

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Investment Plan

for

Burnley Borough Council

Version 2
May 2022

The full prospectus including details of the Interventions together with their outputs and outcomes is available via this link:-

[UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/108222/UK_Shared_Prosperty_Fund_prospectus_-_GOV.UK.pdf)

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

Population and Demographics

Burnley is the 11th most deprived district in England and 38.3% of the authority's Lower Super Output areas are in the 10% most deprived in England.

Health Deprivation is prevalent in many communities. Life expectancy is below average at 75.7 compared to 79.4 in England. Public Health England estimate that the borough has a diabetes rate of 83.9 compared to an England average of 78 per 100k. Physical activity rate in over 18's is below average at 62.1% and the % of adults that are overweight or obese is 73.4% compared to 63.5% in England. Lancashire County Council's Child Health Profiles (2017) shows that there are a high proportion of children living in poverty, a higher-than-average number of reception children that are carrying excess weight and high road traffic accidents for children aged 0-19, together with low educational attainment and high levels of unplanned hospitalization for asthma, diabetes, and epilepsy.

Place

The Borough has two main town centres – Burnley and Padiham. Burnley is a significant centre serving a population beyond the immediate borough with a good range of shops, leisure facilities, offices /Workplaces, public services and FE and HE institutions. Burnley Town Centre has benefitted from major investment in its public realm and transport infrastructure and is currently being further transformed with a £20m Cinema and Leisure extension. Some of the secondary shopping areas are showing signs of decline and this is being addressed in part through the Heritage Action Zone. Footfall has remained high throughout the COVID pandemic, and the town continues to enjoy high levels of footfall and spend. There is an active Business Improvement District implementing a programme of activities. The Council has a Town Centre master plan and a number of projects identified for delivery, but they are beyond the scope of the UK SPF. Three projects – the University Campus, Town to Turf access improvements and Burnley Manchester Road Rail station access are being addressed through a successful Levelling Up Fund Program.

Outside of the main town centre's there are a number of very deprived inner urban areas that have benefitted from regeneration and investment in new housing as a result of the previous Housing Market Renewal Program. However, these areas still suffer from an oversupply of poor quality, thermally inefficient terraced housing, high levels of vacancy, a growing number of houses in multiple occupation, together with an under-investment in public realm, green space and public amenities. Burnley ranks 16th worst out of 317 district councils for Living Environment in 2019 deprivation indices. These are all issues that can be addressed through UK SPF but for which there is insufficient funding to address the scale of the challenges in these neighbourhoods.

The borough is well served by parks and open spaces with high levels of user satisfaction, although a parks and green spaces survey has indicated that the provision for children and young people is insufficient. The Council's Play Strategy has identified 17 play facilities requiring improvements for an un-met demand for pump tracks and the need to update and replace wheeled sports facilities. The borough also benefits from relatively good playing pitch provision with the recent investment in 5g pitches significantly increasing capacity. But other facilities, notably tennis and athletics, where there are not large amounts of funding available nationally are in relatively poor condition and under-utilised by the community.

Community Capacity

Burnley has a vibrant and ever-increasing number of third sector organisation. The community, voluntary and faith sector has seen an increase in people coming together to deliver volunteer and support services in their local community. The Local Council for Voluntary services supported over 500 organisations including 36 start-ups in 20/21.

The sector in Burnley is fully integrated into partnership delivery. Examples including social prescribing services, community transport, community integration and cohesion services, advisory services, a huge range of commissioned and non-commissioned leisure activity, and provision of low/no cost food and other supplies. Increasing the sector's capacity is important for the sustainability of public services. The sector can engage with some of our most vulnerable residents more effectively than statutory organisations. In addition to the person-centred culture in many VCFS organisations which helps to build trust, many VCFS organisations are located in communities of need making access to their services easy. However, the sector faces a number of challenges. Many organisations are dependent on older volunteers who in time will be unable to continue supporting the sector and there is a need to attract young people and people of working age. Community-owned buildings run on shoe-string budgets and often in need of physical investment. Day to day expenses have soared due to rising energy costs. This might result in reduced access times to services provided from those buildings. The borough has a new and emerging community of refugees and Asylum seekers whose needs are very different to those of the long-established communities and there is a need to build up social capital to help these new communities integrate.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY THAT YOU INTEND TO SUPPORT?

(If yes) Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

The Borough benefits from a vibrant and active third sector, ranging from local community groups, friends of parks, arts, and heritage organisations as well as faith groups, parish, and town councils. These organisations are best placed to deliver a lot of the activity under the communities and place strand. These organisations are passionate and invested in the area, they understand what is needed and how/why it will work. Burnley Pendle and Rossendale CVS (Council for Voluntary Sector) has a long track record in supporting community and voluntary organisations. Over many years they have managed and facilitated grants programmes, currently these include a small grant programme on behalf of East Lancs Clinical commissioning group; Eric Wright Construction, Cliviger wind farm and the Lottery Fund - Gannow Big Local fund. The CVS is ideally placed to have a reach into the community and provide a platform for community and third sector organisations to access UKSPF . As well as enabling access to grants they provide support and guidance from the beginning of the process right through to conclusion and reporting. The CVS will also assist groups to access other funding from the Arts Council, Lottery etc ensuring that the UKSPF funding leverages even greater investment in the town.

Play is fundamental to the development of our young children as it contributes to their cognitive, physical, social, and emotional wellbeing. Outdoor play in parks and green spaces is an important part of children's play experience and provides an ideal opportunity for families to play together and for children to interact with others. It encourages mental and physical health and helps to tackle childhood obesity (a major challenge) and encourages community cohesion. The Strategy also identifies a demand for "wheeled sports facilities," that is purpose-built facilities for skateboards, BMX bikes, mini-scooters, and roller blades. The introduction of BMX and Skateboarding to the Olympics has boosted participation, it provides opportunities for young people, particularly those who do not engage with other sports to be active and provides a safe "off road" environment for wheeled sports. A number of schemes are identified the main one being a Town Centre Skatepark. Investment in parks and play facilities will contribute to a number of intervention areas as well as addressing some of the childhood health issues identified.

