



UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Harborough District Investment Plan

September 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: Harborough 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

- Threat of UK recession, inflationary & cost of living pressures.
- Strengthening social fabric and building local pride.
- Tired town centres and public places, which require investment.
- Balance in preference to motor vehicles, and away from walking & cycling in town centres.
- Increased health & well-being issues and low uptake of physical activity.
- Revitalising local economy, rebuilding and recovering post Covid.
- A growing number of empty shops and business failures.
- Retaining local people, and particularly young people, in the area, against competition from other towns and areas.
- Poor digital connectivity in rural areas.
- High house prices, (approx. 23% above Leicestershire averages).
- Limited public or affordable transport in rural areas.

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

- Town Centre regeneration & the delivery of two new Town Centre Masterplans for Lutterworth and Market Harborough, (approved in 2021 & 2022 respectively).
- New Cultural Quarter in Market Harborough & local arts, heritage & creative activities development.
- Maintaining vitality and vibrancy of local market towns.
- Improving Active Travel & developing the 20-minute neighbourhood.
- Social prescribing, including blue and green asset wellbeing programmes.

- Building on recent digital connectivity improvements, (65% coverage of superfast broadband across District, but a lot less in rural areas).
- Limited development of EV Charging infrastructure in town centre car parks, very limited in rural areas.
- Opportunity support initiatives which may be continued or enhanced by using Section 106 funding.
- [Economic Development Strategy](#) – Support event organisers that provide economic benefits.
- [Corporate Plan 2022 - 2031](#) – CO21: Tourism is increased through the showcasing of our local culture and heritage
- [Market Harborough Town Centre Masterplan](#) – Improve town centre for walking and cycling, including narrowed roads and increased high quality secure cycle parking
- [Tourism Growth Plan](#) - A campaign to highlight the area’s food and drink reputation by showcasing sub-regional food and drink both to eat, drink, buy, see in production and experience through activities and events.

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

- Businesses are still recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic, customers buying patterns have changed. Business survival is a challenge.
- Brexit – businesses have a lack of confidence and knowledge when it comes to exporting and growing their businesses internationally.
- Vacancy rates, national chains leaving empty shops – Market Harborough alone had 13 national chains close during the covid-19 pandemic. These were predominately large units and are therefore unable to house grass root independents.
- Cost of living – customer buying behaviour is changing affecting purchase decisions, buying fewer items and shopping less frequently.
- Threat of UK recession, inflationary pressure.
- Major challenge of recruiting staff.
- Limited take-up of digital trading opportunities in certain sectors.

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

- Enable new businesses to grow from market traders and home working to a retail unit.
- Create opportunities for businesses to bring new innovative products to the market.
- Provide a platform for businesses to seek business support from a local provider with expert knowledge about the District and what it can offer as a package.
- Support landlords who have long standing vacant units in prime locations.
- Opportunity to provide more town centre events to drive footfall and bring secondary spend to businesses.
- Opportunity with the use of footfall counters and Wi-Fi would enable us to understand how our market towns are performing, how long people are shopping for, frequency of visits and hotspot areas.
- Potential of the District for tourism development.
- Growth of the logistics sector at Magna Park, in the heart of the ‘Golden Triangle’.

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

- More job vacancies/ postings in the District than universal credit claimants. In June 2022 2,120 job postings and 956 universal credit claimants. 7,800 people economically inactive in the district (data provided by the Department for Work & Pensions) with 24.1% looking for a job. Need to support those economically active to move towards the labour market.
- Many sectors are struggling to recruit enough or the right staff e.g. logistics, care, hospitality.
- Disparity between residents and workplace earning. Harborough District workplace earning (£24,265) are lower than the national average (£25,971), whereas resident earnings (£28,771) are higher, which creates a greater motivation for people to commute outside the area to seek better paid employment, with all the negative impacts associated. This demonstrates that there is a need for upskilling in a workplace setting and for businesses in the Harborough District to increase wages. This also indicates skilled residents in the District and working for employers outside of the District (i.e. London commuters).
- There is no further or higher education provision in the District, meaning many young people leave the area.
- Data from the 2021 census shows the decline in young residents from age 14 to 24. This is likely because there is no further education provision in the district, and only two post 16 options in the form of sixth form colleges.
 - 10 – 14 year olds = 5,900
 - 15 – 19 year olds = 5,400
 - 20 – 24 year olds = 4,300
- Universal Credits claimants increased during the Covid-19 pandemic and have not yet declined to pre-pandemic levels. This is across all age ranges.
- One of our key local delivery partners, **Work Live Leicestershire (WiLL)**, is reliant on funding from the European Social Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund, which will come to an end in April 2023. If there is no other source of funding then the crucial support that they provide for unemployed people living in our rural areas, will come to an end. www.workliveleicestershire.org.uk
- Many people with specific challenges are still seeking employment once they are no longer eligible for basic level of Job Centre Plus/ DWP support.

