



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2
May 2022

Your location

To be eligible for funding, you will need to be applying on behalf of a lead authority in one of the [delivery geographies](#).

Select the lead authority

For Scotland and Wales only: Who else is this investment plan being submitted on behalf of? Select all that apply

Your details

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Organisation name: East Devon District Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

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

Challenge 1: Wage Gap and Poverty

The average wage in East Devon has been historically lower than national averages. The average (median) annual wage for an East Devon worker in 2021 was £22,445, 14% lower than the UK average of £25,971. This wage gap between the East Devon and UK averages was slightly lower a decade earlier, standing at 11% in 2011. Data for the lowest paid 20% of workers shows an even wider gap. Average wages in 2021 for the bottom quintile of workers in East Devon was 17% lower than the UK average for the same percentile.

In addition to lower wages, higher costs are also prevalent in East Devon. House price data shows that on average, house prices in East Devon are marginally higher than house prices in Bristol, however the average wage for workers in Bristol is much higher, at £27,676 rather than £22,445. The East Devon house price to earnings ratio stood at 10.88 in 2021, compared to 5.21 in 1997 (the earliest data available), and remains higher than neighbouring Exeter, Mid Devon and South Somerset. The data available clearly shows that East Devon workers are being particularly squeezed in terms of take-home pay, and major costs such as rent, mortgage payments, etc. With the recent increase in the cost of living nationally, and the recent increase in homes being converted into second homes and holiday lets locally (5% of homes in East Devon and as high as 23% in some wards), this squeeze will continue to tighten.

For many local residents, the impact on living standards will worsen to the degree that they are unable to meet their basic costs of subsistence. Data from Exmouth Food Bank has demonstrated a significant increase in food parcels distributed, stating that "demand in April [2022] increased by 19% when compared to March and we are now consistently providing food to feed over 130 people a week." Food banks across East Devon, in Axminster, Honiton, Ottery St Mary, Seaton and the Sid Valley, will all be facing similar issues, with higher inflation pushing more local residents into food poverty.

For many, poverty will be an inhibitor to employment, training and better paid job opportunities which could lift them out of financial hardship. Our Poverty Reduction Strategy, which went live in 2021, recognises how local pockets of poverty are holding back many East Devon residents from seizing these opportunities. Interventions under all three UKSPF themes, and especially communities and place, can be used to help those in poverty manage the higher cost of living experienced in East Devon, whilst interventions under the supporting local business and people and skills themes will aim to support projects which help to provide local residents with higher waged/skilled employment opportunities.

Food bank quote, Exmouth Food Bank: <https://exmouthfoodbank.org.uk/statistics/>

Holiday/second home data, EDDC (2021): data available upon request.

House price data:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/datasets/ratioofhousepricetoworkplacebasedearningslowerquartileandmedian>

Wage data, ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/earningsandworkinghours/datasets/placeofworkbylocalauthorityshetable7>

Challenge 2: Demographic Change and Brain Drain

East Devon's population is getting older. Of all UK local authority areas, East Devon has the third highest proportion of retired people in the UK, according to ONS figures, with our old age dependency ratio at 56.8, compared to the England ratio of 29.7. The percentage of residents of working age is also comparatively small, standing at 53.6% in East Devon in 2020, compared to the South West and UK averages of 60% and 62.4% respectively. Unsurprisingly, East Devon was picked up in the Levelling Up White Paper as one of the few local authority areas in the UK where "the proportion of the population of working age is below 55%" (p.59). The LUWP goes on to state that "demographics explain some of these regional differences in human capital, as they determine how many people in an area are able to work" (p.59).

The shortage of human capital in East Devon can be largely explained by a self-fulfilling cycle whereby skilled young people brought up in East Devon have to leave the area to find better paid and higher skilled work, with businesses seeking highly skilled workers deterred by East Devon's lower skilled and lower paid labour pool. A recent research paper from the Onward think tank seems to confer with this. Whereas 2.6% of UK undergraduates study in Devon, only 1.6% of UK under-30s with a degree live in Devon. Onward goes on to state that "this indicates that there is a significant 'brain drain' among younger people. Upon graduating, young people will seek opportunities elsewhere in the country, rather than stay in Devon" (p.10). Early analysis of the recently released Census data shows that of the 32 wards in East Devon, 22 of them have seen a decrease in the 16-24 age bracket between 2011 and 2021, with the average decrease across the district reaching just over 5%. By comparison, the average increase in the 65+ age bracket increased in every ward, averaging at 22.4%.

Developing UKSPF projects to help yield higher productivity for businesses and higher wages for workers is a primary objective (see Challenge 1 and Challenge 4). This will be key to retaining East Devon's home-grown talent, whilst increasing the attractiveness of East Devon as somewhere to relocate to and invest. For the communities and place theme, East Devon will use its UKSPF allocation to develop 'softer' approaches to encouraging young and talented Devonians to stay in East Devon. By improving the cultural and leisure offer, we can highlight the comparative advantages East Devon boasts in terms of lifestyle benefits, including healthier living, a strong sense of community spirit and pride of place. With recently adopted culture and leisure strategies (see Opportunity 1), we can develop specific projects targeted at young adults, to improve the local cultural and leisure offer

Census data, ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationandhouseholdestimatesenglandandwalescensus2021>

Onward (2021), *Levelling Up the South West*: <https://www.ukonward.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Levelling-Up-the-South-West-v.3-1-1.pdf>

Population data, ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

Challenge 3: Disjointed VCSE Coordination

East Devon is currently in the unenviable position of not having an overarching support organisation for our voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector. We are unique within Devon, as every other area has one and we suspect we are one of very few in the country without one.

This has been a significant issue since our last Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) withdrew its provision around 5 years ago. However, the issue has become particularly apparent more recently, whenever the VCSE sector needs to be coordinated as a part of a wider campaign or initiative. Two recent examples include the lack of coordinated support throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and more recently in the provision of wrap-around support for the Government's Homes for Ukraine scheme, coordinating support for refugees and host families. The current poverty reduction and mental health agenda could be better actioned and better serve our local communities if a new CVS were established and maintained. There is also the issue that VCSE groups are being relied on more and more to provide services people desperately need, such as to combat loneliness and social isolation, assisting those wishing to apply for Universal Credit, helping those dealing with debt, helping with personal care, etc. Without coordinated support, some of these essential VCSE groups could start to disappear.

A CVS can also help the VCSE sector to secure funding. There is funding available for a wide range of organisations and community projects. However, the issue is that many VCSE organisations are unaware of these funding opportunities, they are not 'grant ready', they apply for things they are ineligible for, or they fail to submit a strong enough application. For example, with our own Small Grants Fund, 27% of applications were not eligible for the funding, which is time and resources wasted by those VCSE groups that could have been spent on service provision. A CVS would help and support such organisations with their funding bids, increasing the likelihood of them submitting strong and successful applications.

Using UKSPF funds to support the development of a new CVS will ensure that community and voluntary services can operate in a more coordinated manner, with more opportunities to unlock funding and provide other services to improve the quality of provision across East Devon.

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

Opportunity 1: Culture and Leisure Strategies

East Devon District Council has recently developed two separate corporate strategies for culture and leisure. As a part of the development of these strategies, actions plans have been drafted in order to address the local challenges and seize the local opportunities identified within these strategies.

Culture:

The Culture Strategy sets out our aim to build a more resilient, inclusive and community focused cultural and creative sector in East Devon. The strategy will empower more local people to shape and get involved with culture at all stages of their lives, drawing on and reflecting upon the diversity of contemporary society and the variety of activity that takes place in East Devon. We will amplify how culture enhances, inspires and engages people with the countryside, coast and climate whilst bolstering civic pride and a renewed sense of community. The strategy's recommendations focus on creating cultural opportunities for some of East Devon's most socially deprived communities and those who have little or no access to cultural activities or events.

East Devon has an ageing population and a worsening old age dependency ratio, as explained in Challenge 2. By investing in community cultural activity through volunteering and community leadership, this project will enable many among this key demographic to stay active and continue to contribute to their communities. At the same time, we need to increase the attractiveness of East Devon as somewhere younger professionals (20-29 year olds) want to live and work. As a result, actions resulting from the Culture Strategy will target support and opportunities to help more young adults to feel that they have a voice, something to do and take an active role in their community. The Culture Strategy is a key opportunity to identify projects which drives local community spirit and builds upon our existing cultural assets.

