UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Delivery of the Fund for Northern Ireland
What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

£2.6bn of new funding for local investment for the UK by March 2025, as part of a suite of complementary Levelling Up funding. It will:

- **Ramp up from 2022-23**, with funding for the UK reaching £1.5bn a year by 2025. **For Northern Ireland, it represents around £127m over three years**, comprised of: £19m this year, £33m 2023-24 and rising to £74m in 2024-25.

- **This includes £105m of core UKSPF funding and £22m for adult numeracy, earmarked for Multiply. Beyond Multiply, there are no predetermined allocations of funding across the investment priorities. The allocation comprises both revenue and capital funding. In an investment plan, UKG and NI partners will set out the preferred mix of funding.**

- **Empower Northern Ireland to identify and build on its own strengths and needs**, focused on pride in place and increasing life chances.

- **Allow us to work together to build a package of linked interventions**, drawing on other programmes such as the Levelling Up Fund, Northern Ireland-specific activity or employment and skills support to maximise impact and meet NI needs and opportunities.
UKSPF can be invested across three investment priorities according to need and opportunity:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Investment Priority</th>
<th>Summary of objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>Communities and Place</td>
<td>• Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging.</td>
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<td>• To build resilient and safe neighbourhoods.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supporting Local Business</td>
<td>• Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses.</td>
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<td>• Promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth.</td>
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<td>• Targeted support to help businesses grow - e.g. innovation, productivity, energy efficiency, low carbon and exporting.</td>
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<tr>
<td>People and Skills</td>
<td>• Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work.</td>
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<td>• Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market.</td>
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**Investment Priorities**

**Example Interventions**

**Communities and Place**
- Improvements to town centres and high streets
- ‘Designing out crime’ interventions
- Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities
- Active travel enhancements
- Volunteering and/or social action projects
- Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues

**Supporting Local Business**
- Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure
- Development and promotion of the visitor economy
- R&D grants supporting the development of innovative products and services
- Business support measures to drive employment growth

**People and Skills**
- Employment support for economically inactive people
- Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion
- Support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to address barriers to accessing education and training courses
- Support for local areas to fund local skills needs
- Green skills courses
**What is Multiply?**

- Multiply is a £22 million programme in Northern Ireland to help transform the lives of adults, by improving their functional numeracy skills. Multiply provision should complement but not duplicate existing provision.

- Through Multiply there will be investment in meaningful participation that boosts people’s ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work.

- Target learners are adults 19+ who have not previously attained a Level 2.

- We plan to work with NI partners to develop Multiply in line with Northern Ireland circumstances and will work with partners to flex its delivery to align with needs and provision.

- In Northern Ireland, Multiply will be delivered as part of the single UKSPF investment plan developed by DLUHC and the Partnership Group.
Multiply Interventions

• To support partners to identify the right provision, we have designed a menu of interventions that we can select from to best suit the needs of Northern Ireland's people.

• This menu is based on the growing evidence base on the barriers that hold people back from addressing their numeracy skills and what works in tackling poor adult numeracy, as well as engagement with partners, providers and other numeracy organisations. See the list of interventions.

• In addition to providing funding to places across the UK to deliver innovative solutions to increase adult numeracy levels, the Department for Education will also be launching a UK-wide digital numeracy platform later in 2022.

• Multiply interventions must be focused on adult numeracy, however there is scope to include discrete numeracy provision alongside vocational courses.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Delivering the Fund – the Partnership Group, Investment Plan and Indicative Timings
The investment plan approach

The investment plan is a high level document where DLUHC and key stakeholders set out the mix of interventions and delivery routes for NI.

• Through the Partnership Group, we will develop a single investment plan for Northern Ireland. It will set out at a high level, the outcomes and the interventions we will jointly prioritise based on the NI context, under each investment priority, from the menu of options.

• It will cover the full three years, from 2022-23 to 2024-25 and include:
  o Northern Ireland context - including a summary of challenges and opportunities
  o Selection of outcomes, outputs and proposed interventions
  o Routes to market for each intervention (eg. project competitions, commissioning)
  o Scale of intervention (eg. NI-wide, city-regions, local, hyper-local)
  o Complementary funding sources
  o Adult numeracy activity funded as part of the £22m Multiply allocation for NI.

• The investment plan will *not* be an exhaustive document detailing every project.

• The planning process may identify existing provision which could be continued, provided it fits with the UKSPF investment priorities and interventions.

• The plan can flex over the three years in response to circumstances.
Local insight and expertise is essential to identify and address need and opportunity. This will enable delivery of the right solutions for Northern Ireland.

- We are working with a diverse range of Northern Ireland stakeholders, including local authorities, businesses, VCS and skills/HE to develop the Investment Plan through creation of a Northern Ireland Partnership Group.

- Initially, it has a focused and specific task – we intend to develop a plan within around three months, for submission to UKG Ministers for approval - essential if we are to commence delivery later this year.

- Alongside the Partnership Group, we are developing a wide programme of engagement with key sectors, including voluntary and community sector, rural partners, environmental groups and business organisations.

- Through the Group, we will draw on a range of existing evidence and data – including information held by partners including NI-wide strategies, community plans, labour market partnership strategies, case studies and evidence of what works.

- We will explore need and opportunities, complementary investment and prioritise funding – in terms of which interventions to support from the wide list, when, and how.

- Members – and our wider programme of engagement - will help to identify early proposals for investment and we will start work on these alongside the development of the plan.

- The membership of the Partnership Group will be reviewed on completion of the Investment Plan, as UKSPF moves into the delivery phase.
We will engage widely with partners across Northern Ireland

The UKSPF Partnership Group will be the primary vehicle for driving development of the Northern Ireland UKSPF Investment Plan.

Alongside the Partnership Group, we will engage extensively with stakeholders across Northern Ireland through a series of communications, workshops, and meetings focussed on the investment themes and interventions of UKSPF.

The proposed engagement is intended to achieve the following outcomes:

- To seek views across sectors on the relative priority of investment for Northern Ireland across the themes; Community and Place, People and Skills, Supporting Local Business.
- To seek views across sectors on the proposed interventions for Northern Ireland.
- To seek views on how we should measure success.
## Indicative workplan/timings

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Timing indicative</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inception meeting of Partnership Group</td>
<td>An introductory session with partnership members to gather initial views on prioritisation of investment and to discuss engagement across sectors.</td>
<td>July</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Partnership Group meeting</td>
<td>Review feedback from engagement sessions and begin work on first draft of investment plan.</td>
<td>August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Partnership Group meeting</td>
<td>The Partnership Group receives the full investment plan for consideration, taking account of stakeholder feedback. Members consider endorsement ahead of submission to DLUHC for validation and ministerial sign off.</td>
<td>September</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engagement programme</td>
<td>Engagement workshops across sectors to gather views on investment priorities.</td>
<td>July, August, September</td>
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There’s a range of resources available on gov.uk

UKSPF Prospectus

List of interventions:

Funding allocations by place

Multiply in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

Frequently asked questions:
Further Information

If you have questions which have not been covered by this presentation or the published information, please contact northernirelandareateam@levellingup.gov.uk