



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department
Plymouth City Council
Ballard House
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for: Jamie Sheldon
T 01752 668000
E democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk
Published 17 June 2022

GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – SUPPLEMENT PACK

Wednesday 22 June 2022
2.00 pm
Council House

Members:

Councillor Riley, Chair

Councillor Coker, Vice Chair

Councillors Finn, Goslin, Hendy, Holloway, Luggier, Partridge, Poyser, Salmon, Tippetts and Tofan and one Conservative Vacancy

Please find enclosed additional information for items 7 and 9.

Tracey Lee

Chief Executive

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee

- 7. Policy Update (Pages 1 - 10)**
- 9. Shared Prosperity Fund (Pages 11 - 20)**

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	22 June 2022
Title of Report:	Policy Brief- June 2022
Lead Member:	Councillor John Riley (Chair)
Lead Strategic Director:	Giles Perritt (Assistant Chief Executive)
Author:	Kevin Mckenzie – Policy Advisor
Contact Email:	kevin.mckenzie@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	PB 150622
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To provide the Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee with the latest national picture in respect of policy announcements and legislation.

Recommendations and Reasons

For Scrutiny to consider the information provided in regard to their role and future agenda items.

Alternative options considered and rejected

N/a

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Delivery of the Corporate Plan and Plymouth Plan needs to take account of emerging policy and the legislative picture.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

No implications for the MTFP direct resource impacts arising from the recommendations.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

No EIA completed as no decision is being taken item is for noting and to inform the BILCO work plan.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Growth and Infrastructure Policy Brief -							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	N/A	Leg	N/A	Mon Off	N/A	HR	N/A	Asset s	N/A	Strat Proc	N/A
Approved by: Giles Perritt, Assistant Chief Executive											
Date approved: 15/06/2022											

POLICY BRIEF - JUNE 2022**PLYMOUTH**
CITY COUNCIL

Growth and Infrastructure

Date of publication	Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee	 GOV
Quarterly update published 18th May 2022	<p>Department for International Trade - Trade and investment factsheets</p> <p>A snapshot of the UK's trade and investment positions with individual trading and investment partners overseas. Our 3 largest partners (US, Germany and China) had the following trade in goods and services in the four quarters to the end of Q4 2021 compared to the four quarters to the end of Q4 2020:</p> <p><u>US</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total UK exports amounted to £132.2 billion (an increase of 2.7¹%); ▪ Total UK imports amounted to £83.0 billion (an increase of 9.2%). <p><u>Germany</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total UK exports amounted to £46.6 billion (a decrease of 6.2%); ▪ Total UK imports amounted to £62.7 billion (a decrease of 5.4%). <p><u>China</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Total UK exports amounted to £27.0 billion (an increase of 3.0%); ▪ Total UK imports amounted to £66.1 billion (an increase of 15.8%). 	Official Statistics
9 th June 2022	<p>Cabinet Office - Right to buy extension to make home ownership possible for millions more people</p> <p>The Prime Minister has announced 2.5 million tenants renting their homes from housing associations will be given the right to buy them outright. In his speech he has confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to Buy scheme extended to housing association tenants, with government pledging to build a new social home for every one sold. • Universal Credit reform will incentivise more people to save for a house deposit. • Review of mortgage lending market will aim to turn more of 'Generation Rent' into 'Generation Buy'. 	Housing, local and community

¹ Trade volumes were highly consistent with those reported in February at the end of the last rolling 12 month period. The significant variation between volumes in 2021 and 2020 is driven mainly by fluctuations in trade in 2020.

