



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan Drafting Template

Version 2
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Your details

Dumfries & Galloway Council

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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

The South of Scotland [Regional Economic Strategy](#) together with the associated technical paper containing the Inclusive Growth Evidence Base contain the supporting evidence for this section. The challenges are identified in section 3 of the RES, along with the key evidence and mitigations relating to each challenge.

We have an ageing, declining population which is putting pressure on services and labour supply. The population of Dumfries and Galloway has fallen by 1.7% from 151,410 in 2011 to 2021, compared to a 3.4% increase in the Scottish population between 2011 and 2021. The dependency ratio in Dumfries and Galloway of non-working aged people to working aged people (16 to 64) was 72.3% in 2021, up from 62.8% in 2011. The dependency ratio for Scotland in 2021 was 56.8% in 2021, up from 52.0% in 2011. (Source for this paragraph: National Records of Scotland – mid-year population estimates). The pressure that our demographics put on all our public services is increasing and as discussed below our communities' place plans will help to identify need and support future delivery.

During our engagement for this investment plan several contributors identified a need for capacity building in the third sector as we need to maximise the contribution of social enterprises within the region. Social enterprises are businesses so this fits equally well in the business theme but there is an element of supporting local cohesion that can help with those areas and groups of people that need more support to reduce deprivation, poverty, barriers, and inequalities. Without additional support their mobility, health and economic participation will be limited.

Participants in the engagement sessions also highlighted the need for place planning across the region, not just in those locations that are usually supported but in the smaller communities where social capital may not be as strong and that there should be the possibility to support pre-place planning capacity building in these places. This was felt to apply equally to organisations that do not usually receive public funding especially for sports, arts, cultural heritage projects and facilities.

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

The South of Scotland [Regional Economic Strategy](#) contains supporting evidence for this section.

Our communities are resilient and capable of delivering innovative solutions to local challenges and this provides an excellent base from which to grow the region's social economy. The [Borderlands Place Programme](#) will be investing in towns, supporting their growth through Place and Town Investment Plans. There is an opportunity for UKSPF to be used to support the delivery of this capital programme by providing enabling revenue funding. The UKSPF could be used for assistance in the development of place plans or to build the capacity of places to get them to a point where communities can start to work on their place planning, including those places not planned to receive investment from the Borderlands Place Programme.

The Stranraer Marina project, another [Borderlands](#) project will also provide capital investment which the revenue funding from UKSPF could support to amplify and enhance the opportunities provided by both funding streams.

For our social enterprises and community groups we will seek to use UKSPF to build capacity, enabling our communities to provide services locally and to have strong local organisations that are able to bid for funding to support the development of their localities. There is an overlap here with the business them and some of this capacity building could be delivered through business support services which already provide support to social enterprises.

We need to address demographic trends and explore new ways to attract and retain younger adults and sustain rural populations whilst at the same time making the most of the accumulated knowledge, experience, and contributions of our resident retirees. The economic contribution of older people in terms of employment and informal caring is significant and the experience and knowledge of resident retirees can bolster voluntary sector and support active communities. There is some overlap with the business and people and skills themes here as encouraging working age people to relocate to our region will require jobs and supporting infrastructure. Again, our place planning work should help to identify particular local needs and opportunities.

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

The South of Scotland [Regional Economic Strategy](#) together with the associated technical paper containing the Inclusive Growth Evidence Base contain the supporting evidence for this section. The challenges are identified in section 3 of the RES, along with the key evidence and mitigations relating to each challenge.

We are not investing enough in research and innovation, and we create fewer new/start-up businesses and organisations than the Scottish average. Having said that, our start-ups do have a better three-year survival rate. Other parts of Scotland create more high growth firms than Dumfries and Galloway but as a rural area the importance of micro businesses cannot be underestimated. These are the backbone of our local economy. Our engagement highlighted the importance of small businesses in rural areas and how successful SMEs can have positive impacts on the other UKSPF themes.

In Dumfries and Galloway we are falling behind others in terms of productivity, reducing opportunities for shared prosperity. Gross value added (GVA) per job filled in Dumfries and Galloway was £52,347 in 2019, which was 5.6% lower than GVA per job filled in Scotland at £55,297 and 10.3% lower than the UK at £57,721 (source ONS. Productivity in towns and travel to work areas, UK: 2019). Again, this was raised at our engagement sessions as a barrier to employment opportunities and supporting communities – it was felt to detract from the attractiveness of the region as a place to work.