Leisure:

The Leisure Strategy sets out our ambition to facilitate and enable the provision of good quality, accessible, and inclusive leisure for both residents of, and visitors to, East Devon. This is being prioritised because of the positive impact being active has on our health and wellbeing, and the contribution it makes to national and local public health initiatives. The current lack of coordination at a local scale has resulted in a situation where the needs of many local residents are not being met. A reduction in the number of young people taking part in physical activity is concerning, with cost being a real issue for older residents, many of whom feel priced out or lack confidence in taking part in leisure activities.

The Leisure Strategy is a key opportunity to identify how we can 'join things up' both internally and externally to ensure activity is coordinated and there is no duplication; to coordinate EDDC activity across departments so there is consistency, alignment to agreed outcomes and it's clear who is delivering what.

Opportunity 2: Active Travel

East Devon and Exeter have fast-growing populations, both having grown twice as fast as nationally since 2010 and also more recently, with an increase in population of almost 31,000 over the past 10 years. A significant portion of this population growth is coming from Cranbrook, a new town being built in the West End of East Devon close to the district of Exeter. Further significant growth is planned in this area, with active travel and sustainable transport being key objectives in the delivery of this emerging settlement.

Cranbrook has a unique demographic with early population profiles estimating over four times the national average of 0-4 year olds living in the town and twice as many children on free school meals compared to the national benchmark. Students living at Cranbrook and attending school at Broadclyst, and vice versa, are currently unable to 'actively travel'. There is currently no safe walking or cycling route between the two communities, and public transport and personal car journeys are unaffordable for many. There is an urgent need to get those children active outdoors. There is an opportunity now to change the behaviour of local parents and their children. Physical activity is considered a 'wonder drug' in reducing and preventing non-communicable diseases and in enhancing general mental health and wellbeing.

Delivering a network of walking and cycling trails well connected to public transport is one way in which we can improve physical and mental health, including for those with limited mobility, visual and or hearing impairments and people with hidden disabilities. Easier access will benefit almost all demographics and groups of local residents, from children and their parents, to the elderly and those with disabilities.

Two active travel based opportunities have presented themselves which are relevant to the key objectives of UKSPF. One is to form new link between Cranbrook and Exeter via consented development at Mosshayne, to be delivered by Devon County Council's Highways Team. The other is to co-design (with DCC) a quiet lanes project in the Clyst Valley Regional Park, serving Cranbrook and other nearby settlements.

Free school meal data (DCC), data available upon request.

Population data, ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/datasets/populationestimatesforukenglandandwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>

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

Challenge 4: Productivity Gap

Levels of productivity have been historically lower in East Devon compared to national averages, and the gap between the East Devon and UK average has grown over time. GVA (B) per hour worked in East Devon in 2004 (the earliest data available) was 3.8% lower than the UK average in that same year. Data for 2019 (the latest data available) shows that this gap has increased 13.2%. Neighbouring districts, such as Exeter, Mid Devon and Teignbridge have seen a slight decrease in their productivity gaps between these two periods, with GVA in Exeter slightly pulling ahead of the national average since 2006. Data for GVA (B) per filled job shows an even larger gap emerging, with the East Devon productivity gap increasing from 9.5% in 2002 to 21.8% in 2019.

Lower levels of productivity are problematic for various reasons. Lower GVA typically corresponds with lower wage levels and therefore lower levels of disposable income and discretionary spending in the local economy. This economic and social reality locks in many local residents to lower paid and usually lower skilled positions. Areas with lower levels of GVA will also typically find it more difficult to attract inward investment, as the local labour pool is not suited towards serving higher skilled positions and with local supply chains and support services geared up towards servicing lower productivity sectors.

The focus of our proposed interventions under the 'supporting local business' theme ensures that we provide the funding and support necessary to help existing businesses grow and increase their productivity in a green and sustainable manner. Mission 1 of the Levelling Up White Paper outlines a clear ambition to close productivity and wage gaps across the UK's top and least performing areas – we will use our UKSPF allocation to action this national ambition at a local level.

GVA (B) data, ONS:

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/labourproductivity/datasets/subregionalproductivitylabourproductivityindicesbylocalauthoritydistrict>

Challenge 5: Tackling Climate Change

Although not specifically a localised problem, the effects and impact climate change will have on our communities will be immeasurable. East Devon's location on England's south coast will increase the likelihood of additional and more severe tidal, coastal and fluvial flooding as the effects of climate change continue to kick in. Businesses within our historically significant sectors, such as agriculture and tourism, are likely to face the highest impact from these changes. Despite the global nature of this challenge, we can take action at a local level, which, along with sufficient action from other local authorities and the UK Government, will be key to achieving our national target to reach net zero by at least 2050.

Devon's emissions in 2019 stood at 7.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e). Although this is a 2.6% drop on 2018 levels, and an 18% reduction since 2010, we are not currently on track to meet the target of a 50% reduction by 2030 (from 2010 levels), as laid out in the Devon Carbon Plan. East Devon in particular faces localised challenges to help meet that target. East Devon currently has the largest carbon footprint of all Devon districts, standing at 962,259 tCO₂e, equating to around 13% of Devon's emissions. Carbon emissions from Exeter Airport (based in East Devon) account for around 3% of Devon's total carbon footprint and 9% of emissions stemming from transport. Decarbonising aviation is therefore a key strategic priority for East Devon.

The Government's Net Zero Strategy sets out a clear commitment for local authorities to "develop net zero projects that can attract commercial investment" (p.260). By utilising the competitive advantages we have locally (see Opportunity 3), we can continue to facilitate that investment and 'do our bit' for the global movement to reach net zero by at least 2050. We will also consider the

impact of all UKSPF funded interventions in East Devon on our natural assets, committing not to fund any activity that would lead to a significant increase in carbon emissions or biodiversity loss.

Carbon data, Devon Climate Emergency: <https://www.devonclimateemergency.org.uk/studies-and-data/devons-carbon-footprint/>

Net zero quote, Net Zero Strategy (2021):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf

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

Opportunity 3: Net Zero and Sustainable Aviation

Exeter Science Park, Exeter Airport and Exeter College's Future Skills Centre are all located within East Devon. All three sites present a unique opportunity for East Devon to become a regional hub for sustainable aviation. Despite the loss of Flybe (the largest private sector employer in East Devon) in 2020, our district has still been able to maintain much of its rich heritage in aerospace and advanced engineering whilst simultaneously embracing disruptive innovations and technologies. Exeter Airport recently hosted the UK's first hybrid electric commuter flight with Ampaire, leading a consortium to test regional electric aviation transport solutions.

East Devon is the ideal location to trial this infrastructure for both hydrogen and electric aviation as a part of a wider regional 'living lab demonstrator'. Our vision is to support Exeter Airport to recover its position as a major economic driver and contributor to regional connectivity and for it to develop as a sustainable aviation test flight hub at the heart of a wider research and development corridor. By maximising its credentials in terms of energy distribution, relatively quiet airspace, levels of existing infrastructure already in place, good access to engineering talent, and close access to all aspects of new aircraft development, East Devon is in a prime position to take the lead in this exciting new field. The future of airspace is aiming towards a non-segregated approach between drones, eVTOLs, General Aviation, and other commercial flight vehicles. Working with the University of Exeter's Centre for Clean Future Mobility (based in East Devon), the Airport, the Science Park and Local Enterprise Partnership, we can utilise the UKSPF to ensure that East Devon becomes a central pillar of the UK's Jet Zero ambitions.

Opportunities in addition to sustainable aviation are also continuing to emerge. EDDC's £2.1m Innovation and Resilience Fund grant scheme (running from Sept-21 to June-22) recently funded a variety of projects focussed on our net zero and clean growth objectives. Funded projects included the development of carbon capture technology, an energy efficient alternative to the air-source heat pump and a new digital solution to reduce commercial waste costs for businesses. Research from Data City shows that East Devon is now home to over 100 businesses in the net zero sector, with a location quotient on 3 (has three times to UK local authority average) and annual turnover at over £72m. With additional funding in place, and a focus on our net zero objectives, we can continue to support research, innovation and product development in sustainable aviation and the transition to a net zero economy more widely.

Net zero data, Data City (2022). Data commission by Devon County Council and is available upon request.

Opportunity 4: Town Centre Scoping

Our Council Plan sets out a clear commitment to use our council assets "to support regeneration and create employment opportunities" whilst recognising "the impact on our town centres of the loss of footfall, through people working from home and the increase in the use of home delivery, rather than local shopping". To ensure our town centres are fit for the future, we have recently began a series of opportunity scoping activities for two of our smaller towns (Axminster and Seaton – the Axe Valley) to explore how we can use a mix of council and other public and privately owned sites to unlock investment, regeneration and placemaking opportunities

The commissioned Axe Valley feasibility study has been instrumental in assisting local stakeholders to identify a shortlist of preferred projects to be included within a Levelling Up Fund Round 2 bid. We now wish to use our UKSPF allocation to replicate this approach for other East Devon towns, such as Exmouth, Sidmouth, Honiton and Ottery St Mary, to identify opportunities for both future funding and/or investment opportunities as well as exploring new and innovative ownership and project delivery mechanisms.

