

Report subject	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)
Meeting date	8 th February, 2023
Status	Public
Executive summary	<p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda. BCP Council has been allocated nearly £4.2m for the 'main' UKSPF, and a further £1.7m for the Multiply programme.</p> <p>On 5 December 2022 the Government approved the BCP Council Investment Plan (IP). Now that the IP has been approved, this report seeks Cabinet approval to formally accept the funding and deliver the 17 proposed interventions of the UKSPF.</p>
Recommendations	<p>Cabinet recommends that Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Accepts the £4.2m UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) grant allocation from Government. ii) Delegates authority to the Director of Economic Development in consultation with the Director of Finance and Portfolio Holder for regeneration to utilise the grant in line with the Council's UKSPF Investment Plan and the associated Government guidance, ensuring oversight, governance and monitoring of the programme by March 31 2025.
Reason for recommendations	<p>The UKSPF funding will enable BCP Council to provide better green spaces and community facilities, improved accessibility to facilities and community interaction, improved education and skills (including numeracy) and business start-up and growth support. As such, the UKSPF will help our residents, businesses and communities deliver the Corporate Strategy, Big Plan and our Levelling Up aspirations.</p>

Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Philip Broadhead – Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration; and Councillor Toby Johnson, Lead Member for Levelling Up and Skills
Corporate Director	Adam Richens, Chief Finance Officer and Director of Finance
Report Authors	Adrian Trevett, Head of Economic Development Matthew Robson, Senior Economic Development Officer
Wards	Council-wide
Classification	For Decision

Background

1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund. UKSPF replaces the former European Structure & Investment Funds (ESIF) which has been funding business support and skills and employment (prior to BREXIT). UKSPF is now the only source of funding that enables councils to continue providing free advice and guidance to businesses.
2. The UKSPF will support the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:
 - Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency
3. BCP Council has been allocated nearly £4.2m for the 'main' UKSPF, and a further £1.7m for the Multiply programme for improved numeracy skills. In total, this is £5.9m for the 3 financial years from April 2022 to March 2025. This report relates solely to the UKSPF.
4. For UKSPF, this funding is roughly £500k in year 1, £1m in year 2 and £2.7m in year 3 - comprising both revenue and capital funding. There is a requirement for a minimum capital spend of 10% in year 1, 13% in year 2 and 20% in year 3.
5. There was a delay in receiving the funding, which was originally expected in October 2022, so some funding allocated for year 1 may be delayed to year 2 (currently tbc).
6. To access the funding allocation, BCP Council, along with all other eligible councils, was required to draft and submit an Investment Plan (IP) to

government for approval. The intention to submit an IP was outlined in this report ([Public Pack/Agenda Document for Cabinet, 22/06/2022 10:00 \(bpcouncil.gov.uk\)](https://www.bpcouncil.gov.uk)) which was approved by Cabinet in June 2022. The IPs outline how councils propose spending their allocations across the 3 Investment Priorities of Local Business; Communities and Place; and People and Skills. Within the 3 Investments Priorities were 41 standard targeted interventions or projects (provided by Government), to address local needs. Councils were asked to decide which of the 41 standard interventions to take forward.

7. A BCP Council UKSPF internal team was formed included representatives from Communities, Adult Skills and Learning and Economic Development – working with colleagues from Destination Management and Climate. The BCP Council internal team created a draft list of prioritised interventions (from the standard 41 provided) to address local needs. The list was based on evidence from the following plans and strategies: ‘Big Plan’; ‘Corporate Strategy’; ‘Economic Development Strategy’; ‘High Streets and District Centres Strategy’; ‘Community Engagement & Consultation Strategy’; ‘Community & Voluntary Sector Volunteering Strategy’; ‘H&W Board Strategy’; Future Parks work; CAN’s State of the Sector report; ‘draft Business Support Plan’; Tourism research and studies; Climate action work; ‘National Skills Strategy (Skills for Jobs and Levelling Up)’; ‘Dorset Skills Action Plan’; and the emerging ‘BCP Skills Plan’.
8. The draft list of proposed interventions was discussed with local stakeholders through establishing a Local Partnership Group (LPG) – a requirement from Government. BCP Council’s Local Partnership Group (LPG) comprised BCP Council, Dorset LEP, Dorset Chamber, Dorset Growth Hub and Community Action Network (representing the Community and Voluntary Sector). The LPG advised their networks of the proposed draft interventions and asked for any comments and feedback. The Council also advertised the proposed draft interventions via the Council’s business e-newsletter. The consultation exercise demonstrated that the draft list of proposed interventions was appropriate and should be taken forward in the IP.
9. The Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Development, Growth and Regeneration was regularly updated as discussions progressed.
10. It was confirmed at the Big Plan Delivery Board on 13 May 2022 (and subsequently at CMB on 19 July 2022) that the c£4.2m would be divided across the 3 prescribed Investment Priorities funding the following 17 standard interventions:
 - Local Business - £2.5m. Lead - BCP Council Economic Development (Lead officer - Adrian Trevett)
 - Communities and Place - £1m. Lead - BCP Council Communities (Lead officer - Cat McMillan)
 - People and Skills – £700k (in year 3). Lead – BCP Council Skills & Learning (Lead officer - Lesley Spain)

