has strong potential in specific areas, particularly the green economy. With strong research capabilities, major employment sites, local engineering and manufacturing supply chains, and strengths in low carbon technologies, we are well-placed to help drive the Net Zero Carbon transition for the whole country.

The social enterprise, cooperative and community business sector is also particularly strong in South Yorkshire and is well placed to continue to help address the more profound socio-economic challenges the region faces.

According to the State of Social Enterprise 2021, compared to the UK average, social enterprises in Yorkshire and Humber are more likely to be working with vulnerable people, young people, people experiencing mental health issues, groups, and individuals with physical or learning difficulties, and older people. Social enterprises are particularly involved in people-facing-sectors like health and social care, education and skills development and creative industries. Strong local infrastructure bodies here have helped make this an area of the economy that has the potential to grow and deliver significantly more economic, social, and environmental benefits across the region.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Persistently high levels of economic inactivity in South Yorkshire presents a profound challenge. There are a broad range of factors that see people remain out of the labour market for extended periods. In addition, given stubbornly high levels of in-work poverty, we need to ensure we can support those in employment to fully access the benefits of being economically active. Recent collaborative work by local stakeholders to develop a new Local Skills Improvement Plan has helped define the nature and scale of the challenge.

A key issue for South Yorkshire is educational and labour market inequalities. The area is home to 267,000 economically inactive individuals (23%), ranking the 10th lowest performing area out of 38 LEP areas, with a high incidence of long-term health conditions. Additionally, 30% of working households claim in work benefits, compared to a national average of 24%.

South Yorkshire faces high levels of deprivation on education, skills and training indicators. DfE Working Futures data shows there will be a sharp increase in the qualification levels needed by employees. The region has a low skills equilibrium, with an economy based on low value added, low skill and low wage jobs. South Yorkshire has a higher-than-average number of people aged 16-64 with no qualifications (Annual Population Survey, 2021).

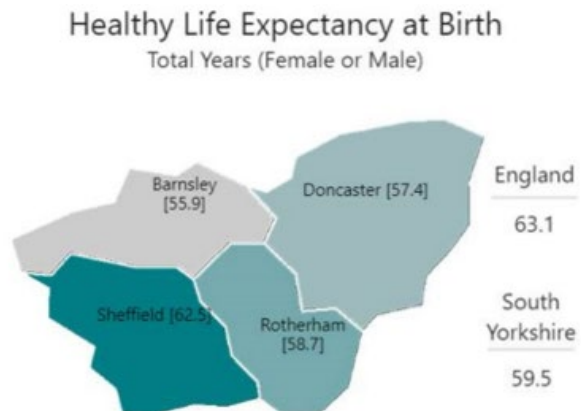
Available data and evidence indicate that on most measures of skills demand and supply, South Yorkshire is below the national average. Employers across the region have identified numerous current and future skills needs, broadly relating to employability, technical, digital, and basic skills. In sectors like construction, there is an acute shortage of skilled workers and a growing requirement for skills in low carbon manufacturing.

Skills around areas including innovation, leadership, and entrepreneurship are key essential in driving business productivity and profitability. Regional employers find it hard to recruit people with these skills. Employers acknowledge the need to ensure in-work learning and development and promote skills development, particularly including digital skills bespoke to specific industries.

The ongoing fallout from pandemic, now reinforced by a cost of living crisis, creates an impact that falls unevenly, with some specific cohorts more adversely affected impacts than others, including

young people, women, the disabled, and Black, Asian and Minoritised Ethnic (BAME) communities. The rate of young people living in workless households stands at 5.7% above the national average.

Workers' health affects productivity and economic prosperity, as confirmed by the disruption experienced during the pandemic. People were prevented from working due to their own ill health or someone for whom they have caring responsibilities. Healthy life expectancy is much lower in South Yorkshire than in England:



Longer-term, South Yorkshire has a disproportionately higher share of jobs deemed to be at risk due to automation. According to ONS, 47% of South

Yorkshire jobs are at risk of automation over the next two decades compared to 39% in London. The sectors and occupations at highest risk are those that have created most jobs in the region over the last decade.

South Yorkshire also faces a set of challenges to achieve our net zero carbon targets and the region's green economy is currently relatively smaller than other areas and on current trends less than 1% of the projected 50,000 new jobs in the energy sector in the next 15 years are expected to be in the region.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT? (In Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland this should also include challenges relating to Multiply)

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

SPF offers excellent opportunities to support more prosperous lives and address productivity, pay, social mobility and levels of skills, qualifications, and economic activity. South Yorkshire has strengths which can be built on, including:

- A higher-than-average number of workers with NVQ qualifications across all levels and key sectors where there is likely to be exciting growth including digital, specialised construction, low carbon, and advanced manufacturing and rail engineering.
- The region has world class examples of education and training delivery:
 - There were 63,800 students at the Sheffield Universities in 2020/21 and the University of Sheffield is a member of the Russell Group.
 - The region's University Technical Colleges are bucking the trend in terms of learner numbers, progression of students and employer focused and led curriculum.
 - South Yorkshire further education and specialist colleges are industry-leading and helping to drive the national technical education agenda and are some of the largest college providers of apprenticeships in the country.
- Innovative local partnerships including the proposed Institute of Technology and other new initiatives such as the Ownership Hub, will help to encourage businesses to think about their futures. Building entrepreneurial skills will help bring more businesses into employee ownership increasing inclusion, productivity and driving growth.

South Yorkshire has a particularly strong opportunity around the green economy. The region has adopted challenging targets to achieving a net-zero carbon economy by 2041 which provide a focus for sustained investment. Key priorities include reducing carbon emissions, generating low carbon energy, improving the energy efficiency and sustainability of buildings, and accelerating the transition to ultra-low or zero-emission transport. Energy plays a key role in the region's economy, powering its businesses, infrastructure, and homes. Energy security and increasing costs negatively impact on business productivity and families (e.g. deepening household fuel poverty).

The opportunity to transform energy generation, supply, storage, and use will create benefits for the local economy, our communities, and the environment. Investing in green skills will ensure the

region has a strong local labour supply that can respond to challenges to ensure that we are more energy secure. With a well-equipped workforce, the region will be better placed to attract more inward investment and improve our resilience. We will help improve the health and wellbeing of building occupiers through preventing respiratory diseases linked to them occupying cold, damp homes during the colder months, and prevent the health fallout of extreme temperatures during the summer. These measures will help to reduce annual fuel costs which will not only help us to achieve our net-zero targets but will also mean that potentially people have much more disposable income to spend in the local economy.

Interventions

In bringing our strategic ambition to life, we have identified a suite of interventions that aim to enable individuals, organisations, and local communities to be healthy, successful, and resilient.

In line with the SPF investment priorities, and co-designed in a collaborative development process between the Mayoral Combined Authority, the four local councils in the region and wider stakeholders, we have identified seven critical local themes, which have in turn informed and streamlined our selected interventions:

Places and Communities

- 1. Supporting communities to address cost of living and pandemic recovery*
- 2. Promoting the cultural and visitor economy*

Supporting Local Businesses

- 3. Providing a broad and inclusive 'total business support' offer*
- 4. Stimulating enterprise and growth*
- 5. Accelerating R&D and innovation*

People and Skills

- 6. Building pathways to participation and accessing the benefits of being economically active*
- 7. Promoting a skills-driven green economy*

Communities and Place

Under Communities and Place, our interventions streamline under two critical local themes:

1. Supporting communities to address cost of living and pandemic recovery

We will engage closely with local communities to target funds at local projects that will support town centre/high street and non-high street improvement of public spaces, support voluntary and community organisations to thrive and grow opportunities for participation, and back projects that can help the most vulnerable groups. This will support the economically inactive in our local communities to cope with impacts of pandemic recovery and the growing cost of living crisis.

(Selected interventions below include: 1, 2, 3, 9, 11 and 13. These are directly complemented by intervention 16 under Supporting Local Businesses and intervention 35 under People and Skills.)

2. Promoting the cultural and visitor economy

We will invest in the levels of culture, arts, heritage and creative activity taking place across the region at a community level. We will also invest in the capacity to coordinate and leverage that activity to help promote a thriving visitor economy across South Yorkshire. Through this, we will create opportunities for individual participation and skills development, income generation and job creation, and renewed confidence and community pride of place.

(Selected interventions below include: 4 and 6. These are directly complemented by intervention 17 under Supporting Local Businesses.)