Commissioning town centre scoping and feasibility studies is a vital first step in bringing forward investment in town centres. The work undertaken for the Axe Valley identified a package of projects, including employment sites on council owned land, mixed use town centre sites, privately owned brownfield sites, and opportunities for public realm improvements. The shortlisted projects for the Axe Valley LUF bid, if delivered, would offer significant economic and placemaking benefits with the creation of 150 direct jobs, 3,500sqm floor space and GVA of £30m over 10 years, alongside improved public realm and town centre connectivity for pedestrian use. Furthermore, the work identified significant placemaking themes and project proposals e.g. Seaton Seafont Enhancement scheme.

By building on the success of the Axe Valley feasibility work, we will work with the towns to facilitate a review of the challenges and opportunities of their place. This will identify a 'long list' of project opportunities and delivery mechanism proposals. These can be brought forward for funding and/or investment and/or new and innovative ownership and delivery mechanisms. Mission 9 of the Levelling Up White Paper commits the UK to improving pride of place in every area of the UK, including "people's satisfaction with their town centre". Opportunity scoping is an essential first step to achieve this, with the aim to levelling up our local communities and nourishing higher civic pride.

Axe Valley bid projections, EDDC. Study available upon request.

Council Plan quote, EDDC: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-plan/index.htm>

Opportunity 5: Tourism Strategy and Sidmouth's Stewardship Pilot

East Devon District Council is currently in the process of developing a Tourism Strategy. As a part of the development of this strategy, a series of recommendations are being drafted in order to address the local challenges and seize the local opportunities identified within the strategy. The strategy will enable tourism development that complements, emphasises and protects the natural capital of East Devon's environment. Alongside core themes of encouraging responsible and sustainable tourism, it will also have a strong focus on accessibility and inclusivity.

Tourism is a key sector for East Devon's economy, which between 2017-19 brought in an average visitor related spend of £352m per annum and employs over 3,400 people, or 5% of East Devon's employment. The visitor economy experienced significant challenges throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The 2021 season saw a rebound for many tourism orientated business, although anecdotal evidence from local providers suggests that early bookings for summer 2022 appears to be far more concerning. The recent pressure on family finances across the UK is clearly impacting on disposable income and discretionary spending, both of which are key to fuelling our local tourism sector. Both Covid and the cost of living crisis has highlighted the importance of our tourism, retail, hospitality and leisure sectors becoming more resilient, sustainable and innovative. Our Tourism Strategy aims to reveal those opportunities and explore how EDDC, and our UKSPF allocation, can be used to support an inclusive and sustainable tourism sector.

Another tourism related opportunity to highlight is the recent collaborative bid Sidmouth Town Council submitted for EDDC's £2.1m Innovation and Resilience Fund (IRF). Sidmouth, along with Honiton, Seaton and Ottery St Mary town councils, and the Budleigh Salterton Chamber of Commerce, were successfully awarded £146,209 in IRF funding, in part to develop a sustainable tourism pilot. The project involves developing a sustainable stewardship model for Sidmouth including: training/mentoring local businesses; identifying, setting and achieving sustainability goals; and producing destination-level Glasgow Declaration aligned Carbon Action Plan. Funding was paid in June 2022 with delivery expected within an 18 month timeframe. Assuming the pilot is successful, UKSPF funding could be used to replicate and extend the delivery of the pilot across the wider East Devon geography.

Tourism data: The South West Research Company (2020), Value of Tourism. Paper available upon request.

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

Challenge 6: Economic Inactivity

East Devon is facing particularly unique circumstances regarding its local labour market. Levels of unemployment in East Devon have been consistently low, standing at 2.9% in 2021, compared to 3.3% for the South West and 4.4% for Great Britain. The claimant count for out-of-work benefits is also particularly low, standing at 1.9% for East Devon in May 2022, and 2.7% for the South West and 3.9% for Great Britain. However, it would appear that lower unemployment and fewer claimants is largely the result of a shrinking labour pool.

Economic inactivity in East Devon is much higher than national or regional averages. In 2021, ONS data shows that 26% of working age people in East Devon were economically inactive (not in work or looking for work), compared to 20% in the South West and 21.6% in Great Britain. For people aged 16-24, this increases from 26% to 34%. The current figure of working-aged economically inactive residents has now reached over 20,000, the highest level since 2011. Until 2021, levels of economic inactivity in East Devon were typically below or occasionally on par with national and regional averages. The recent sharp increase in economic inactivity would imply that more residents are dropping out of the East Devon labour market, compared to national or regional averages, for distinctly localised reasons. This situation has ultimately led to a shrunken labour pool, fuelling labour shortages across the East Devon economy, yet with wage levels failing to catch up with national averages nor keep up with higher living costs or (see Challenge 1).

The sharp increase in economic inactivity can be explained by a significant increase in local residents leaving the labour market due to long-term sickness. We are also seeing more people leave the labour market due to needing to care for family members, many of whom will have longer term illnesses. The number of individuals who simply do not want or need a job has also exacerbated the problem, with many older residents retiring early during the pandemic.

Data also shows that 20% of economically inactive people do want a job, but are not currently in work or looking for work. This could be due to physical health issues, such as disabilities or longer term illnesses holding people back. There could also be mental health issues at play, particularly with younger people who have typically been more severely impacted by the pandemic. Data from Devon County Council for April 2022 has estimated around 188 individuals not in employment, education or training (NEET) in East Devon postcodes. Using our UKSPF allocation to target the most hard to reach individuals, who are NEET or are unable to gain employment due to disability, will go a long way to help reduce economic inactivity for those who have the most to gain from employment.

Claimant count data, Nomis:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157358/report.aspx?town=east%20devon#tabwab>

NEET data, DCC (2022): data available upon request.

Unemployment data, Nomis:

<https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157358/report.aspx?town=east%20devon#tabempunemp>

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

Opportunity 6: Retrofit Demand

The Retrofit Skills and Business Accelerator programme delivered as a part of Devon County Council's Community Renewal Fund (CRF) bid is yielding palpable benefits across the county which present a real opportunity for continuation through the UKSPF. Those leading on the delivery of this and similar schemes across Devon have found that there is an acute shortage of qualified Retrofit Assessors/Co-ordinators and accredited installers to deliver the volume of energy efficiency measures required within the challenging timescales set by Government.

The CRF funded Retrofit programme is providing a sustainable pipeline of qualified Retrofit Assessors, Coordinators, and accredited installers to meet the demand for these roles, which is growing exponentially. The aim is for 137 individuals to have gained a qualification by the time the CRF funded programme ends in Dec 2022, with 30 decarbonisation plans developed and 24t of carbon savings.

Since delivery started, East Devon has witnessed a healthy increase in the amount of people skilling themselves in PAS2035 course ranging from Level 2 to 5. There is a clear economic case for upskilling in this sector. According to Glassdoor, the average annual wage of a Retrofit Assessor is just over £35,000, significantly above the average UK wage of £25,971 and average East Devon wage of £22,445. Promoting the uptake of retrofit training presents a timely opportunity to both close the wage gap between UK and East Devon workers (see Challenge 1) and reduce the cost of living via higher uptake of energy saving solutions. Upskilling applies not just to individual workers, but to the business as a whole. Local companies have taken the opportunity to accredit themselves from Trust Mark in PAS2030 installers, in part to support Government based funding schemes, including Energy Company Obligation, Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery (LAD) Scheme, Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and Home Upgrade Grant.

Through Retrofit, both individuals and SMEs are being provided with the skills and expertise needed to drive the delivery of the Government's energy efficiency programmes. It is also providing the initial infrastructure required for further training beyond the CRF project, which presents a suitable opportunity for continuation via UKSPF.

Wage data, Glassdoor: https://www.glassdoor.co.uk/Salaries/retrofit-assessor-salary-SRCH_KO0,17.htm

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

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	✓
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	
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.

E6 - East Devon Culture Programme

E7 - Active Travel Fund

E10 - East Devon Leisure Programme

E11 - East Devon Council for Voluntary Service

E13 - Action on Poverty Fund

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

No

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](#).

N/A

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.

