

# Cabinet

5 December 2023

## Dorset Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

### Appendix 1:

## Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, Rural England Prosperity Fund Addendum summaries and original texts

- 1.1 The Investment Plan and addendum were uploaded to a government website through an electronic questionnaire. This process automatically produces pdfs of the results, which are reproduced below. While these is official records of the Investment Plan and addendum, their formats and layouts are not particularly clear, therefore a summary is also provided.
- 1.2 SPF Investment Plan: Communities and Place Investment Priority summary:
  - Intervention E2: Improvements to Town Centres and High Streets: In-house delivery of community development fund grants: £150,000
  - Intervention E12: Community-led regeneration: In-house delivery of community development fund grants: £255,000
  - Intervention E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living: Home energy performance improvements delivered through existing Healthy Homes Dorset contract: £537,958.
  - Intervention E14: Relevant feasibility studies: Taking forward selected recommendations from the Network Rail Dorset Connectivity Strategic Study to outline business case stage: £70,000.
  - Intervention E15: Digital connectivity for local community facilities: Digital connections for community buildings, delivered by DC Digital Place Service: £75,500
- 1.3 SPF Investment Plan: Local business Investment Priority summary: Interventions E18 - E28 comprise a commissioned business support service and grants to local businesses.

- Intervention E17: Development and promotion of the visitor economy: Research and marketing delivered through Visit Dorset, DC's Destination Management Organisation: £78,812
- Intervention E18: Made smarter adoption: £237,000.
- Intervention E20: Research and development supporting innovation: £366,000.
- Intervention E24: Training hubs, business support, incubators, and accelerators: £1,197,542
- Intervention E26: Growing the local social economy: £150,000.
- Intervention E28: Exports to grow overseas trading: £145,000.
- Intervention E29: Supporting Decarbonisation and improving the natural environment: Support and advice on decarbonisation and business energy efficiency delivered by DC Low Carbon Dorset initiative: £395,000.
- Intervention E31: Support relevant feasibility studies, commissioned from relevant experts: £136,000.

1.4 SPF Investment Plan: Skills and People Investment Priority summary: All delivery routes To Be Confirmed in consultation with Skills and Learning.

- Intervention E33: Employment support for economically inactive people: £105,000.
- Intervention E34: Courses including basic, life, and career skills: £80,000.
- Intervention E37: Tailored support for the employed to access courses: £70,000.
- Intervention E39: Green skills courses: £155,000.
- Intervention E41: Funding to support local digital skills: £232,000.

1.5 Rural England Prosperity Fund interventions:

- Intervention 1.1: (i) SME grants to be used alongside SPF Intervention E24 business support grants, £800,000. (ii) Low Carbon Dorset SME grants to be used alongside advice funded by SPF Intervention E29, £300,000.
- Intervention 1.3: trail development and marketing, to be delivered by Dorset AONB and DC, £65,000.
- Intervention 2.1: Digital improvements for hard-to-reach communities: £580,000.

- Intervention 2.2: for Low Carbon Dorset community sustainable energy: £206,918
- Intervention 2.6: Active travel enhancements: £115,000.

1.6 Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan, original version from government document:

Response ID ANON-QPA8-9PYP-C

Submitted to Submit an investment plan to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in England

Submitted on 2022-07-29 14:57:31

Investment priorities

Navigating your investment plan submission

About your investment plan

Get help

Your location

In which region is the lead authority based?

South West England

Your location: South West

Select the lead authority

Select the lead authority:

Dorest

Your details

Full Name

First name and surname:

Jon Bird

Email address

Email address:

jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

Phone number

Phone number:

01305221895

Organisation

Organisation:

Dorset Council

Local challenges and opportunities

Local challenges and opportunities: Communities and Place

Are there any local challenges you face which fall under the Communities and Place investment priority ?

Yes

Local challenges and opportunities: Communities and Place

Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible:

Dorset is in general a good place to live with above average life expectancy, high quality protected landscapes, and relatively low levels of crime and unemployment.

However, there are widespread challenges relating to its rural nature, and related challenges of connectivity, access to services, the cost of heating

especially off the gas network, and its demographics: it has high levels of long-term illness and disability generally related to its high and growing

population of older people: The Dorset Council area has a population of 380,000 residents, 30% of whom are aged 65 and older (compared to 19% in

England and Wales). It has limited higher education provision and relatively high house prices coupled with relatively low salaries, which explain the high

levels of young adults moving away from the area. While its protected landscapes are an important asset, balancing the need to preserve and improve

landscapes with demands for modern services is an ongoing challenge.