The Burnley Town Centre and Canalside Masterplan identifies a range of projects to enhance the town centre. A number of large projects with a combined value of over £40m are already funded and underway. A key project is the development of a Youth Zone in the town centre. A Youth Zone is a purpose-built facility providing open access youth services to all young people (aged 8-19 – up to 25 with a disability) from across the borough regardless of socio-economic background, ethnicity,

or culture. Additional specialist support services will be available for young people facing challenges or personal struggles to succeed. The Youth Zone will have state of the art facilities including a sports hall, climbing wall, boxing gym, fitness suite, 3G pitch, sensory room, arts, crafts, dance & music rooms with an estimated capital investment of £8 - 9 million.

Padiham has recently benefitted from circa £5m of investment in public realm, highways improvements and historic building renovations and is transforming into a thriving independent retail hub, although there are still several eyesore buildings that could benefit from further intervention. The Environment Agency are currently implementing a significant flood defence scheme. There is a large piece of Brownfield Land circa 5 ha that cannot be protected from flooding and redeveloped as previously planned. This provides an opportunity to create a large area of green/blue infrastructure and informal open space which will also deliver benefits as a result of carbon sequestration, property value uplift and volunteering opportunities.

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

(If yes) Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

The local economy faces a number of challenges that have been exacerbated by the recent COVID pandemic. A study of Pennine Lancashire by Hatch Regeneris noted:

- Lower number of active enterprises per had of 100 population at 3.2, compared with 4.1/100 in North West and 4.4/100 in GB
- Good and increasing business start-up rates but poor business survival with only 58.3% of new businesses surviving to 3 years compared to 61.3% nationally. Relatively low levels of GVA. GVA/job in 2019 stood at £48,981 in East Lancashire (Burnley data not available) compared with £51,072 in the NW and £56,669 nationally.

During 2020 the Council worked with a wide range of public, private and third sector partners to develop an Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy setting out how the borough would work to recover from the immediate impacts of the pandemic, respond to Brexit and address some of the underlying economic challenges. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Burnley had benefitted from a decade of employment growth and investment, despite economic forecasts predicting further decline and job losses due to the borough's over-dependence on manufacturing. This has not been the case and manufacturing jobs have in fact grown over the last decade.

The impacts of the pandemic on the borough were immediate, with a significant number of redundancies announced during Quarter 2 of 2020, notably in the aerospace, automotive and manufacturing sectors. Over the year 2020/21 the number of employee jobs fell by approximately 1000 (ONS), with many jobs protected by the furlough scheme.

GVA also fell during this period by 0.58%, following a decade of positive growth. That said this is a relatively small reduction in GVA compared to a national figure of approximately -3.5%. Despite this recent performance, GVA in the borough remains comparatively low and a major challenge. Burnley has a number of economic assets but has long experienced a productivity gap when compared to the rest of the UK and despite improved economic performance over the years, the gap continues to widen.

The recent events in Ukraine and the subsequent impact on fuel prices and commodity supplies will continue to challenge businesses particularly in the manufacturing, transport and food and hospitality sectors which account for 27% of all employee jobs in the borough.

The Burnley Economic Recovery and Growth strategy identifies that over the medium to longer term, raising productivity (GVA per worker), increasing the number of people with higher level skills, raising wage levels, diversifying the businesses base and mix of employment available to residents, and increasing business investment in innovation, research and development, increasing exports and internationalisation are necessary to close the productivity gap.

To achieve this will require an increased concentration of knowledge-based business in a broader range of sectors including, low carbon, Medi-Tech, creative, digital, design and high technology; all underpinned by the borough's inherent strengths and assets in the precision engineering and manufacturing.

Skills remain a key weakness of the local economy with a disproportionate number of people with "no qualifications" and too few people with higher levels skills, including level 4+. As businesses look to implement automation and digitisation processes to become more productive the demand for higher skills will continue to rise.

With the cessation of European funding, the dismantling of the Lancashire wide Business Support offer poses a major challenge. Lancashire benefits from a strong business support infrastructure with BOOST Lancashire providing a gateway and generic business support offer for start-ups and growing companies. The Lancashire Innovation Board brings together Lancashire's HEI's including UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire), Lancaster University, Edge Hill and the AMRCNW, to deliver a strategic and joined up innovation offer to businesses. This infrastructure is currently under threat and dependent on support from 14 separate local authorities and overall, a much-reduced budget than was previously available through ESIF.

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

Despite the challenges there are opportunities. The number of employee jobs in Burnley grew by approximately 7% over the decade to 2020. Initial indicators showed that the borough rode the worst of the pandemic. The borough's share of high growth businesses has grown to 4.48% compared with 4.34 GB, and 4.19 across Lancashire.

Local companies are well-placed to adapt to low carbon and clean energy opportunities. The trend for digitisation and automation in engineering and manufacturing presents opportunities for higher value activity and skilled roles. However, to achieve this there is a need to increase the capability and capacity in the borough's economic infrastructure with a focus on skills, innovation, productivity, and investment. The ability of companies to secure and increase investment for diversification into new markets, including international, and introduce automation and digitisation processes will present opportunities for growth and resilience to economic shocks.

Lancashire has in place a strong business support infrastructure. BOOST Lancashire provides a generic business support offer with a single point of contact. Uptake of the service from Burnley businesses has been good. Over the period Jan 2019 – Dec 21 the service has dealt with 308 enquiries, supported 60 start-ups, engaged 48 businesses in mentoring and provided bespoke in-depth support to 26 businesses.) There is an opportunity with SPF to further simplify the offer making it more adaptable and accessible for a wider range of businesses than was permitted under ESIF rules.

Reducing carbon footprint is a high priority for businesses particularly with the recent and sudden increase in fuel costs. There are already a number of existing ESIF funded programmes assisting businesses to reduce their carbon footprint including East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, the Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre North West and UCLAN. However, feedback from businesses suggests that the offer is confusing and sometimes overlapping. The three organisations have come together with a comprehensive and joined up package of support to assist businesses to implement plans to work toward net zero. As well as delivering environmental benefits there are significant productivity gains to be made through this activity.

The expansion of the UCLAN campus represents a major growth opportunity and will boost the economic prospects of the borough and wider Pennine Lancashire. Indeed, for many years it has been acknowledged that the lack of an anchor institution has hindered economic growth in the area, and therefore the establishment of a Higher Education Anchor Institution that can support both higher level skills development, business innovation, and technology transfer should be a key ask made collectively by local partners of Government. A successful Round 1 LUF (Levelling Up Fund) bid will see a £14m investment in the campus, with the redevelopment of Newtown Mill which will incorporate a Business Interaction Zone for the delivery of business engagement and

business support with the University. UCLAN has joined together with other HEI's in the County to offer a joined-up business support offer. The current suite of ESIF projects delivered by the Lancashire HEI's and other partners are due to end in June 2023. These cover activities and sectors such as health, low carbon, manufacturing, leadership/management, start-up and scale-up, SME (Small to Medium sized Enterprise) (Small to Medium sized Enterprise) placements and digital/cyber security.