At our engagement sessions it was suggested that we should explore the possibility of supporting the development of enterprise campuses or hubs which would be located in a number of communities to support people, both for education and skills and small enterprises. This type of development features in theme 2 of the Regional Economic Strategy.

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

The South of Scotland Regional Economic Strategy contains supporting evidence for this section.

As part of the Encouraging green growth theme of Borderlands the development of the Chapelcross site as a clean growth strategic investment site for low carbon energy generation and energy efficient businesses will offer the opportunity for us to invest in business growth and innovation in the east of our region. The transition to a Net Zero economy will also be supported by The Natural Capital Programme for Scotland, also part of Borderlands. There are opportunities for our businesses around the natural capital theme, including our tourism businesses which could dovetail with our anticipated work with partner areas outlined below.

The high number of micro-businesses embedded in their local communities provides a broad base of businesses that have potential for growth or diversification. We would seek

to support our micro businesses with capacity building and the early exploration of growth ambitions. We will also investigate a small grants scheme to provide SMEs with funding to allow businesses to achieve their growth ambitions. Although some of the grants may be small and granted to small businesses the importance of businesses employing one or two people in remote rural communities should not be underestimated. This has a positive benefit for the other UKSPF themes too, building local capacity is about being climate resilient, developing local supply chains and developing the circular economy. Supporting these SMEs will help to build employment and skills opportunities in local communities.

Our strategic location, spanning the English border and Irish and North Sea coastlines provides the opportunity for new trading relationships - the region can leverage its identity and distinctiveness to secure new opportunities and market share in a period of changing global trading conditions post the UK's exit from the EU. In Dumfries and Galloway, we have the North Channel Partnership between ourselves and Mid and East Antrim Council. We have delivered tourism and food and drink initiatives in partnership and would seek to explore how UKSPF can strengthen the partnership through future delivery on these themes. Delivery is unlikely to place in 2022/23 but we hope to be able to explore how we can work together during this period.

The future of work and changes in the way we work was raised at our engagement sessions; that, changes supported by digital technology, will bring resilience, increase personal choices, unlock innovation and the spread of smart technologies. To help increase our GVA we would look at how the advanced manufacturing facilities in our region can be used to help with innovative business growth across all business sectors. This will not be delivered during 2022/23 although we will lay the foundations for future delivery during this time.

In conjunction with the Communities and Place theme there is the opportunity to develop enterprise hubs in locations across the region. This is unlikely to take place in 2022/23 however the possibility of such developments will be included in the development of place plans, Development of the hubs could be funded by the capital element of UKSPF. Further details will be provided as the place plans develop and the requirements of local communities, both social and business, become clearer.

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

The South of Scotland [Regional Economic Strategy](#) together with the associated technical paper containing the Inclusive Growth Evidence Base contain the supporting evidence for this section. The challenges are identified in section 3 of the RES, along with the key evidence and mitigations relating to each challenge. We also have the Local Delivery Plan 2022-2027 drawn up by the [Local Employability Partnership](#) will be used to inform delivery on this theme and Multiply.

Some of our jobs pay poorly, are insecure and are limiting standards of living for people across the South of Scotland. Dumfries and Galloway ranked highest of all 32 Scottish local authority areas in terms of the proportion of residence-based employment who were employed within low skilled occupations in 2021. Dumfries and Galloway ranked 31st of 32 Scottish local authority areas in terms of the proportion of residence-based employees employed within high skilled occupations in 2021, after North Ayrshire at 32.5% of employment within high skills employment. (source ONS Annual Population Survey). The links between fairly paid work, poverty and public health outcomes were raised by participants at our engagement sessions.

Our people are less likely to attain higher level skills within the region, with those who learn elsewhere not bringing these skills back to the South of Scotland, harming our economy and accentuating skills gaps. Dumfries and Galloway had a significantly lower number of those employed in high skilled occupations compared to Scotland and significantly higher proportion of those in employment within low skilled occupations. 36.4% of people in employment in Dumfries and Galloway were employed within high skilled occupations in 2021, compared to 48.7% of people employed within Scotland. This is broadly consistent with the region's industry structure, where Dumfries and Galloway's local economy is more prominent in production and manufacturing industries compared to Scotland's service sector-based economy. 22.1% of people in employment in Dumfries and Galloway were employed within low skilled occupations in 2021, compared to 15.0% of employment within low skilled occupations in Scotland (source ONS Annual Population Survey). Again, the links between skills levels and the quality of available work was raised in the engagement sessions with participants stating that

Our economy is changing with jobs in some traditional sectors reducing and jobs associated with new sectors emerging creating the need for investment in people, skills and infrastructure. Economic inactivity levels are persistently higher in Dumfries and Galloway compared to Scotland, with significant increases in inactive working aged males and consistently higher inactivity for females compared to Scotland.