Local Business final interventions (7):

- E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.
**
- E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
- E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
- E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.
- E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.
- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

** Note – E16 for town centres is currently included but may be changed to E1 for public realm improvements in town and district centres.

Communities & Place final interventions (5):

- E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
- E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

Skills final interventions (5):

- E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.
- E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.
- E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.
- E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses.
- E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.

11. At CMB on 19 July the following recommendations were agreed:

- The 17 interventions to be included in the UKSPF Investment Plan
- Delegate authority to the Director – Economic Development to submit the Investment Plan before the 1 August 2022 deadline
- That updates and further information will be provided via a Members Briefing in September 2022 (to be confirmed)
- That a report will be presented to Cabinet once the Council is in receipt of its UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation to formally accept the funding, in line with the Council's financial regulations

12. With this approval from officers, the Portfolio Holder and the LPG, the 17 interventions were finalised to be included in the BCP Council Investment Plan which was submitted to Government on 26 July 2022. At this stage an indicative amount of funding per intervention was confirmed by the 3 Investment Priority Lead Officers alongside projected outputs and outcomes.

13. Specifics on projects were not requested at IP stage – the IP only detailed high-level proposals and outcomes based on local context. Full details of how each of the interventions will be delivered (and by whom) will now be devised by the 3 lead officers, subject to agreement through the governance process outlined below. This will be in accordance with procurement rules and financial regulations.

14. On 5 December 2022 the Council were notified by Government that the IP was agreed. An MOU was signed by the S151 officer and returned to Government enabling the Council to receive the first tranche of funding.

15. Joint projects with neighbouring authorities were encouraged as this will deliver economies of scale. BCP Council has been in regular dialogue with Dorset Council and the Dorset LEP, and these will be continued. BCP Council will also investigate opportunities for joint working with neighbours to the east of the area.

Governance

16. The Council are required to submit quarterly monitoring reports (signed off by the S151 Officer) to Government. An internal officer Delivery Group containing the Head of Economic Development; Senior Economic Development Officer; Head of Community Engagement and Community Safety; Principal Learning Manager (Skills & Learning); Head of Climate; and, Academy Director (National Coastal Tourism Academy) will meet prior to this submission to oversee the programme and ensure targets are on track. The Portfolio Holder will also be updated throughout the programme.
17. The LPG will meet 4 times a year to review the quarterly monitoring reports before submission (and on an ad hoc basis if/when a major change is required) to provide further oversight and governance.
18. Once the LPG have reviewed and approved the quarterly monitoring reports, these will be presented to the BCP Council UKSPF Strategic Board. The Strategic Board will comprise the Director of Economic Development and Director of Communities. The Director of Skills will join the Strategic Board in year 3 (when the Skills related interventions commence). The Strategic Board will be required to make formal decisions on the delivery of the programme.
19. An all Member briefing on UKSPF was scheduled for 14 September 2022. This unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the sudden and sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen. The slides that were due to be presented were instead circulated to all members for information and to raise any questions or queries. The rescheduled all Member briefing was held on 17 January 2023.

Options Appraisal

20. To support the recommendations and accept the UKSPF allocation would enable BCP Council to provide better green spaces and community facilities, improved accessibility to facilities and community interaction, improved education and skills (including numeracy) and business start-up and growth support.
21. To not support the recommendations will mean these benefits would not be realised to the detriment of residents and businesses.

Summary of financial implications

22. The breakdown of funding per intervention and Capital/Revenue split can be found in the appendix.
23. The funding for year 1 has now been provided along with a £20k contribution for developing the IP – this £20k will be used to pay the consultant for support in developing the IP and for continued support with developing the detailed projects.
24. Government will pay each lead local authority annually in advance in years 2 and 3. In 2023-24 (year 2) and 2024-25 (year 3), Government will pay towards the start of the financial year, taking into account performance in the preceding

year. Government will consider withholding the next annual instalment until they have received credible plans setting out how the lead local authority will utilise underspends in the next year and/or appropriate milestones and spend have been achieved for the previous year. No funding will be provided for activity after 31 March 2025 and Government will expect underspends in the final year of the programme (2024/25) to be repaid to DLUHC.