E6 - East Devon Culture Programme

Mission 9 of the Levelling Up White Paper sets out “engagement in local culture and community” as a key strategic objective for the UK. To deliver on this, an ‘East Devon Culture Programme’ will be delivered to take hold of the opportunities presented within EDDC’s Culture Strategy (see Opportunity 1), in alignment with Mission 9. UKSPF funded projects within this programme will be identified and delivered internally (by EDDC) throughout the three year period.

One of the identified projects will help build capacity for volunteers and community groups through training in governance, business planning, digital transformation and fundraising, as well as training in core creative skills, such as producing live events, interpretation and collections management. We will also explore the potential for promoting and diversifying volunteering opportunities through a central digitised portal, such as Volunteer Makers. In addition, we will seek to enhance the quality and appeal of collections, and the sustainability of local museums, through a programme of shared capital investment in display and interpretation. We believe these projects will increase participation in cultural activities for all groups and demographics in East Devon, albeit with a particular focus and emphasis on young adults and those from excluded and isolated groups.

To support existing cultural/creative groups and organisations, we will explore the potential of a new network that supports more community asset transfers and sharing of policy support and good practice for village halls and other cultural venues, to ensure their place at the heart of our communities. In addition, celebrating East Devon’s volunteers through recognition and rewards will help to foster a sense of achievement and community spirit within our towns and parishes, with the aim to motivate other local residents to step forward and take part.

Our aim is to increase the perception of our cultural offer by at least 10%, improving engagement numbers by least 4% and supporting at least 17 community-led cultural/creative projects. We are also expecting to yield a 3% increase in footfall, a 5% increase in visitor numbers and the creation of 8 specialist jobs in this sector.

These projects will enable us to embrace the opportunities outlined in the forthcoming Culture Strategy, whilst keeping our older residents actively engaged in the community and making East Devon a more desirable and engaging place for young adults to live and work.

E7 - Active Travel Fund

Various active travel opportunities around the Cranbrook area have emerged which can be delivered, in part, with our UKSPF allocation (see Opportunity 2). These projects will aim to reduce car travel and increase active travel methods such as walking and cycling amongst children, older residents and those with disabilities.

One project we are exploring would involve the delivery of a new 650m multi-use trail to link Cranbrook and Exeter. The trail would be delivered as part of a circular all-ability walk around a new 10ha Station Road Nature Reserve. This trail, an artist-led co-design with local community input, could also include a venue for outdoor education (artwork, seating, information, bike parking, and picnic area). New seating/picnic areas could be provided to increase accessibility, especially for those with mobility constraints. UKSPF funding could be used to design and construct the 650m trail with shortfall made up by utilising EDDC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.

A second project in early development is a quiet lane initiative in the Clyst Valley Regional Park. This would include the development of guided routes and marketing of ‘quiet’ country lanes with limited car use being promoted as preferred routes for cycling. This can also be utilised by Co-Bikes, a bike-sharing co-operative which has recently started operating in Cranbrook and other nearby locations. Particular routes being explored includes: linking Cranbrook with Exeter College’s Futures Skills Centre and nearby employment site at Exeter Airport; linking Cranbrook and

Broadclyst secondary school; and linking the eastern expansion of Cranbrook with Ashclyst Forest via a proposed National Trust visitor hub.

Our aim is to see at least a 15% increase in walking and cycling on new and existing routes. All in all, we are seeking to create or upgrade at least 1,300m² of paths/cycleways. By further exploring and delivering upon the active travel opportunities stemming from the new development at Cranbrook, we aim to create a more appealing, safe, inclusive and assessable alternative to conventional car use.

As this intervention is planned for 2024/25 delivery, we will continue to explore the viability of these proposed projects, whilst being open minded towards other active travel opportunities that may arise prior to 2024/25. By using our UKSPF allocation in this manner, we can ensure we achieve the best value for money and yield the most optimal active travel outcomes for our residents.

E10 - East Devon Leisure Programme

To take hold of the opportunities presented within EDDC's Leisure Strategy (see Opportunity 1), we will deliver an 'East Devon Leisure Programme' to improve the level of local coordination regarding leisure activities. LED Community Leisure (formerly known as Leisure East Devon), our local leisure provider, will be commissioned to deliver the programme.

LED will coordinate local leisure provision, identify and secure external funding for leisure uses internally and for other leisure providers, encourage and enable an improved leisure provision by local providers and link with other local health and wellbeing initiatives. LED will promote the value of leisure and maintain a comprehensive database of leisure providers in the district to improve the marketing and take-up of all local leisure provision. Marketing will specifically target and cater for those residents who are socially and economically disadvantaged, to ensure that such residents gain access to and benefit from existing leisure provision.

We are aiming to support at least 5 local leisure providers with identifying and applying for funding opportunities during the three year investment period. We are also aiming for a 20% increase in participation for the local leisure providers we identify that are most in need of support; this will be based on those providers who offer the most appropriate type of leisure provision for those groups who are least likely to be participating in leisure activities at present (younger and older age groups for example).

This Leisure Programme will ensure that the objectives outlined in the Leisure Strategy can be realised, increasing take-up of leisure activities where they already exist and helping to source funding for activities where they do not exist or where current provision is at risk.

E11 - East Devon Council for Voluntary Service

To resolve the issues around the lack of coordination between community, voluntary and social enterprises (VCSEs) in East Devon (see Challenge 3), we aim to use UKSPF funds to establish a new Council for Voluntary Service (CVS).

We have worked with many representatives of the local VCSE sector through networking meetings, conferences, questionnaires etc. to find out what they would want this overarching support to provide. This engagement confirmed that the purpose of the CVS should be to: help VCSEs to get set up; help them develop a business plan; help them apply for funding; help them to publicise their offer; provide guidance and training; help them become more sustainable; and help to share best practice. In addition to these much needed services, a CVS will help to increase the involvement of VCSE organisations in strategic developments, providing a 'voice', representation and advocacy within the community and essential intelligence for decision makers and planning bodies, resulting in better local services that meet the needs of our local communities.

A CVS will increase confidence in the competence and professionalism of local voluntary organisations to deliver services and engage and represent users from diverse groups; offering more capacity for being commissioned to provide services. The provision of services to support VCSEs with funding bids should create a local 'multiplier' effect, where the East Devon economy

benefits from local spend, increased local employment opportunities and provision of additional volunteering and training opportunities.

Our initial aim is for the new CVS to support at least 100 VCSEs. Of those supported, we aim to see at least 5 VCSEs achieving funding for new or improved facilities and least 50 individuals receiving training. Engagement numbers for the organisations supported should also increase by at least 10%. The longer term aim is to build-up the capacity of this new body to the degree where it can become self-sustaining without the need for future UKSPF funding in future rounds.

E13 - Action on Poverty Fund

Poverty is holding back many East Devon residents, with lower wages and higher living costs compared to many other parts of the UK (see Challenge 1). The Action on Poverty Fund is an existing scheme (managed by the Council) that provides one-off grants of up to £5,000 to support community-led ideas and initiatives across the area of East Devon that work towards the aims within the council's Poverty Strategy. The scheme is open to properly constituted not for profit organisations with a minimum 50% match-funding requirement. The scheme is currently open, with a closing date set for late September 2022, and monies spent by the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

Our intention is to use our UKSPF allocation to extend the scheme into 2023/24 and 2024/25. The criteria of the scheme will change in some areas to better fit the objectives of the UKSPF. Eligible projects to be supported will include: projects that tackle hidden poverty and those struggling with a higher cost of living; projects to provide sustainable support to residents in fuel or water poverty by helping them to reduce their energy and water costs; projects that provide recognised and qualified advice on budgeting, money and debt issues; and projects that seek to understand and address the causes of food poverty.

We are aiming to provide grants to at least 28 not for profit organisations to deliver eligible projects. These projects, in totality, should support at least 100 households in East Devon, with support regarding energy efficiency provided to at least 25 households, yielding at least a 10% reduction in household carbon. Other outcomes include a 10% reduction in food poverty and a 10% increase in take-up of healthy eating initiatives, and a 10% reduction in financial hardship and those in severe debt. By extending the Action on Poverty Fund into two further financial years, we aim to help dissolve the pockets of poverty that exist within our local communities. By enabling us to action the recommendations in our Poverty Reduction Strategy, we can help support as many local residents as possible climb themselves out of hardship in a healthy, sustainable and carbon-neutral manner.

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](#).

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.

Although the proposed Action on Poverty Fund will involve the awarding of grants to not-for-profit organisations, these awards are not considered to be 'subsidies' as they will not "cause a distortion in or harm to competition, trade or investment".

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 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.