The successful elements of these projects have been brought together in the proposed Innovation programme, utilising the complementary expertise across the partnership. This will make the overall proposition from partners clearer for businesses and referral agents, avoiding duplication or competition for outputs and deliver value for money. Elements of the programme have been already tested as part of two successful Community Renewal Fund (CRF) projects delivered in Blackpool and wider Lancashire. These are due to end in September 2022.

UKSPF represents the only opportunity currently to continue to deliver and refine innovation activities previously funded by ESIF to support the business base by providing access to facilities and expertise, help to deliver new products processes and services and expose the student and graduate talent to local organisations to support their projects and long-term retention of skills. Through current and previous ESIF programmes, the universities have undertaken 235 company engagements in Burnley and generated a ROI of between £10 and £28 for every £1 of funding, so these impacts and staff could be lost in addition to the ability to create and sustain high value jobs and retain talent. Current delivery is at risk as ESIF funding comes to an end, at a time when there is a great need for business to innovate and adopt to new processes and products.

Burnley has a very strong manufacturing sector. Despite the decline of manufacturing nationally the sector here is broad and adaptable with a large number of SME's. GM Business Support currently deliver a Manufacturing Advice Service across Greater Manchester and Lancashire. The service is well used in the Burnley area. To date 40 businesses have been engaged with 11 resulting in supported grant projects with a total match of £145k. There are other additional impacts such as R&D activity increased, productivity impacts. E.g.: 2 company interventions resulted in them committing to long term sponsored PhD and Masters Engineering projects as a direct result of the work undertaken. And a further one resulted in a 20% improvement in operational Productivity. GM Business Support has identified Burnley, together with a number of other boroughs within Lancashire with a strong SME manufacturing centre, for a focussed programme funded by SPF following the cessation of ESIF funding in December 2023.

It is proposed to fund a comprehensive package of business support, set out later in this application, that seeks to address the challenges and opportunities set out above.

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

Unemployment in Burnley (6.6%) is above both the Lancashire and national average (4.4%). It is particularly high amongst women, the Pakistani/Bangladeshi population, young people (16-24) the over 50's and those with complex, physical or mental health issues as well as those with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic abuse.

Economic activity rates, those that are neither in employment nor unemployed, in Burnley are consistently above the Lancashire and national average. Burnley also has a much higher proportion of people who do not want a job, that is people who are neither in employment nor unemployed and do not want a job, with 92% of Burnley's economically inactive falling into this category against 81.4% nationally. That leaves 8% of Burnley's economically inactive population who are not in employment but want a job but are not classed as unemployed because they have either not sought work in the last 4 weeks or are not available to start work.

According to statistics from the Burnley Job Centre's Economic Update in May 22, there are 1,823, 18 – 24-year-olds in Burnley that are currently claiming Universal Credit with 609 of these actively searching for work. There are 11,609 people aged 25+ that are claiming Universal Credit with 2,602 of those actively searching for work.

21% of Burnley's workforce have no qualifications, compared to just 7.5% for the North west and 6.6% nationally, with demand for candidates with no qualifications forecast to drop between 2018 and 2028, this presents a very real problem for Burnley's economy.

The employability market in Burnley has a value of at least £2,367,234 up to December 2023 (circa £131,513 per month) which includes both DWP (Department for Work and Pensions) and non DWP supported individuals. At least 28 people are employed to work on these programmes.

In addition to the SPF funding made available, individuals that are engaged with DWP work programme activities in pursuit of finding employment will be funded under their programmes – this broadly relates to those individuals considered to be “work ready”.

It is clear that funding via SPF should not support the above individuals but is to support those that are the most disadvantaged through the community and voluntary sector and our focus will be on those determined as economically inactive, facing greatest disadvantage, and not receiving support from the DWP. We anticipate 85% will fall into this category, with the remaining 15% also classed as economically inactive but may have some form of support, albeit not employment or work programmes related support from the DWP.

There are currently 742 vacancies in Burnley as at the end of May 2022, and although the market for jobs is quite buoyant the number of unemployed people remains quite high at 6.6%, although this is reducing since the height of the pandemic. Apprenticeship numbers in Burnley have reduced by 40.5% from 2019 to 2021 and engagement with apprenticeships from the BAME community fell. Additional challenges include candidates with a lack of experience and/or skills for jobs and there is still a number of people dis-engaged around gaining work, maybe still nervous from Covid, or lacking in confidence having not been in work for a while. Burnley has also seen a rise in the number of people not being retained in the workplace, including feedback from some of Burnley's largest employers that new employees are not lasting more than a few weeks into a new job. The local job centre has also reported claimants to be dis-engaged in the marketplace and have brought in new ways to engage such as bringing employers into the job centre to meet potential candidates.

Challenges include: -

- Some of the current ESF (European Social Fund) projects finish from Dec 2022 – leaving a gap in provision
- Retaining the skills of staff delivering these projects so that their experience and knowledge is not lost
- Restriction on funding will mean partners having to consider their operating models and efficiencies
- Exclusion of groups within the community who miss out because they are not in a target group
- Disconnect between employers and those looking for work
- Current crowded market for employability support– difficult for people to navigate and hard to understand best support for them
- Difficult to evaluate local outcomes and impact – information is not readily available
- Fall in apprenticeship numbers from 2019 – 2021 of 40.5% one of the highest boroughs in Lancashire (5.5% reduction in BAME apprentices)
- Rising number of vacancies – May 22 Burnley had 742 vacancies – Average of 4.23 people per vacancy
- High number of employees with no qualifications compared to regional/national figures

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

Organisations that will be involved in a local collaboration care about working with Burnley Council to maximise the outcomes of the shared prosperity fund and thus forms a partnership in its truest sense enabling locally commissioned and locally managed projects that will be more responsive to the emerging and changing needs of our communities. These organisations

include the local Community & Voluntary Service, Princes Trust, and other smaller charitable, voluntary and third sector organisations such as New Era Enterprises and Lancashire Women. Burnley College and the University of Central Lancashire are also part of the partnership and compliment the economically inactive support with the support available to raise the level of skills/qualifications of individuals both in and out of work, via European funded projects, Adult Education Budget and so on.