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

- Develop more attractive opportunities for young people to stay in the District and retain local talent, rather than losing them to larger surrounding cities - also opportunity to attract them in from nearby Universities into the District
- Support businesses to develop entry level positions for everyone looking for a new career: Kickstart scheme showed an appetite for this type of scheme, but more widely accessible.
- Build on the District Council's ARG funded Harborough Jobs initiatives, including Jobs Fairs, Jobs Weeks, Jobs Clubs and targeted training support for commercial drivers, (which supported the training of 20 new HGV drivers in 2021).
- Targeted training for specific sectors which need employees (e.g. hospitality).
- Provisioned support for job seekers and those further from the labour market to get them work ready.
- Volunteering programme to help people gain the skills they need.
- New Harborough District Corporate Plan and Economic Development Strategy support these kind of initiatives.

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	X
Increased visitor numbers	X
Reduced vacancy rates	X
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	X
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	X
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	
Improved perception of safety	
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	
Improved engagement numbers	X
Improved perception of events	X
Increased number of web searches for a place	X
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	X
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	X
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	X
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	X
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.
<p>Intervention <i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i></p> <p>E1 - Improvements to town centres & high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people. E6 - Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities. E7 - Active travel enhancements. E9 - Impactful volunteering and/ or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.</p>

E11 - Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.
 E14 - Relevant feasibility studies.
 E15 - Digital Infrastructure.

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.

- Extension of the local centres shop front enhancement grant scheme
- Market Harborough Cultural Quarter, to provide signs, features and visitors signs to promote the cultural area as identified in the [Market Harborough Town Centre Masterplan](#)
- Implementation of Lutterworth Town Centre Masterplan and Market Harborough Town Centre Masterplans to improve public realm environment, streetscape and functioning of the centres.
- Support local programmes of arts & cultural events, (eg. work with Arts Fresco, street performance festival, and the Leicester Comedy Festival's Harborough Big Weekend, to create a longer and more successful programme of events).
- Cycle Lane Infrastructure - Improve cycle lanes within Market Harborough and Lutterworth town centres, install new cycle parking in arrival spaces and extend covered motorcycle and cycle parking in town centre car parks.
- Delivery of a Youth Market at Harborough Market, to help diversify the offer to visitor, encourage a wider age range to visit the local market, bring new products to market and guide and support the next generation to become entrepreneurial. There are currently 51 Teenage Markets that take place across the country which are mostly delivered by the local authorities.
- Install sports equipment into town centres, to improve residents' wellbeing, bring the community together through social interactions, diversify the night-time economy, encourage a healthier lifestyle along with decrease anti-social behaviour amongst the youth. Table Tennis England confirmed they have worked in partnership with 25 local authorities to deliver table tennis tables in town centre and cities. Within 5-mile radius Market Harborough residents have access to one table tennis table in a community hall in Langton. Within a 5-mile radius of Lutterworth there are no table tennis tables accessible to residents. (<https://www.tabletennisengland.co.uk/table-finder/>)
- South Leicestershire Waterways & Wellbeing: Nature in Mind programme
- Feasibility Studies, including identifying the opportunities to maximise our waterways offer and what tourism links can be achieved across borders, and any outcomes arising from our recent Levelling-Up Funding application for Market Harborough Town Centre.
- Town centre digital improvement project to include footfall counters scheme in both market towns and Wi-Fi access increasing town centres attractiveness to a wider demographic and enabling better communication of our offer to visitors.
- Recruit a member of staff on a two-year contract to support the development of Asset-based Community Development plans, building local capacity and identifying future needs and priorities, which can be supported by future funding opportunities, including Section 106 planning funds.
- Improving EV Charging facilities and supporting Electric Car Clubs in rural areas.