In line with our overarching SPF investment goal, the activities we fund here to support social capital, community capacity and pride in our places, will be a foundation factor for engaging and preparing economically inactive people for the skills and employability interventions funded from Year 3.

| WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Outcome | Tick if applicable |
| Jobs created | ✓ |
| Jobs safeguarded | ✓ |
| Increased footfall | ✓ |
| Increased visitor numbers | ✓ |
| Reduced vacancy rates | ✓ |
| Greenhouse gas reductions | |
| Improved perceived/experienced accessibility | ✓ |
| Improved perception of facilities/amenities | ✓ |
| Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion | ✓ |
| Increased users of facilities / amenities | ✓ |
| Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project | |
| Increased use of cycleways or paths | |
| Increase in Biodiversity | |
| Increased affordability of events/entry | ✓ |
| Improved perception of safety | |
| Reduction in neighbourhood crime | |
| Improved engagement numbers | ✓ |
| Improved perception of events | ✓ |

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| Increased number of web searches for a place | |
| Volunteering numbers as a result of support | ✓ |
| Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support | ✓ |
| Increased take up of energy efficiency measures | ✓ |
| Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies | |
| Number of premises with improved digital connectivity | |
| Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support | ✓ |
| None of the above | |

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

1. Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.

[South Yorkshire theme: 1 (cost of living)]

We will focus on a range of activities to drive up levels of social capital in towns across the region. Initiatives could include:

- A grants scheme to fund appropriately scaled community-initiated projects to improve town and district centres (complement current work to promote investment into urban centres and high streets and suitable for match funding).
- Programmes to engage local communities and drive participation in supporting stewardship and maintenance of public realm improvements (including enhancing local green and blue spaces and urban parks, artwork, pop-up activity, innovative new safety measures).
- Build on existing initiatives to support a safe, welcoming, and vibrant local economy in urban centres, to address voids on our high streets and support the night-time economy (including projects to create and safeguard jobs, promote town centre attractiveness, accreditation schemes).

2. 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.

[South Yorkshire theme: 1 (cost of living)]

We will focus on deploying the capital element of SPF on often hyper-local projects that build pride of place and community capacity. Initiatives could include:

- A programme of appropriately scaled capital interventions targeted at non-high street areas (including residential areas, public realm, public open space and play areas).
- A programme of appropriately scaled capital interventions targeted at community and voluntary sector projects and organisations that enhance community facilities and/or deliver essential services in their communities.
- Projects to address community-based digital infrastructure.

3. Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.

[South Yorkshire themes: 1 (cost of living) and 7 (green economy)]

We will focus on activity that enhances local spaces and places; encourages healthy, active lifestyles; and builds social capital; ultimately creating thriving, safe and resilient neighbourhoods. Initiatives could include:

- Improvements to urban parks and other green spaces that make them safer, more welcoming, and more accessible.

- Appropriately scaled interventions targeted at natural spaces close to communities that will benefit (for instance keeping traffic out of green spaces, protecting play areas, green prescribing to improve health outcomes).
- A programme that increases social alongside natural capital through volunteering and skills development projects that focus on green initiatives and community cohesion (could be designed directly with communities and engaging of particularly young people).
- Improvements to green infrastructure that encourage increased use as part of an active, healthy lifestyle.

4. Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.

[South Yorkshire theme: 2 (cultural and visitor economy)]

We will focus on a range of activities and events that target funding at strengthening the region's cultural, historical and heritage offer. Initiatives could include:

- A grants programme focused on supporting capacity building in culture, heritage, and other organisations in the wider visitor economy.
- Develop propositions and provide capital funding to support the development, restoration, or refurbishment of local natural, cultural and heritage assets and sites.
- Funding for organisations to deliver outreach, engagement and participatory programmes that maximise benefits to communities of local sites and assets.
- Support for the maintenance of the institution 'infrastructure' and networks to co-ordinate the wider culture and heritage sector.
- Capital funding as a contribution to larger projects to build and introduce new physical cultural facilities in the region (suited to match funding).

6. Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities

[South Yorkshire theme: 2 (cultural and visitor economy)]

We will focus on supporting specific projects across the arts, cultural, heritage and creative sectors. Initiatives could include:

- Support the development of a region-wide events and festivals strategy, delivery plan and support offer to coordinate and drive the success of live events in each local area.
- A grants programme to support:
 - Maker spaces, galleries, museums, libraries
 - Specific events, performances, exhibitions and installations (where appropriate to complement parallel capital investment in the local area)
 - Outreach/engagement/participatory programmes
 - Development of collaborative networks to share knowledge locally
- Support cultural, arts and creative participatory programmes targeted at the most challenged local communities to build community capacity, improve quality of life, support health and wellbeing, and promote pride in place.
- Development of digital and online platforms to promote engagement with culture and the visitor economy across the region.

9. Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places

[South Yorkshire theme: 1 (cost of living)]

We will develop a grant scheme to channel funding into specific voluntary and community sector (VCS) projects. Those projects / activities could include:

- Programmes that work with individuals to help them address the challenges of poverty, economic inactivity, and skills towards employability.
- Enhancing existing micro-volunteering programmes.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A supported programme to make volunteering accessible for people with a wide range of needs. • Hosting volunteer celebration events to highlight the impact volunteering can have in local communities and the diversity of volunteers. |
| <p>11. Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups</p> <p><i>[South Yorkshire theme: 1 (cost of living)]</i></p> <p>We will focus on a range of activities that will support capacity building and infrastructure in specific organisations or the wider VCS. Initiatives could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VCS peer support and mentoring network to drive capacity and skills. • Enhancing digital tools (including apps) to drive registration and deployment of volunteers. • Volunteer coordinators to support recruitment, placement, and retention of volunteers. • An appropriately scaled capital grants programme, to be match-funded by community groups to support fundraising capacity building – in some cases building on community grants programmes rolled out during pandemic. |
| <p>13. Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change</p> <p><i>[South Yorkshire theme: 1 (cost of living) and 7 (green economy)]</i></p> <p>We will focus on supporting projects and organisations working with individuals and local communities to help address the rising costs of living. Initiatives could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants to support VCS programmes addressing food poverty, food sustainability, debt advice, financial literacy, energy efficiency and fuel poverty advice, social prescribing volunteering, work placements, mental health and wellbeing resilience programmes, outdoor pursuits, environmental and heritage works sessions. • Grants to support projects delivering measures to improve energy efficiency and combat fuel poverty, including for instance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Projects linked to initiatives such as the Affordable Warmth Charter and property retrofit that encourage energy efficiency, promote sustainability awareness, improve property conditions, and reduce fuel poverty ○ Creation of a panel of independent experts to advise private owners and landlords of property improvements to improve efficiency ○ Support on energy efficiency specifically tailored for social housing tenants. |

| DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST? | |
|---|----|
| State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these | |
| n/a | |
| Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver. | |
| n/a | |
| Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance. | |
| Yes | No |

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Communities and Place investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

There are a range of projects within South Yorkshire that are already delivering the type of activity identified under the Community and Places priority. Some of this activity includes:

- Support to the VCS to enable provision of advice and support within local communities to address the cost of living crises.
- Grants programmes for the arts and culture sector to develop local programmes and develop skills.
- Activity to revitalise our high streets through both physical improvement and support to businesses alongside activity to encourage footfall such as events and festivals.
- Energy efficiency programmes to improve the quality of the social housing stock.
- Sustainable community programmes looking to improve the physical environment of some of our poorest districts to encourage investment and local pride as well as create opportunities for healthy living.

Whether any identified activities and projects secure SPF will be determined initially by the approval of the Investment Plan by DLUHC and thereafter the application and selection process implemented by the MCA as Lead Authority in consultation with the four local councils and the Local Partnership Board.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No ✓

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

All projects that progress with SPF (existing or new) will be expected to satisfy the Lead Authority in respect to complying with Subsidy Control regulations.

Where it is deemed that Subsidy Control is present the following self-assessment approaches will be considered (subject to Subsidy Control Bill being enacted):

- a) Undertaking a proportionate assessment of compliance against the seven subsidy control principles, or
- b) Through streamlined routes (once they have been established), or
- c) Providing Subsidy Control under 'Minimum Financial Assistance' where support of up to £315,000 over a three-year financial period can be provided to an enterprise.

Subsidies that have a higher likelihood of having distortive effects on UK competition and investment and international trade ('Subsidies of Interest') will see a more extensive analysis as part of their assessment of compliance.

In exceptional circumstances any subsidy considered of having significant distortive effects ('Subsidies of Particular Interest' or, exceptionally, by the Secretary of State using a call-in power) will be required to have this assessment of compliance reviewed by the UK Subsidy Advice Unit, before the subsidy can be granted.