<p>9th June 2022</p>	<p>Department for Transport - Consultation on primary legislative changes to reform railways</p> <p>The DfT has launched a public consultation on the primary legislative changes required to deliver structural reform of railways. This follows publication of the Williams-Shapps Plan for Rail in May 2021 and the announcement in the Queen's Speech on 10 May 2022 to introduce a Transport Bill to Parliament which will modernise rail services, put passengers and freight customers first and deliver the best of the public and private sectors. The consultation closes on the 4 August 2022.</p>	<p>Rail</p>
<p>8th June 2022</p>	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities - Ofsted-style' inspections and unlimited fines for failing social landlords</p> <p>The Regulator of Social Housing will have stronger powers to issue unlimited fines, enter properties with only 48 hours' notice and make emergency repairs under the Social Housing Regulation Bill introduced to Parliament on the 8 June 2022. In a major reset of power between tenants and landlords, residents will be able to demand information and rate their landlord as part of new satisfaction measures. The Bill will form a key part of the government's mission to level up across the country and deliver on the people's priorities.</p>	<p>Building Regulation</p>
<p>24th May 2022</p>	<p>Department for Transport - Voyage to net zero in maritime underway as UK confirms £12 million for zero emission technologies</p> <p>Zero emission ferries and vessels are one step closer to being a reality, as Maritime Minister Robert Courts confirms £12 million funding to accelerate the research and development of zero emission maritime technologies.</p>	<p>Maritime and the Environment</p>
<p>23rd May 2022</p>	<p>Department for Transport, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy - Self-driving buses, shuttles and delivery vans could soon hit UK roads thanks to £40 million government-funded competition</p> <p>A new £40 million competition to kick-start commercial self-driving services, such as delivery vehicles and passenger shuttles, has been launched by Lord Grimstone, Minister for Investment. The 'Commercialising Connected and Automated Mobility' competition will provide grants to help roll out commercial use self-driving vehicles across the UK from 2025.</p>	<p>Autonomous Road Vehicles</p>

16 th May 2022	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities - Building safety: remediation and funding - government response to the Select Committee reports</p> <p>The government have published their response to the Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities Select Committee's reports published on 26 April 2021 and 7 March 2022 following its inquiries into cladding remediation, and building safety remediation and funding in England.</p>	Housing
14 th May 2022	<p>Department for Transport - Funding worth £200 million announced for new walking and cycling schemes across England.</p> <p>£200 million of funding for new walking and cycling schemes has been announced. The funding is part of the £2 billion for cycling and walking announced by the Prime Minister in 2020. Active Travel England has been established to hold the budget and ensure that schemes are delivered to the standards set out in 2020. Funding includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £161 million, which include new footways, cycle lanes and pedestrian crossings across 46 local authorities. ▪ £1.5 million for “mini-Holland” feasibility studies, to assess how the areas could be as pedestrian and cycle-friendly as their Dutch city equivalents. ▪ £35 million to improve the quality, safety and accessibility of the National Cycle Network. 	Travel
9 th May 2022	<p>Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy - Lowest paid workers to be given flexibility to top up their pay under government reforms</p> <p>Britain's lowest paid workers will be given the flexibility to boost their income through extra work, under new plans set out by the government this week. The proposals will widen the ban on exclusivity clauses, which restrict staff from working for multiple employers, to contracts where the guaranteed weekly income is on or below the Lower Earnings Limit of £123 a week.</p>	Working, Jobs and Pensions
9 th May 2022	<p>Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport - Cultural venues to receive £128 million to improve access to arts and culture</p> <p>Cultural venues including museums, galleries and public libraries are to benefit from up to £128 million of funding to help improve accessibility to the arts and safeguard their futures. Organisations are now being encouraged to submit expressions of interest to receive support.</p> <p>The Cultural Investment Fund covers the following three streams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A £30.8 million Cultural Development Fund 	Arts and Culture