E17 - Sustainable Tourism Fund

E23 - Business Support Programme

E29 - Net Zero Innovation Fund

E31 - East Devon Towns Feasibility Work

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

No

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](#).

N/A

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.

E17 - Sustainable Tourism Fund

Building on the recommendations to be published as a part of our upcoming Tourism Strategy (see Opportunity 5), we aim to deliver a Sustainable Tourism Fund to bring forward a range of projects to increase the sustainability of our tourism sector.

The package of support will initially include small grants for tourism SMEs to help them develop better sustainability/green/accessibility practices and reduce their carbon footprint. Funding can be used to aid installation of EV charging points, purchase of electric bikes, installation of ramps, widening of doorways, improves accessibility signage, advice to help understand their carbon footprint, environmental impact audits, etc. The scheme will allow businesses to apply for green infrastructure/equipment to enable them to improve their sustainability offer. A 50% match-funding requirement will be established to ensure public support is matched with private sector investment. A smaller part of our UKSPF allocation will be established to help promote East Devon as a sustainable destination, where this does not duplicate existing provision. We also aim to establish a forum of local tourism businesses to share best practise and encourage collaboration across the wider sector.

As the sustainable tourism stewardship pilot for Sidmouth comes to an end in Dec 2023 (as detailed in Opportunity 5), we will explore whether the activities delivered via the pilot can be replicated and extended across the wider East Devon geography. These activities will include sustainability training/mentoring for local businesses, establishing and achieving specific environmental and sustainability goals for each business; and producing a destination-level Glasgow Declaration aligned Carbon Action Plan.

We aim to offer grants to at least 22 businesses, with at least 35 businesses supported through the sustainable tourism stewardship scheme. We anticipate the additional marketing will increase engagement by at least 10,000 people, with at least 30 sustainable tourism events being supported. This should unlock at least a 10% increase in footfall, participation and visitor numbers, with at least £85,000 in investment being unlocked through the match-funded grants. This intervention will directly build upon the findings and recommendations of the upcoming Tourism Strategy, whilst building on the anticipated success of the Sidmouth IRF pilot.

E23 - Business Support Programme

We aim to deliver a new business support service that succeeds the current provision funded via other sources, such as the ERDF. The purpose of this support is to help nurture the development of new and existing businesses, with a particular focus on enterprises with a net zero focus, and support to the agri-tech sector. This will help to realise many of the existing opportunities identified locally within the green sector (see Opportunity 3) whilst supporting the types of businesses that will help to narrow the productivity and wage gaps between East Devon and the rest of the UK (see Challenge 1 and 4).

We are seeking to work with other Devon districts to deliver this intervention at a county level. If we cannot achieve this, we aim to collaborate with as many Devon districts as possible. If this cannot be achieved, EDDC aim to deliver the intervention locally at a district level.

The current business support provision includes Thrive, which offers 12 hours of support for ERDF and non-ERDF businesses with start-up support offered through Devon recovery funding, until March 2023. Start-up businesses are being supported through the Devon Get Started recovery programme which also finishes in March 2023. Farm businesses will be supported through the

Future Farm Resilience Programme (if successful) until March 2025 and a current CRF (Community Renewal Fund) pilot is supporting the agri-tech sector in Devon and establishing an Agri-Tech Alliance. These business support programmes will be coming to an end as UKSPF funded programmes are expected to start.

The UKSPF funded programmes will incorporate four elements. The first element includes a general business support provision based on Thrive, with 1-2-1 support and workshops based on topics such as business planning, access to finance, digital capability, innovation and marketing for example. The second element will provide targeted 'green' support, including 1-2-1 support and workshops based on topics such as carbon reduction, energy and resource efficiency, on-site energy generation and waste management for example. The third element of the programme will include targeted support to new-starts, with 1-2-1 support and workshops focussed on how to manage, organise, run, market, finance and grow a business. The last element will involve the continuation of the Agri-Tech Alliance. This will continue the facilitation of knowledge exchange/transfer and collaborations where farmers, horticultural, aquacultural and forestry businesses can connect with Agri-Tech developers, academic institutions, sector experts and stakeholders. This will ensure our agricultural sector embraces opportunities to increase productivity whilst enhancing biodiversity.

We intend to support at least 50 East Devon businesses via the general business support initiative, at least 25 supported through the net zero route and at least 25 through the start-up route. We intend for at least 20 East Devon businesses to be supported via the agri-tech support initiative. It is anticipated that UKSPF programme marketing, engagement and mobilisation will take place between January and March 2023, with full delivery starting in April 2023.

E29 - Net Zero Innovation Fund

A Net Zero Innovation Fund (NZIF) has been identified as a UKSPF funded project to help take advantage of East Devon's competitive advantage in net zero technologies and sustainable aviation (see Opportunity 3 and Challenge 5). Building on elements of EDDC's £2.1m Innovation and Resilience Fund, the NZIF will provide targeted grant funding to local businesses to fund projects with a direct focus on clean growth and net zero. This will include grants for feasibility studies for much wider projects, such as creating a sustainable aviation incubator, or smaller grants to help businesses develop new green products and services, or to 'green up' their existing production processes.

This type of activity will help to close the productivity gap between East Devon and the rest of the UK (see Challenge 4), whilst also helping to push up average wages and providing skilled employment opportunities for local, particularly younger, residents. Mission 2 of the Levelling Up White Paper sets out the national ambition to increase public investment in R&D, unlocking "at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth." To ensure the NZIF is successful in unlocking private sector investment, all grant funding will require a commitment to match-fund the requested amount by at least 50%.

Our ambition is for the NZIF to fund at least 10 businesses (including collaborative groups of businesses and other organisations), to create at least 15 new higher value jobs and safeguard another 45 jobs. At least 75% of the fund will be spent on grants for capital expenditure, with 25% reserved for feasibility studies and other eligible and appropriate revenue costs. By supporting existing businesses embrace new technologies and innovations, we can increase GVA locally, help establish a larger cluster of net zero and sustainable aviation focussed businesses, which will help to make East Devon a more attractive place for green inward investment moving forward.

E31 - East Devon Towns Feasibility Work

This project involves assisting four of East Devon's town's (Exmouth, Sidmouth, Honiton and Ottery St Mary) to take initial steps in identifying opportunities/challenges and developing key project opportunities in their locality through feasibility studies. This follows the successful completion of the Axe Valley project which assessed the feasibility of development and investment projects in Seaton and Axminster (see Opportunity 4). This project will focus on the potential role of EDDC

land and property assets along with private sector assets in the four towns, and how these can be utilised as a catalyst to develop a list of deliverable projects.

The council will appoint a multi skilled team of consultants to review the potential investment and development opportunities for the four towns. The first part of this process will be a community engagement exercise with local stakeholders in the business and community sectors to understand the issues that they feel are relevant for the town to address, for the town centre area and potentially for the town as a whole, where appropriate. It is ultimately for the towns themselves to identify the suitable projects they need to help enrich their communities and increase pride of place. By taking a 'community wealth building' approach, we aim to identify opportunities which benefit all local residents. Where local towns already have a Neighbourhood Plan (Ottery St Mary, Exmouth and Sidmouth), this will provide a helpful starting point for information on local aspirations and opportunities.

In respect of the second stage, the project team will undertake a review of the opportunities for the employment, leisure, placemaking and residential sectors in the four towns to understand the current levels of supply and demand for space. This could include an analysis of the placemaking opportunities for vacant or underutilised land/buildings (council or privately owned assets) where repurposing or redevelopment could bring economic and social benefits to the towns' offer. Through this exercise, the consultants will provide initial site layouts, cost analysis and feasibility work to assess their viability and deliverability. This will provide stakeholders with a package of projects, enabling them to respond swiftly and effectively to initiatives, funding and/or investment opportunities.

Our aim is to fund three feasibility studies: one combined study for the towns of Honiton and Ottery St Mary to start in 2022/23, one for Sidmouth to start in 2023/24 and one for Exmouth to start in 2024/25. This will lead to a 100% increase in projects arising from feasibility studies within these towns.

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

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.

The proposed Sustainable Tourism Fund and Net Zero Innovation Fund will involve the awarding of grants which are considered to be 'subsidies'. This has been considered due to the grant being directly awarded by EDDC (a local authority), with the recipient benefiting "in the sense of an economic advantage that is not available on market terms" which will lead to a minimal and localised "distortion in or harm to competition, trade or investment".

All grant funding schemes will be developed in accordance with all of the principles set out in Article 366 of the UK-EU TCA. No grant funding schemes will involve the issuance of grants categorised as 'prohibited subsidies' under the WTO ASCM, or any other prohibitions stated within FTAs where the UK is a signatory.

