



**Rother District Council's
Shared Prosperity Fund
Investment Plan**

July 2022

Your location

Rother District Council

Located within East Sussex

Your details

Name – Melanie Powell

Email address - melanie.powell@rother.gov.uk

Phone number - 01424 787506

Organisation name – Rother District Council

Local challenges and opportunities

In this section, we will ask you:

- If you've identified any challenges or opportunities, you intend to support
- Which of the UKSPF investment priorities these fall under

ARE THERE ANY LOCAL CHALLENGES YOU FACE WHICH FALL UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY?

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

This section sets out the challenges and opportunities facing the Rother district in relation to the two objectives under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Communities and Place Investment priority, namely: 'strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging'; and 'building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places'.

Challenges

Rother has significant pockets of deprivation. According to the Indices Multiple Deprivation (2019), Sidley and Central wards in Bexhill-on-Sea has Lower Super Output Areas that are within the top decile of most deprived areas in England. Employment, income and education/skills deprivation is concentrated in these wards and they also have the highest crime and anti-social behaviour rates. Between June 2021 and May 2022, there were 6,536 crime/anti-social behaviour incidents recorded in Rother, one third of these were in Bexhill Central, Bexhill Sidley and Bexhill Sackville wards¹.

The Active Rother Sport & Physical Activity Strategy (2018-2022) states that 61.8% of the district's adults are overweight or obese and that the costs of physical inactivity in Rother amount to just under £3 million. In the South East region, only Thanet (22.5%) has a proportion of residents with a long-term limiting health problem or disability. There is a lack of accessible sports and recreation facilities, particularly in Bexhill, to sustain and increase community participation in sports.

Educational attainment is also low and there are widespread challenges for people in rural services who find it difficult to access services. Many rural areas also lack the physical assets to provide high quality services to vulnerable in accessible locations.

¹ UKC Crimstats.com

There is a high proportion of single person households, particularly amongst older people and those with disabilities or long-term limiting illnesses, whilst limited local services, infrastructure and leisure/recreation opportunities weakens social capacity and increases the risk of isolation amongst the most vulnerable residents

Rother District Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy (2022-2025) identifies service co-ordination, better internet provision, better located services and use of facilities in rural areas, in particular, as factors that can help to address poverty in the district.

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

Opportunities

Rother District has fantastic cultural assets, centred around the De la Warr Pavilion, a classic 1930s art deco building, is one of the south east region's most iconic cultural venues. The venue attracts art, live entertainment to Bexhill and providing a focus for civic pride, social interaction and economic activity.

There are also opportunities to use the district's outstanding natural and heritage assets to support people to be more active, to learn new skills and to engage fully in local events and activities, as well as attracting new visitors.

The DLWP is an excellent vehicle to use arts and culture to engage disadvantaged residents throughout the district, inspiring confidence, strengthening social capital and building a shared sense of place. The DLWP has also supported the development of a local vibrant, creative community which offers potential for further growth and development.

The Investment Plan for Communities and Place provides opportunities to address the priorities and objectives set out in the Council's Economic Recovery Plan (2020); Anti-Poverty Strategy (2022 – 2025); and Environment Strategy (2020 – 2030). These include:

- Strengthening the local arts, cultural and creative ecosystem and making cultural creative experiences available to everyone.
- Improving the district's town and village infrastructure, including digital connectivity, to make services more accessible to local people and more attractive to visitors.
- Building the skills and capacity of local organisations so that they can support the local jobs, increase visitor numbers and footfall, deliver new cultural programmes and events.
- Ensuring that Community assets are made more energy efficient and that it is made easier for local people to walk and cycle where it is possible to do so.

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

This section sets out the challenges and opportunities facing the Rother district in relation to the three objectives under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Local Business Investment priority, namely: 'creating jobs and boosting community cohesion'; 'increasing private sector investment in growth'; and 'promoting networking and collaboration'.

Challenges

A core district-wide challenge is to support the growth and development of the local economy to create and safeguard higher-value employment opportunities particularly within our growth sectors.

Rother (35,000) has the third lowest number of jobs of any district in the south east of England and the lowest median workplace earnings (£25,005).

The district/s economy continues to reel from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic, which had a major adverse impact on the economy. In 2019, it was worth £1.32 billion, but by 2020, only £1.25 billion (in 2019 prices). The economy lost £71 million of its value during the Covid-19 pandemic.

- The visitor economy, a major contributor to local employment, lost in excess of 500 tourism jobs as a result of the pandemic. The Accommodation & Food Service and Arts, Entertainment & Leisure Sector and Arts, core components of the visitor product, lost £19 million of their value.
- Prior to the pandemic, Bexhill town centre was losing its ground as a retail centre, perhaps squeezed by a combination of its larger neighbours (Hastings and Eastbourne) and the shift to on-line shopping. The town's VenueScore² rank fell from 483 in 2009 to 592 in 2017.

Productivity in the district is also weak. At £27.94 per hour worked, only Thanet (£27.84) has a lower productivity rate in the south east region than Rother. This is partly due to the economic structure of the local economy, but it presents significant economic challenges for the district.