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A £20.5 million Libraries Improvement Fund • A £60.3 million Museum Estate and Development Fund (MEND) 	
9 th May 2022	<p>Ministry of Defence - More than £2 billion to boost UK submarine programme</p> <p>Defence contracts worth more than £2 billion have been awarded to BAE Systems and Rolls-Royce to begin the third major phase of the future submarine nuclear deterrent programme – Dreadnought.</p>	Military equipment, logistics and technology
30 th April 2022	<p>Department for Transport - New trial to banish loud engines and exhausts on Britain’s noisiest streets</p>	Road Traffic
25 th April 2022	<p>Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - Digital waste tracking service</p>	Waste Management
13 th April 2022	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities - UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) launched with £2.6 billion in funding</p> <p>Communities across the United Kingdom will benefit from £2.6 billion of funding to help spread opportunity and level up the country. The funding replaces previous EU funding from the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund. The fund also includes a new £559 million adult numeracy programme for the UK, Multiply, which is an early priority for the UKSPF. The UKSPF prospectus can be found here.</p>	UK Economic Growth
13 th April 2022	<p>Department for Education - Multiplying maths skills for adults</p>	Adult and Community Learning
13 th April 2022	<p>Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - Fisheries and Seafood Scheme Re-Launches</p>	Marine
13 th April 2022	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities - Agreement with major developers to fund building safety repairs</p>	Fire prevention and rescue
11 th April 2022	<p>Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - Government announces new measures on fly-tipping</p>	Waste management
11 th April 2022	<p>Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs - household waste recycling centres: DIY waste disposal charges and booking systems</p>	Waste and Recycling
11 th April 2022	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities - Technical consultation on street naming</p>	Local Government

8th April 2022	<p>Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy - Government unveils investment for energy technologies of the future</p> <p>The government has launched a wide-ranging £375 million package of support for innovative energy technologies that will power British homes and businesses for decades to come and further strengthen the nation's energy security.</p> <p>This includes £240 million to support the production of hydrogen as a clean, low-cost energy technology, £2.5 million of funding to develop next-generation nuclear technology and a further £5 million towards research into carbon capture.</p>	Energy Infrastructure
7th April 2022	<p>Cabinet Office - National Underground Asset Register public consultation launched</p>	N/A
4th April 2022	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy Local Enterprise Partnerships: Integration guidance</p> <p>A joint letter from the Minister for Levelling Up, The Union and Constitution and the Minister for Small Business, Consumers and Labour Markets has been issued to LEP chairs and Chief Executives, Combined Authority Mayors and Local Authority Chief Executives and Leaders. This letter provides further guidance on the process for integrating the functions and role of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) into local democratic institutions, following the policy announcement made in the Levelling Up White Paper.</p>	Local Enterprise Partnerships and Enterprise Zones
1st April 2022	<p>Department for Transport - Government protects vital Dawlish coastal rail route with a further £32 million</p>	Local Transport Funding
30th March 2022	<p>Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy - Extra protections for seafarers as government introduces new maritime laws</p>	Careers in Transport
29th March 2022	<p>Department for Transport - £2.5 million package announced to help disabled people travel more confidently</p>	Help on Public Transport
25th March 2022	<p>Department for Transport - Tenfold expansion in chargepoints by 2030 as government drives EV revolution</p>	Low emissions and electric vehicles
24th March 2022	<p>HM Revenues and Customs - HMRC calls on businesses to get ready to move to customs IT platform over the summer</p>	Brexit
24th March 2022	<p>Department for Levelling Up, Homes and Communities - Over 500 new life-enhancing Changing Places toilets to be built across England (New)</p>	Disabled People

	The Chancellor confirmed in his Spring Statement over £23.5 million has been allocated to 191 councils across England to install life-enhancing Changing Places toilets in public places and tourist attractions, dramatically increasing accessibility in areas where users want them most. Plymouth City Council has been allocated £80k for 2 proposed toilets.	
10 th March 2022	Ministry of Defence - New Shipbuilding vision launched	Defence and armed forces
10 th March 2022	Department for Transport - Bikeability receives £20 million government investment to improve access to cycle training	Cycling and Walking

Relevant legislation introduced in this parliamentary session

[Queen's Speech 2022](#)

The Queen's Speech, marking the State Opening of Parliament, announced.

The [Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill](#) has already been introduced to Parliament. Further information can be found [here](#). The Bill is wide ranging and includes provisions to establish a new form of Combined Authority to oversee County Devolution Deals, as well as setting out significant planning reforms. The reforms include giving more weight to Local Plans, giving more say to local residents on planning applications through 'street votes', introducing a new infrastructure levy system, making changes to compulsory purchase powers, and setting out proposals for land auctions.