Economic inactivity Rate for D&G is 26% compared to 23.8% Scotland (2020 figures) and those Economically inactive by reason of long-term ill health is increasing from 24.5 to 31.7 % (500 people approx.) from 2019 – 2020. Most economically inactive individuals will have been out-of-work for a long time and will face multiple barriers to entering the labour market which may include lack of basic life skills, confidence issues, mental health

issues, housing security issues, and/or drug or alcohol addiction. In our engagement sessions participants felt that it is very important to get people ready for employment, not just find people for the job. Reskilling and upskilling are important, and we need to identify skills gaps whilst complementing existing delivery programmes and focusing on harder to reach communities.

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

The South of Scotland [Regional Economic Strategy](#) contains the evidence for this section. We also have the Local Delivery Plan 2022-2027 drawn up by the [Local Employability Partnership](#) will be used to inform delivery on this theme and Multiply.

Our LEP delivery plan fits well with themes and outputs of the UKSPF. Our priority groups are:

- Young people most at risk of not participating in education, training, or employment especially those who have care experience
- Those with physical and mental health conditions, including disabilities and additional support needs
- Those who are long term unemployed
- Families, with children, experiencing poverty
- Employers and SMEs in Dumfries & Galloway especially those businesses facing skills shortages

Using the LEP Delivery Plan we will support the development and capacity and build a comprehensive range of local providers across public, private and third sectors. This will enable us to maximise our use of delivery partners in future.

We will encourage the development of collaborative solutions to remove barriers and ensure equitable opportunity to employability provision in all areas and for all protected characteristics. The UKSPF supported employability programmes and advice places will, through the LEP Delivery, have regards for the No One Left Behind agenda, the Young Person's Guarantee, Fair Start Scotland and Scottish employability pipeline. Our interventions will deliver tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses. This will include supporting the retention of groups who are likely to leave the labour market early and has some cross over with delivery under the Communities & Place theme around our region's demographics.

We will support interventions that improve employment outcomes for people who are experiencing challenges by ensuring access to early support to help them sustain or return quickly to work. Health and wellbeing in work support can be twofold involving support to businesses in terms of reducing long term absence and promoting wellbeing as well as support to individuals seeking work or seeking to sustain employment.

We would like to provide specialist services and financial support for those facing multiple barriers in accessing the labour market targeted to those who are work ready (at stage 4 of the employability pipeline) and have a job offer in an industry where there is a locally identified shortage. Currently this includes the transport, hospitality, leisure and tourism and care sectors.

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	

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.

S1: Place based investments for regeneration and town centre improvements, which could include better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.

S2: Support and improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects, including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, and support for decarbonisation of facilities, energy efficiency audits, and installation of energy efficiency and renewable measures in community buildings (including capital spend and running costs).

S5: Support for sport, arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, projects and facilities and institutions.

S7: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.

S8: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.

S9: Investment in capacity building, resilience (including climate change resilience) and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

S10: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change

S11: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

S13: Support for linking communities together and with employment opportunities with a focus on decarbonisation.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

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

N/A

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

N/A

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

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

Yes

No

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

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.

No

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

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

Yes

No

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

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
Jobs created	✓
Jobs safeguarded	✓
Increased footfall	✓
Increased visitor numbers	✓
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Number of new businesses created	✓
Improved perception of markets	
Increased business sustainability	
Increased number of businesses supported	✓
Increased amount of investment	✓
Improved perception of attractions	✓
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	✓
Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	✓
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	✓
Number of new to market products	✓
Number of R&D active businesses	✓
Increased number of innovation active SMEs	✓
Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services	✓
Increased number of innovation plans developed	
Number of early-stage firms which increase their revenue following support	✓
Number of businesses engaged in new markets	✓
Number of businesses increasing their export capability	
Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed	
Number of businesses with improved productivity	✓
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	✓
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	

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.