All applicants to UKSPF funded grant schemes will be required to make a declaration, prior to the awarding of any grant, confirming whether the grant amount they are applying for would lead to the applicant exceeding the 325,000 SDR threshold over three years. If this threshold is to be exceeded, we will work on a case by case basis to ensure the grant request does not breach the UK's international obligations regarding subsidy control. As grant issuance will be limited to fairly small sums, we do not expect any grant awards to harm international trade or investment.

All grant issuance will be subject to the intended recipient signing a binding 'funding agreement' to ensure that, among other things, said issuance does not breach the UK's international obligations regarding subsidy control.

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	
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	
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	
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
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
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>
E33 - Disability Employment Support Programme
E33 - Disability Employment Support Programme
E39 - Retrofit Programme

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

No

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](#).

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.

We are seeking to work with other Devon districts to deliver the following three people and skills interventions at a county level. If we cannot achieve this, we aim to collaborate with as many Devon districts as possible. If this cannot be achieved for a particular intervention, EDDC aim to deliver the intervention locally at a district level.

The projects below have been proposed on the basis of the current and expected need of our labour market (see Challenge 6). If there is a substantive change in the need of our labour market between now and 2024-25, we will work pro-actively with DLUHC to revise our people and skills projects where appropriate to ensure UKSPF activity remains relevant and proportionate.

E33 - Disability Employment Support Programme

We want to ensure employability support for disabled people in East Devon is maintained, a service which is currently provided through Ability not Disability. Ability not Disability is an existing CRF funded scheme to support people with disabilities to improve employment opportunities. The scheme is currently being delivered by Learn Devon and Devon County Council's Adult Social Care, and Employment, Economy and Skills teams, with funding ending in December 2022. The level of provision at an East Devon level will be determined by the number of individuals identified for the 2024/25 period of delivery under UKSPF.

The Ability not Disability programme has been co-designed to focus on the needs of the individual and offer a choice of two ways into work for people with disabilities who would like to find employment. Individuals can choose to join Community Works Groups, helping to promote local businesses by working on a series of marketing flyers at no cost to the companies. They will work in teams to build relationships with local businesses, develop their communication and customer service skills, while also gaining practical digital and work skills. The second pathway into work is through the Job Guarantee Scheme. This pathway is available to businesses throughout Devon

who have the opportunity to take on an employee whose training and salary costs will be covered by the scheme for three months at National Living Wage. The project team will ensure employees receive continued support, with guidance in developing their digital knowledge and a working pattern to suit them and their employer.

This project directly links to the local challenges faced in East Devon regarding higher than average levels of economic inactivity, especially among those with disabilities (see Challenge 6). Ability not Disability is specifically targeted at supporting those economically inactive individuals who would like to gain employment, but who feel unable to due to their disabilities and other barriers to work. Businesses will also be given the support they need to become Disability Confident, receiving Disability Awareness training prior to employing anyone as part of the Guarantee Scheme.

For the 2024/25 period we expect this activity, funded through our UKSPF allocation, to support at least 40 individuals, with 30 of those joining the Community Works Groups, with the other 10 moving into the Job Guarantee Scheme. We are aiming for at least 40 individuals to increase their overall employability and engage with keyworker support, with 10 individuals in supported employment, with those individuals remaining in employment for at least six months thereafter.

E33 - NEET Employment Support Programme

We want to ensure employability support for young people in East Devon is maintained, a service which is currently provided through Focus 5. Focus 5 is an existing ESF and NLCF funded scheme which provides unique, flexible, one-to-one support to young people aged 15-18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming so. The scheme is currently being delivered across Devon, Plymouth, Torbay and Somerset (the Heart of the South West LEP area) with funding ending in March 2023. The level of provision at an East Devon level will be determined by the number of NEETs identified for the 2024/25 period of delivery under UKSPF. We do not believe that this project is eligible under the 'local voluntary provision at risk' criteria.

This project directly links to the local challenges faced in East Devon regarding higher than average levels of economic inactivity, especially among younger people (see Challenge 6). Focus 5 is specifically aimed at helping socially isolated young people. The four main outcomes of Focus 5 participants include; understanding the skills employers look for, improving readiness for employment or training, increasing self-awareness and an understanding of individual strengths and identifying solutions to any potential barriers. For those currently within education, Focus 5 will look at those who are struggling or isolated from their educational environment.

Focus 5 specialises in providing wrap-around support, whereby key workers get to know the young people and together they create a bespoke plan of activities to meet immediate and long term goals or aspirations. Results to date show that 34% of economically inactive or unemployed participants end up in employment, with 20% of all participants going back into education, and with 18% actively searching for employment. By continuing to fund this type of activity via the UKSPF, we can ensure that specialist support for the most hardest to reach and isolated individuals can be maintained. Since 2016/17, 83 individuals in East Devon have received support under Focus 5. For the 2024/25 period we expect this project to support at least 13 individuals in the East Devon area.

E39 - Retrofit Programme

Following on from the early successes of the CRF funded Retrofit Skills and Business Accelerator programme (see Opportunity 6), we intend to fund the continuation of this activity via our UKSPF allocation. This will involve funding to provide training for local residents, with an emphasis being placed on those who are economically inactive.

In the short term, participants in the programme will be provided with new green skills, which will lead to the creation of new sustainable green jobs and businesses that are in high demand. This will meet the need of the local economy to have a robust supply chain to deliver deep retrofit solutions as demand continues to increase. In the long term, this intervention will lead to an improvement in the health, wellbeing, and prosperity of the wider community by making residents' homes warmer and more energy efficient, which will help to tackle fuel poverty and climate change.

In preparation for this, EDDC will be embarking on a 'Fit for Retrofit' course and will have a Training Needs Analysis conducted by the Retrofit Academy CIC in September 2022 which will establish the training requirement for Year 3 of UKSPF. For the 2024/25 period we expect this project to support around 75 local residents to gain a new qualification in domestic retrofit, with the same number of people in new employment or upskilled within their existing employers. These targets are based on averages and estimates of existing costs for PAS2035 courses. This target also aligns with Mission 6 of the Levelling Up White Paper, setting out the national aim to increase take-up of "high-quality skills training", with an emphasis on those currently within the lowest skilled sectors.

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](#).

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.

N/A

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

No

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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.

N/A

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](#).

N/A

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.

N/A

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY

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

N/A

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

N/A

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](#).

N/A

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.

N/A

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found here.

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.

In mid-May 2022, a Local Partnership Group (LPG) was established for the purpose of providing guidance, advice and active input toward the list of interventions to be included within this Investment Plan. The specific objectives of the LPG were laid out in a terms of reference, which outlined the following roles and responsibilities to the group members:

- a) To develop an understanding of the UKSPF objectives as outlined in the Prospectus.
- b) To consider and suggest prospective UKSPF interventions and provide constructive feedback and advice.
- c) To ensure that there is local support for the preferred UKSPF interventions, that they complement other activities in the local area and adhere to UKSPF and local objectives.

The LPG is comprised of individuals from the following public sector, private sector and civil society organisations:

- Arts & Culture East Devon
- Axminster Tools
- Citizens Advice East Devon
- Clinton Devon Estates
- Cosmic
- Devon Association of Local Councils
- Devon Climate Emergency Tactical Group
- Devon Director of Public Health
- Devon Wildlife Trust
- Department for Work and Pensions (Greater Devon Partnership Manager)
- East Devon AONB Partnership
- East Devon Community Network
- East Devon Excellence
- Exeter Airport
- Exeter Chamber of Commerce
- Exeter College
- Exeter Science Park Company
- Exmouth Chamber of Commerce
- Exmouth Transition
- HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership
- Leisure East Devon

- Libraries Unlimited
- National Farmers' Union
- National Trust
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

The group also included the following Members of Parliament:

- Simon Jupp MP, Exmouth
- Richard Foord MP, Tiverton and Honiton (joined in late June 2022 due to by-election)

Mel Stride, the MP for Central Devon (which covers a small area of East Devon district) was invited to join the Local Partnership Group but did not participate.

Three meetings were set up prior to the development of this Investment Plan.