Procurement Bill

- Enshrining in law the objectives of public procurement including: delivering value for money, maximising public benefit, treating suppliers equally and without discrimination, and acting, and being seen to act, with integrity.
- Requiring buyers to have regard to the Government's strategic priorities for public procurement as set out in the National Procurement Policy Statement.
- Introducing arrangements for how contracting authorities can buy at pace if necessary to protect life or health, public order or safety.
- Introducing new exclusion rules and giving buyers the tools they need to properly take account of a bidder's past performance.
- Reforming the Single Source Contract Regulations to ensure the Government continue to pay fair prices on single source defence contracts while providing value for money.

Brexit Freedoms Bill

- Creating new powers to strengthen the ability to amend, repeal or replace the large amounts of retained EU law by reducing the need to always use primary legislation to do so.
- Removing the supremacy of retained EU law as it still applies in the UK.
- Clarifying the status of retained EU law in UK domestic law.

Energy Security Bill

- Introducing business models for Carbon Capture Usage and Storage transport and storage, low carbon hydrogen and industrial carbon capture.
- Appointing Ofgem as the new regulator for heat networks.
- Extending the energy price cap.

- Establishing a new Future System Operator, providing strategic oversight across electricity and gas systems.
- Facilitating the safe, and cost-effective clean-up of the UK's legacy nuclear sites, ensuring the UK is a responsible nuclear state.

Transport Bill

- Transferring contracting powers for passenger services to Great British Railways.
- Introduce new laws that safely enable self-driving and remotely operated vehicles and vessels and support the roll-out of electric vehicle charge points.

UK Infrastructure Bank Bill

- Establishing the bank in law with clear objectives to support regional and local economic growth and deliver net zero.
- Providing the Bank with the necessary powers to lend directly to local authorities and the Northern Ireland Executive, enabling the Bank to play a key role in delivering public sector infrastructure projects.

Government Bills from the last Parliament which have now received Royal Assent

- National Insurance Contributions Act 2022 – RA 14th March
A Bill to make provision in relation to national insurance contributions.

- Professional Qualifications Act 2022- RA 28th April

The Professional Qualifications Bill creates a new framework for the recognition of professional qualifications and experience gained overseas and takes steps to reform regulators' practices. It will revoke and replace the interim system for professional qualifications that derives from the UK's membership of the EU.

- Subsidy Control Act 2022- RA 28th April

A Bill to make provision regulating the giving of subsidies out of public resources; and for connected purposes.

This page is intentionally left blank

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	22 June 2022
Title of Report:	Shared Prosperity Fund
Lead Member:	Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Amanda Ratsey
Contact Email:	Amanda.ratsey@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

The report will provide an update about the latest economic data and trends regarding Plymouth and what this means for the city and its ambitions as laid out in the Plymouth Plan.

Recommendations and Reasons

I. That committee notes the report and provides their view.

Alternative options considered and rejected

No decision required

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

This briefing will provide an update on UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which has been recently launched by Government, and the process of developing an Investment Plan for the fund. While the paper has no direct implication, the funded project that will eventually come out of the UK Shared Prosperity Plan will be relevant for all chapters of the Plymouth Plan, particularly: Healthy City, Growing City and International City.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

While the paper itself does not have any direct financial implications, Plymouth City Council will need to provide some dedicated resources to manage and oversee the fund. UKSPF offers a 4% top slice to cover management costs of the fund. We will maintain robust programme management protocols through regular monitoring and review to ensure that the projects are delivered within the grant terms and conditions. Remedial action will be taken where necessary.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

No direct implications. Carbon Footprint will be considered as part of the selection process for projects and priorities.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.

No other implications

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Shared Prosperity Fund							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

Fin	pl.22. 23.24	Leg	MS/I 5.06.2 2	Mon Off		HR		Asset s		Strat Proc	
Originating Senior Leadership Team member: David Draffan (Service Director for Economic Development)											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes											
Date agreed: 15/06/2022											

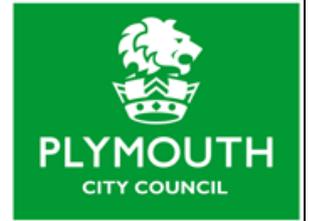
Cabinet Member approval: Councillor Mark Shayer (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance and Economy)

Date approved: 16/06/2022

This page is intentionally left blank

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Plymouth



I. Background

Overview:

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the fund) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. The UK Government has introduced the UKSPF as a replacement for previous European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF). It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment from April 2022 to March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. The design of the UKSPF was influenced by the Community Renewal Fund (CRF), which acted as a pilot for UKSPF and where Lead Authorities were asked by government to run competitive bidding processes and programme manage the successful bids. Plymouth received £1.17m to fund projects. Government has stated repeatedly that the CRF process has been an opportunity to learn from and has informed the approach to UKSPF. It is noteworthy, that CRF is still being delivered at this moment and will continue until December 2022.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund has three investment priorities: **community and place**, supporting **local businesses** and **people and skills**; all overarched by one objective, **building pride in place** and **increasing life chances**.

Communities and Place:

The objectives of this priority are to strengthen the social fabric and foster a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and access to amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space and community-led projects.

To build resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built and natural environment as well as innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Local Businesses:

The objectives of this priority are to create jobs and boost community cohesion through investments that build on existing industries and institutions and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.

To promote networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring partners and businesses together to share knowledge, expertise, resources and stimulate innovation and growth.

To increase private sector investment in growth enhancing activities through targeted support to small and medium-sized businesses. Creating new-to-firm innovation, adopting productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow exports.

People and Skills:

The objectives of this priority are to boost core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low level qualifications and skills. To upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers.

To reduce levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the joined-up mainstream provision and local services within an area, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.

Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.

Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work and supplement local adult skills provision.

2. UK Shared Prosperity Fund - details and allocation

Government has decided that UKSPF will be distributed through Lead Authorities. Where they exist, Combined Authorities have been designated as Lead Authorities, and otherwise Unitary Authorities and Districts. A full list of places who have been designated as Lead Authorities is available online. Plymouth City Council has been designated as a Lead Authority.

Lead local authorities are responsible for developing an investment plan, which needs to cover how the money will be spend and what outputs will be delivered, of which the deadline for this to be submitted is 01 August 2022. Plymouth has received its conditional allocation for both Core UKSPF funding and the separate Multiply, adult numeracy programme, funding. This is the total funding for the three-year programme up until March 2025:

Core UKSPF = £3,131,412

Multiply = £1,317,533

Total = £4,448,945

Provisional guidance has been given for the capital and revenue split of the funding, this can be seen in the below table. It is worth considering that the capital percentages are a required minimum.

The funding has also been specified to be back-loaded, with the largest allocation in the final year, 2024/25. This is likely due in part to the fact that spend on the 'People and Skills' investment priority is reserved until the final year, 2024/25.

Yearly Allocation	22-23	23-24	24-25	Total
Plymouth	£380,026	£760,051	£1,991,335	£3,131,412

Core UKSPF: revenue %	90	87	80	
Core UKSPF: capital %	10	13	20	
Portion of allocation which is Capital	£38,003	£98,807	£398,267	£535,077
Portion of allocation which is Revenue	£342,023	£661,244	£1,593,068	£2,596,335

Each Lead Authority will be responsible for overseeing and managing the delivery of UKSPF. This will include the full spectrum of programme management functions such as assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring and contract management including claw back where necessary. They will have to report regularly to Government on progress.

Lead local authorities can determine, with partners, the most appropriate scale for each intervention – for example, regional, local or through collaboration with other places or bodies to deliver specific interventions. This can include working with places in different parts of the UK. This should consider value for money, effectiveness and current arrangements. Government is particularly encouraging regional cooperation with regards to business support and skills.

Lead local authorities for each area will have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund. They may wish to use a mix of competitions for grant funding, procurement, commissioning or deliver some activity through in-house teams. For example, some community level interventions may require a commissioning or in-house approach, recognising that competitions for grant may create barriers to participation in left behind communities.

While UKSPF has been announced as a replacement for European Structural Funding (ERDF and ESF), the amount of funding that Plymouth received is less than previously received from European sources. In addition, when reviewing the wider South West region of England, Plymouth's allocation is substantially lower than its neighbours, even when considering the variation in population. This poses a potential risk and challenge for Plymouth. This is very noticeable when drawing a comparison to the far higher allocation seen in Cornwall, their UKSPF Core funding allocation is approximately £225 per capita versus Plymouth with only approximately £12 per capita.