Burnley has an existing Employment & Skills Group which is an open partnership and is engaged with providers of current ESF projects – those that are at risk once European funds come to an end. The group is also engaged with the Youth Hub and works in partnership with the DWP and others in the partnership to provide support to young people in the borough.

The work of the Employment & Skills group is to identify and fill gaps of provision in the borough whilst working with partners to reach out into the community to work with those that are the most dis-engaged over a longer-term personalised programme of support.

During the pandemic the Burnley Together Partnership was formed to initially support those in crisis, during our recovery stage more and more people in the community are now opening to other forms of wider wrap around support, including health & wellbeing, active lifestyles, financial support, mental health support and so on with the aim being to gradually move them into education/employment, at a time that is right for them, although this has created more demand on local support services that may not exist post European funding.

UKSPF will allow for this work to continue to grow and build upon the foundations that have been laid and to continue to develop, on a local level, the services and support tailored to local needs. The risk is without the continuation and ability to build on this work we will experience not only a lack of provision but also lose valuable people with skills, knowledge, and experience of working with these groups. Locally managed projects will also allow for a better evaluation process and collection of data/information to continue to allow programmes to meet the needs of the local community.

Burnley has a wide spectrum of vibrant business sectors offering employment opportunities in a range of industries. Burnley also has a reputation as a regional centre of excellence for the manufacturing and aerospace industries. Businesses in Burnley are committed to the town as demonstrated by the unique Burnley Bondholder network which provides a base for us to work to close the gap between job opportunities and those seeking work, whilst also using these employers to engage with local Schools & Colleges to help raise aspirations and awareness of the local jobs market. When comparing vacancy rates Burnley's year to date shows 4,098 jobs compared to last year to May 2021 when there were 2,792. In comparing this to the neighbouring borough of Pendle their respective figures were 1,360 year to date with 1,055 in the year previous to May 2021. The number of vacancies in Burnley show that the opportunities do exist to work locally and the top 3 sectors with the most vacancies are wholesale/retail, healthcare, and manufacturing.

Opportunities include: -

Provision of a more tailored/bespoke employability support

1-2-1 caseworker support

Personalised additional wrap around support (including social prescribers)

Expertise of a local partnership of experience, skills & knowledge

Removal of confusion in the marketplace by having a one-stop-shop

Work with local employers to support their skills needs for current and future workforce's

Provide a pathway to Multiply

Introducing self-employment as an option for progression, alongside education/employment

Streamlined switch from ESF to SPF with no disruption to the client groups

Community outreach to engage with the most-dis-engaged

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you have 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	
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	X
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	X
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	X
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	
Increased number of web searches for a place	
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	
SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.	
Intervention	
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
E1	
E2	
E3	
E4	
E6	
E9	
E10	
E11	
E14	

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.

Community and Place Grant Scheme

In alignment with Burnley Council's priorities and strategies we are proposing to introduce a small grants program to support community groups and 3rd sector organisations to deliver a range of projects around improving place, accessibility, healthy lives, green spaces, arts & culture in line with chosen interventions. We will appoint Burnley Pendle & Rossendale CVS to act as our delivery partner and who are best placed within the community to have a real grass roots level of understanding of need across all areas of the community. BPRCVS are well established in Burnley and provides pathways to support residents, businesses, and organisations across the borough, including voluntary, community and faith type organisations. They have delivered many grant programmes and are a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. They currently deliver a small grant programme on behalf of the East Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group, Eric Wright Construction, Gannow Big Local and Cliviger Wind Farm. They are also currently working with the National Academy for Social Prescribing and working on programmes that support thriving communities. Further they work with Sport England, Natural England and the Arts Council and are able to provide additional support and services via these organisations. BPRCVS will be given the task of engaging with interested parties to receive applications for grants ranging from £5,000 to £20,000 that fit with and meet the outcomes/outputs for E1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 10, 11 & 14 which include arts & heritage, sports facilities and leagues, green spaces and projects to design out crime to name a few. This project will start from Year 2 – 2023/24 and run until March 2025, with break clauses built in as necessary for closure by this date.

Parks, Green Spaces and Sports facilities.

It is proposed to implement three projects that will enhance parks, green spaces, and sports facilities in the borough. These include:

Padiham Riverside Green Space Project – This project will see the former BAXI site be remediated to provide circa 5ha of informal green/blue infrastructure linked to a significant flood resilience scheme that is already underway. The area will include wildflower meadows, some tree planting where appropriate, and some wetland areas together with improvements to the very popular riverside walk and bridleway. The project will take place in Year 3 following the completion of flood defence works and meets intervention E3.

Barden Track - This local athletics track currently is underused within the community as it is in need of significant repairs and improvements. Some of the local schools and clubs do use the facility but it is limited and there are some difficulties in maintaining the site safely and providing access which has left some members of the community feeling excluded. Once some initial works have been undertaken the facility will be more accessible and will be used more frequently by more Schools & Clubs as well as community groups and new users, in particular there is a desire to make the track and facilities accessible to wheelchair users and those that do wheelchair cycling. Improvements needed include repairs to the track, spectator area changing rooms as well as some security improvements and additional floodlights together with better signage from the main road. A new electronic booking and gate system will also be introduced together with a community engagement/outreach plan within the immediate neighbourhood to improve community access. The scheme is subject to securing match funding. This will be Year 2 spend – 2023/24 and this piece of work meets intervention E10.

Play areas and Wheeled Sports Facilities – The Council's play strategy has identified that there are 17 play area facilities requiring improvements and an un-met demand for pump tracks and other wheeled sports facilities in need of updating and replacing. It is proposed to use UKSPF funding to implement a programme of improvements in year 1 and 2. The proposals fits with intervention E3 and E10

Investing in Town and Neighbourhood Shopping Centres

The development of a Youth Zone is identified as a key priority in the Burnley Town Centre Masterplan. SPF will be allocated under E14 to support a feasibility study and detailed design work for the project. Should a bid to the Youth Investment Fund be successful this will provide a great brand-new facility for Burnley and will very much be an open access facility with the latest state of the art facilities and specialist youth services embedded as part of the offer to young people aged 8 – 18. This will be Year 1 revenue spend 2022/23.