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.

We understand the principles of State Aid, so would normally avoid developing schemes which constitute subsidies.

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	X
Jobs safeguarded	X
Increased footfall	X
Increased visitor numbers	X
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Number of new businesses created	X
Improved perception of markets	X
Increased business sustainability	X
Increased number of businesses supported	X
Increased amount of investment	
Improved perception of attractions	
Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm	X
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	X
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	X
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	X
Number of businesses with improved productivity	
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	X
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.

- E16 Open markets & town centre retail & service sector
- E17 Development & promotion of visitor economy
- E23 Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems

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.

- Roll out a retail business support programme district wide,, (eg, building on our successful shopfront enhancement and empty shops initiatives and possibly [Shop Doctor](#)). There has been little to no Business to Consumer financial support or incentives from the local enterprise partnership or other sources to encourage businesses to commit to high rent and unsupportive landlords within the town centres. This is further supported through our Economic Development Strategy: *to sustain the strength of town centres against the threat of leakage to other centres and on-line shopping. Investment is necessary here in order to ensure that we can continue to support local businesses financially and be able to build better relationships with our local businesses*
- Building on Harborough District Council experience of delivering proactive grants scheme initiated through the ARG Covid business support, using the additional restrictions grants were able to deliver several [grant schemes](#) which enabled businesses to become innovative, become greener or introduce digital technologies and processes.
- Work has already begun on the roll out of new walking heritage trails and a walking festival, but there is an opportunity to grow this offer and expand our reach of the walking guides.
- Work in partnership with neighbouring councils and partners to deliver a more tailored, locally-based business support programme that will replace the work that the LLEP Growth Hub have been providing over the past couple of years.
- Tourism development projects including “Taste the Place” campaign to promote our local food & drink offering & “Sustainable Tourism” campaign, including a Green Tourism Charter and rural tourism initiatives
- Enhance and expand the walking tours offer in our rural area. There has been a surge in visitors who wish to take domestic holidays and are choosing places like Harborough to explore due to the rural and authentic experience.

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.

We understand the principles of State Aid, so would normally avoid developing schemes which constitute subsidies.

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

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

Intervention

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

E33	Employment support for economically inactive people
E37	Tailored support for the employed to access courses
E38	Local areas to fund local skills needs

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.

- A funded work placement scheme (similar to the government's Kickstart scheme 2020-22 which Harborough District Council acted as a gateway for local employers). This would be open to anyone of any age to support people into entry positions in new careers, where previously barriers may have been in place. Many workers left jobs during the pandemic due to redundancy or lack of security within the sector. This would help match them to organisations who need those workers.

- Workplace skills programme. A scheme to ensure employees can continue to upskill themselves to ensure they can move up the career ladder and access new opportunities and therefore benefit from increased wages.
- Wrap around employment support service for residents. A programme to help job seekers, the economically inactive, the unemployed and employed residents access the support they need to move on. This would include support with CV's, interview skills, job searching, training, skills and qualifications, confidence and some form of mental health provision. The aim of this support is to help people more into work or closer to the labour market, in preparation for work. This may potentially be a partnership project across the county.
- Develop sector-based training hubs - a flexible programme to introduce residents into a sector and give them initial training specific to the available roles. This will help to match those seeking work with the sectors that area in need of employees.
- Graduate programme to ensure graduates from nearby Universities spill out into the District and local organisations benefit from the talents and skills.

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.

We understand the principles of State Aid, so would normally avoid developing schemes which constitute subsidies.

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

Yes

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

The Work Live Leicestershire (WiLL) project is funded by the European Social Fund and The National Lottery Community Fund and with their funding coming to an end in March 2023.