Between 2016 and 2020, the number of businesses in Rother increased by a modest 1.5% increase or an average of just 14 new businesses per year. Business survival rates are high. This may reflect stability, but a lack of dynamism if considered alongside low productivity within the district. In 2020, Rother had just ten high growth businesses – fewer than it had in 2016 (20).

Rother District is a mostly rural district with 1 large (Bexhill) and 2 smaller (Battle and Rye) urban areas. 82% of the district is covered by the High Weald AONB whilst a further 8% is covered by other protected status including SSSI and European Protected Designations. Sustainability of the traditional land-based and agricultural industries continues to decline as a business model force rural business to diversify. Protected status significantly inhibits the opportunities for diversification and economic growth in the district's rural areas and the more prominent emerging land-based opportunities (such as Solar and Wind Generation and creation of tourism accommodation) may not be appropriate for these areas.

There are several business networking and representative organisations that support Rother businesses. These include Sussex Chamber of Commerce and Hastings Area Chamber of Commerce. There are also sector specific organisations. However, the rural nature of much of the district provides coordination challenges and makes networking opportunities more difficult than in more densely populated urban areas.

As an authority, we are committed to be carbon neutral by 2030. Yet many businesses post pandemic feel less able to adopt Net Zero practices in the immediate future. 7/10 business chiefs surveyed by the British Standards Institution (BSI) said their plans to achieve carbon neutrality have been pushed back by the pandemic. Swift, co-ordinated and locally relevant

² VenueScore is an annual survey compiled by Javelin Group, which ranks the UK's top 2,700+ retail venues including town centres, stand-alone malls, retail warehouse parks and factory outlet centres: A Retail Capacity Study for Bexhill-on-Sea; GVA 2018

action is required, whilst considering the needs and requirements of different business sectors and our spatial geographies, to support the transition to a low carbon economy for Rother.

Between 2016 and 2020, Rother increased its renewable energy capacity by 1.1 megawatts (MW). This is an increase of 9.41% over the period – significantly below the UK average (34.1%). Almost all the renewable energy capacity in the district is through photovoltaics. The number of photovoltaic sites in the District increased from 1,467 to 1,630 – an increase of 163 over the period. By July 2021, Rother (12) had the lowest number of publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in the South East region and amongst the lowest per 100,000 residents (12.4).

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

Opportunities

Our core investment focus is on increasing the number and range of local job opportunities through designing and implementing a programme of business support that:

- Is available to all SMEs locally that have a desire to grow, able to meet the needs of all sectors
- Provides strands of support aimed at both new start businesses as well as established businesses
- Give local SMEs access to high quality, professional advice, and support to help them pivot, adapt and thrive through the current economic challenges
- Ensure more local spend is kept local, by enabling local SMEs to survive
- Ensure good quality, local jobs are retained and created in the county
- Provide economies of scale by working County wide and being subject to competitive commissioning to ensure maximum value for money

Our investment plan will secure economic improvements through building on the district's assets and opportunities, specifically tourism and culture. Our involvement in 1066 Country has supported the growth and development of the visitor economy but more needs to be done to reset our tourism sector and exploit our destination assets such as the De La Warr Pavilion, Battle Abbey, Rye and the superb coastal offer to a growing marketplace.

We will continue to support the growth and development of our retail centres in light of new market challenges, particularly the major centre of Bexhill on Sea.

The ageing population provides opportunities as well as challenges. There are business opportunities that support the grey economy, which can have high disposable incomes, whilst the demand for caring and health services is likely to remain buoyant in Rother.

Our Investment Plan also aligns with the Council's commitment to be carbon neutral by 2030. We recognise that there is a real desire for businesses to play their part and make good low carbon choices, however businesses can lack the specialist knowledge they need to make the best, informed choices for their organisation and risk either wasting money, time and resources or decide not to make any changes due to the complexity. The Investment Plan will include programmes to assist SMEs in Rother District move towards

net zero operation through a low carbon business programme that is fit-for-purpose, meets industry requirements and complements existing provision.

Our developing Rural Economy Strategy will set out a proactive programme for Rother's rural areas based on what opportunities for rural businesses are emerging nationally and internationally that can be applied locally. This includes supporting the expansion of the Rye Bay fishing fleet, the growing role of viticulture and what the future might be for this sector in Rother with consideration of the Sussex Modern campaign and the role of tourism within the sector.

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

This section sets out the challenges and opportunities facing the Rother district in relation to the two objectives under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Skills Investment priority, namely: 'supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work'; and 'supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills'

Challenges

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a significant increase in unemployment in Rother. Between May 2018 and May 2020, the number of claimant count unemployed residents increased from 1,115 to 3,075 – an increase of 176%. Since then, the number of unemployed people has fallen back to 1,780, but this is still 60% higher than pre-pandemic unemployment levels.

Unemployment is most heavily concentrated in Bexhill Sidley (6.3%) and Bexhill Central (6.0%). These are also the wards with the highest levels of income, education & skills and employment deprivation, according to the Indices of Multiple Deprivation.

The number of people facing homelessness and requiring support from Rother District Council is rapidly increasing, with limited affordable housing available. The arrival of Ukrainian guests is adding to housing pressures. There is a need to support people into work in order to help them access and afford independent and stable accommodation.