Supporting Local Businesses

Under Supporting Local Businesses, our interventions streamline under three critical local themes that aim to grow the overall number of productive businesses and new jobs in a sustainable and responsible way, driving up wages and improving quality of work:

3. Providing a broad and inclusive 'total business support' offer

SPF will help to provide a comprehensive region-wide offer, ensuring individuals and businesses can access vital help to get started, generate revenues, access new markets and receive specialist support at the right time to overcome barriers to growth. This holistic provision will be delivered in a way that is inclusive and widely accessible and builds on work already done to address economic fallout of the pandemic.

(Selected interventions include: 16, 22, 23, 24, 26 and 30)

4. Stimulating enterprise and growth

SPF will support specific programmes that explicitly find entrepreneurs in our communities as well as attracting others into the region. Those entrepreneurs will be supported to create successful resilient start-ups that drive environmentally sustainable, socially responsible growth in specific places and sectors.

(Selected interventions include: 22, 23, 24, 26 and 30)

5. Accelerating R&D and innovation

SPF programmes will accelerate turning new ideas into innovative revenue-generating businesses. We will drive innovation into existing businesses to help them scale up and deliver exponential growth; and we will support innovation through the social economy, growing the number of businesses with equitable, sustainable, community-focused ownership and operating models.

(Selected interventions include: 22, 23, 24 and 26)

In line with our overarching SPF investment goal, the activity we fund here to support the creation of more successful, productive, well-run businesses will help ensure there are sufficient good quality employment opportunities available which individuals can access as they (re)enter the labour market.

| WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Outcome | Tick if applicable |
| Jobs created | ✓ |
| Jobs safeguarded | ✓ |
| Increased footfall | ✓ |
| Increased visitor numbers | ✓ |
| Reduced vacancy rates | ✓ |
| Greenhouse gas reductions | ✓ |
| Number of new businesses created | ✓ |
| Improved perception of markets | |
| Increased business sustainability | ✓ |

| | |
|---|---|
| Increased number of businesses supported | ✓ |
| Increased amount of investment | ✓ |
| Improved perception of attractions | ✓ |
| Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm | ✓ |
| Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity | |
| Number of premises with improved digital connectivity | |
| Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes | ✓ |
| Number of new to market products | |
| Number of R&D active businesses | |
| Increased number of innovation active SMEs | ✓ |
| Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services | |
| Increased number of innovation plans developed | ✓ |
| Number of early stage firms which increase their revenue following support | ✓ |
| Number of businesses engaged in new markets | ✓ |
| Number of businesses increasing their export capability | |
| Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed | |
| Number of businesses with improved productivity | ✓ |
| Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies | |
| Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion | |
| None of the above | |

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

16. Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses

[South Yorkshire themes: 1 (cost of living) and 3 (inclusive business support)]

As a part of our activity around providing a broad and inclusive 'total business support' offer, we want to be able to invest directly in town centre retail, leisure, and hospitality activity. Initiatives under this intervention could include:

- Transforming empty shops and underused spaces in specific areas (suited to match funding where grant funding is made available).
- Funding for advisors to actively engage with high street retailers/providers of leisure and hospitality: to spread knowledge and learning (including support on adoption of e-commerce strategies) – drawing on insights and success of schemes piloted under Welcome Back Fund initiatives.
- Develop a retail-specific pathway to support entrepreneurs to pre-start up to full trading.
- Develop a retail challenge scheme to promote ideas generation focused on key retail centres.

17. 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

[South Yorkshire theme: 2 (cultural and visitor economy)]

We will deploy this intervention as a complement to the two interventions under Communities and Places (4 and 6) that focus on our theme of *Promoting the cultural and visitor economy*. Under this intervention we will focus on initiatives that could include:

- Funding to support targeted marketing and tourism campaigns (including attracting visitors within and from outside the region).
- Grants and support for development, promotion and upkeep of local visitor/tourist attractions and visitor experiences.

- Development of online and digital platforms and content to showcase the South Yorkshire visitor economy.

22. Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places.

[South Yorkshire themes: 3 (inclusive business support), 4 (enterprise and growth) and 5 (R&D and innovation)]

We will deploy this intervention as a complement to our activity under intervention 23

Under this intervention we will focus on initiatives that could include:

- Development of new incubation facilities
- Renovation and improvement to existing facilities.

23. Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow, and innovate, including through local networks

[South Yorkshire themes: 3 (inclusive business support), 4 (enterprise and growth) and 5 (R&D and innovation)]

This intervention is particularly broad. It is our presumption that the activity funded here will primarily be offered at a cross-region level. Specific local councils may lead on particular programmes and there will be scope to respond to local needs and demand in each area.

Activity will be designed to complement and enhance, and not duplicate/displace existing resources, across the region. Our enterprise support solution will offer tailored, impartial advice to businesses based in South Yorkshire, looking to develop at different stages of their growth journey. This offer will be broad and inclusive, and actively assessed and improved to ensure accessibility' and utility (particularly under-represented groups). The offer could include:

- A comprehensive set of programmes to help individuals and organisations start-up and grow their business via support at multiple stages of development, including
 - Becoming self-employed
 - Starting a business (see more below)
 - Growth in micro and small businesses
 - Medium and anchor business growth

This will include mentoring, professional workshops in topics such as HR, strategy, cash flow forecasting, branding, marketing, finance brokerage, entrepreneur knowledge exchange, treatment of intellectual property, and specific sectoral and capability topics.

- Financial support programmes will be explored to target specific outcomes, including:
 - Promoting growth and increasing (and safeguarding) jobs (through access to capital or revenue funding)
 - Developing specific types of business model that support responsible and sustainable productivity (including worker health and wellbeing)
 - Developing and going to market with new products and services
 - Business voucher schemes to encourage access to specialist support

The programme aims to support business with their challenges, focusing on productivity and sustainable growth, leading to increased turnover and new job creation.

More developed examples of specific support could include:

- A programme offering particular focus on stimulating innovation in existing businesses, using all the relevant tools and levers described above, alongside bespoke measures including:
 - Local innovation advisors;
 - Match-making services between innovative businesses and sources of external support (universities, research institutes, potential collaborator businesses); and,
 - Access to financial support programmes (particularly suited to match funding).

- A support programme driving technology into operations and logistics of manufacturing firms to make the more competitive, including identifying innovation-ready SMEs, activating appropriate digital innovation to drive growth, using 'hack & pitch' competitions to invite innovators to solve businesses' challenges, and potentially offer 'productivity grants' to scale innovations where appropriate.
- A creative and digital industries support initiative to enable more creative industries start-ups and support existing creative businesses through access to specialist advice; and develop industry-specific challenges (including supporting sustainable business models to bring local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities back into use).
- A 'Net Zero Business Support' programme aligned with the MCA and local councils' net zero commitments, focussed on helping businesses to reduce carbon emissions, create higher value jobs, improve productivity and develop leadership skills all under the banner of improved innovation from a localised low carbon Knowledge Hub.

24. 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

[South Yorkshire themes: 3 (inclusive business support), 4 (enterprise and growth) and 5 (R&D and innovation)]

This intervention is particularly broad. It is our presumption that the activity funded here will primarily be offered at a cross-region level. Local authorities and other local partners may lead particular programmes and there will be scope to respond to local needs and demand in each area.

Activity will sit alongside and complement what has already been set out under intervention 23 above. Initiatives could include:

- A dedicated support programme for pre-start-up and start-up businesses. This will build on insights from the existing cross-region Launchpad programme. It will be fully inclusive, operate across the region and support entrepreneurs to set up and run successful businesses (up to employing 10 people). Support is highly adaptable to respond to bespoke challenges in each local area and will include:
 - Dedicated start-up support including access to sector and function specialists;
 - A specific programme to find 'hidden entrepreneurs' in local (and sometimes deprived) communities (based on successful 'Purple Shoots Programme' rolled out in Barnsley) – supporting ideas generation and confidence building;
 - Collaboration with local authority Employment and Skills Teams to raise the awareness of enterprise as a route to employment and target support to create resilient entrepreneurs and improve business survival rates;
 - Developing research and development (R&D) pathways to accelerate new intellectual property (IP) to investment- and market-readiness;
 - Support to understand requirements around protection of IP particularly related to innovation and start-up;
 - Promoting access to existing initiatives like the Y Accelerator which provides early-stage propositions with three months of free intensive development to prepare them to pitch for investment;
 - Small start-up capital grants to inject capital into the start-up ecosystem (suited to attracting match funding from venture capital and angel investors);
 - Small capital grants to support development of existing incubator and accelerator facilities;
 - Funding support to support start-up facilities and spaces, including providing 'soft starts' to encourage entrepreneurs to set up in the region;
- Funding to build on the TEAM-SY programme focused on creating a strong, sustainable and competitive regional tech entrepreneurial ecosystem that can attract significantly more entrepreneurs to start and scale tech businesses in the region (including undertaking the market-making and early-stage acceleration activity to build a viable pipeline of entrepreneurs, tech founders and start-ups).

26. Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises

[South Yorkshire themes: 3 (inclusive business support), 4 (enterprise and growth) and 5 (R&D and innovation)]

This intervention is particularly broad. It is our presumption that the activity funded here will primarily be offered at a cross-region level. Specific local councils may lead on particular programmes and there will be scope to respond to local needs and demand in each area.

Activity will complement what has already been set out under interventions 23 and 24 above (where that activity can be delivered with social economy organisations). Initiatives could include:

- A social economy-specific business support programme to stimulate and grow numbers and scale of social enterprises, community businesses and co-operatives and employee owned businesses across the region in line with the principles of community wealth building. This will build on the excellent ongoing work by local social economy business support organisations in the region, and will focus on three critical interventions:
 - Promotion, networking, and knowledge sharing;
 - Supported development of new and early-stage social entrepreneurs; and,
 - Specialist support for renewal, transformation and growth of social enterprise. community businesses, cooperatives and worker/employee owned businesses
- Business support will be complemented by access to a grants programme (which may be suited to attracting match funding or investment from social investment sources like Key Fund).

29. 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

[South Yorkshire theme: 7 (green economy)]

We will focus on supporting decarbonisation as a complement to our *Building a skills-driven green economy* theme (alongside People and Skills interventions 39 and 40). Under this intervention initiatives could include:

- Fund a Net Zero Accelerator programme (building on the success of a pilot project in Barnsley) supporting targeted businesses with high potential impact footprints to have credible plans to achieve of net zero carbon emissions.
- Fund a Low Carbon Knowledge Hub (building on early thinking done by Barnsley's Positive Climate Partnership) that will support businesses to develop net zero plans, including access to peer-to-peer support and advice to use sustainability credentials to help drive growth.
- A direct grants programme to support businesses to take substantive action to decarbonise (potentially suited to match funding).

30. Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment

[South Yorkshire themes: 3 (inclusive business support) and 4 (enterprise and growth)]

This intervention is particularly broad. It is our presumption that the activity funded here will primarily be offered at a cross-region level. Specific local councils may lead on particular programmes and there will be scope to respond to local needs and demand in each area.

Activity will complement what has already been set out under interventions 23, 24 and 26 above. Initiatives could include:

- Support to strengthen co-ordination of this activity, potentially deploying a key account/sector-based approach and link into the development of a new Local Skills Improvement Plan for the region.
- Through this approach provide strategic business relationship management with large and medium-sized businesses who are anchor organisations who employ large numbers and spend significantly with local suppliers.
- A dedicated programme to support businesses to onboard and upskill individuals coming out of long-term unemployment and inactivity.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

n/a

Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Describe these projects, including how they fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

There are a range of projects within South Yorkshire that are already delivering the type of activity identified under the Supporting Local Business priority. Some of this activity includes:

- Delivery of Start-up, Scale-up, Accelerator, Productivity, and Innovation support schemes.
- Small scale grants programmes for the digital adoption and Innovation activity.
- Support to business to manage the lasting impacts of Covid-19 through both physical improvement and support to businesses (via specialist advisors) alongside activity to encourage footfall such as events and festivals.
- Net zero/Low carbon transition support programmes.
- Sector specific support programmes with a particular focus on Digital and Manufacturing.
- Supply Chain development activity.

Whether any identified activities and projects secure SPF will be determined initially by the approval of the Investment Plan by DLUHC and thereafter the application and selection process

implemented by the MCA as Lead Authority in consultation with the four local councils and the Local Partnership Board.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No ✓

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

All projects that progress with SPF (existing or new) will be expected to satisfy the Lead Authority in respect to complying with Subsidy Control regulations.

Where it is deemed that Subsidy Control is present the following self-assessment approaches will be considered (subject to Subsidy Control Bill being enacted):

- a) Undertaking a proportionate assessment of compliance against the seven subsidy control principles, or
- b) Through streamlined routes (once they have been established), or
- c) Providing Subsidy Control under 'Minimum Financial Assistance' where support of up to £315,000 over a three-year financial period can be provided to an enterprise.

Subsidies that have a higher likelihood of having distortive effects on UK competition and investment and international trade ('Subsidies of Interest') will see a more extensive analysis as part of their assessment of compliance.

In exceptional circumstances any subsidy considered of having significant distortive effects ('Subsidies of Particular Interest' or, exceptionally, by the Secretary of State using a call-in power) will be required to have this assessment of compliance reviewed by the UK Subsidy Advice Unit, before the subsidy can be granted

People and Skills

Under People and Skills, our interventions streamline under two critical local themes:

6. Building pathways to participation and accessing the benefits of being economically active

SPF will be targeted at programmes that offer pathways to community participation and economic activity for those currently outside the labour market and supporting those facing in-work poverty and barriers to progress to access greater benefits of being economically active. This will focus not simply on skills but also support individuals to address the wider barriers to successful and fulfilling employment.

(Selected interventions below include: 33, 35, 37 and 38)

The whole SPF Investment Plan makes building a greener local economy an explicit priority. Consequently, *Building a skill-driven green economy* is a key South Yorkshire theme. We have chosen to frame that theme under People and Skills, aligned with our overall strategic ambition of addressing economic inactivity.

7. Promoting a skills-driven green economy

SPF will enhance the capability of our local population to access new specialist jobs and higher wages, and to help build a thriving local green economy. Delivered in a strategically targeted way, programmes will support the whole region to develop unique and high growth specialisms.

(Selected interventions below include: 39 and 40. These are directly complemented by interventions 3 and 13 under Communities and Places, and 23 and 29 under Supporting Local Businesses).

We recognise that some of the specific interventions we have selected under People and Skills will have some overlapping features. Below we have set out a range of potential activities we hope to deliver. These are cross referenced where appropriate. Our ambition is that the participation and enrichment support provided under Year 1 Communities and Places interventions, alongside the Years 1-2 activity to grow the number of productive local businesses and good employment opportunities, will directly support the effectiveness of People and Skills interventions from Year 3 to help deliver a step change in the number of economically inactive individuals moving into work.

| WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY. | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Outcome | Tick if applicable |
| Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support | ✓ |
| Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills | ✓ |
| Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL) | ✓ |
| Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services | ✓ |
| Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services | ✓ |
| Number of people engaged in job-searching following support | ✓ |
| Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support | ✓ |

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months | ✓ |
| Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance | ✓ |
| Number of people in education/training | ✓ |
| Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision | ✓ |
| Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace | ✓ |
| Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support | ✓ |
| Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills | ✓ |
| Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training. | ✓ |
| Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions | |
| Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV and job application writing) | |
| Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2. | |
| Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2. | |
| None of the above | |

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.

33. 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 ie Multiply 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).

[South Yorkshire theme: 6 (pathways to participation and economic activity)]

We will use SPF to ensure a comprehensive support offer exists to give particularly economically inactive local people the opportunity to develop their confidence and skills, to prepare for work and then to find, stay and progress in work, no matter what their individual circumstances. Initiatives could include:

- Establishment of a core Participation and Employment Hub. This will co-ordinate work across the region and will be designed based on insights from the recently developed Local Skills Improvement Plan. This will operate as a single point of access gateway offer, providing a central triaging function (via phone, email, and webchat) accessible to working and non-working individuals directing them at the most appropriate types of support. This offer will be inclusive, impartial, and designed to be as accessible and as close to people's local communities as possible.
- Specific channels for support could include:
 - 1:1 key worker support
 - Personal life-planning support
 - Group careers advice and support, masterclasses
 - Publicised scheduled events, including employer insights and open days

- Employer match-making
- Brokerage to employment support services, training providers and partner activities
- Deploying specialist providers to support access to particularly hard-to-reach, economically inactive groups
- Retention, recruitment, and redundancy support
- Comprehensive web-based resources for both those seeking support and employment and skills providers
- An Employment Grant Scheme addressing bespoke funding needs and enabling in-year responsiveness to evolving needs and demand-led activities (for instance, emerging skills demands, developing sectors and new investor skills needs).
- Substantive support will be based on lessons from the success of existing projects (e.g. Pathways) and focus on a full range of development areas and cohorts, including:
 - Basic skills and competencies
 - Preparing for employment / getting ready for work
 - Wraparound support to tackle barriers to work
 - Working with people with health issues (building on activity under the Working Win programme)
 - Skills to progress in work
 - Plugging local skills gaps
 - Support for mature career changes
 - Youth-specific support
 - Green skills (see more below)
 - *(Digital skills will be embedded across the above activities)*
- Specific projects and programmes targeting economically inactive cohorts could include:
 - Sector-based Academies directly informed by business needs will be supported to provide a range of vocational training in support of workforce development and filling the skills pipeline for priority sectors and linked to key economic development opportunities.
 - A programme of specialist support to promote equal access to the labour market for people with specific barriers. Whilst this can cover all the expected cohorts referenced in the Intervention description, it is likely we will particularly want to target health and mental health barriers that we know are a profound barrier to economic activity in South Yorkshire. This would enable employment providers to refer for this support and it could be flexibly delivered in partnership with community hubs where people live.

35. Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.

[South Yorkshire themes: 1 (cost of living) and 6 (pathways to participation and economic activity)]

As flagged above, this intervention will particularly complement our local theme of *Supporting communities to address cost of living and pandemic recovery* under Communities and Places. Under this intervention, and building on the core comprehensive offer described under intervention 33, initiatives could include:

- Funding to support responsive, community-led programmes embedded at the neighbourhood level, working up from individual and community needs, drawing on the assets of local regeneration facilities, as well as voluntary and community sector and culture projects, to both generate local value and build community capacity whilst offering volunteering opportunities. This will aim to directly engage economically inactive people and link them to a suite of support, community enrichment and engagement activities.
- Funding to support programmes that work closely with targeted cohorts of individuals to provide wraparound support and programmes of activity that promote wellbeing and resilience as a critical steppingstone towards becoming economically active. This will work closely with local communities and provide enrichment and volunteering opportunities in community-based projects.
- Funding to support asset-based community development deploying a dedicated team of staff and volunteers in the region's most deprived communities with a focus on improving physical and mental health, addressing low confidence and readiness for employment, and

boosting pride in the local community through developing local social connections and solving local problems (learning insights from the successful Barnsley-based Game Changer pilot)

37. Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.

[South Yorkshire theme: 6 (pathways to participation and economic activity)]

Under this intervention, and building on the core comprehensive offer described under intervention 33, initiatives could include:

- Funding for programmes that focus on those employed in low skilled, low wage jobs, potentially experiencing in-work poverty, those who are underemployed, in insecure work, who need to change from declining industries into new ones, and/or those who are suffering from a range of barriers preventing progression (including those on in-work benefits, zero hours contracts, shift work, with care responsibilities outside of work, with physical and mental health conditions).
- Substantive support will be based on lessons from the success of existing projects (e.g. Advance) and could include:
 - An in-work learning and skills offer on the Participation and Employment Hub (see Intervention 33) supporting both employers and their employees.
 - Support for employers on areas of 'good employment' (e.g. fair/living wage, inclusivity, health and wellbeing, flexible working).
 - Support for employers to develop workforce profiling, training, and succession planning.
 - Support for employed individuals to access training and development outside of their current employment.
 - Support for employees on barriers to progression and/or working full time, including caring responsibilities, ill health, and others.

38. 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

[South Yorkshire theme: 6 (pathways to participation and economic activity)]

Under this intervention, and building on the core comprehensive offer described under intervention 33, initiatives could include:

- Funding for programmes that support young people with little or no work experience who have been NEET or engaged in training not leading to work; and economically inactive or non-working individuals with longer period of worklessness, redundancy, specific backgrounds (veterans, ex-offenders) and skills no longer in demand.
- Substantive support will be based on lessons from the success of existing projects (e.g. Sector Routeways) and could include:
 - Using Sector-based Academies to provide vocational training to address gaps in the region's skills pipeline for priority sectors
 - Support employers to carry out internal training needs analysis, aligned with external labour market analysis showing sector-specific skills gaps, and then encouraged to provide appropriate skills training
 - Work directly with local area partners and residents to identify employment and skills gaps and develop potentially short interventions to increase specific skills, certificates, licences and work experience opportunities
 - Low Carbon, Green and Digital Skills support would be embedded within these interventions (more below)

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

[South Yorkshire theme: 7 (green economy)]

Under this intervention, and building on the core comprehensive offer described under interventions 33 and 38, initiatives could include:

- Substantive support will be based on lessons from existing green skills development projects (e.g. Routeways, Advance) and could include:
 - Programmes targeted at economically inactive young people and adults to promote green-specific qualifications and experience.
 - Learning materials and programmes targeted at local businesses to support carbon and energy reduction, management of supply chain costs, particularly in energy-intensive sectors.
 - Utilising Local Authority housing/buildings with training provider partners to provide sites for training around energy assessment and evaluation, insulation, and installation of renewable technologies.

40. Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors

[South Yorkshire theme: 7 (green economy)]

Under this intervention, and building on the core comprehensive offer described under interventions 33 and 37, initiatives could include:

- Support for local businesses to release staff for specific retraining activity on sustainability and zero carbon.
- Introduction to zero carbon ‘bootcamp’ for the high-carbon industries.
- Leadership development programme for individuals in the high carbon sectors.
- Mentoring support for low carbon leaders working within businesses in the high carbon sectors to develop and deliver sustainability plans to reduce their carbon emissions.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

n/a

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

n/a

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention’s planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

n/a

ENGLAND ONLY: People and Skills interventions can only be used in 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 if you have identified a local voluntary and community provision, previously supported by the European Social Fund, at risk of closure. If you have not identified a suitable provision, you will not be able to select interventions for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 and your investment plan will not be approved.

HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS for 2024-2025 WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Yes

Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

There are a range of projects within South Yorkshire that are already delivering the type of activity identified under the People and Skills priority. Some of this activity includes:

- Support to prepare people for work, support for retention and enhancing opportunities for in work progression.
- Support programmes focussed on particular sectoral routeways including green skills and manufacturing.
- Support programmes targeting individuals farthest away from the labour market.

Whether any identified activities and projects secure SPF will be determined initially by the approval of the Investment Plan by DLUHC and thereafter the application and selection process implemented by the MCA as Lead Authority in consultation with the four local councils and the Local Partnership Board.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No ✓

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

All projects that progress with SPF (existing or new) will be expected to satisfy the Lead Authority in respect to complying with Subsidy Control regulations.

Where it is deemed that Subsidy Control is present the following self-assessment approaches will be considered (subject to Subsidy Control Bill being enacted):

- a) Undertaking a proportionate assessment of compliance against the seven subsidy control principles, or
- b) Through streamlined routes (once they have been established), or
- c) Providing Subsidy Control under 'Minimum Financial Assistance' where support of up to £315,000 over a three-year financial period can be provided to an enterprise.

Subsidies that have a higher likelihood of having distortive effects on UK competition and investment and international trade ('Subsidies of Interest') will see a more extensive analysis as part of their assessment of compliance.

In exceptional circumstances any subsidy considered of having significant distortive effects ('Subsidies of Particular Interest' or, exceptionally, by the Secretary of State using a call-in power) will be required to have this assessment of compliance reviewed by the UK Subsidy Advice Unit, before the subsidy can be granted.

HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?

Yes ✓

No

(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.

The provision supports young people aged 15–18 who are NEET, or who are at risk of becoming so and economically inactive adults who have multiple and often complex barriers to participation to engage with, move closer to and enter the labour market. Typical examples of barriers faced by both younger and adult participants include physical & mental health problems, or disabilities, low levels of confidence and self-esteem, fear of engaging/re-engaging with the labour market, a lack of work history and the stigma of criminal record and histories of substance misuse. Domestic issues, caring responsibilities and the lack of relevant role models frequently compound already difficult circumstances for participants.

The existing activity comes to an end in November 2023 – from current engagement levels this would leave over 1000 vulnerable people without the support they need. It would also mean that the staff who support them would be made redundant with a possible loss of them and their expertise in the employment support field.

Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.

Pathways to Success - 28S19P03479
Ambition - 28S18P02799
Sector Routeways - 28S20P03517

What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 ✓ | 2024-2025 |
|-----------|-------------|-----------|

Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.

2023-2024: 1/12/23 – 31/3/24
The project described above is very clearly aligned and delivering against SPF Intervention 33.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

| | |
|-------|----|
| Yes ✓ | No |
|-------|----|

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

An assessment of the State Aid position in relation to the above projects was carried out in consultation with the Council’s legal department. It concluded that State Aid rules, rather than their replacement – Subsidy Control – currently apply as the funding agreement pre-dated the introduction of Subsidy Control, and that there is no State Aid involved.

The assessment was based on 1. Date of original funding agreements. 2. Beneficiaries are individuals, not economic entities, so State Aid does not apply 3. Where (VCF) organisations benefit from funds flowing from the projects, they do so having won contracts through open and competitive procurement processes, therefore there is no distortion of the market.

