

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Warrington Investment Plan

Summary 2022-2025



UK Government

**LEVELLING
— UP —**



WARRINGTON
Borough Council

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Introduction

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and provides £2.6 billion of funding for local investment by March 2025. The Fund aims to improve pride in place and increase life chances across the UK investing in communities and place, supporting local business, and people and skills. For more information, visit the UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus [on the GOV.UK website](#).

Investment Priorities

UK Shared Prosperity Fund has three Investment Priorities:

Communities and Place

Strengthening our social fabric and fostering 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.

Building 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 innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Supporting Local Business

Creating jobs and boosting 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.

Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.

Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

People and Skills

Reducing levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, 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 e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

The Warrington Investment Plan

Warrington Borough Council is the Lead Local Authority for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Warrington. Our total funding allocation, for activity up to 31 March 2025, is £6,496,128.

Our Investment Plan was developed in consultation with many stakeholders, including various local boards, networks and groups, neighbouring local authorities, Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership, and Government departments DLUHC, DWP and Cities and Local Growth Unit. Analysis of feedback received, together with information and data around context, evidence of need and benchmarking, informed the prioritisation for the Investment Plan and a financial breakdown as below:

Investment Priority	Allocation	%age of total
Communities and Place	£3,429,956	53%
Supporting Local Business	£1,870,884	29%
People and Skills	£935,443	14%
management and administration costs (%age as set in Government guidance)	£259,845	4%

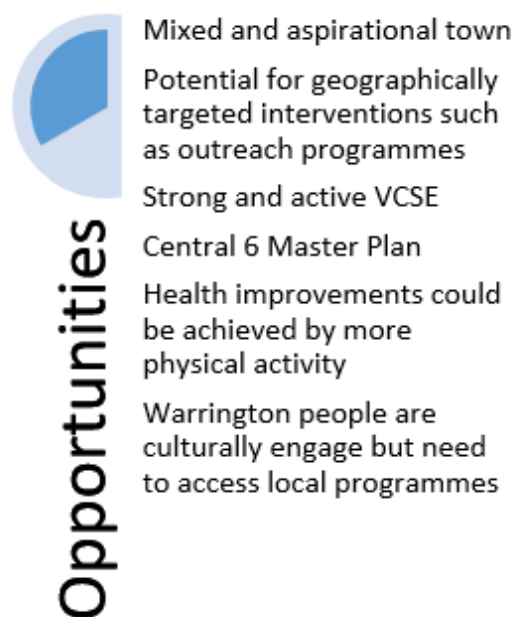
Local authorities submitted their Investment Plans by 1 August 2022 and Government approval was confirmed in December 2022.

For each of the three Investment Priorities, our Investment Plan sets out

- Local Challenges and Opportunities
- Interventions to be delivered
- Outputs and Outcomes targets

Communities and Place

Local Challenges and Opportunities



Interventions to be delivered

- E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.
- E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding. This could cover capital spend and running costs.
- E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.
- E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.
- E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

- E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.
- E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
- E15: Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.

Outputs and outcomes targets

Outputs	Target
Number of rehabilitated premises	1
Amount of public realm created or improved (m2)	200
Sqm of land made wheelchair accessible/step free (m2)	60
Number of organisations receiving grants	60
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support	60
Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken	24
Number of facilities supported/created	52
Number of local events or activities supported	24
Amount of green or blue space created or improved (m2)	4000
Number of new or improved cycleways or paths	10
Amount of new or improved cycleways or paths (m2)	2
Number of volunteering opportunities supported	45
Number of tournaments/leagues/teams supported	15
Number of feasibility studies supported	10
Outcomes	target
Jobs created	2
Increased footfall	11%
Reduced vacancy rates	1%
Increased users of facilities/amenities	15%
Increased use of cycleways or paths	5%
Improved engagement numbers	20%
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	10
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	50%
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	15

Supporting Local Business

Local Challenges and Opportunities



Challenges

- Business growth is limited by difficulties to recruit the right skills
- Under average business start-up and survival
- Relatively low productivity
- Business support needs a more joined up approach
- Local supply chains need to be developed
- Aiming to attract businesses that can offer higher value jobs



Opportunities

- High business density: Critical mass for networking, spend and R&D
- Potential to work on supply chain attraction with larger businesses
- Wider business support function could help support sectoral skills academies
- Target a pool of Manchester commuters to retain skills in Warrington
- Further business advice to support the transition to Net Zero
- Digital adoption could improve business growth and productivity

Interventions to be delivered

- E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.
- E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
- E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.
- E29: Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment whilst growing the local economy. Taking a whole systems approach to invest in infrastructure to deliver effective decarbonisation across energy, buildings and transport and beyond, in line with our legally binding climate target. Maximising existing or emerging local strengths in low carbon technologies, goods and services to take advantage of the growing global opportunity.
- E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.
- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.
- E42*: (bespoke) Supporting SME adoption in smart digital technology solutions to drive growth

Outputs and Outcomes targets

Outputs	target
Number of businesses receiving non-financial support	85
Number of businesses receiving grants	50
Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready	40
Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved	3
Number of decarbonisation plans developed	15
Number of feasibility studies supported	8
Outcomes	target
Jobs created	200
Jobs safeguarded	25
Number of new businesses created	28
Increased visitor numbers	5%
Increased number of businesses supported	15%
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	50%

People and Skills

Local Challenges and Opportunities



Challenges

- Shrinking working age application
- Cohort of people not accessing employment
- Information access
- Need to upskill/ re-skill



Opportunities

- Strong and vibrant business base offering a wide selection of jobs
- Opportunities for Warrington residents to access those jobs
- The voluntary sector could enhance the work done by skills providers
- Some Town Deal projects could be augmented to support the skilling/ upskilling angle
- Successful wage subsidies schemes could be replicated to help people into jobs
- Support people to help themselves



Interventions to be delivered

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths* and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.

E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.

E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that is not being met through other provision.

Outputs and Outcomes targets

Outputs	target
Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services	150
Number of socially excluded people accessing support	40
Number of people supported to access basic skills	80
Number of people supported to engage in job-searching	75
Number of people receiving support to gain employment	25
Number of people receiving support to sustain employment	15
Number of people supported to engage in life skills	40
Number of people receiving support to gain a vocational licence	80
Outcomes	target
Number of people in supported employment	15
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	75
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	60
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	50
Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	20
Number of people in education/training	30
Number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	20
Number of people gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	30

Project Delivery

Lead local authorities have flexibility over how they deliver the Fund. We will follow Government guidance and use a mix of competitions for grant funding, procurement, commissioning or delivery through in-house teams.

Updates regarding stakeholder consultations, scoping exercises, procurement opportunities etc. will be posted on this site in due course.

Further Information

Full details about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund are available on the Shared Prosperity Fund page [on the GOV.UK website](#).

If you have any questions about the Warrington UK Shared Prosperity Fund programme, please contact

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