Alongside this, the district's demographic profile means that Rother has a high proportion of residents who provide unpaid care and a high proportion of residents with long-term limiting illnesses or disabilities. This is recognised in the Rother Anti-Poverty Strategy 2022-2025.

The rural nature of much of the economy and the low number of jobs in the district provide significant challenges to supporting people who are furthest away from the labour market, back into sustainable employment, particularly if they are low skilled, lack confidence and/or have significant caring responsibilities.

Rother's economy is characterised by a mix of micro/small businesses. Many of these struggle to recruit skilled staff into entry level roles, despite the high levels of unemployment. For example, the Health & Social care sector is currently suffering high turnover (34.4%), so there are opportunities for people to progress into entry level work.

£2.3m of European Social Fund provision, which currently supports vulnerable people into employment will disappear from East Sussex from March 2023. This creates a significant gap in employment support for people who need it most.

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

Opportunities

Rother has an active voluntary and community sector and a wide range of skills & training providers with the skills to support people who are furthest removed from the labour market back into work. The economic structure of the economy, with a strong visitor economy and demand for health and care support, lends itself to providing flexible and entry level working opportunities for people who need to balance their work with other responsibilities, including caring.

There are excellent local partnerships, including between East Sussex Colleges Group, Bexhill College, Adult College for Rural East Sussex (ACRES) and key local businesses, such as the De La Warr Pavilion. Improving digital skills and infrastructure will enable more people will enable more people to work flexibly, whilst innovative approaches to engagement including through local community hubs in key locations mean that skills can be developed within the communities where they are most needed.

Rother District Council and East Sussex County Council will work with the community sector to actively engage and support some of the hardest to reach inactive adults. We will commission an expert local provider to employ engagement and employability staff to support individuals with benefit calculators, developing confidence, basic employability skills, creating an individual learning plan and referring them into other support (e.g. Multiply, Adult Education Budget, DWP programmes).

Our core investment focus is on supporting people into work, with a particular focus on people from disadvantaged groups, including older people, people with disabilities and health problems, young people not in education, employment or training, people from minority ethnic groups and women.

Interventions

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Interventions you've chosen for each year of funding
- Outcomes you want to deliver
- Any interventions that are not listed here
- How these interventions fall under the UKSPF investment priorities, and your rationale for them
- Interventions not included in our list will be assessed before being approved, where you will need to show a clear rationale, how the intervention is value for money, what outcomes it will deliver and how you will monitor and evaluate the intervention. This may include a theory of change or logic chain.

WHAT ARE THE OUTCOMES YOU WANT TO DELIVER UNDER THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE INVESTMENT PRIORITY? SELECT ALL THAT APPLY.

Outcome	Tick if applicable
---------	--------------------

Jobs created	✓
Jobs safeguarded	
Increased footfall	
Increased visitor numbers	
Reduced vacancy rates	
Greenhouse gas reductions	
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility	
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	✓
Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	
Increased users of facilities / amenities	
Improved perception of facility/infrastructure project	✓
Increased use of cycleways or paths	
Increase in Biodiversity	
Increased affordability of events/entry	
Improved perception of safety	
Reduction in neighbourhood crime	
Improved engagement numbers	✓
Improved perception of events	
Increased number of web searches for a place	
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	
Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	✓
Increased take up of energy efficiency measures	
Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	
Number of premises with improved digital connectivity	
None of the above	
Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support	✓

SELECT THE INTERVENTIONS YOU INTEND TO USE WHICH MEET THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE 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.

E2: Funding for new or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects.

E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.

E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COMMUNITIES AND PLACE LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these	
No	
Explain how each intervention meets the Communities and Place investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.	
N/A	
Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
The Council has sought the advice of internal legal colleagues to confirm that the proposed interventions in this element of the Investment Prospectus do not constitute state subsidy.	

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.	
A full list of interventions, projects, indicative outputs and outcomes is set out in Annex A.	
<u>E2: Funding for new or improvements to existing community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects</u> – a capital funding pot to support community regeneration infrastructure improvements in a minimum of 5 neighbourhood areas. (links to E11).	
<u>E6: Local arts, cultural, heritage & creative activities</u> – a local Cultural Fund to support local artists, cultural and creative activities.	
<u>E11: Capacity building & infrastructure support local groups</u> – a capacity building programme to build resilience within the community and voluntary sector to support the design and implementation of community regeneration activities.	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance.	
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
The Council has sought the advice of internal legal colleagues to confirm that the proposed interventions in this element of the Investment Prospectus do not constitute state subsidy.	

--

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

None of the above	
-------------------	--

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

Intervention

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

E17: Visitor economy

E21: Development of innovation infrastructure at the local level

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators

E29: Support decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth

E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the Supporting Local Business investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes

No



Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

The Council has sought the advice of internal legal colleagues to confirm that the proposed interventions in this element of the Investment Prospectus do not constitute state subsidy.

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.

A full list of interventions, projects, indicative outputs and outcomes is set out in Annex A.

E17: Development & promotion of visitor economy: A 3 year programme of coordinated support to develop and market the visitor economy in collaboration with Sussex Modern.

E21: Development of innovation infrastructure at the local level: Capital funding to develop new fisheries hub in Rye.