1. Briefing session: A presentation session to introduce the UKSPF to the group along with a Q&A session. Post-meeting, the group were provided with a template 'project concept form' to propose interventions that meet UKSPF eligibility criteria and relate to local challenges and opportunities. These forms were completed and returned to us in preparation for the second meeting.
2. Inception meeting: A brief presentation of the projects proposed by stakeholders and the council, followed by a roundtable discussion on each of the projects. This meeting gave stakeholders an opportunity to discuss how the proposed projects help to tackle local challenges in their respective sectors, whether projects should have a wider or more targeted focus, how the projects should be prioritised and raise anything they thought was missing. This input was used to directly influence the final set of interventions listed within this Investment Plan.
3. Review meeting: To ensure the points raised in the Inception Meeting fed directly into the Investment Plan, a review meeting was held to give stakeholders a final opportunity to discuss the first iteration of the Investment Plan. This was a joint session between the Local Partnership Group and the Programme Management Panel, giving EDDC councillors an opportunity to hear from stakeholders first hand. Officers used this opportunity to feedback on the ideas of the LPG from the inception meeting and how those ideas helped to shape the final set of interventions.

Once the Investment Plan has been signed off, we intend to hold bi-annual meetings with the Local Partnership to update them on the progress of delivering the interventions with the eventual aim to begin discussions for any future UKSPF rounds post-2024/25.

Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up

In tandem with the establishment of a Local Partnership Group, a Programme Management Panel (PMP) comprised of eight East Devon District Council councillors was established to provide governance and oversight. The establishment of this cross-party Panel ensured that the decision-making process was democratic, transparent and reflected local need.

The terms of reference for the Panel included the following roles and responsibilities for Panel members:

- a) To develop an understanding of the UKSPF objectives as outlined in the Prospectus.
- b) To consider and suggest prospective UKSPF interventions and provide constructive feedback and advice.
- c) To ensure that there is a strong business case for the preferred interventions which directly link to the priorities outlined in the SPF Prospectus and local and regional strategic objectives.
- d) To ensure that there is local support for the preferred UKSPF interventions, including from the Local Partnership Group.
- e) To ensure that there is consistency of approach with other EDDC funding bids and a logical succession to previous EU funded initiatives.
- f) To give approval to a final list of interventions to be proposed in the SPF investment plan.

- g) To evaluate any formal responses to and from Government regarding the investment plan, including requests for additional information or the inclusion, amendment or exclusion of particular interventions based on Government feedback.
- h) To provide oversight of the delivery of the interventions and give approval to any amendments to the interventions during delivery (which are compliant with any funding agreement between EDDC and Government) where necessary.

Similarly to the LPG, three meetings were set up prior to the development of this Investment Plan.

1. Briefing session: A presentation session to introduce the UKSPF to the group along with a Q&A session. Post-meeting, the group were provided with a template 'project concept form' to propose interventions that meet UKSPF eligibility criteria and relate to local challenges and opportunities. These forms were completed and returned to us in preparation for the second meeting.
2. Inception meeting: A brief presentation of the projects proposed by stakeholders and the council, followed by a roundtable discussion on each of the projects. This meeting gave Panel members an opportunity to discuss how the proposed projects help to tackle local challenges in their respective sectors, whether projects should have a wider or more targeted focus, how the projects should be prioritised and raise anything they thought was missing. The meeting concluded with a unanimous decision made on the final set of interventions listed within this Investment Plan.
3. Review meeting: To ensure the points raised in the Inception Meeting fed directly into the Investment Plan, a review meeting was held to give Panel members a final opportunity to discuss the first iteration of the Investment Plan. This was a joint session between the Local Partnership Group and the Programme Management Panel, giving Panel members an opportunity to hear from stakeholders first hand.

The PMP will continue to provide oversight of the interventions delivered throughout this round of UKSPF.

Underneath the PMP sits an UKSPF Officer Group. This group is comprised of officers from a variety of teams who will deliver the UKSPF funded interventions. The group also contains senior officers to ensure the interventions are consistent with wider strategic objectives at a local and regional level. Members of this group are detailed later in this document.

Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.

Yes ✓	No
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Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?

Yes	No ✓
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(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.

N/A

PROJECT SELECTION

Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?

Yes

(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.

Commissioning third party organisations

The following interventions will involve funding being directly allocated to an organisation for the commissioning of work:

- E10: East Devon Leisure Programme
- E11: East Devon Council for Voluntary Service

This approach has been chosen for the East Devon Leisure Programme as the organisation to be commissioned, LED Community Leisure, is already delivering similar work across the district. By

commissioning LED, we can ensure that UKSPF funded activities regarding leisure provide additionality, rather than duplication, and to ensure that there is sufficient experience and capacity to deliver this work to spec.

This approach has been chosen for the East Devon Council for Voluntary Service as this is the only practical method of establishing this type of organisation. There is currently no CVS operating in East Devon, meaning a procurement process to deliver the services a CVS would typically provide would not yield any responses. As a result, UKSPF funds would be channelled directly into a newly constituted East Devon CVS which will be tasked with delivering the services specified in this Investment Plan.

In both cases, a service level agreement will be drafted upon the approval of this Investment Plan, to ensure that the organisations commissioned spend their allocated UKSPF in the manner specified and detailed within this Investment Plan.

Grant to public or private organisations

The following interventions will involve the council managing a competitive grant scheme to determine which projects to support:

- E7: Active Travel Fund
- E9: East Devon Culture Programme
- E13: Action on Poverty Fund
- E17: Sustainable Tourism Fund
- E29: Net Zero Innovation Fund

Procurement of service provision

The following interventions will involve the council going out to tender for a service provider to deliver a specified provision:

- E23: Business Support Programme
- E31: East Devon Towns Feasibility Work
- E33: Disability Employment Support Programme
- E33: NEET Employment Support Programme
- E39: Retrofit Programme

For projects that will be commissioned by multiple councils, such services will be jointly procured. All procurement activity shall be undertaken in the usual manner in line with existing internal rules and processes.

In-house provision

The (E7) Active Travel Fund and (E9) East Devon Culture Programme will utilise funds both via a competitive grant scheme and through the provision of in-house services. This will ensure that existing internal/council owned assets with a travel or cultural focus can benefit from these funds in addition to the external recipients of funding (accessed via the competitive grant schemes).

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>	
E6 - East Devon Culture Programme	
E7 - Active Travel Fund	✓
E10 - East Devon Leisure Programme	
E11 - East Devon Council for Voluntary Service	
E13 - Action on Poverty Fund	

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?**E7 - Active Travel Fund**

We aim to work closely with Devon County Council (the local highways authority) to deliver upon the active travel opportunities identified. Officers from both DCC and EDDC have begun early discussions in preparation for delivery in 2024/25.

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>	
E17 - Sustainable Tourism Fund	
E23 - Business Support Programme	✓
E29 - Net Zero Innovation Fund	
E31 - East Devon Towns Feasibility Work	

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We aim to collaborate with other district councils in Devon to jointly commission business support provision.

Various meetings of the Devon Economy & Business Recovery Group, comprised of representatives from the county council and 8 district councils, have been held since the publication of the UKSPF Prospectus. Within those meetings, a set of common priorities were outlined, linking to a list of interventions which could be delivered collaboratively. These collaborative interventions would establish better value for money and avoid fragmentation of provision across the county.

Due to our council's governance structure and requirement for cabinet approval, we were required to draft our investment plan earlier than other districts and prior to final confirmation being sought from all other districts regarding their desire to collaborate on particular interventions. As a result, EDDC was the first council to declare to all Devon districts the interventions we wish to work on collaboratively.

Our order of preference regarding delivery of these interventions is as follows: 1) That we work with all Devon districts to deliver these interventions collaboratively. 2) That we work with as many districts as possible to deliver these interventions collaboratively. 3) That we deliver the interventions at an East Devon level.

The above approach enables our preference to work collaboratively where other districts wish to do so, but leaves EDDC ready and able to deliver these services at an East Devon level if the other districts do not wish to collaborate. Where collaboration is possible, we aim to start work for the joint procurement of services once all investment plans for the Devon districts have been approved by Government in October 2022.