Lower St James' Street Heritage Action Zone Extension - In 2020 Burnley Council was successful in securing £1.2m from Historic England for a Heritage Action Zone in part of Burnley Town Centre known as Lower St James Street. The project aims to work with property owners to restore disused and underused properties with significant heritage value back into use as well as create a Creative Arts and Industries Hub. Build cost inflation is having a negative impact on the project and additional UKSPF funding will enable the scheme to deliver as planned, creating a vibrant cultural quarter linking the town centre with the new University Campus. The HAZ (Heritage Action Zone) extension will be delivered in Year 3 2024/25 and fits with interventions E1 and E6

Colne Road Neighbourhood Shopping Centre Enhancements - Colne Road is a main arterial route into Burnley and is also a neighbourhood shopping area for the Daneshouse and Queensgate Areas, both of which are some of the most deprived in the Country. The area has a vibrant and varied independent retail community but suffers from a poor environment and lacks identity. Car parking, speeding cars and poor pedestrian safety are also issues. It is proposed to work with the Colne Road Business Community to identify a range of environmental interventions to address the identified issues. Year 3 spend 2024/25 - E1 intervention

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

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS INVESTMENT PRIORITY. YOU CAN SELECT AS MANY AS YOU LIKE.

Intervention

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

E18

E19

E23

E28

E29

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.

BOOST Lancashire – this is a pan-Lancashire business support project in collaboration with at least 10 other local authorities, led by Lancashire County Council, with Growth Lancashire as the delivery partner. BOOST will provide a generic business support offer ensuring a universal service of enquiry brokerage and signposting, basic boot camps for new start-up businesses and mentoring for more established businesses. This service will provide additional bespoke support offered to high growth businesses including 121 coaching, Peer to Peer Board networks, accelerated growth workshops and access to online materials focussed on developing leadership teams, growing new markets, accessing finance, and improving productivity. Under UK SPF it is proposed to introduce a new element to the programme with each borough having a local “animator”, in Burnley he/she will be based within Burnley Council’s business team, to amplify and encourage more conversations around business support engaging with local businesses and support providers as appropriate. This project builds on 10 years of hard work to bring business support into a single conversation and one that simplifies the complex routes into support that all too often put off businesses from seeking help and will also remove some of the rigid eligibility conditions around previous ESF projects such as the “12 hour” support rule and will also include retail businesses, whom typically have been excluded from ESF projects. This project aligns with a number of interventions under this priority, particularly around strengthening local entrepreneurial eco-systems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development from start-up to growth as well as providing additional wrap around support as needed. This ultimately will impact on Burnley’s local economy and drive employment growth as well as providing advice, resource, training, coaching and mentorship in a format and timescale best suited to a business’s needs. Supports E23

Lancashire Innovation Program - A pan-Lancashire specific Innovation project which will streamline the knowledge, expertise and facilities of the three HEI’s in Lancashire – Lancaster University, UCLAN and Edge Hill University (listed below) with the Lancashire Enterprise Partnership (LEP) as the delivery partner provide in-depth specialist innovation support alongside scientists, placements, labs, facilities, and industry practitioners to support growth and productivity. This project collaborates with 3 Universities including UCLan, Lancaster and Edge Hill with delivery being predominantly within UCLan’s new facilities in Burnley, although there may be occasion where a business needs to go to the other Universities to access specific equipment. This project will create a single, easy to access, innovation programme into one knowledge exchange resource and will target key innovation missions designed to harness growth and technology support opportunities based on evidence from the Innovation Plan on key local capabilities aligned to growth opportunities. The subject areas include Cyber & Digital (the national cyber force has recently set up base in Lancashire), Energy, low carbon & sustainable technologies, future mobility and manufacturing and data driven innovation for scaling growth, productivity, and highly skilled employment. This project will be a first in offering a combined innovation package building on existing innovation eco-system and supporting increased investment in R&D, Made Smarter Adoption, decarbonisation, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development whilst providing opportunity to increase productivity, growth, and employment opportunities. Supports E18, E19, E23 &E29

International Trade - A project providing International Trade support for businesses in Burnley will operate as part of a pan-Lancashire collaboration to provide a central access point for businesses either trading internationally or wishing to trade internationally, helping them to realise their export potential and increase international sales by a package of consultancy, training, and events. This

project will also provide support and educate businesses after the transition out of the single market and assist in exploring global opportunities. An initial analysis of the business will be carried out and then a package of support put in place. This project will be delivered centrally by the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce based in Accrington as the delivery partner, with a local presence and activity taking place in Burnley as required for locally held events, 1-2-1's, workshops sessions and so on. Supports E23 & E28

Net zero & decarbonisation project - a pan-Lancashire collaboration will be delivered by East Lancashire Chamber and their Low Carbon Team in conjunction with UCLAN and the AMRC. This will provide a package of support to those firms with the highest carbon footprint, analysing environmental impact and will include initial analysis, baseline support, best practice support and in-depth decarbonisation planning and net zero future proofing covering interventions E18, E19, E23 & E29

Manufacturing Advice Service - This project, delivered by GM Business Support, will provide 1-2-1 support for all sectors of manufacturing in Burnley which would; align seamlessly with Made Smarter in identifying opportunities for digitalisation of IR4.0 tech to drive productivity, support net zero transition with opportunities in new emerging green growth markets, supporting productivity and competitiveness of manufacturing businesses through the identification of R&D opportunities for new markets and improving value adding activities leading to growth in jobs; manufacturing workshops for leaders around capacity, tools & techniques to drive change and productivity and a possible grant scheme to overcome any specialist barriers into new markets – This project will provide Burnley Council will a named individual specifically working on the above elements with businesses in the Burnley area. Supports E18 & E29

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	X
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	X
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	X
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	
Number of people in education/training	X
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	X
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	
Number of people gaining qualifications, licences, and skills	
Number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education, and training.	
Number of people engaged in life skills support following interventions	
Number of people with proficiency in pre-employment and interpersonal skills (relationship, organisational and anger-management, interviewing, CV, and job application writing)	

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

E35

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.