E23: Strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses: Funding support, in collaboration with Wealden DC, to support start-ups and business growth through mentoring, networking and peer support.

E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubator: Pan-county programmes to (i) support businesses to start and (ii) provide specialist support to support growth.

E29: Supporting decarbonisation whilst growing the local economy: Green Innovation Fund will support projects that move the district closer to Net Zero and create economic growth, jobs and apprenticeships. The funding pot will provide a minimum of 15 grants for SME introduce net zero initiatives.

E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth: Range of business support interventions to drive employment growth in rural Rother (following adoption of Rural Economy Strategy).

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

Yes	No
	✓

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

The Council has sought the advice of internal legal colleagues to confirm that the proposed interventions in this element of the Investment Prospectus do not constitute state subsidy.

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	✓
Increased active or sustained participants of UKSPF beneficiaries in community groups [and/or] increased employability through development of interpersonal skills	
Increased proportion of participants with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	
Number of people in supported employment [and] number of people engaging with mainstream healthcare services	
Number of people sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	
Number of people engaged in job-searching following support	✓
Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	✓

Number of people sustaining employment for 6 months	
Increased employment, skills and/or UKSPF objectives incorporated into local area corporate governance	
Number of people in education/training	✓
Increased number of people with basic skills (English, maths, digital and ESOL)	✓
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
Increased number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	✓
Fewer people facing structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	
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)	✓
Multiply only - Increased number of adults achieving maths qualifications up to, and including, Level 2.	
Multiply only - Increased number of adults participating in maths qualifications and courses up to, and including, Level 2.	
None of the above	

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

Intervention

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

E33: Employment support for economically inactive people

E38 Local Areas to fund skills needs

DO YOU PLAN TO USE ANY INTERVENTIONS NOT INCLUDED IN THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS LIST?

State the name of each of these additional interventions and a brief description of each of these

No

Explain how each intervention meets the People and Skills investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value money and the outcomes you want to deliver.

N/A

**Do you consider that any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?
All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).**

Yes	No ✓
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the intervention is a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	
The Council has sought the advice of internal legal colleagues to confirm that the proposed interventions in this element of the Investment Prospectus do not constitute state subsidy.	

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.
<p>A full list of interventions, projects, indicative outputs and outcomes is set out in Annex A.</p> <p><u>E33: Employment Support for Inactive People</u></p> <p>This is an intensive and wrap-around one-to-one and group support programme 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. The main focus will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People aged over 50 • People with a disability and health condition • Women • People from an ethnic minority • Young people not in education, employment or training; and • People with multiple complex needs (homeless, care leavers, ex/offenders, people with substance abuse problems and victims of domestic violence). <p>The activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial skills and employment screening (including barriers to work) • Job search support, mentoring, CV writing, confidence building, understanding employability skills and expectations (time keeping, confidentiality, dressing to work, appropriate attitude etc), job matching, benefits calculations, voluntary opportunities, travel advice, interview skills • Employer engagement to support job matching • Engagement with National Careers Service Providers to deliver DWP careers advice and guidance to each individual • Signposting to existing services for specialised support and guidance and to learning and training provision and other funded provision

The project will be delivered from centres throughout Rother, including in the main town centre, Bexhill, and from community outreach hubs to serve the rural community

E38: Local Areas to Fund Skills Needs

The Emerging Artist Programme. This will provide studio space at Beeching Road Studios for emerging artists for a year, together with mentor support, and gallery space. Scheme ran in 2022 supported and was supported by Arts Council England. Beeching Road is based in the centre of Bexhill-on-Sea, a ten minute walk from the railway station.

The Bexhill/Hastings Community Kitchen. A standalone community kitchen premises at (where) will provide training and culinary experiences for job seekers or those seeking a career change. Local chefs will run private cooking school events for interested learners within Bexhill/Hastings.

Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity?

All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as [set out in the guidance](#).

No

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.

The Council has sought the advice of internal legal colleagues to confirm that the proposed interventions in this element of the Investment Prospectus do not constitute state subsidy.

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.

East Sussex currently receives over £2.3m per annum of ESF funding to support economically inactive people into work. This funding ends in 2023. A number of local community organisations deliver these programmes and operate not only these initiatives but also the DWP work and health programme funding which is also due to end in 2023.

The Sussex Community Development Association (SCDA) has Community Renewal Funding which was presented as a precursor to UKSPF and also runs out in 2023. The organisation has staff expertise and community reach in Rother and without this funding, will be at risk. UKSPF is insufficient to replace the funding that will be lost, but Rother DC wishes to maintain some form of employment support provision and proposes funding similar provision in 2023/4 as in 2024/5 so that one post can be supported.