The wider picture also masks significant areas of deprivation, mostly in urban areas (mainly in parts of Weymouth, Portland and Bridport) and also in the

East of Dorset in Ferndown, Wimborne and Verwood and also rural deprivation due to isolation and difficulty accessing housing, transport and essential

services. Melcombe Regis, in the centre of Weymouth, is in the top 20% of communities nationally for health, income, employment and living

environment deprivation, and also the top 20% for crime.

A host of relevant data, predominantly from national datasets, is synthesised in the following local data sets:

Sources:

Understanding Dorset - Dorset Council

Locality dashboard - Public Health Dorset - Dorset Council

Indices of Deprivation 2019 - Dorset Council

Dorset Council Wards 2019 - Dorset Council

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/dorset-council-local-context>

Dorset Council's Plan - Dorset Council

Local challenges and opportunities: Communities and Place

Are there any local opportunities which fall under the Communities and Place investment priority that you intend to support?

Yes

Local challenges and opportunities: Communities and Place

Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible:

1. While Dorset has benefitted from funding streams to support regional policy in the past, the reorganisation of local government in 2019 simplified

administrative structures, removing a tier of local government, and creating one council that serves nearly 400,000 residents. This not only serves

residents better but also enables closer relations with local MPs and national government. The removal of a tier of government at local level is matched

by the removal of the EU level at the supranational level, creating a much simpler system that holds potential for more bespoke activity tied more closely

with local community wants and needs.

2. While there has always been a great deal of collaborative working in Dorset between public, private, and third sector organisations, during the pandemic this work underwent a step change. Previously, Dorset had successful EU-funded community-led local development projects in rural areas but scheme rules prevented similar initiatives in our urban areas. We want to use the Shared Prosperity Fund to build on these legacies, allowing us to enable local community groups in rural and urban areas alike to be more involved in shaping their communities and the services available to them.

3. This Investment Priority enables us to address some specific place-based opportunities, including crime prevention measures in specific hotspots, enhancing our domestic insulation programme in the short term to address the current cost of living crisis while providing longer term Carbon reduction and fuel poverty alleviation benefits, and exploring ways to improve sustainable, affordable transport, especially for younger people.

Data Sources:

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/dorset-council-local-context>

LEADER Community Led Local Development - Dorset Council

Dorset Council's Plan - Dorset Council

Local challenges and opportunities: Supporting Local Business

Are there any local challenges you face which fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority ?

Yes

Local challenges and opportunities: Supporting Local Business

Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible:

Unemployment in Dorset is generally relatively low, but it has a significant productivity gap. Less than 1% of Dorset businesses are large firms, which tend to be more productive and invest more in R&D. There is also a continuing seasonal, low-skill, low-wage economy with tourism and agriculture significant industries: 23% of jobs pay below the living wage compared with 17% nationally.

Earnings are below average and house prices are high with affordability issues for many young people and keyworkers.

Dorset's physical geography, peripheral location, protected landscapes, and relatively poor road and rail links also influence the types of business and sectors where it has a competitive advantage.

Business births are well below the national average, although survival rates are higher.

Dorset's demographics are skewed toward older people and a significant proportion of the workforce is due to retire by 2030. Since the pandemic, a large group of predominantly older working-age people have become economically inactive, exacerbating the issue.

Relevant data, predominantly from national datasets and supplemented by commercial data sets such as MOSAIC socio-demographic data and Burning

Glass employment data is synthesised in the following local data sets:

Evidence base:

Reports - Dorset Council (State of Dorset Report)

Local Economic Assessment Topic Data - Dorset Council

<https://www.dorsetlep.co.uk/dorset-council-local-context>

Economy Topic Data - Dorset Council

Understanding Dorset - Dorset Council

Local challenges and opportunities: Supporting Local Business

Are there any local opportunities which fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority that you intend to support?

Yes

Local challenges and opportunities: Supporting Local Business

Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible:

Improving productivity, sustainability, and accessibility are the key opportunities in Dorset: These can be improved by:

(i) building on our biggest strengths in high-value advanced manufacturing and engineering, particularly in the aerospace, defence, and marine sectors.

These are the most significant sectors that employ significant numbers in well-paying jobs

(ii) increasing the productivity of our less productive sectors, such as tourism, through extending the season, investment in automation and digital capabilities and capacity,

(iii) enabling small businesses to start, stay, and grow in Dorset through business support and investment, particularly in automation, digital and low

Carbon investments.