Our plan is to deliver a package of tailored support that is developed in conjunction with an individual and at a time that is right for that individual. Our focus will be on those who are classed as economically inactive neither employed nor unemployed and will be a mix of support for those who want a job but have not sought work in the last four weeks/are unavailable to start work or those that are the most dis-engaged maybe with additional barriers to employment such as mental health. Via the Burnley Skills & Employment group, with Calico as the lead partner, and the community/voluntary sector we will deliver support targeted to the following groups via caseworkers: -

- Young People – who continue to be most at risk and vulnerable
- Over 50's - deemed to be a high-risk category
- BAME communities – generally more disadvantaged community with regards to employability & skills
- Long term unemployed – a large proportion of the economically inactive group that want to return to work

Within these groups the project will focus on women, particularly those in the BAME community, those with disabilities and those classed as or at risk of becoming NEET. The project will provide a mix of 1-2-1 interventions together with workshops and events to support people into education, training, employment, or self-employment and will include active work search support, peer to peer learning, self-discovery & life skills, health & wellbeing support around getting more active and promoting the importance of work to help people live healthier and more independent lives, mental health support whether light touch or more in-depth, work on behaviours and supporting those with complex pathway's such as substance misuse, and accommodation issues or criminal records, as well as budgeting/finance sessions, confidence & resilience building and will incorporate some volunteering & work experience opportunities.

The project will be based at the existing employment & skills hub in Burnley Town Centre where the partners delivering on the current ESF projects are based so this gives us a good continuation of delivery and support and enables the impact of the loss of skilled and experienced staff and resources to be minimised.

As this project will be delivered locally in Burnley it will enable better evaluation of the impact and effectiveness of interventions, enabling future investment in things that work.

This project provides support to groups of people that will not benefit from the DWP package of support that is available and there is a danger that these groups will miss out and fall through the gaps, given that these are already the most dis-engaged and in-active groups it is vital that support continues for them to avoid this situation becoming worse and ultimately creating a greater strain on other support systems. One of the key elements will be working with the social prescriber's link workers in Burnley to help support individuals within the community and help alleviate the pressures on the health system and joining up with the Activity Co-ordinator's from Burnley Leisure around becoming more active.

Ultimately, we will aim to create a better everyday life for many people that are supported through this project with the support available will mean that no door will be the wrong door for them to walk through.

This project supports E33 & E35

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

Yes

No

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

There is a real risk that activity targeted at residents of Burnley will suffer a gap or even cease once the current ESF projects conclude. This will impact on local providers, including the voluntary and community sector who engage with residents at a real grass roots level, and this will impact on the boroughs ability to drive up employment and skills. Given that priorities will include re-engaging and supporting the most disadvantaged and economically inactive, supporting young people at risk or already NEET and supporting healthier workforces the following projects and organisations will potentially be those providers that will need to cut their cloth accordingly by reducing services, making staff redundant or even closing altogether.

Burnley, Pendle & Rossendale Community & Voluntary Service (BPRCVS) – this is a well-established community & voluntary sector group that has delivered European funding projects over many years. Their strength is being able to assign a caseworker to really hand hold an individual and help them to overcome whatever barriers they may have. They also manage the social prescriber provision in Burnley and are well placed to provide support on the health/wellbeing agenda and together with Burnley Leisure who can support on physical activity this will offer a really good service to the community with staff with many years' experience and skills sets. In addition, they host a young carers project supporting those aged 8 – 18 who would be one of the target groups for the skills & employability programme, particularly around raising aspirations and employability prospects. They currently deliver the Strengthening Communities ESF project.

New Era Enterprises are another unique small organisation that is well established and delivers some very powerful support, they are very engaged with school leavers and often support them in an environment where they feel safe and not overwhelmed. They again can offer real hands-on support, peer groups etc and focus on life skills, confidence & resilience as well as delivering skills support around maths and English, budgeting, cooking and so on via an alternative employment programme. They also help with volunteering opportunities, have a family hub and a health & wellbeing hub all of which support and connect directly into the local employability support that we plan to offer. It would be detrimental to lose this experience and potentially skilled staff. This work again contributes to our plan to support those who are classed as or at risk of becoming NEET, those looking for volunteering opportunities as well as supporting all those core skills and confidence sessions that really make a difference. They currently deliver the Time for You ESF project as well as the Invest in Youth & Changing Futures projects

Child Action North West, Calico, Lancashire Women and New Era Enterprises all deliver on the Invest in Youth, Age of Opportunity & Changing Futures programmes – a summary of each project is below: -

Age of Opportunity

Meets the needs of over 50s who would like to work but are unable to without additional skills or support, particularly those who are most at risk of social exclusion, for example; due to isolation, digital barriers, mental or physical health difficulties, homelessness or being full-time carer

Invest in Youth

Aims to transform the futures of young people aged between 15 and 24 who would like to work but are unable to without additional skills or support, specifically focussed on those young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), or at risk of becoming NEET - participants receive intensive support from a Key Worker to be able to engage in work readiness activity based on their individual interests and the barriers they face around entering work or further learning, the Key Worker guides the participant to achieve milestones agreed within their personal action plan.

Changing Futures

Supports people facing multiple and complex barriers to employment. All participants are unemployed or economically inactive and are at high risk of social exclusion, such as people from BAME communities, people with physical or mental health problems and people with learning difficulties. Coaches help participants to understand their own abilities, skills, and interests to identify ways to help address their multiple barriers to economic activity.

Princes Trust – deliver on More Positive Together & More Positive Together STEPS – these projects provide a dedicated mentor to carry out an initial assessment of personal need and then develops an action plan to help overcome these barriers to employment. Individuals have access to training programmes, community activities, volunteering, and work experience. The More Positive Together projects supports the most disadvantaged/furthest away from the job market, whereas the More Positive Together STEPS supports those deemed nearer to the job market.

Lancashire Women are a specialist service supporting women. Their work includes some specific support around accessing first step courses/training and volunteering opportunities. They tend to work with women who have complex needs including substance misuse, domestic abuse, mental and physical health. They also run life skills and confidence cafes where they work with women to plan a journey for their future as well as gentle self-discovery sessions to enable them to make positive change in a supportive space. Given that supporting women is one of our priorities, again it would be detrimental to lose such experience in Burnley. They currently deliver on the Changing Futures & Age of Opportunity ESF project, More Positive Together & More Positive Together STEPS, as well as CF03 – Achieve and Smallwood – LifeSkills projects

As you can see from reading the above there is cross-over between many of the traditional European funded projects. We very much see UKSPF as an opportunity to streamline local provision and bring this all together under one true partnership arrangement, whilst removing the confusion in the marketplace for referral organisations and more importantly the end user of the service for who it is often unclear where they should go. We also see this as an opportunity to go out into the community and engage with the most dis-engaged in a non-traditional way – taking services to them rather than reliant on them attending provision in settings that are not always conducive to their needs and ability to open-up.