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

- Lets Get Working, Sussex Community Development Association: **Project Reference TBA**
- Working Together for You, Sussex Community Development Association; **Project Reference TBA**
- Skills Support for the Unemployed; Twin UK; **Project Reference TBA**

What year do you intend to fund these projects? Select all that apply.		
2022-2023 No	2023-2024 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2024-2025 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.		
<p>The projects will focus on people who are furthest away from the labour market and will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confidence building • Mentoring support – including mental health support, occupational therapy support, financial management; housing support, drug & alcohol services and well-being services • Support to access work – behavioural support, CV/application forms; better off calculations; interview practice, understanding local opportunities, information, advice and guidance, employability skills • Into work/into learning support – job search and applications; job matching; drop-in & mentoring, signposting to childcare, transport/journey planning, access to clothing/kit • Learning/job placement – training support and advice (including Multiply provision, Department for Work & Pensions; volunteering; work experience 		
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance .		
Yes	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.		
The Council has sought the advice of internal legal colleagues to confirm that the proposed interventions in this element of the Investment Prospectus do not constitute state subsidy.		

SCOTLAND, WALES & NORTHERN IRELAND ONLY	
HAVE YOU ALREADY IDENTIFIED ANY PROJECTS WHICH FALL UNDER THE PEOPLE AND SKILLS INVESTMENT PRIORITY?	
Yes	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Describe the projects, including how they fall under the People and Skills investment priority and the location of the proposed project.	
N/A	
Do you consider these projects may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the proposed planned activity? All bids must also consider how they will deliver in line with subsidy control as set out in the guidance .	
Yes	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy and any specific measures you will take to make sure the subsidy is permitted.	

N/A

Approach to delivery and governance

In this section, we will ask you about:

- Structures you have in place to support delivery
- Support you have from stakeholders and the local community
- How you've engaged with MPs as part of your investment plan
- Opportunities you have identified to work with other places

Places need to show how MPs that cover the lead local authority have been engaged on the investment plan and whether they support it. More detail on the role of MPs can be found [here](#).

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Have you engaged with any of the following as part of your investment plan? Select all that apply.

Public sector organisations ✓	Private sector organisations ✓	Civil society organisations ✓
----------------------------------	-----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Describe how you have engaged with any of these organisations. Give examples where possible.

In developing this Investment Plan, the Council established a 'Rother District Shared Prosperity Fund Local Partnership Group' comprising representative from a range of organisations including those from the public, private and civil society organisations.

The Group includes representatives from:

- Rother District Council
- Members of Parliament for the Rother District: Sally Ann Hart / Huw Merriman
- South East Local Enterprise Partnership
- East Sussex County Council
- Rother Voluntary Action
- Heart of Sidley
- Optivo
- Let's Do Business
- Police and Crime Commissioner

- Public Health
- The Pelham
- Sussex Community Development Association

The Local Partnership Group met on 24 June 2022 and minutes of the meeting are included as an annex to this application which confirm the Group's support for the Council's approach to developing and agreeing the Investment Plan. Members of the Local Partnership Group were issued with Annex A (which sets out the Interventions, Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes) on Friday 22 July for consideration.

'Just to comment that the structure of the 'Investment priorities and Interventions' is clear and helpful. As a potential grant holder, a breakdown like that allows for clear monitoring and reporting.' Ollie Jeffs CEO The Pelham

The Investment Plan has the full support of the area's two MP's.

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

Governance

The Role of Rother District Council

In England, local government is being given responsibility for developing the Shared Prosperity Investment Plan for approval by the UK government and for delivery of the Fund thereafter. This recognises the leadership and coordinating role of local government in ensuring that delivery responds to the district's unique local context and delivery is the needs of local people and businesses.

Partnership and collaboration is key to realising ambitions on the ground and, as outlined above, a Rother District Shared Prosperity Fund Local Partnership Group has been established.

As well as submitting the Investment Plan, Rother District Council will have responsibility for receiving and managing the UKSPF allocation, including developing a process for assessing and approving applications, processing payments and day-to-day monitoring.

Rother District Shared Prosperity Fund Local Partnership Group

The Group's key aims are to:

- Help identify the key challenges and opportunities for the Investment Plan
- Consider and agree the priority outcomes to be delivered
- Agree the Investment Plan prior to its submission to government

- Provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability once the Investment Plan is approved – taking care to avoid conflicts of interest
- Establish a Project Selection Panel comprising no more than five members of the Partnership Group to consider project applications and, where agreed, make recommendations to the Partnership Group and Rother District Council to offer grant awards.
- Receive regular updates on the progress and monitoring of the Investment Plan.

The Local Partnership Group will be serviced and supported by Rother District Council who will set and issue meeting agendas, minutes and an action log.

The Local Partnership Group agreed that SPF interventions should be aligned to the following agreed Rother District Council strategies and plan:

- Economic Recovery Plan (2020) – specifically linked to interventions in the Communities and Place, Local Business Support and Skills and People themes.
- Anti-Poverty Strategy (2022 – 2025) – specifically linked to interventions in the People and Skills theme.
- Environment Strategy (2020 – 2030) – specifically linked to interventions in the Communities and Place and Local Business Support themes.

Following agreement to the Investment Plan the Council’s approach to project selection is likely to be a blend of partner collaboration and an open call approach (see project section detailed response below).

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

Yes ✓ Sally-Ann Hart MP Hastings & Rye Huw Merriman MP Bexhill & Battle	
--	--

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

Yes	No ✓
-----	---------

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

N/A

PROJECT SELECTION

Are you intending to select projects in any way other than by competition for funding?

Yes ✓	
----------	--

(If Yes) Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way.