S14: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.

S15: SME development grants and support, aligned with local and regional sectoral priorities and growth potential. This could include, providing tailored expert advice, matched grants and leadership training to enable manufacturing SMEs to adopt industrial digital technology solutions including artificial intelligence; robotics and autonomous systems; additive manufacturing; industrial internet of things; virtual reality; data analytics. The support is proven to leverage high levels of private investment into technologies that drive growth, productivity, efficiency and resilience in manufacturing.

S16: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services, with a particular focus on low carbon goods and environmental services, and climate resilience. This could include Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices.

S17: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level.
S18: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects.
S19: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow, and innovate, including through local networks.
S20: Support for expert business advice and support programmes at the local and regional level, including support for decarbonisation, climate adaptation and circular economy advice. This could include funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, ‘incubators’, ‘accelerators’ and other forms of developmental environments for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups/high growth potential firms through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including: e.g. account management, advice, resources, training, mentorship, coaching and access to workspace.
S22: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives, and social enterprises.
S25: Developing existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon and climate adaptation technologies.
S26: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.
S27: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?
State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these
N/A
Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.
N/A
Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention’s planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.
Yes No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.
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.
No
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.
Yes No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

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.	✓

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

Intervention

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

S31: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

S32: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills (where not being met through DWP) provision for people who are not economically inactive and who are unable to access other training or wrap around support detailed above. This could be supplemented by financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications.

S33: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.
S34: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.
S35: Support for employability programmes and advice places should have regards for the No One Left Behind agenda, the Young Person’s Guarantee, Fair Start Scotland, and Scottish employability pipeline. This could include tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses. This includes supporting the retention of groups who are likely to leave the labour market early.
S36: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that is not being met through other provision.
S37: Green skills courses to ensure we have the skilled workforce to support the Just Transition to a net zero economy and climate resilience, with a particular focus on vulnerable or low-income groups who will be disproportionately affected by climate change. Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors, providing career guidance and supporting people to seek employment in other sectors.
S39: Support for education and skills targeting vulnerable young people leaving school, places should have regard for the Young Person’s Guarantee, modern apprenticeships, and related policy.
S40: Support for community learning and development
S41: Funding to support new partnership and project-based entrepreneurial learning between business and education to develop a culture that celebrates entrepreneurship.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?	
State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these	
N/A	
Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.	
N/A	
Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention’s planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	

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?		
N/A		
Describe the projects for 2024-25, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.		
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.		
HAVE YOU IDENTIFIED A LOCAL VOLUNTARY PROVISION AT RISK AS PART OF YOUR PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITIES?		
Yes	No	
(If Yes) Describe the local voluntary provision at risk and your rationale for supporting it.		
Provide the European Social Fund Project Names and Project References for this voluntary and community provision at risk.		
What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.		
2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Describe the projects for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.		
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance .		
Yes	No	
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.		

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY		
HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?		
Yes	No	
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 .		
Yes	No	
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.		

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.		
<p>We have engaged with members of our South of Scotland Regional Economic Partnership (REP). The REP's main purpose is "to secure and enable inclusive and sustainable economic growth". Members of the REP have a wide range of expertise and representatives from the public, private and third sector they were asked to consider how the UKSPF could be used to support the REP's purpose. The engagement took the form of two meetings, the first to outline the UKSPF and the second to obtain the views of attendees. This engagement was undertaken with Scottish Borders Council to help us to identify areas of delivery where we might collaborate.</p> <p>We held an open webinar on 14 July 2022 to provide anyone in D&G with the opportunity to engage with the development of the Investment Plan. Representatives from the public, private and third sectors were in attendance, The webinar was publicised through our third sector interface, the Local Employability Partnership and the Council's social media channels. The webinar was made available on the Council's YouTube channel with an invitation for comments or questions to be sent to the UKSPF mailbox.</p> <p>During 2021 extensive stakeholder engagement was undertaken to inform the development of the Regional Economic Strategy. We have used this engagement and the resulting strategy to inform our investment plan.</p>		
Summarise the governance structures you have in place, including how any advisory panels or associated partnership groups are made up		
<p>The current group that is formed from the REP will need to be refreshed before the delivery phase. The REP covers the whole of the south of Scotland, and it was important to capture the views of the REP as they were heavily involved in the development of the Regional Economic Strategy which forms the basis of our investment plan. However, for delivery phase we will stand up a local partnership group for Dumfries & Galloway to support our delivery locally. Our Local Employability Partnership will have oversight of the delivery of Multiply and elements of the People and Skills theme. The UKSPF overall will be managed within the governance regime of the Council.</p>		