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

- Age of Opportunity – Priority 1.4
- Changing Futures – Priority 1.4
- Invest in Youth – Priority 1.4
- Smallwood-LifeSkills
- More Positive Together – Priority 1.4
- More Positive Together STEPS – Priority 1.1
- Action for Jobs - Strengthening Communities
- Upskilling the Health & Social Care Workforce

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

2022-2023X	2023-2024X	2024-2025X
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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.

The Invest in Youth, Changing Futures, Age of Opportunity & Smallwood-Lifeskills projects are all due to end by June 2023, with some delivery finishing sooner. 2022/23 will need to see the continuation of support around this provision to avoid a gap in support and loss of

experienced/skilled staff. The project outline given in the above section will be mirrored in 2022/23 but on a smaller scale to complement other ESF projects that are still running. The project of support will include 1-2-1 caseworker support, outreach & engagement in the community, monitoring of an individual's journey to ensure progression as appropriate. The target market will include the priority groups as previously mentioned, i.e., women, BAME, disabled, long-term unemployed etc. Thereafter support will continue as above but interventions will be increased as ESF tails off.

The Strengthening communities & Upskilling the Health & Social Care workforce projects, both come to an end in December 2023, although some delivery stops in Sept 2023 – for the 6 months to April 2024 we will provide specific support around upskilling workers in the health & social care sector through our local CVS. This sector is very important to Burnley given the developments and expansion of the local hospital, who are the largest employer in town – this is set to grow as they expand. On top of that the University of Central Lancashire have recently developed a specific training suite and offer of qualifications to train the doctors and nurses of the future in Burnley – the support we can give at the lower scale/entry level will enable individuals to progress their careers at a time when the local job market need will rise.

More Positive Together and More Positive Together STEPS will come to an end in December 2023 and therefore this support will kick in for SPF as part of the 2024/2025 year when funding is included within SPF. In Burnley, these projects are delivered by Calico, The Princes Trust & Lancashire Women

The Youth Futures Fund, which has recently been awarded to Burnley as one of 8 pilot areas, runs for 18 months to Dec 2023 and is a research-based project to understand the eco-system around youth unemployment, specifically on the most dis-advantaged group of those unemployed for 6 months plus. This will run alongside our support and will build data and information which will help to inform our delivery, to young people, for Jan 2024 – March 2025.

We will have the opportunity to be considered for phase 2 of the Youth Futures Fund from Jan 24 which is implementation of research findings. Only 4 of the 8 pilot schemes will receive funding for year 2, so we will need to align any provision in the final year of SPF depending on other funding/programmes available.

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 X	Private sector organisations X	Civil society organisations X
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Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.

Strategic Context

In 2020 Burnley Council engaged with a wide range of stakeholders through three task groups based around – People (Employment and Skills Group), Place, and Business Growth, to develop an Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy and a Community Recovery Strategy. The task groups involved a range of stakeholders including local businesses and 3rd sector organisations. The groups were tasked with identifying key challenges and key interventions. These strategies and interventions form the basis of this Investment Strategy. The task groups all report to the Economic Recovery and Growth Board who have been engaged in developing the investment plan.

Communities and Place

The Economic Recovery and Growth Board, informed by the PLACE task group, building on the Burnley Town Centre masterplan have been engaged in identifying priorities for UKSPF and other funding streams.

Burnley Council is responsible for delivering many place-based interventions. A cross departmental workshop has been held to review the interventions and potential key priorities identified in various council strategies, but particularly building on the Green Spaces and Play Strategies.

We have consulted with Burnley Linked, a very strong network of community & voluntary organisations in Burnley and has over 200 members who meet regularly to share best practice, introduce new projects, and build relationships/network.

Burnley Together is a partnership of public, private & voluntary sector organisations set up at the start of the pandemic to support people in crisis and whose remit has now developed to include additional wrap around support for its residents such as health & wellbeing and other community support.

Supporting Businesses

The supporting business priorities have been influenced by the work of the Business Growth Taskforce Group.

Lancashire County Council has led on a County wide engagement process in terms of the Supporting Business and Employment and Skills priorities reflecting the existing County wide delivery structures. Burnley Council & 13 other local authorities have come together to listen to a range of pan-Lancashire wide proposals from several potential delivery partners (listed below) covering Supporting Business and Employment and Skills priorities. An initial written proposal was presented to us and then representatives attended a presentation and Q&A session. From this initial process and then individual consultations with the potential delivery partners, we have identified a range of projects to collaborate on with other local authorities across Lancashire. The presentations were from organisations including the Universities, the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) the AMRC, the local Chamber of Commerce, Selnet & Active Lancashire.

People and Skills

We have conducted an impact assessment with the providers of employment & skills provision in Burnley which included voluntary & community groups, such as Calico, CVS, New Era Enterprises, The Princes Trust, Lancashire Women, Burnley College and Participation Works. This allowed us to understand the current ESF funded delivery, the cost, resource, and impact of the project not continuing post European funding. Following this feedback data on local priorities and challenges, we have developed a high-level brief and brought together various organisations to co-design an employment & skills programme.

Meetings have been held with the DWP at Strategic Partnership level to understand the support being provided as part of the governments, Plan for Jobs initiative and what the support may look like post European funds – this is to ensure that any offer we have around people & skills does not duplicate the existing DWP support.

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

The programme will be managed by Burnley Borough Council. An SPF Project Manager has already been appointed with responsibility to develop the Investment Plan, complete negotiations, commission services and to monitor and evaluate the programme throughout its term.

We have an existing partnership board – The Economy & Growth Recovery Board - comprising of local and regional stakeholders, civil society groups, businesses, and other organisations. We will utilise this existing board to provide governance for our SPF programme. As this board already comprises of the relevant bodies who are already engaged it provides a strong overlap with the

delivery of the Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy. The Economy & Growth Recovery Board is made up of the following members: -

- - Burnley Borough Council
- - Burnley College
- - UCLAN
- - East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce
- - Department for Work and Pensions
- - Burnley Football Club
- - Lancashire County Council
- - Chair of Burnley Bondholders
- - Burnley Business Improvement District
- - Five private sector members
- - Canal and Rivers Trust
- - Community and Voluntary sector member
- - Local MP

The Board's role was initially to bring together key partners from the public and private sectors to respond cohesively to the immediate challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, and the initial focus of the Board was to review, re-focus, and re-purpose existing initiatives and programmes so that they can be more effectively delivered to support the Recovery phase of the borough's strategy; 'Burnley's New Economy – A Strategy for Recovery and Growth'. However, the Board also ensures a focus on the borough's long-term economic recovery as Government seeks to overcome the impact and on-going challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board will also support business growth and innovation, productivity increases, up-skilling, and leverage public and private investment through combining and co-ordinating their collective resources. Given that the Interventions chosen within the Investment Plan align to the Burnley Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy and the taskforce groups, it makes sense that the same group who set these also govern those under UKSPF to ensure consistency and relevance within the borough.