--

Following agreement to the Investment Plan outcomes and priority interventions, the Council's approach to project selection is likely to be a blend of partner collaboration and an open call approach.

In some instances, the Council will use UK SPF to collaborate with partners in the design and delivery of specific interventions, where this is the most effective way of delivering interventions against core outcomes. For example, entering into collaborative agreements with East Sussex County Council to address the Supporting Local Business and People Skills themes, which will secure clear economies of scale, whilst addressing local needs.

The majority of funds are likely to operate through an open call approach (one in 2022/23 and two in the subsequent years), with eligible applicants being able to submit proposals to address the priority interventions agreed within the Investment Plan.

The application process is as follows:

1. Investment Priority and Interventions

Preparation of guidance on eligibility rules, selection criteria and strategic framework, to clarify the types of activities that are required to deliver against the Investment Plan.

2. Expression of Interest

Eligible applicants will be invited to submit Expressions of Interest, which will be assessed by a Project Selection Panel, made up of representatives of the Local Partnership Group.

3. Detailed Proposal and Project Plan

If the assessment of the EOI is positive, the applicant is then invited to submit a detailed proposal and Project Plan to be assessed fully.

4. Confirmation of grant award and recommendations

The appropriate Senior Management will review the application and, in partnership with the Project Selection Panel, consider project applications and, where agreed, make recommendations to the Local Partnership Group and Rother District Council to offer grant awards. A Grant Funding award will be subject to a standard, non-negotiable, Grant Agreement which will include details of publicity, monitoring and reporting arrangements.

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

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

None

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

N/A

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

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

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development	✓
E24: Training hubs, business support offers, incubators	✓

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

To address common challenges across East Sussex, the Council is working in partnership with Wealden District Council on the delivery of intervention E23 and allocating funding to support start-ups and business growth through mentoring, networking and peer support.

To ensure economies of scale and build on successful past business support programmes, Rother DC will collaborate with all 5 boroughs and districts to deliver a pan-county business support programme (E24).

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

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

Intervention	Tick if applicable
<i>A full list of nation-specific interventions is available in the relevant annex to the Prospectus.</i>	
E33: Employment Support for Economically Inactive People	✓

Describe any interventions not included in this list?

N/A

Who are the places you intend to collaborate with?

To address common challenges across East Sussex, the Council is working in partnership with East Sussex County Council on the delivery of intervention E33 in the delivery of a pan Sussex approach to supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support, including access to basic skills.

This project will be a partnership between East Sussex County Council and its constituent districts/boroughs – Hastings, Rother Eastbourne, Wealden and Lewes.

PUBLIC SECTOR EQUALITY DUTY

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

In developing the SPF Investment Plan, the District Council has considered its Public Sector Equality Duty responsibilities in line with the Council's three corporate equality objectives:

- Sustainable Economic Prosperity / Stronger Safer Communities
- A Quality Physical Environment
- An Efficient, Flexible and Effective Council

For each SPF theme, the Council has considered the projects and interventions that can best address the following:

- Ensure all residents, particularly those who are vulnerable, are able to access state benefits and financial support provided by the Councils.
- Facilitate the delivery of economic growth to assist in reducing economic disparities to meet the needs of all who live or wish to live in the District.
- Engage with local communities to provide greater opportunities for residents to access local jobs, services and community facilities

This consideration is in addition to the statutory obligations under our general duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- Advance equality of opportunity between different groups
- Foster good relations between different groups

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

The majority of funds are likely to operate through an open call approach (one in 2022/23 and two in the subsequent years), with eligible applicants being able to submit proposals to address the priority interventions agreed within the Investment Plan.

At each stage the Council will consider its Public Sector Equality Duty as follows:

1. Investment Priority and Interventions

Preparation of guidance on eligibility rules, selection criteria and strategic framework, to clarify the types of activities that are required to deliver against the Investment Plan. This will be reviewed to ensure that the guidance is clear, in accessible formats and is open to all sections of the communities that wishes to submit Expression of Interest. The agreed guidance will be published on the Council's website and it will be promoted through local community, education and business forums; and hard copies will be printed and made available at the Council's reception areas, libraries and community facilities.

2. Expression of Interest

Eligible applicants will be invited to submit Expressions of Interest, which will be assessed by a Project Selection Panel, made up of representatives of the Local Partnership Group. The Expression of Interest will be reviewed to ensure that it is clear, in accessible formats and is open to all sections of the communities that wishes to consider a submission. The agreed Expression of Interest will be published on the Council's website and it will be

promoted through local community, education and business forums; and hard copies will be printed and made available at the Council's reception areas, libraries and community facilities.

3. Detailed Proposal and Project Plan

If the assessment of the EOI is positive, the applicant is then invited to submit a detailed proposal and Project Plan to be assessed fully. The Project Plan will be reviewed to ensure that is clear, in accessible formats and is open to all sections of the communities that wishes to consider a submission. The agreed Project Plan will be published on the Council's website and it will be promoted through local community, education and business forums; and hard copies will be printed and made available at the Council's reception areas, libraries and community facilities. The Council will accept Project Plans via email and hard copies posted and date stamped prior to the deadline set.