Confirm all MPs covering your lead local authority have been invited to join the local partnership group.	
Yes – separate discussion	No
Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.	
<p>Our MPs were consulted during the development of this investment plan. The local partnership group, (drawn from the REP), which was consulted during the development of this investment will be refreshed for the delivery phase of UKSPF. At that point we will invite our MPs and MSPs to participate in the local partnership group.</p>	

PROJECT SELECTION	
Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?	
Yes	No
(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.	
<p>We would like the option to run grant schemes for businesses and communities that are based on clear eligibility criteria rather than running a competitive fund. Our rationale for this is that the grants will be relatively small and as such the resource needed to draw up funding bids would exceed the benefit that might be gained through a competitive scheme.</p> <p>We envisage that at least one grant scheme will address capability in small community groups there may not be existing capacity to support the development of a competitive funding bid, but a simple grant application could be achievable. We will seek to put into place a framework to provide animation support and any group that cannot make a grant application will be supported through that framework.</p> <p>A transparent process will be used with clear eligibility criteria, as outlined in the Cabinet Office Guidance for General Grants, along with independent assessment of eligibility and standard due diligence checks on all applicants.</p>	

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>	
Describe any interventions not included in this list?	
N/A	
Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?	
<p>The south of Scotland is a regional geography. We envisage that there may be instances where it would be optimal to work with our partners in Scottish Borders Council to deliver communities and place interventions. These are unlikely to be ready to be delivered in 2022/23 and we will provide a change to this investment plan when we have clarified which communities and place interventions could be delivered across the south of Scotland.</p>	

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

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

We have an established partnership with Mid and East Antrim Council called the North Channel Partnership. We have worked together on projects related to tourism and food and drink. We would like to retain the option to work with them on future UKSPF projects however this will not be in 2022/23 and we will provide a change to this investment plan when we have more information about how we could work together with our partners in Northern Ireland.

The south of Scotland is a regional geography. We envisage that there may be instances where it would be optimal to work with our partners in Scottish Borders Council to deliver business support interventions. These are unlikely to be ready to be delivered in 2022/23 and we will provide a change to this investment plan when we have clarified which business support interventions could be delivered across the south of Scotland.

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

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

N/A

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

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

During our engagement process we ensured that local third sector organisations representing or supporting people with protected characteristics were invited to our webinar to enable them to contribute to the development of the investment plan. These contributions have been incorporated into the development of this plan.

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

Dumfries and Galloway Council is committed to equality of opportunity for all people within our community and we have established processes and networks which we can use to ensure that funding opportunities are directed to all.

All projects supported by UKSPF will be assessed to ensure that they support our public sector equality duty. We will also use [impact assessments](#) to ensure that any barriers or discrimination when engaging with UKSPF delivery are addressed and mitigated. We will monitor the success of our delivery with regard to ensuring that our equality duty is being met.

RISKS

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

Yes No

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

As the staffing requirement will, initially, be just one FTE we may encounter an issue with staff turnover. With such a small delivery team staff leaving could potentially cause issues in continuity of delivery. To mitigate this, we will compile detailed desk instructions to enable new staff to quickly pick up the work. We will also ensure that staff are cross trained on different aspects of UKSPF delivery thus minimising our exposure to risks caused by staff turnover.

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

Yes No

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

All schemes which distribute funding from the public sector have inherent risks. The Council has mitigations in place minimise the risk of fraud and corruption.

Financial information will be monitored and audited in compliance with the Council's Financial Procedures and a separate cost centre will be set up for the administration of UKSPF finances. We have procedures in place for document retention and retrieval and will ensure that documentation is available for the auditable life of the UKSPF.

All expenditure will be monitored in line with the Council's [financial regulations and codes](#). and as specified in any delivery contract procured using UKSPF. All expenditure will be checked against the financial conditions and profiles in such contracts. All invoices will be paid within the Council's standards for payment as established in the financial codes.

Council grant schemes are developed in conjunction with our [Corporate Anti-Fraud and Anti-Corruption Policy and Strategy](#) and financial codes. We will review our established grant distribution methodologies and ensure that they are aligned with the Guidance for General Grants Issued by the Cabinet Office.