Subsidy Control will be introduced through the Subsidy Control Act 2022. Full details are not yet available (consultation on draft guidance closes on 10th August 2022). According to the draft guidance the Subsidy Control system:

- Empowers local authorities, public bodies, and central and devolved administrations to design subsidies that deliver strong benefits for the UK taxpayer, and
- Enables public authorities to deliver strategic interventions to support the UK’s economic recovery and deliver UK Government priorities such as levelling up and achieving net zero.

Whilst there is no expectation that there will be any subsidy, we will work to the above principles which appear to support core objectives of the SPF and of our proposed activity and will apply all relevant controls once published.

Approach to delivery and governance

| STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply. | | |
| Public sector organisations ✓ | Private sector organisations ✓ | Civil society organisations ✓ |
| Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible. | | |
| <p>The MCA recognised early on that tight timescales ahead of submitting the Investment Plan, combined with the complexity of meaningful engagement across our four local authority areas, risked local stakeholders feeling frustrated and failing to help effectively shape how SPF is distributed.</p> <p>To mitigate that and to gather as much substantive input as possible we designed a process that included the following critical elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-design of the Investment Plan approach between the MCA and the local authorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bringing together a Steering Group which included senior ‘owners’ from each authority who would sign-off on progress and lead the process of achieving sign-off from each Council’s Chief Executive and Leader. ○ Establishing a Task and Finish Group that would work closely with external specialists bringing insights from other parts of the country carrying out the same process and be responsible for refining our combined strategic approach and identifying the interventions most relevant to all five authorities. The Task and Finish Group reported into the Steering Group. • Direct MCA engagement with local stakeholders: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In June, the MCA held a public webinar where we explained what the SPF is, the nature of our co-design process, the timescales we were working to and opening up a feedback channel where any stakeholder could email questions and contributions to help shape the Investment Plan. A recording of the webinar was put up on the MCA’s site, along with the email feedback address and links to key local and national materials relevant to the SPF. ○ In July, the MCA held a meeting of key local stakeholders. We took recommendations from the four local councils on who should attend this meeting, as well as inviting representatives from the local councils themselves. A summary of feedback following the webinar was shared with this group. ○ Later in July, the MCA held a second public webinar to update local stakeholders on the process, the status of the Investment Plan and delivered important key messages, including that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Investment Plan had been deliberately designed to allow significant flexibility around how funding would be distributed across the region to specific projects. ▪ There were no priorities raised or specific recommendations raised in feedback to date that could not be addressed by the interventions selected. ▪ Stakeholders would be able to continue influencing those decisions. ▪ The key stakeholder group would be formalised into the Partnership Board required by the SPF implementation process. • Indirect engagement via our local council partners: From the start of the process the MCA asked the four local councils to carry out their own local stakeholder engagement as far as possible. | | |
| Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up | | |
| <p>As outlined above, the two critical oversight and insight groups established to date are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SPF Steering Group – members include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority ○ Barnsley Council ○ Doncaster Council | | |

| | |
|--|------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rotherham Council ○ Sheffield City Council ● Key Stakeholder Engagement Group – members include representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local colleges and universities ○ Public Health teams ○ Local community foundations and voluntary community sector bodies ○ Social housing providers ○ South Yorkshire Local Economic Partnership (LEP) ○ Local chambers of commerce ○ DWP Work and Health Directorate North Central Group ○ SYMCA and the four local councils <p>It is the intention that this group will form the core of the initial Partnership Board. That group will be formalised once the Investment Plan has been submitted to pick up the task of preparing for and ultimately overseeing the implementation of funding distribution across the region, advising SYMCA for the duration of the programme.</p> | |
| Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group. | |
| Yes ✓ | No |
| Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan? | |
| Yes | No ✓ |
| (If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why. | |
| <p>SYMCA have engaged with our local MPs to set out the proposed South Yorkshire approach to ensuring UKSPF supports South Yorkshire's businesses and communities. We have invited direct engagement with any MP from within the region on the approach set out and our approach over the short and medium term.</p> <p>This has presented an opportunity for MPs to raise any issues or concerns on the approach and proposed interventions in the Investment Strategy that we would like to target SPF towards. In addition, we have asked MPs to flag with us at this early stage any potential priorities and projects they would like to see supported so we can design our approach as the process becomes more defined once the resources are unlocked later this year. As our partnership board becomes more formalised all MPs will be given the option to join this group. Anticipating that local MPs may not be able to commit to the partnership board due to time constraints we will also be exploring a route to establish a mechanism for MPs to engage at the sub-regional level as well as ensuring input is secured in local design of projects.</p> | |

| PROJECT SELECTION | |
|---|----|
| Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding? | |
| Yes | No |
| (If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way. | |
| <p>SYMCA and partners are committed to ensuring that where possible, interventions and projects funded through SPF are co-designed with groups and partners with the expertise and knowledge. They will be competitively awarded to ensure that the interventions have the greatest impact on our communities, residents and businesses and represent good value for money.</p> <p>To ensure flexibility to respond to changing economic conditions in an agile manner, SYMCA will in exceptional circumstances retain the right to consider alternative approaches to selecting projects.</p> <p>The following conditions would need to be met before any consideration was given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The project and its delivery are unique and cannot be provided through alternative delivery routes. ● There are no established alternative service options in the target geography. ● There are significant time considerations that would result in suboptimal outcomes if intervention or project delivery was delayed by a competitive process. ● The Partnership Board agrees that alternative approaches to project selection is justified. | |

Where alternative approaches are considered, there will be a focus on VFM and full audit materials will be retained. SYMCA will ensure that that the standards and legal obligations will be compliantly followed in delivery of this fund.

Working with other places

As referenced above under our Strategic Ambition, the MCA has come together with the local councils in South Yorkshire to ensure we invest these funds as a whole region, aligning our overall strategic approach, co-developing seven region-specific themes, and collaborating to target every one of our interventions to leverage the greatest impact.

The MCA has committed to continue to work closely with the four local councils to collaborate between places on the implementation of all 20 interventions, identifying the level at which it makes most sense for intervention activity to happen from region-wide down to hyper-local initiatives. We will continue to facilitate collaboration with the local councils and to ensure that local stakeholder voices have meaningful scope to influence spending choices.

| DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply. | |
| Intervention | Tick if applicable |
| <i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i> | |
| 1. Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs. | ✓ |
| 2. 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. | ✓ |
| 3. Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces | ✓ |
| 4. Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer. | ✓ |
| 6. Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, | ✓ |
| 9. Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places. | ✓ |
| 11. Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. | ✓ |
| 13. Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change. | ✓ |
| Describe any interventions not included in this list? | |
| n/a | |
| Who are the places you intend to collaborate with? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnsley Council • Doncaster Council • Rotherham Council • Sheffield City Council | |

| DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply. | |
| Intervention | Tick if applicable |
| <i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i> | |
| | ✓ |

| | |
|---|---|
| 16. Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses. | ✓ |
| 17. 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. Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks. | ✓ |
| 24. 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. | ✓ |
| 26. Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises. | ✓ |
| 29. 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. | ✓ |
| 30. Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment. | ✓ |
| Describe any interventions not included in this list? | |
| n/a | |
| Who are the places you intend to collaborate with? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnsley Council • Doncaster Council • Rotherham Council • Sheffield City Council | |

| DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply. | |
| Intervention | Tick if applicable |
| <i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i> | ✓ |
| 33. 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 i.e. Multiply 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). | ✓ |
| 35. Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing. | ✓ |

| | |
|---|---|
| 37. Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses. | ✓ |
| 38. 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. | ✓ |
| 39. Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions. | ✓ |
| 40. Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors. | ✓ |
| Describe any interventions not included in this list? | |
| n/a | |
| Who are the places you intend to collaborate with? | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnsley Council • Doncaster Council • Rotherham Council • Sheffield City Council | |

Equality and Risks

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

How have you considered your public sector equality duty in the design of your investment plan?

SYMCA is opposed to all forms of unlawful, unfair and inappropriate discrimination and is committed to providing equity and fairness to all, to act favourably to all people with protected characteristics, and to tackle social and economic inequalities in our investment activities. Inclusion is a key pillar (a policy objective) of our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP).

Our SPF Investment Plan has been designed to enable the delivery of our SEP vision: **to grow an economy that works for everyone** through the development of inclusive and sustainable approaches that build on our innovation strengths, embrace the UK's 4th industrial revolution, contribute more to UK prosperity, **and enhance quality of life for all**.

Everyone must have a fair opportunity to contribute to and benefit from prosperity and that means tackling the economic, social and health inequalities that exist and which are a barrier to prosperity. SPF will enable us to build a stronger, fairer, and greener local economy that materially raises the life chances of our whole population, whilst strengthening and transforming our communities.