RISKS

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

Yes ✓	No
--------------	----

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

The Council has identified the following key risks:

Risk 1 – Failure to secure agreement to the Investment Plan from the Local Partnership Group or UK Government leading to delays in allocating funding in the 2022/23 year.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – The Council has appointed external support to develop a robust and compliant Investment Plan in line with the UK Government Guidance. The principles for developing the Investment Plan have already been agreed by the Local Partnership Group, however, should a revised Investment Plan be required, the Council will prioritise adequate resources to submit a revised Plan quickly.

Risk 2 – Failure to receive appropriate bids or projects through the commissioning process to deliver the forecast interventions, outputs and outcomes agreed in the Investment Plan.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – The Council will review the commissioning framework to ensure that it is clear on the interventions, outputs and outcomes to be delivered and it will undertake further promotion, marketing and capacity building support to local groups to help secure project delivery partners.

Risk 3 – The increased costs of materials and labour for the SPF capital project results in significant delays and or cessation of the project due to financial viability.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – A feasibility study for the capital project has been completed in July 2022 with up to date financial costs including appropriate allowances for contingency. Should costs savings be required, the Council will work with the project sponsor to identify and agree project savings that will not substantially impact on the delivery of the Investment Plan's outputs and outcomes.

Risk 4 – Failure of the capital project to secure planning permission resulting in a potential underspend of the SPF capital allocation.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – The Council will develop a pipeline of alternative capital projects for consideration and agreement by the Local Partnership Group which could deliver a revised set of Investment Plan interventions, outputs and outcomes. Any change in the capital project proposals will be agreed with UK government.

Risk 5 – The draw down of SPF funding is not in align with commissioned project’s funding profile causing them to stall.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – The Council will develop a financial plan to seek agreement from Rother DC’s S151 officer to forward fund project costs and support continuing payments within the agreed project plans and agreed parameters.

Risk 6 – Commissioned projects do not meet the agreed Investment Plan outputs and outcomes resulting in lower value for money.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – The Council will adopt ongoing contract management includes the use of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the continual monitoring of suppliers and mitigation of risks. Where applicable the KPIs on any supplier commissioned contract may include indicators on quality, timeliness, performance, reliability, environmental, and cost. Reporting on the KPIs may occur on a regular basis. Corrective measures permitted in the contract may be taken on any area where performance is sub optimal. Such measures would be proportional to the drop in performance and may include increased monitoring to retention of grant allocation.

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

Yes ✓	No
----------	----

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

The key fraud risks are:

Risk 7 – Commissioned projects utilising SPF investment fail to deliver against the agreed interventions, outputs and outcomes resulting in low or poor value for money.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – All commissioned suppliers will be contracted through the Council’s established contracting and procurement processes which will set out the legal requirements for project delivery and the process for reclaiming any SPF grant allocation. Procurement exercises are run in compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council’s own internal Contract Procedure Rules.

Risk 8 – A supplier becomes insolvent or closes down during the delivery of the commissioned SPF activity.

Mitigation / Contingency Measures – The Council will undertake due financial diligence any prospective supplier. Initially this is via a third-party and the Hub currently use the Dun and Bradstreet service. In addition to this assessment an in house evaluation of a suppliers accounts is undertaken by the Council’s accountancy team to examine profit and loss, balance sheet ratios for working capital and liquidity and gearing of external debt, adverse auditor comments, and turnover requirements. Should any concerns be raised during due diligence, whether financial or otherwise, the Council reserves the right to require further assurances from the supplier in terms of bonds and guarantees. Where a supplier

essentially fails any element of the due diligence assessment the Council reserves the right not to award the contract to a supplier and exclude them from further participation in the process.

Capacity and capability

In this section, we will ask you about:

- The capacity and capability of your team to manage funding
- The resources you have in place for work related to UKSPF

Your answers here will help us know how to support you with delivery. They will not affect the amount of funding you will get.

Answer as honestly as possible.

TEAM RESOURCE

How many people (FTE) will be put in place to work with UKSPF funding?

The Council will appoint one FTE post for a three year period at an estimated cost of Scale 6 (£27,000-£29,000 per annum) plus on-costs. This will be funded by utilising the 4% SPF management allocation (4% = £40,000) with additional match funding from Rother District Council.

The appointed officer will be supported by the following senior officers:

- Principal Regeneration Officer
- Director of Place and Climate Change

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

SPF Officer key role includes:

- To oversee the commissioning and procurement of the SPF allocations within each theme.
- To report progress on the SPF funding allocations, indicators, outputs and outcomes to the Local Partnership Group.
- To undertake regular monitoring of performance against agreed KPI's, proposing any remedial action necessary to help meet the agreed targets.
- To develop a communications plan to help disseminate the SPF progress, impacts and final evaluation.

The SPF Officer will report to the Principle Regeneration Officer.

Principal Regeneration Officer key role includes:

- Providing management, advice and support to the SPF Officer with the implementation and programme of the SPF allocation.

- To oversee the reporting on the SPF funding allocations, indicators, outputs and outcomes to the Rother District Council senior management team and UK Government.

The Principal Regeneration Officer will report to the Director of Place.