UKSPF costs will be collated and checked in accordance with the Council's regulations and codes and the requirements of UK Government. Where appropriate, costs will be submitted to the Council's Internal Audit Team for compliance checks. Monitoring reports will be received by the Council's Economy & Resources Committee.

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?
As with the quantum of funding available to manage the funds the FTEs needed to work on UKSPF will increase over the period of the Investment Plan. Initially we envisage that 1 FTE will be sufficient for general funding administration. The team will be expanded as the quantum of funding increases in line with requirements.
Describe what role these people will have, including any seniority and experience.
The delivery and operational management of the UKSPF will be carried out within the management and governance structures of the Council.

- 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	Some experience	No previous experience
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?		
Strong capacity	Some capacity	Limited capacity

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
<p>The Council has an established network of ward officers and place based economic development officers delivering to our communities. We also have a team that delivers support to places and community groups around the development of capital projects. These teams of staff work together across the council to provide joined up support to our communities and places. From a local authority perspective, we have the skills and experience in place to deliver to our communities. More widely, the region has many partners delivering place based interventions including South of Scotland Enterprise, Third Sector D&G, and the wider Community Planning Partnership.</p> <p>Despite the wide range of actors involved in place development it was clear from our engagement on the development of the investment plan that the capacity of communities to develop their places and place plans is limited in some instances. There was also a concern expressed that some groups which are better resourced are more able to attract funding and that more capacity building would result in a fairer funding landscape with more communities able to bid into competitive funds in future.</p>		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
<p>We would like to deliver capacity building support to those communities and groups that are currently enthusiastic about delivering to their locality but lack the knowledge and experience to fulfil this function. We would deliver this capacity funding early in the UKSPF funding cycle with the anticipation that communities will be better placed to create competitive funding bids for larger amounts of money later in the UKSPF funding cycle.</p>		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Communities and Place interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited 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.		
<p>The Council has established processes and procedures for the management of funds and the capacity to manage funding at a local authority level exists.</p> <p>In delivering capacity building support to smaller community groups, some of which will not have previous experience of delivering publicly funded projects, we will put into place a support package delivered by our economic development officers and funds management staff to ensure that groups are able to deliver the capacity building</p>		

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.
The proposed capacity building delivery along with the support of our staff will help to address the challenges faced by small communities in the development of their plans and places.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team’s current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
The Council has a team of experienced staff delivering support to businesses across the region. Due to the geography of the region, it has not always been easy to offer face to face support as frequently as some businesses might like. South of Scotland Enterprise also delivers business support in the region as do several national specialist organisations such as VisitScotland, Scotland Food & Drink etc. Locally, the South of Scotland Destination Alliance has received funding to promote the south of Scotland and, as a membership organisation, it too delivers business support to its members.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
We have already embarked on a series of measures to allow our business advisers to carry out their work using online tools. We also deliver courses and webinars online, but this does remove the networking opportunities usually afforded by these events. We would like to be able to use local, community owned, facilities as outreach bases from which we can trial face to face business support, something that we already deliver from more central enterprise space hubs.		

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited 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.		
<p>The Council has established processes and procedures for the management of funds and the capacity to manage funding at a local authority level exists. We may run some grant schemes for small businesses. These will be managed by the UKSPF admin team which has a lot of experience in the management and delivery of grant schemes for small businesses. Support to grant recipients with regard to their obligations for managing the funding is part of the process for making grants to businesses.</p>		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
N/A.		

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
<p>The Council's Employability & Skills team has wide experience of delivering interventions to people across the region. Some of our delivery is undertaken in-house however we also have a team managing funding for delivery that is undertaken by delivery partners. Ideally, we would like to expand our delivery partners by encouraging new organisations into the marketplace.</p>		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
<p>We would like to deliver capacity building support to organisations, that are capable of delivering people and skills support, but lack the knowledge and experience of how to navigate the public procurement systems. We would deliver capacity funding early in the UKSPF funding cycle with the anticipation that these organisations will be better placed to bid for contracts that are placed by our Employability & Skills team.</p>		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited 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.		
<p>The Council has established processes and procedures for the management of funds and the capacity to manage funding at a local authority level exists. We also have experience of letting frameworks and contracts, alongside the management of these</p>		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
N/A		