25. Each lead local authority can use up to 4% of their allocation by default to undertake necessary Fund administration, such as project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing stakeholder engagement. Setting up the Fund may need a larger administration budget in the first year than in later years. This is acceptable so long as the percentage is not exceeded overall. BCP Council does not intend to seek more than the 4% - any resource implications will be funded from this 4%.
26. Delivery of projects was possible from April 2022 (at risk). BCP Council has not started any projects pre- IP sign-off due to the associated risks.
27. All project spend will be in line with BCP Council's Financial Regulations and procurement rules. Spend will be on short-term contracts for the duration of the programme (there will be no ongoing pressure on the Council once UKSPF finishes).
28. Match funding is not required as part of the UKSPF - but this is encouraged. The main source of match funding that is proposed is via match funded business grants. Financial Regulations will be fully adhered to (including Subsidy Control) and a robust governance process will be put in place for all grant awards.

Summary of legal implications

29. Lead Local Authorities must design their project selection and contracting processes so they have mechanisms to recover funding where beneficiaries do not comply with fund parameters, UK law or any local requirements. If Cabinet formally accept the funding, BCP council will require partnership agreements and contracts. Legal (and procurement) will be formally instructed for support to safeguard the Council.
30. Government will ask each lead Local Authority to notify any current or emerging operational or financial risks, or issues, and any contingency measures put in place. A full risk and issues register (and other Project Management reports) will be created for the UKSPF which will be presented to the Delivery Group, LPG and Strategic Board. All project spend will be in line with BCP Council's Financial Regulations.

Summary of human resources implications

31. BCP Council will be able to use up to 4% of their allocation (£168k) to undertake necessary Fund administration, such as project assessment, contracting, monitoring and evaluation and ongoing stakeholder engagement.
32. Any resource implications will be funded from this 4% and will be hired on a contractual basis that runs in line with the funding, thereby not creating any long-term pressure on the Council.

Summary of sustainability impact

33. Sustainability is a key consideration in the BCP Council UKSPF IP and each Investment Priority includes a sustainability intervention:
- a. E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.
 - b. E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy.
 - c. E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.
34. A Decision Impact Assessment (DIA) has been completed and there were no objections to the proposal.

Summary of public health implications

35. The UKSPF will deliver positive economic and social interventions by improving community facilities, opening up opportunities to the wider community and ultimately improving skills, employment, creating flexible and secure well-paid jobs, which will enhance the health and wellbeing of all.

Levelling Up

36. The chosen 17 interventions above will deliver the UK Government's Levelling Up commitment and specifically missions 1, 2, 6, 7, 8 and 9 of the Levelling Up White Paper. Further details are available in the list of outputs and indicators for England [here](#).

Summary of equality implications

37. The UKSPF IP was presented at the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Panel (see appendix) on 23 June (before submission of the IP). The summary from the EIA report is as follows:
38. The proposed overarching interventions in the Investment Plans will benefit all members of the community (including those with protected characteristics) and will help improve equality - in line with the 6 domains of areas of life that can impact equality - education; work; living standards; health; justice and personal security; and participation. Examples include better green spaces, better community facilities and accessibility to facilities, improved community interaction and participation, improved education and skills (including numeracy) and business start-up and growth support.
39. The panel requested a few minor areas which have been incorporated into the final report.

Summary of risk assessment

40. The risks associated with the Skills Plan comprise: not being able to secure full member support, which may lead to disjointed/lack of delivery in certain locations; and a reputational risk associated with non-delivery of the plan. By working with key stakeholders from the start, we can manage a wider portfolio of

actions and encourage partners to implement (as they are also key beneficiaries).