We engaged and consulted with stakeholders to determine the priorities of this Investment Plan. Subsequent engagement sessions with partners including business representatives and the VCS has concentrated on identifying the types of interventions that we need to deliver across South Yorkshire, focusing intensely on how we support individuals with protected characteristics.

Our proposed interventions for Communities and Place include: improving accessibility to town centres and high streets for individuals with disabilities; social action and volunteering projects in local communities; projects that will reduce cost of living for those who are most vulnerable; and providing local access to arts, culture and heritage so that they can be experienced and enjoyed by all.

Through SPF, we will support the creation and growth of businesses, social and community enterprises and cooperatives. We will also support individuals with aspirations to enter self-employment to do so, particularly those who are currently excluded from the labour market.

Key projects we are seeking to deliver in skills and employment will focus on wrap-around and one-to-one support to move people closer to mainstream education services and employment, with an emphasis on essential life skills. We will also promote volunteering in communities to boost employment prospects and improve wellbeing.

How will you consider your public sector equality duty when implementing your investment plan, including in the selection of projects?

All the organisations that deliver activity on behalf of SYMCA will be required to have current and up-to-date Equal Opportunities policies which comply with the Equality Act 2010/Public Sector Equality Duty legislation and regulations and outlaw discrimination or harassment on the basis of age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

The MCA's ten Social Value Eligibility Conditions will be applied to the SPF. This means maximum social value will be generated through all interventions. More details can be found here: <https://governance.southyorkshire-ca.gov.uk/mgConvert2PDF.aspx?ID=10630>

All projects will operate in the context of the Equality Duty, ensuring that the interventions enhance equality of opportunity and ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination within the any given project's management and in its delivery.

We will support, embed, and mainstream the equality and diversity theme into delivery arrangements in the following ways:

- Ensuring that promotional materials contain a diversity of images representative of the breadth of protected characteristic groups, we will also utilise role models from protected groups
- Make our information accessible so that no one is placed at a disadvantage in terms of access to information due to a language barrier or a disability
- Ensuring that specialist publications and networks for disadvantaged groups are provided with information about the UKSPF projects to disseminate within their communities
- All recruitment processes undertaken for UKSPF delivery (both for staff and for participants) will comply with the Equality Act 2010
- All building and physical space used during the delivery of UKSPF will be accessible to people with disabilities
- Monitoring project engagements based on gender, age, disability, religious faith, sexual orientation, and ethnicity – and will take remedial action if we are concerned about lack of representation or diversity
- Staff, partners, and associates of the programme will receive diversity awareness training during the induction process and then ongoing regular training to ensure that they understand what is meant by diversity and discrimination and steps they can take to eliminate this in their dealings with participants and the public.

As noted above, tackling issues around underrepresented groups will be integral to the SPF programme. Take-up of, and outcomes for, programme participants will be monitored against all nine protected characteristics within the Public Sector Equality Duty of the Equality Act 2010 will be undertaken throughout the delivery of the SY UKSPF programme. Where underrepresentation or less positive outcomes are identified against these cohorts, relevant remedial action will be taken.

Underrepresentation and less positive outcomes around cohorts with protected characteristics will also be embedded into the risk management arrangements within the programme and for individual projects and interventions.

We are committed to ongoing and meaningful engagement with stakeholders, community leaders, charities, business representatives, the education sector, directors of public health and others. This continual engagement will ensure that the interventions and projects funded through SPF are co-designed with groups and partners with the expertise and knowledge to ensure that the interventions have the greatest impact on our communities, residents, and businesses. We will undertake an Equalities Impact Assessment on the Investment Plan to identify the expected impacts and benefits of the South Yorkshire SPF programme and apply any recommendations from the assessment.

RISKS

Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?

The SYMCA Risk Management Framework, has been developed utilising industry best practice in the form of the Risk Management standard, ISO 31000, the public sector-based Orange Book, benchmarking of comparable organisations along with experiential knowledge of good practice.

Yes ✓

No

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

1. **Risk:** Due to the short period for development of the SPF investment plan, local partners and stakeholders have not yet developed specific projects. This has resulted in a best guess approach to profiling spend that will require significant changes between interventions and priority areas, post investment plan submission and well into delivery. This flexibility is crucial.
 - **Mitigation:** The managing authority has been clear that changes to the budget and profile are expected and will be supported. A process to manage these changes in a timely manner will be required.

2. **Risk:** Due to the short period for development of the SPF investment plan, local partners and stakeholders have not developed specific projects. In order to protect future flexibility, SYMCA cannot logically commit to specific outputs and outcomes until the detail is pinned down. Therefore, the investment plan can only outline the outcomes we can reasonably estimate at this stage.
 - **Mitigation:** The managing authority has been clear that changes to outputs and outcomes can be made post submission. A process to manage these changes in a timely manner will be required.
3. **Risk:** Due to the short period for development of the SPF investment plan, local partners and stakeholders are not fully engaged in the programme and the profile of the project is not raised across the region due to insufficient engagement fund.
 - **Mitigation:** This is mitigated by engagement during the drafting process, the formation of a partnership board and on-going consultation and marketing of the programme.
4. **Risk:** Due to the short period for development of the SPF Investment Plan, SYMCA and partners are not yet able to confirm the relative impact of these interventions. This may result in the ambitions of the programme not being fully achieved, resulting in suboptimal outcomes.
 - **Mitigation:** The SPF investment plan will be continually reviewed and managed via the MCA and partnership board. On-going review of activity and interventions will be monitored to ensure we are delivering the appropriate impact. Development of projects will be scrutinised by partners to ensure we are acknowledging best practice and recognising emergent best practice.
5. **Risk:** Lack of available capacity to deliver project activities in line with timescales which may result in project delays, outcomes not achieved and potential financial penalties.
 - **Mitigation:** SYMCA and partners will work to ensure that a forward plan of activity with timescales is developed and shared with partners and potential delivery groups. Capacity for delivery will be appraised for all responses.
6. **Risk:** SPF displaces/duplicates other funding streams and interventions
 - **Mitigation:** The partnership board will help to support and inform the complimentary nature of provision procured. In addition, the intervention selection process was steeped in a vigorous review of added value and alternative funding routes has been considered to help inform selection.
7. **Risk:** Pace of delivery is not sufficient resulting in insufficient time to procure and implement appropriate interventions.
 - **Mitigation:** Early work at risk will be undertaken in August to ensure year one projects are in place allowing sufficient time to plan for years 2 and 3.
8. **Risk:** Standard procurement procedure rules are not adhered to resulting in opportunities not being advertised in an open and transparent way.
 - **Mitigation:** The MCA will ensure procurement and legal support to oversee this.
9. **Risk:** The Accountable Body does not carry out effective monitoring and there are issues in obtaining appropriate outcomes evidence.
 - **Mitigation:** The MCA will implement a robust performance management system and flag any concerns early to ensure effective delivery. SUMCA has a strong track record with central government in this regard.
10. **Risk:** Loss or delays to SPF confirmation resulting in a loss of funding to organisations that make up the landscape for delivery that will be critical for SPF.
 - **Mitigation:** The MCA will begin the process of developing proposals immediately following the submission of the investment strategy and procure at risk where necessary.
11. **Risk:** Developing a framework which is too prescriptive and prevents us from flexibly responding to new and emerging challenges and opportunities over the 3-year period.

- **Mitigation:** Working with specialist advisors, bringing in lessons from other areas to help us identify this early on and specifically co-designing a flexible framework of interventions.
12. **Risk:** Inability or unwillingness to devolve SPF interventions and funding decisions down to a local council level which would severely impact the responsiveness to local need and therefore the effectiveness of the funding.
- **Mitigation:** The MCA also identified this early on and adopted collaborative process to agree a strategic approach and identify interventions with local councils, and then operate a devolved delivery model where final funding choices will be made as close as possible to intended communities where they will have impact.
13. **Risk:** Not recognising SPF alone is not enough to address the challenges in South Yorkshire and that we need to identify match funding and intervention levels to achieve maximum impact.
- **Mitigation:** To ensure that the overarching regional framework sets the aspiration around match/intervention.

Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?

| | |
|-------|----|
| Yes ✓ | No |
|-------|----|

(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.

1. **Risk:** Delivery partners and any subsequent sub-contractors are not fully aware of the purpose of the project, expectations, eligibility criteria, and the utmost importance of evidence to support claims resulting in ineligible claims for expenditure.
- **Mitigation:** The MCA will hold briefing sessions shortly after any application approval for delivery partners and subsequently for sub-contractors, and then via scheduled project review meetings across the project's lifetime. Whilst processes and procedures in place across all delivery partners should prevent the possibility of fraud, if fraudulent activity is suspected this will be dealt with as a matter of urgency in line with the MCA's Anti-Fraud policy. Contracts with delivery partners include clauses relating to Fraud, highlighting this as a prohibitive act and a breach of contract.