Their aim is help overcome barriers to training, employment and well-being across rural Leicestershire through collaboration with a range of partners.

Harborough District Council has been working with WiLL over the last year and has found their input and approach invaluable, and we are keen to sustain and develop this relationship and the scope and reach of their work through the UKSP, but need to start this in 2023, otherwise the impetus will be lost and this essential infrastructure and support will no longer be available.

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

Work.Live.Leicestershire (WiLL) led by Vista, registered charity number 218992.

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

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.

• Workplace skills programme. A scheme to ensure employees can continue to upskill themselves to ensure they can move up the career ladder and access new opportunities and therefore benefit from increased wages.

• Wrap around employment support service for residents. A programme to help job seekers, the economically inactive, the unemployed and employed residents access the support they need to move on. This would include support with CV's, interview skills, job searching, training, skills and qualifications, confidence and some form of mental health provision. The aim of this support is to help people more into work or closer to the labour market, in preparation for work. This may potentially be a partnership project across the county.

These fit very well with the People and Skills investment priority, build on our Harborough Jobs initiatives and would be delivered across the whole of Harborough District, with much of the delivery being by rural outreach.

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.

We understand the principles of State Aid, so would normally avoid developing schemes which constitute subsidies.

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 preparing our Investment Plan we have been liaising on a regular basis with all our neighbouring local authorities across Leicestershire, as well as having regular communication with a number of key stakeholders, including the Local Enterprise Partnership, business organisations and local voluntary sector agencies. In many cases, these organisations have been lobbying us to gain our commitment to allocate UKSPF funds via them, and we have been very firm that we will not be doing this until our priorities and the Investment Plan are approved, at which point we will procure services.

In order to seek 'buy in' for the key themes and priority Interventions within the Investment Plan, we held an online Partnership/ Stakeholder meeting on Friday 15 July 2022. 12 partners plus the three local MPs were invited, and 10 partners, plus a representative of one of MPs attended. This event was very well received and proved a very positive forum for discussing these issues, and in particular, how the delivery of the UKSPF programme can be used as a catalyst for wider partnership working across the District.

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

The intention is that governance and reporting on the UKSPF will take place in line with Harborough District Council's normal project management methodology This will involve establishing a dedicated Project Board for UKSPF to control progress, with the Interim Chief Executive acting as SRO.

The project will sit within Harborough District Council's overall Change Programme, with the existing Programme Board acting as the escalation body and providing overall assurance. The administration's Cabinet will take key political decisions and delegate responsibility as needed.

Any capital/ construction elements of the project will be managed as projects in their own right using RIBA methodology. External delivery partners will be engaged via compliant procurement procedures and managed via project management and contract management arrangements.

A single approach to Communications and Engagement will be developed as part of establishing the project. This will include development of a communications plan that looks to cover project needs and activity as well as the wider communications required to maximise the benefits of each component project.

It is anticipated that throughout the delivery of the UKSPF we will continue to engage with the Partnership/ Stakeholder group, (including the three local MPs), which was established on 15 July 2022, in order to seek feedback on the proposed delivery plan and progress, as well as to explore opportunities for wider partnership working.

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

Yes

Are there MPs who are not supportive of your investment plan?

No

(If Yes) Who are the MPs that are not supportive and outline their reasons why.

We engaged with all three of the MPs who cover the Harborough District, namely: Neil O'Brien OBE MP, Alicea Cairns MP and Alberto Costa MP, and all three were supportive of the plan.

Not only were they and members of their staff invited to the Partnership/ Stakeholder meeting on Friday 15 July 2022, but we also held a dedicated Teams meeting with all three MPs and the Leader of our Council, (possibly the first time ever), at which we presented plans, listened to their input, and as a result, made significant amendments to the plans.

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.

Our approach will be a combination of some direct delivery, some working with established local partners, (eg. local Arts Groups which deliver specific arts events, or our established EV Charging partner), some competition and some open grants schemes, (eg. to particular sections of the local business sector, such as town centre retailers).