Director of Place and Climate Change key role includes:

- The Senior Responsible Officer for Rother District Council's SPF.
- Providing management, advice and support to the Principle Regeneration Officer and SPF Officer with the implementation and programme of the SPF allocation.
- To oversee the reporting on the SPF funding allocations, indicators, outputs and outcomes to the Rother District Council's elected Members and Members of Parliament.

- Strong capability: Has extensive experience and/or a proven track record of delivery in this area.
- Strong capacity: High degree of confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Some capability: Has previous experience of delivery in this area.
- Some capacity: Confident that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area.
- Limited capability: Does not have previous experience and/or no track record of delivery in this area.
- Limited capacity: Limited confidence that there is enough staffing/resource to manage funding in this area. Additional resource may be needed to support delivery.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY		
How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?		
Very experienced ✓	Some experience	No previous experience
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability ✓	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capability ✓	Some capability	Limited capability
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?		
Strong capacity ✓	Some capacity	Limited capacity
How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?		

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

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY

Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Communities and Place interventions you have select?

Yes ✓	No
----------	----

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

Strong capability ✓	Some capability	Limited capability
------------------------	-----------------	--------------------

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

The key capability challenge is to ensure the commissioning and procurement process is undertaken swiftly, alongside other Council priorities, on the agreement of the Investment Plan to ensure that the grant expenditure and forecast outputs and outcomes can be delivered by the end of March 2025.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

To help mitigate this challenge, early agreement of the Council's Investment Plan is requested.

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

Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability ✓
-------------------	-----------------	-------------------------

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Communities and Place interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

The Council only has limited capacity for the direct delivery of the Communities and Place interventions and is, therefore, reliant on a commissioning process to secure and fund third party delivery agencies.

The Council would welcome a conversation with the UK SPF team on whether more than 4% of the total grant could be allocated to management fees to ensure the effective delivery of this, and the two other themes, to time and budget.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

UK Government agreement to more than 4% management fee across all three SPF themes.

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have select?**

Yes

No – This project is being commissioned via
✓ East Sussex County Council as the delivery partner.**How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?**

Strong capability

Some capability

Limited capability

✓

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

Due to limited capacity and to ensure effective delivery, Rother District will collaborate with all boroughs/districts on the core business start-up and business growth programme during 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

Internal Programme management support (4% UKSPF support) will ensure the efficient and effective delivery of projects.

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for Supporting Local Business interventions?

Strong capability

Some capability

Limited capability

✓

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.

The Council only has limited capacity for the direct delivery of the Supporting Local Business interventions and is, therefore, reliant on a commissioning process to secure and fund third party delivery agencies.

The Council would welcome a conversation with the UK SPF team on whether more than 4% of the total grant could be allocated to management fees to ensure the effective delivery of this, and the two other themes, to time and budget.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

UK Government agreement to more than 4% management fee across all three SPF themes.

PEOPLE AND SKILLS CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**Does your local authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have select?**

Yes

No

✓

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?

Strong capability ✓	Some capability	Limited capability
Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
Supporting people back into work requires a multi-agency approach, particularly when supporting people with long-term mental and physical health challenges. A specialist supplier will be commissioned to develop, deliver and co-ordinate services on behalf of the participating local authorities. Rother District Council and its public sector partners will provide oversight and advocacy and will work with local employers to generate employment and work experience opportunities and with learning providers to ensure that the right programmes are delivered in the right places to deliver the expected outputs and outcomes.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
There is considerable expertise and experience in managing and delivering people and skills programmes across East Sussex. The cross-boundary partnerships will provide the support that is required. However, Rother District Council would welcome further discussions with UKSPF to establish what other support may be available to build capability further.		
How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for People and Skills interventions?		
Strong capability	Some capability	Limited capability ✓
Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local authority and/or your local/regional delivery system.		
The Council only has limited capacity for the direct delivery of the People and Skills Communities interventions and is, therefore, reliant on a commissioning process to secure and fund third party delivery agencies. The Council would welcome a conversation with the UK SPF team on whether more than 4% of the total grant could be allocated to management fees to ensure the effective delivery of this, and the two other themes, to time and budget.		
Describe what further support would help address these challenges.		
UK Government agreement to more than 4% management fee across all three SPF themes.		

SUPPORT TO DELIVERY UKSPF

All lead authorities can use up to 4% of their UKSPF allocation to support the delivery of their chosen interventions but by exception, lead authorities will be able to use more than 4%. Are you planning to use more than 4%?

Yes

No
✓

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

N/A

Approvals

Before submitting your investment plan, you should have approval from your:

- Chief Executive Officer
- Section 151 Officer
- Leader of your lead authority

Do you have approval from your Chief Executive Officer for this investment plan?

- Yes

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

- Yes

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

- Yes

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

N/A

Additional documents

You will have received an email giving you access to a folder where you will need to upload supporting evidence to your investment plan. All applicants must complete and upload the following spreadsheet to the folder prior to submitting their investment plan:

- UKSPF Expenditure Profile spreadsheet
- UKSPF Indicative Deliverables spreadsheet
- ANNEX A - Interventions, Objectives, Outputs and Outcomes summary
- ANNEX B – MPs letters of support

Your investment plan submission will be considered incomplete without the required documents.

Have you completed and uploaded the two spreadsheets to the SharePoint folder as requested?

- Yes