(iv) investing in Dorset's High Potential Growth opportunities in the agritech, aquaculture, and security industries. Some of these investment priorities

complement People and Skills investment priorities

(v) encouraging economically inactive working age people to either re-join the workforce or participate in the social economy

Evidence Base:

Dorset LIS Summary - Feb 2020 FINAL.pdf (dorsetlep.co.uk)

Towards-2030-Reimagining-the-Visitor-Economy-in-the-South-West.pdf (heartofswlep.co.uk)

Investment opportunities - great.gov.uk international

Local challenges and opportunities: People and Skills

Are there any local challenges you face which fall under the People and Skills investment priority?

Yes

Local challenges and opportunities: People and Skills

Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible

Describe these challenges, give evidence where possible:

There are skills shortages at all levels in Dorset, while the trend is for less-skilled jobs to be automated, leading to an ever-greater need for people with

skills at level 4 and above in a wide range of specialist roles. Dorset employment concentration in sectors with a high proportion of workers with low



numeracy skills is relatively high in Dorset (40%, n=120,000), supported by above average proportions employed in Tourism, Hospitality and Construction,

and lower employment levels in sectors where there are fewer workers with low numeracy skills, such as Information and Communication (27%), and

Professional, Scientific and Technical activities (31%).

Evidence Sources:

ONS BRES, 2020 & PBE analysis of OECD PIAAC Public Use Files for England

Counting on the recovery. The role for numeracy skills in 'levelling up' the UK. Pro Bono Economics, National Numeracy & KPMG, April 2021

Dorset LIS Summary - Feb 2020 FINAL.pdf (dorsetlep.co.uk)

Local challenges and opportunities: People and Skills

Are there any local opportunities which fall under the People and Skills investment priority that you intend to support?

Yes

Local challenges and opportunities: People and Skills

Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible

Describe these opportunities, give evidence where possible:

In addition to addressing the challenges described above through providing support and training at both basic and more advanced levels, we will ensure

training is fit for the future by providing broad digital skills training and specific skills needed for the growing green economy.

Interventions

Interventions: Communities and Place

Does your investment plan meet the Communities and Place investment priority?

Yes

Interventions: Communities and Place

What are the outcomes you want to deliver under this investment priority? Select all that apply.

Greenhouse gas reductions, Improved perception of facilities/amenities, Increased users of facilities/amenities, Improved perception of

facility/infrastructure project, Improved engagement numbers, Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies, Increased take up of

energy efficiency measures, Number of premises with improved digital connectivity

Interventions: Communities and Place

Select the interventions you intend to use which meet this priority. You can select as many as you like.

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. , E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to

support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration. , E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through

measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

, E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies. , E15:

Investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities.

Interventions: Communities and Place

Do you plan to use any interventions not included on this list?

Yes

Interventions: Communities and Place

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

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

Yes – 4% administration cost added to this IP purely to ensure spreadsheet totals balanced. No metrics/outputs outcomes aligned with this.

Explain how each of these interventions meet the investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value for money and

the outcomes you want to deliver.

Explain how each of these interventions meets the investment priority. Give evidence where possible, including why it is value for money and the

outcomes you want to deliver. :

The Missions relevant to people and Place are all interconnected, as satisfaction with an area is closely linked to Healthy Life Expectancy, wellbeing, and low levels of crime against the person, and vice versa.

Interventions E2 and E12 will provide for grassroots community-led local development, supporting local groups to lead on what their community wants.

Eligibility and scoring for access to these funds will be designed to focus funding on areas of greatest need. Funding could also be used for measures designed to prevent crime and give residents a better feeling of security.

Indices of deprivation in Dorset, like many areas, are significantly affected by lack of connectivity to services:

Intervention E13 will focus on (i) improving home energy efficiency, which not only reduces fuel bills and pollutants, but perhaps most importantly lowers incidences of excess winter death, which is one of the key wider determinants of health. (ii) promoting affordable, sustainable transport, helping mitigate some of the connectivity problems inherent in predominantly rural areas.

Interventions E14 and E15 tackle both physical and digital connectivity, helping build the case for longer-term investment in the local rail infrastructure, and more immediate improvements to community digital connectivity. While the What Works Centre evidence base suggests that broadband investment is more cost-effective in urban areas, these areas generally do not require public subsidy at present as areas are dense enough for a reasonable return on investment. Extending broadband to community centres in marginal areas can be a catalyst for further market-based expansion and extension.

Do you consider any of these interventions may provide a subsidy to potential recipients of the funding under the intervention's planned activity?

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.