Background papers

41. None

Appendix 1 – Allocation including capital and revenue split

Intervention	UKSPF Allocation	Capital 2022-23	Revenue 2022-23	Capital 2023-24	Revenue 2023-24	Capital 2024-25	Revenue 2024-25
E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces	£400,692			£30,000	£146,377	£50,000	£174,315
E9: Impactful volunteering and/or social action projects	£291,808				£149,904		£141,904
E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups	£165,000	£45,000		£30,000	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000
E12: Community engagement schemes, local regeneration	£72,500		£8,000		£38,000		£26,500
E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	£70,000				£35,000		£35,000
	£1,000,000						
E16: Open markets & town centre retail & service sector	£310,000	£30,000		£35,000	£10,000	£225,000	£10,000
E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy	£150,000		£15,000		£45,000	£30,000	£60,000
E20: R&D grants supporting innovative product & service development	£270,000		£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£125,000	£70,000
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	£1,115,429		£301,154		£309,027		£505,248
E28: Export grants to grow overseas trading etc.	£270,000		£25,000		£50,000		£195,000
E29: Supporting decarbonisation & improving natural environment	£250,000		£50,000	£15,000	£35,000	£75,000	£75,000
E31: Support relevant feasibility studies	£130,000		£10,000		£10,000		£110,000
	£2,495,429						
E33: Employment support for economically inactive people	£140,000						£140,000
E34: Courses including basic, life & career skills	£140,000						£140,000

E36: Increase levels of digital inclusion, essential digital skills	£140,000						£140,000
E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses	£140,000						£140,000
E39: Green skills courses	£140,000						£140,000
	£700,000						
	Totals	£75,000	£434,154	£135,000	£883,308	£535,000	£2,132,967
	Annual Totals	£509,154		£1,018,308		£2,667,967	

Appendix 2 - EIA

Equality Impact Assessment: conversation screening tool

[Use this form to prompt an EIA conversation and capture the output between officers, stakeholders and interested groups. This completed form or a full EIA report will be published as part of the decision-making process]

Policy/Service under development/review:	<p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) and Multiply</p>
<p>What changes are being made to the policy/service?</p>	<p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Government’s Levelling Up agenda. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund.</p> <p>UKSPF replaces the former European Structure & Investment Funds (ESIF) which has been funding business support and skills and employment. ESIF funding is ceasing following BREXIT.</p> <p>BCP Council, as Lead Authority, has been allocated £4,195,429 for the ‘main’ UKSPF, and a further £1,723,218 for the Multiply programme (numeracy skills). In total, this is £5,918,647 for the 3 financial years from April 2022 to March 2025.</p> <p>To access the funding, BCP Council must develop Investment Plans (IP) for both UKSPF and Multiply in conjunction with local stakeholders through establishing or designating a Local Partnership Group (LPG). The IPs will detail how funding will target local priorities, against measurable goals.</p> <p>In terms of the UKSPF, BCP Council will be able to choose from investment across three investment priorities of communities and place, local business and people and skills. It has been agreed that the c£4.2m will be divided across the 3 investment priorities as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communities and Place - £1m

- Local Business - £2.5m
- People and Skills – £700k (only for year 3 as existing funding to be used in years 1 and 2)

With regards to Multiply, the funding should be used to help people improve their ability to understand and use maths in daily life, home, and work. Multiply will offer a range of options such as free personal tutoring, digital training and flexible courses that fit around people's lives and are tailored to specific needs, circumstances, sectors and industries.

BCP Council suggested which of the 41 UKSPF interventions areas to prioritise based on local needs and evidence (Government guidance, local strategies and plans, etc).

Evidence for the Community & Place Priority includes – 'Big Plan', 'Corporate Strategy', 'Community Engagement & Consultation Strategy', 'Community & Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Strategy', 'H&W Board Strategy', Future Parks work and CAN's State of the Sector report.

Evidence for the Local Business Priority includes – 'Big Plan', 'ED Strategy', 'High Streets and District Centres Strategy', 'draft Business Support Plan', Tourism research and studies and Climate action work.

Evidence for the Skills Priority includes – 'National Skills Strategy (Skills for Jobs and Levelling Up)', 'Dorset Skills Action Plan' and the emerging 'BCP Skills Plan'.

The proposed 17 Interventions have been shared with the Local Partnership Group (LPG) comprising BCP Council, Dorset LEP, Dorset Chamber, Dorset Growth Hub and Community Action Network. Members of the LPG have shared the proposed intervention with their networks for comments and feedback.

On 23 June 2022, the LPG met, and a summary of all the feedback received was presented to the Group. The feedback did not raise any issues and therefore the Group recommended that the following 17 interventions are included in the Investment Plan:

Communities & Place final interventions (5):

- E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.