Capacity and capability

| TEAM RESOURCE | |
|--|--|
| How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding? | |
| <p>Staff roles have been identified informed by the capacity and capability required to run previous (similar) programmes of this scale and size. It is expected that all staff will be 100% funded by the programme. As Equal opportunities employers, we expect that some staff will be part time and take advantage of flexible working arrangements, therefore staffing arrangements will be confirmed/finalised during programme implementation and will be available on request.</p> <p>Below is an outline of roles and responsibilities of each officer. This structure has been developed with previous programmes.</p> | |
| Job Title | Principal Duties / Responsibilities |
| <p>Programme controls Manager x 1 FTE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaison with DLUHC • Check off claims to DLUHC • Carries out programme reporting to boards and steering groups as required • Management of staff, programme budget, outputs, and results • Ensures Contract Compliance • Maintains wider strategic leads on behalf of the programme • Ensures that a robust audit trail is in place and oversees Audit Visits • Oversees all procurement activity • Carries out verification visits with partners • Facilitates Partnership group • Ensures delivery planning and risks are mitigated • Authorises payments to partners |
| <p>Performance and Reporting Officer x 1 FTE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates information sharing between partners to obtain accurate, reliable and consistent information about baseline positions and progress of programme • Ensures all programme and participant data is accurate and up to date • Works across both MCA and partner agency systems, develop and maintain processes for identifying, tracking and mapping details of provision. • Uses data to achieve an accurate and current data set to be used in programme planning and the preparation and dissemination of accessible reports for a range of audiences. • Ensures continual improvement of the programme through regular evaluation and review of impact data and methods of gathering data, to ensure continued relevance and accuracy. • Advises the PM about gaps in information and intelligence or any barriers to accessing information and propose solutions for overcoming these barriers |
| <p>Funding Officer x 0.5 FTE</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support programme manager with Contract Management • Extracts information from delivery organisations to compile the claim to DLUHC • Carries out checks on evidence • Liaises with delivery partners in each area to resolve queries • Looks to maximise claim for outputs, results and expenditure. • Ensures contract compliance and programme audit trail is in place • Prepares for Audits • Carries out programme performance monitoring and reports to the Programme Manager |

| | |
|--|---|
| Claims and Monitoring Officer x 0.5 FTE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports Funding Officer with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extracting information from CRM to compile the claims. ○ Liaising with delivery partners to resolve queries ○ Establishing and Maintaining Audit Trail ○ Programme performance monitoring |
| Marketing Officer x 1 FTE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leads on the delivery of the SPF marketing / Communication Strategy • Co-ordinates and arranges project events • Carries out all social media activity on behalf of the programme • Ensures that all UKSPF marketing guidelines are adhered to • Updates website as required • Input and Extract of data on CRM • Ensures partner compliance with Branding guidelines • Creates content for publicity materials / case studies • Completion and filing of project paperwork • Collation of all publicity materials electronically and in hard copy format as required to meet audit requirements. • Completion of the Document Register |
| Delivery Lead x 1 FTE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensures smooth running of the programme for South Yorkshire • Leads on Relationship Management with DLUHC • Troubleshoots any issues with engagement with externally funded specialist provision • Supports Programme Manager with day to day management of delivery partners • Influences SY provision (externally funded) to ensure alignment and collaborative approach • Ensures local delivery planning and risks are mitigated. • Oversees Case Management |

Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.

The MCA's Assurance Framework, reviewed and approved annually by central government, will govern all processes and actions in the management and delivery of this programme.

SYMCA (as Accountable Body) has extensive experience in successfully managing similar programmes and other externally funded activity (e.g. devolved adult education budget).

The programme management team will be based at SYMCA. The overarching responsibility will sit within the remit of the Assistant Director Procurement, Contracts & Programme Controls, whose team members have significant experience managing government funded and Partnership projects such as LGF and GBF. A senior officer with extensive previous experience of managing similar provision will manage the programme.

The programme management team will also include the following: Funding Officer, Performance Officer Claims and Monitoring Officer, Marketing Officer as well as a specified Finance Manager who will be assigned to the project. Procurement expertise will be built in for the implementation phase to ensure that procurement carried out is fully compliant. A Legal Officer will be assigned to the project and will support with all contracting. Please note that the costs of the Legal Officer, Finance Manager and procurement expertise are not being calculated at this stage but will be estimated and refined based on the amount of time required to complete the functions.

The Programme Manager in conjunction with the central team will be responsible for contract management and the day-to-day coordination, management and administration of the programme; production of claims; relationship management with any procured providers; and monitoring finance and outcomes. These roles will be carried out on behalf of the entire programme and offers consistency and economies of scale by co-locating at one site.

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| CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY | | |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| How would you describe your team’s current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds? | | |
| Very experienced ✓ | Some experience | No previous experience |
| How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for procurement? | | |
| Strong capability ✓ | Some capability | Limited capability |
| How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for procurement? | | |
| Strong capacity | Some capacity ✓ | Limited capacity |
| How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for subsidies? | | |
| Strong capability | Some capability ✓ | Limited capability |
| How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for subsidies? | | |
| Strong capacity | Some capacity | Limited capacity ✓ |

| COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select? | | |
| Yes ✓ | No | |
| How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions? | | |
| Strong capability ✓ | Some capability | Limited capability |
| Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system. | | |
| N/A | | |
| Describe what further support would help address these challenges. | | |
| N/A See above sections | | |
| How would you describe your team’s current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions? | | |
| Strong capacity | Some capacity ✓ | Limited capacity |
| Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system. | | |
| SYMCA and its four LA partners have extensive experience of delivering Community and Place interventions. The local delivery systems of all four partner areas have been engaged in the development of this investment plan. Where there are pockets of capacity challenges these will be considered by partners across all four areas to ensure equality of access to all residents. Our confidence is drawn from the response to the Covid-19 pandemic where partners have worked in unison on the South Yorkshire Renewal Action Plan. This has led to system wide delivery of pandemic response activity with leadership being drawn from the most appropriate local area. | | |
| Describe what further support would help address these challenges. | | |
| See above sections | | |

| SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY |
|--|
| Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select? |

| | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Yes ✓ | No | |
| How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions? | | |
| Strong capability ✓ | Some capability | Limited capability |
| Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system. | | |
| SYMCA and its four LA partners have extensive experience of delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. The local delivery systems of all four partners are well developed with numerous pan South Yorkshire programmes currently in operation. In addition to this, SYMCA has responsibility for the delivery of the Regional Growth Hub and Yorkshire and Humber Made Smarter programme. | | |
| Describe what further support would help address these challenges. | | |
| n/a | | |
| How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions? | | |
| Strong capacity ✓ | Some capacity | Limited capacity |
| Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system. | | |
| n/a | | |
| Describe what further support would help address these challenges. | | |
| n/a | | |

| PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY | | |
|--|-----------------|--------------------|
| Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select? | | |
| Yes ✓ | No | |
| How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions? | | |
| Strong capability ✓ | Some capability | Limited capability |
| Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system. | | |
| SYMCA and its four LA partners have extensive experience of delivering People and Skills interventions. The local delivery systems of all four partners are well developed with numerous pan South Yorkshire programmes currently in operation including Working Win. The total number of residents supported by Working Win has now reached more than 5,200, with over 2,500 returning to work or finding work. This has helped the region's fightback against the economic implications from the pandemic. | | |
| Describe what further support would help address these challenges. | | |
| n/a | | |
| How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions? | | |

| | | |
|---|-----------------|------------------|
| Strong capacity | Some capacity ✓ | Limited capacity |
| Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system. | | |
| <p>The local delivery systems of all four partner areas have been engaged in the development of this investment plan. Where there are pockets of capacity challenges these will be considered by partners across all four areas to ensure equality of access to all residents. Our confidence is drawn from the response to the Covid-19 pandemic where partners have worked in unison on the South Yorkshire Renewal Action Plan. This has led to system wide delivery of pandemic response activity with leadership being drawn from the most appropriate local area.</p> | | |
| Describe what further support would help address these challenges. | | |
| n/a | | |

| SUPPORT TO DELIVER UKSPF | |
|--|------|
| <p>All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?</p> | |
| Yes | No ✓ |
| (If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%. | |
| <p>SYMCA will ensure that the majority of the UKSPF is used in support of interventions and therefore is committed where possible to ensuring that no more than 4% is used to support the delivery of the programme. In the unlikely event that this is insufficient, this will be discussed with DLUHC.</p> | |

Additional documents

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- Yes
- No