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

A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.	
E33 - Disability Employment Support Programme	✓
E33 - NEET Employment Support Programme	✓
E39 - Retrofit Programme	✓
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
N/A	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	
<p>We aim to collaborate with other district councils in Devon to jointly commission the Disability, NEET and Retrofit projects.</p> <p>Various meetings of the Devon Economy & Business Recovery Group, comprised of representatives from the county council and 8 district councils, have been held since the publication of the UKSPF Prospectus. Within those meetings, a set of common priorities were outlined, linking to a list of interventions which could be delivered collaboratively. These collaborative interventions would establish better value for money and avoid fragmentation of provision across the county.</p> <p>Due to our council's governance structure and requirement for cabinet approval, we were required to draft our investment plan earlier than other districts and prior to final confirmation being sought from all other districts regarding their desire to collaborate on particular interventions. As a result, EDDC was the first council to declare to all Devon districts the interventions we wish to work on collaboratively.</p> <p>Our order of preference regarding delivery of these interventions is as follows: 1) That we work with all Devon districts to deliver these interventions collaboratively. 2) That we work with as many districts as possible to deliver these interventions collaboratively. 3) That we deliver the interventions at an East Devon level.</p> <p>The above approach enables our preference to work collaboratively where other districts wish to do so, but leaves EDDC ready and able to deliver these services at an East Devon level if the other districts do not wish to collaborate. Where collaboration is possible, we aim to start work for the joint procurement of services once all investment plans for the Devon districts have been approved by Government in October 2022.</p>	

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

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

Yes. We have ensured that all interventions put forward in the Investment Plan comply with East Devon District Council's Equality Policy and Objectives 2021-2025, available at: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/equality-and-diversity/equality-policy-and-objectives-2021-2025/>

One of the objectives from the Equality Policy is to develop and action our new Poverty Strategy to help support all our communities. This Poverty Reduction Strategy has now been developed and endorsed, and has had a significant impact on the selection of interventions within this Investment Plan. The strategy can be found here: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-business/poverty-reduction-strategy/>

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

The objectives and standards set out in the aforementioned Equality Policy will permeate into all of the projects selected under each intervention. We will ensure that all grant schemes developed, services procured and in-house work delivered is carried out in a fashion which prevents discrimination of the protected characteristics, as set out in the Equalities Act 2010.

We will commit to taking all measures necessary to ensuring that disadvantaged individuals and communities are not advertently or inadvertently discriminated against. At the same time, we will encourage people from protected and disadvantaged groups to participate in the development and delivery of the various UKSPF funded projects. This can be achieved by removing or minimising barriers to participation for people with protected characteristics and taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.

Some interventions, such as the Disability and NEET programmes for example, will be designed in a way to ensure that the most isolated, disadvantaged and hardest to reach individuals will be specifically targeted for support.

RISKS	
Have you identified any key risks that could affect delivery, for example lack of staff or expertise?	
	No
(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.	
N/A	
Have you identified any key fraud risks that could affect UKSPF delivery?	
	No
(If Yes) Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them.	
N/A	

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE	
How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?	
At least 9 officers will be tasked with delivering and monitoring the 12 UKSPF funded interventions. These officers will include UKSPF delivery as a part of their wider workload and service provision.	
Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.	
<p>Programme Management The following officers are responsible for overall programme management and oversight of the UKSPF for East Devon.</p> <p>Andrew Wood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Position: Service Lead – Growth, Development and Prosperity - Responsibility: Strategic Lead for East Devon’s UKSPF Programme - Experience: Programme management of the community and social aspects (£40m) of the Rural Development Programme for England. Co-ordinating the deployment of the £50m Regional Infrastructure Fund. Established a £7.5m fund to support community and social enterprises in rural communities. Leading the deployment of the Exeter and East Devon Enterprise Zone programme. 	

Tom Winters

- Position: Economic Development Officer for Prosperity and Investment
- Responsibility: Project Manager for East Devon's UKSPF Programme
- Experience: Co-project managed Newton Abbot's successful £9m Future High Street Fund bid. Managed over £10m in discretionary COVID business grant funding, including the £2.1m recovery focussed Innovation and Resilience Fund.

Simon Davey

- Position: Strategic Lead - Finance (CFO/S151)
- Responsibility: To provide financial oversight of UKSPF.

Intervention Management

The following officers are responsible for the delivery of specific interventions:

Simon Bates

- Position: Green Infrastructure Project Manager
- Intervention: E7: Active Travel Fund
- Experience: Secured planning permission for 1km of multi-use Clyst Valley Trail, managing technical contracts e.g. arboriculture survey. Managed £100k multi-partner 'Great trees in the Clyst Valley' project, which won Pride of Devon award, and achieved creation of 15 hectares of new habitat on private land through negotiation.

Jamie Buckley

- Position: Community Engagement and Funding Officer
- Intervention: E11: East Devon Council for Voluntary Service. E13: Action on Poverty Fund
- Experience: Set up and managed all of the council's voluntary, community and social enterprise sector grants streams for 13 years. Has been the main contact within EDDC for East Devon's voluntary, community and social enterprise sector for 5 years. Has recently negotiated, set up and managing a Service Level Agreement with a VCSE group to provide the Government's Welcome Visits and wraparound support for EDDC.

John Golding

- Position: Strategic Lead – Housing, Health & Environment
- Intervention: E10: East Devon Leisure Programme
- Experience: Overseeing the client role for leisure provision over the last ten years and responsibility for delivering the Leisure Strategy for East Devon. Led on developing the outreach leisure programme and integrating with health and wellbeing priorities and making more use of the outstanding environment. Supporting and coordinating the Sport England Local Delivery Pilot in Exeter and Cranbrook.

Alison Hayward

- Position: Project Manager
- Intervention: E31: East Devon Towns Feasibility Work
- Experience: Team Lead for the Place and Prosperity Team; overseeing stakeholder engagement in market and coastal towns with a placemaking focus; delivery of asset disposal projects, managing or enabling delivery of placemaking development such as £5m Seaton Jurassic visitor centre; £3m infrastructure works in Exmouth enabling £4m seafront watersports centre.

Robert Murray

- Position: Economic Development Manager
- Intervention: E33: Disability Employment Support Programme. E33: NEET Employment Support Programme. E39: Retrofit Programme.
- Experience: Management of the council's skills lead and working with the Retrofit Academy to deliver CRF outputs. Direct negotiation of employment and skills plans unlocking new training, apprenticeships and schools/college engagement to increase take up of careers in construction. Steering Group member and founder sponsor of the Building Greater Exeter construction skills initiative. Development of evidence based skills policy within EDDC's new Local Plan.

Gerri Panteva

- Position: Senior Economic Development Officer
- Intervention: E17: Sustainable Tourism Fund
- Experience: Leading on the development of EDDC's Tourism Strategy. Working on strategic public and private sector partnerships and key employer engagement. Managed programmes and campaigns to support SMEs and micro businesses in Devon: e.g. ARG grants allocations and Adapt and Thrive business support programme. Key role in attracting inward investment to Devon. Led on projects supporting graduate retention and apprenticeships uptake.

Charlie Plowden

- Position: Service Lead - Countryside & Leisure
- Intervention: E9: East Devon Culture Programme
- Experience: Lead officer for arts, leisure and culture with responsibility for delivering the Culture Strategy for East Devon. Responsible for strategic relationships with Arts Council England, Villages in Action (rural touring programme for Devon & Cornwall) and South West Museums programme. Oversight of investment in and corporate budget management for the Council's cultural assets and its annual arts and culture programme. Lead officer that reports to and supports the Council's Arts Culture East Devon Forum.

Tom Winters

- Position: Economic Development Officer for Prosperity and Investment
- Intervention: E29: Net Zero Innovation Fund. E31: Business Support Programme.
- Experience: Co-project managed Newton Abbot's successful £9m Future High Street Fund bid. Managed over £10m in discretionary COVID business grant funding, including a £2.1m recovery focussed Innovation and Resilience Fund.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?

Very experienced

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capability

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capability

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capacity

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong capability

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong 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

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong 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.

We have not identified any capability challenges for delivering Communities and Place interventions. The officers tasked with delivering these interventions have sufficient experience to deliver them effectively.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?

Strong capability

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.

We have not identified any capacity challenges for delivering Communities and Place interventions. The officers tasked with delivering these interventions have sufficient time and resources to deliver them effectively.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

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

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong 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.

We have not identified any capability challenges for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. The officers tasked with delivering these interventions have sufficient experience to deliver them effectively.

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 capability

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.

We have not identified any capacity challenges for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. The officers tasked with delivering these interventions have sufficient time and resources to deliver them effectively.

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

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?

Strong 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.

As our preference is for People and Skills interventions to be jointly commissioned by multiple district authorities across Devon, we have not identified any internal capability challenges for delivering these interventions. If we are unable to work collaboratively with the other districts, we will commission these projects internally, which should not require any additional capability demands on EDDC officers.

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 capability

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.

As our preference is for People and Skills interventions to be jointly commissioned by multiple district authorities across Devon, we have not identified any internal capacity challenges for delivering these interventions. If we are unable to work collaboratively with the other districts, we will commission these projects internally, which should not require any additional capacity demands on EDDC officers.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

N/A

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF

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%?

No

(If Yes) Explain why you wish to use more than 4%.

N/A

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from your Section 151 Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you have approval from the leader of your lead authority for this investment plan?

- Yes
- No

If you do not have approval from any of these people, please explain why this is:

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Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

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

- Yes
- No