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>	
E15 Digital Infrastructure	X

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

Melton Borough Council & Leicestershire County Council

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
E17 Development & promotion of visitor economy	X
E23 Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	X

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

North West Leicestershire
Hinckley and Bosworth
Charnwood
Blaby
Oadby and Wigston
Leicester City
Leicestershire County

DO YOU INTEND TO WORK WITH OTHER PLACES ON ANY OF THE INTERVENTIONS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

Which interventions do you intend to collaborate on? Select all that apply.

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
E33 Employment support for economically inactive people	X
E38 Local areas to fund local skills needs	X

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

North West Leicestershire
Hinckley and Bosworth
Oadby and Wigston
Leicester City

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

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

Harborough District Council always considers our public sector equality duty in the design of our services. In relation to our UKSPF Investment Plan, interventions relating to Communities and Places, should generally improve things for all sections of the community, by seeking to improve our town centres and places for all members of the community. However, where possible, in relation to physical improvements to our town centres and places, we will endeavour to prioritise projects which improve provision for people with disabilities or mobility difficulties. In relation to interventions relating to People and Skills, these will particularly be prioritised to support people who have had the least life chances, for example, those who are digitally excluded, who have struggled to gain skills and employment, and people suffering with mental health conditions.

At the point where we seek to implement specific interventions and projects, full consideration will be given to the potential equality implications, and where appropriate, mitigations will be introduced

to ensure that those from certain communities or with specific protected characteristics are not negatively impacted, and ideally, are better supported as a result of the investment.

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

Our Council's Equality Plan outlines our approach with regards to our Equality duties.

RISKS

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

Yes

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

Lack of Staff:

Given that we are a small District Council the Economic Development team comprises of 3 FTE currently delivering the Economic Development Strategy. The contingency measure is to use the 4% support element of the funding. Other than this, the current staff will be expected to pick up this work alongside their current workload where possible.

Expertise:

There are several interventions that the current team do not have specific knowledge or skills to deliver the projects directly or internally. The contingency measure will be to ensure the staff capacity role has expertise, and/ or to buy in relevant expertise, (eg. project management of public realm capital projects), to meet the gaps when identified.

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

Yes

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

Risk of non-Harborough District businesses receiving a grant:

The Council will use the existing Ascendant Grant Approval system to deliver small business grants, to ensure that legitimate businesses within the Harborough District are being allocated the grant. This system is used across the country and all applications go through a fraud check and are then RAG rated before they are assessed.

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?

0.6 - 0.8 FTE – using UKSPF 4% staff capacity allowance.

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

- Administration
- Co-ordination
- Delivery of masterplan interventions
- Local business support advice and expertise

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

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

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

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

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

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

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
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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.

Will need to buy in project management capacity to support the delivery of public realm and masterplan capital projects.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

None

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.		
Workload and time to manage these alongside other priority work, including developing a new Economic Development and Growth Strategy.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
Using the 4% staff capacity allowance to support this.		

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?		
Yes	No	
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
<p>The team currently work with partners to successfully facilitate some people and skills interventions, but the team do not have certain expertise in this area and therefore do rely on partnership working and the funded resource currently available.</p> <p>The team do not have a specific people and skills officer, so it sits as a small amount of the workload of one of the Economic Development Officers and has only recently become a bigger focus within the team due to the pandemic.</p>		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
<p>We do plan to work with external partners to deliver interventions because they have the experience and specialised staff in place.</p> <p>More funding for staff costs to support this area of growing importance.</p> <p>Possibly allowing more than the 4% allocation to be spent on staffing costs.</p>		

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

We are a small District Council with an Economic Development team comprising of only 3 FTE currently delivering and reviewing the Economic Development Strategy across a large rural District. Whilst we can potentially reprioritise some work to support the UKSPF, this will need to be tempered against current workloads and expectations.

The 4% staff capacity across the 2.5 years, will only fund a part-time 0.6 – 0.8 FTE officer, so there are concerns about whether this support element of the funding will be adequate, so we would welcome a discussion. We are also exploring options to share resources with one or more neighbouring Councils. Other than this, the current staff will be expected to pick up this work alongside their current workload where possible.

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

All agreed. All three have been very involved in detailed discussion about the investment plan, along with local MPs, hence, (in part), the delay in submitting this.

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