- E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
- E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
- E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

Local Business final interventions (7):

- E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses. **
- E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
- E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
- E28: Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.
- E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.
- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

** Note – E16 for town centres included but may use E1 for public realm etc.

Skills final interventions (5):

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps. • E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications. • E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online. • E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses. • E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions. <p>These interventions, along with a profile of the spend and deliverables, will be included in the IP to be submitted at the end of July 2022. Full details of how each of the interventions will be delivered (specific projects) will be considered at a later date (once the IP has been agreed with government). Further EIAs may be needed on a project-by-project basis if/once the IP is approved. As such, this EIA relates to the principle of the UKSPF and submission of the IP.</p>
Service Unit:	Development Services
Persons present in the conversation and their role/experience in the service:	<p>Adrian Trevett – Economic Development Manager</p> <p>Matt Robson – Senior Economic Development Officer</p> <p>Lesley Spain – Principal Learning Manager, Skills and Learning</p> <p>Cat McMillan - Head of Community Engagement and Community Safety</p>
Conversation dates:	March – June 2022

<p>Do you know your current or potential client base? Who are the key stakeholders?</p>	<p>BCP Residents</p> <p>BCP Council Businesses (including Community and Voluntary organisations)</p> <p>Business Clusters and networks</p> <p>BCP Council</p>
<p>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in relation to the policy/service?</p>	<p>BCP Council is fully committed to responding to the needs of different groups including those with protected characteristics through the UKSPF:</p> <p>The proposed overarching interventions will benefit all members of the community (including those with protected characteristics) and will help improve equality (in line with the 6 domains of areas of life that can impact equality - education; work; living standards; health; justice and personal security; and participation).</p> <p>For example, the community & place priority area will deliver improvements to green spaces, support volunteering, reduce the cost of living and will support community engagement schemes. These will help those that need access to green spaces and leisure facilities (including those with disabilities, the elderly, and families with young children).and improve overall mental health for all of the community. These interventions will also increase participation.</p> <p>The local business priority area will support our residents to start-up and grow their businesses, increase exporting and improve innovation, support our tourism industry, support our town centres and support/promote low carbon. Furthermore, it is accepted that SMEs (who will be the main beneficiaries of the business support) are more likely to be owned by women and ethnic minorities. The business support interventions will also help businesses and individuals that have struggled over the last few years due to Covid bounce back (more women and young men lost their jobs due to Covid). People at risk of redundancy (or those made redundant) are often older and choose to use their experience and expertise to start-up a new business. The business support will be available to previous members of the armed forces who wish to retrain and use their experience to set up a new business. Higher skilled and more productive businesses enable higher wages and a better quality of life for our residents.</p>

	<p>The people and skills priority area and Multiply will support our economically inactive residents, improve numeracy skills, increase digital inclusion, support people in employment and improve green skills and education.</p> <p>Specific project details will be finalised on a project-by-project basis at a later date.</p>
Will the policy or service change affect any of these service users?	<p>The UKSPF will only have a positive impact on service users as detailed above.</p> <p>Specific project details will be finalised on a project-by-project basis at a later date.</p>
<p>[If the answer to any of the questions above is 'don't know' then you need to gather more evidence and do a full EIA. The best way to do this is to use the Capturing Evidence form]</p>	
What are the benefits or positive impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	<p>Specific benefits and positive impacts will depend on the proposals and objectives outlined on a project-by-project basis at a later date.</p> <p>However, as discussed above, there will be 'general' positive impacts that benefit all members of the community through better places and a more vibrant economy.</p>
What are the negative impacts of the policy/service change on current or potential service users?	<p>This will be considered on a project-by-project basis.</p>
Will the policy or service change affect employees?	<p>There will be no effect on employees as a result of this Strategy.</p>
Will the policy or service change affect the wider community?	<p>Yes, positively for the reasons outlined above.</p>
What mitigating actions are planned or already in place for those	<p>N/A</p>

negatively affected by the policy/service change?	
Summary of Equality Implications:	<p>The proposed overarching interventions in the Investment Plans will benefit all members of the community (including those with protected characteristics) and will help improve equality - in line with the 6 domains of areas of life that can impact equality - education; work; living standards; health; justice and personal security; and participation. Examples include better green spaces, better community facilities and accessibility to facilities, improved community interaction and participation, improved education and skills (including numeracy) and business start-up and growth support.</p> <p>Whilst this EIA only covers the broad interventions, subsequent scheme documents will provide details of the specific projects that will be actioned. This will detail specific projects to target key groups – for example retraining and reskilling unemployed members of our community, better community and leisure facilities and improvements to town and district centres.</p>

For any questions on this, please contact the Policy and Performance Team by emailing performance@bcpcouncil.gov.uk