For Plymouth, this poses a significant challenge in retaining and improving the business stock and number of start-ups in the city. Businesses may choose not to base themselves within Plymouth as there is a more significant allocation in Cornwall. The higher allocation in these neighbouring areas may provide additional opportunities for these organisations to source funding or, due to the higher level of funding, may allow these neighbouring areas to provide additional programmes of support for business or community.

Given this, it is evident that the allocation Plymouth has received is not significant enough to fund all the opportunities or challenges of the area. We expect significantly more demand than what the Fund allocation will be able to support.

Timeline:

The UKSPF was officially launched on 13th April 2022 and additional guidance was released later that month. Further guidance is expected to be released by beginning of July. In addition, Government is conducting a series of webinars, which is still ongoing. The investment plans are due for submission to UK Government by the 1st August 2022.

All indicative investment plans will then be assessed and the first wave of approved plans should be expected from October 2022 onwards. The approval of the plans will accompany the first payments made from UK Government to the local authorities as indicated in the table below in section 5. Funding and delivery will then continue until March 2025 when the fund concludes.

Multiply:

Multiply, the adult numeracy programme, has separate ring-fenced funding from Core UKSPF. While this programme should align with UKSPF, the development is being led by a different Government department and it also has separate deadlines. The deadline for submitting the investment plan for Multiply is 30th June 2022. The work on this is being led by the Skills team and an executive decision has been prepared for this plan.

Partnership approach and engaging with local stakeholders:

Lead local authorities have been tasked with working with a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders; these can include business representative groups, employer bodies, businesses and civil society organisations amongst others.

These local partners should support lead local authorities in developing their investment plan and provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability.

Plymouth Growth Board is an existing public-private sector partnership that has membership from a diverse range of local stakeholders. The group provides membership which covers almost all of the listed potential stakeholders so is well positioned to meet the engagement needs of this fund.

At the last meeting, the Growth Board agreed in principle to act as the key partnership group and so will provide an ongoing support function for our development of our investment plan and provide advice to us on strategic fit and deliverability.

To ensure we follow an open process in our development of the UKSPF investment plan, we are providing continued, publically available engagement and information sessions. These provide a platform to both keep our local stakeholders informed of the process and for these individuals and organisations to provide feedback to us on what they consider to be the most vital interventions.

In addition to these engagement webinars, we have created a webpage on the PCC site which provides basic (<https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/investmentandgrowth/uksharedprosperityfund>).

UKSPF expression of interest forms were shared in early June to stakeholders across the city, these provide an opportunity for projects/programmes/organisations to summarise relevant work and the interventions they would be looking to fund. These forms will also provide an idea of costings for each projects and when delivery could take place. Our next publically available engagement webinar is being hosted on 22 June and will allow us to receive stakeholder feedback which will inform the development of the investment plan.

3. Timeline

When	Activity
02 February 2022	Pre-launch guidance
11 March	Plymouth City Council Devolution and UKSPF webinar briefing for stakeholders
13 April 2022	Fund launch
April – May 2022	Engagement sessions with local authorities and other local partners to support the investment plan process
April –June/July 2022	Lead local authorities work with stakeholders to develop local investment plans
	Investment plan portal logins issued.

22 June 2022	Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee
22 June 2022	Plymouth City Council UKSPF Webinar Stakeholder engagement
30 June 2022	Investment plan window opens
Early July 2022	Further guidance published including guidance on monitoring benefits and evaluation, assurance, subsidy control, branding and publicity. Application processes and templates for Northern Ireland will be published – these may be used by lead local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales where desired.
07 July 2022	Cabinet meeting
12 July 2022	Growth Board meeting
01 August 2022	Investment plan submission window closes
July-September 2022	Indicative investment plan assessment period for UK government
October 2022 onwards	Anticipated date for first investment plans to be approved
October 2022 onwards	Anticipated first payment to be made to lead local authorities
March 2025	Three year funding period ends

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the committee notes the report and provides their view.

This page is intentionally left blank