This board will enable transparency, sharing of best practice and knowledge for governance and will meet regularly. The group is an open partnership with equal representation offered to each member, ensuring each members' voice has an equal weight. Board representation is at a very senior level. Any changes in the interventions will be determined by the board as appropriate. The Board meets quarterly.

The Economic Recovery and Growth board endorsed this approach and the Investment Plan at its meeting on 18th July 2022.

In terms of any organisations that we partner with – we will expect them to outline their governance structures and how the partnership groups have been made up as part of their initial proposal's and to provide us with regular updates from their own meetings where UKSPF will be an agenda item.

We will establish a Panel of experts from within the Council and other organisations to assess and carry out due diligence on detailed proposals. The Council will follow the Council's procedures for grant giving and/or entering into Service Levels Agreement. Final approval of funding based on panel recommendations, to projects and delivery partners is delegated to the Council's Strategic Head of Economy and Growth in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy and Growth

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.

We are intending to select projects using Competition, Challenge Funds and Direct Awards. We have gone through a process of selecting interventions and projects based on existing strategies that have been developed by our local partnership – the Burnley Economic Recovery and Growth Board. However, we recognise that there is some value in competition and intend to, where appropriate introduce a competitive element and ensure that proposals are scrutinised for deliverability and value for money as set out in the Guidance for General Grants.

Communities and Places

Under the Communities and Places theme, there are number of projects where there is only a single provider in the locality e.g., the local authority is the only provider of public open space, town centre regeneration and leisure/sports facilities via its contractor Burnley Leisure and Culture. The Burnley Youth Zone is a high priority and there is only one delivery body for this work – OnSide. In this instance it is not appropriate to introduce a competitive process and there is nothing to be gained in terms of savings or improved performance. However, proposals for direct award will be scrutinised in line with the Grant Assessment Criteria set out in Guidance for General Grants. Projects delivered via direct must competitively tender any works, in line with the Council's standing orders, to ensure value for money

It is proposed to disburse a large proportion of the Communities and Place funding via a small grants scheme accessible to community and third sector organisations. Projects funding through this programme will be subject to competitive competition with organisations being able to bid to an annual bidding round.

Supporting Business

Under the supporting business a Challenge Fund approach has been followed. The rationale for this is that in order to achieve value for money there was a case for Lancashire wide delivery, there was an existing network of competing projects, and the Challenge Fund approach has brought about an opportunity to encourage collaboration between delivery bodies across Lancashire to prevent wasteful competition, duplication of outputs and to simplify the process for business recipients whilst at the same time retaining existing capability.

Lancashire County Council issued a call to existing business support providers across Lancashire. to submit proposals to deliver against the UKSPF supporting business priorities, under the themes of General Business Support, Innovation and Low Carbon, with a brief on simplifying the existing business support framework and delivering within a significantly reduced budget. From this, 12 business support propositions were presented in writing to all 14 Local Authorities across Lancashire. The proposals included an outline of the project, its delivery mechanism, outcomes, outputs, and costings. Each local authority had 2 weeks to digest this information and how it aligned with their own Council's priorities and strategies. Each of the 12 projects was invited to present their submission to all the 14 local authorities with a Q&A session. This process took place over a week with different presentations on each day. This process resulted in the merger of some projects and a request to proposers to reconsider their initial costs and were given further challenge on matched funding.

From this process Burnley Council has identified a short list of five proposals that have a strategic fit and are within the proposed budget envelope. The Council has then entered into dialogue with the projects it was interested in taking forward to refine the offer. These consultations allowed local level discussions around specific engagement, resource, data, outputs with an opportunity to refine any of these as well as cost. Prior to final award, each project will have to submit a full business case for scrutiny in line with the Grant Assessment Criteria set out in the Guidance for General Grants.

People and Skill

Under this priority, there has been a County wide call for bids, facilitated by LCC and the Lancashire Skills hub, from existing ESIF delivery bodies, following the same process set out in the supporting business section. Burnley Council considered four proposals. The proposals were not taken forward within our investment plan, the council felt that they were very much a "one size fits all approach", relied on an existing model and incurred very high management costs (25%) and did little to engage with the wide range of delivery partners based in Burnley that have a in depth local knowledge and ability to access difficult to reach communities and groups. The Council has decided to go down a Challenge Fund route. There are a number of organisations within the borough who deliver a range of employment and skills support. We have also identified a need, similar to business support, to streamline provision to prevent duplication and competition for clients between organisations. In addition, the fact that the amount of funding available is significantly reduced compared to European funding, it will naturally drive innovation and cost efficiencies.

It was agreed to engage with Burnley's existing Employment & Skills Group to ascertain what we could achieve at a local level rather than a pan-Lancashire wide one. We have carried out local market engagement including an impact assessment with the existing employability support providers in the borough to fully understand what is currently delivered and the impact of these projects once European funding ends. We have collaborated with the Employment & Skills Group chair to prepare a brief for a locally delivered and managed programme of support that meets with UKSPF outcomes, addresses locally identified labour market issues and target groups, and provides a clear and comprehensive pathway of resources to support recipients progress towards the labour market. Advice given in a DWP webinar on UKSPF has also informed the brief, as was the need to ensure continuity in delivery for third sector bodies at risk.

A facilitated workshop has been held with the Employment and Skills Partnership attended by 19 potential delivery organisations. At the workshop, the partnership were asked to consider the brief and co-design a collaborative local delivery proposal based on the specific needs of Burnley's residents and businesses. This process is still on-going; however, we feel that we will be able to provide a more effective and tailored package of support with local delivery rather than buying into a pan-Lancashire wide project. Once the detailed co-designed proposal is completed, Calico Group, who have extensive experience in delivering labour market programmes, will lead the consortium running a closed competition for those within the Employment & Skills group who are already delivering existing European funded projects in the first two years, extending to a wider partnership in year 3. The proposal will be subject to assessment in line with the Government Grants Guidance.