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.:

While development of specific projects is currently at the conceptual stage, the interventions for E13, E14 and E15 will all be delivered either in-house or

using competitively procured services, so there is no issue of subsidy. If administration of the E2 and E12 funds is undertaken by a third party, this will

also be procured competitively. The likelihood of Subsidy Control implications for small grants has been assessed in-house in line with the guidance, and

it is considered very unlikely any grant would affect international trade, so subsidy is not an issue. Part of any grant scheme project design will include

designing out subsidy where possible or providing for an allowable subsidy such as De Minimis if this is not practical.

Interventions: Communities and Place

Have you already identified any projects which fall under the Communities and Place investment priority?

Yes

Interventions: Communities and Place

Describe these projects, including their proposed locations and how they fall under this investment priority.

Describe these projects, including their proposed locations and how they fall under this investment priority.:

Development of specific projects is currently at the conceptual stage:

E2/E12: These interventions will be delivered through a funding pot managed either in-house or through a competitively commissioned provider, using a

“bottom up” model to empower local community organisations to propose projects best suited to local need, with “top down” governance and

programme management to ensure funds are used correctly. Consideration will be given to places of greatest need, based on indices of deprivation

appropriate to the interventions under consideration.

E13: This will be delivered through: (i) the “Healthy Homes Dorset” programme and/or any successor programme designed to reduce energy bills, cut

emissions of Carbon and other pollutants, mitigate fuel poverty and reduce excess seasonal morbidity and mortality. The current contract was

competitively tendered with sufficient headroom for an increase in budget such as that proposed here. Any future iteration will also be subject to

competitive tender. (ii) projects commissioned or delivered directly by the council's transport teams to increase uptake of sustainable, affordable

transport, particularly to enable travel to and from workplaces.

E14: Taking forward selected recommendations from the Network Rail Dorset Connectivity Strategic Study to outline business case stage will involve

appointing external consultants from Dorset Council's framework of suppliers.

E15: There are several potential schemes at the development stage. Expanding digital connectivity to community hubs is often a catalyst for rollout of

fixed digital services that would otherwise not be commercially viable. Dorset is also a leader in rural 5G development.

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

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.

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed project constitute a subsidy/State Aid and any specific measures you will take to

make sure the subsidy is permitted.:

While development of specific projects is currently at the conceptual stage, the interventions for E13, 14 and E15 will all be delivered using competitively

procured services, so there is no issue of subsidy. If administration of the E2 and E12 funds is undertaken by a third party, this will also be procured

competitively. The likelihood of Subsidy Control implications for small grants has been assessed in-house in line with the guidance, and it is considered

very unlikely any grant would affect international trade, so subsidy is not an issue. Part of any grant scheme project design will include designing out

subsidy where possible or providing for an allowable subsidy such as De Minimis if this is not practical.

Interventions: Supporting Local Business

Does your investment plan meet the Supporting Local Business investment priority?

Yes

Interventions: Supporting Local Business

What are the outcomes you want to deliver under this investment priority? Select all that apply.

Number of new businesses created, Increased visitor numbers, Increased number of businesses supported, Increased amount of investment, Number of

businesses introducing new products to the firm, Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes, Number of new to market

products, Increased amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed, Greenhouse gas reductions, Number of R&D active businesses,

Number of businesses adopting new or improved products or services, Number of businesses engaged in new markets, Number of early stage firms

which increase their revenue following support, Number of businesses increasing their export capability, Increased number of projects arising from

funded feasibility studies

Interventions: Supporting Local Business

Select the interventions you intend to use which meet this priority. You can select as many as you like.

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. , E18: Supporting Made Smarter Adoption: Providing tailored expert advice, matched grants and leadership training to enable

manufacturing SMEs to adopt industrial digital technology solutions including artificial intelligence; robotics and autonomous systems; additive

manufacturing; industrial internet of things; virtual reality; data analytics. The support is proven to leverage high levels of private investment into

technologies that drive growth, productivity, efficiency and resilience in manufacturing. , E20: Research and development grants supporting the

development of innovative products and services. , 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. , E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises. , E28:

Export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment. , 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. , E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

Interventions: Supporting Local Business

Do you plan to use any interventions not included on this list?

No

Interventions: Supporting Local Business

Have you already identified any projects which fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority?

Yes

Interventions: Supporting Local Business

Describe these projects, including their proposed locations and how they fall under this investment priority.

Describe these projects, including their proposed locations and how they fall under this investment priority.:

Development of specific projects is currently at the conceptual stage:

The main programme, consisting of E24 (Training hubs, business support offers, incubators), complemented by E18 (made smarter adoption), E20 (R&D),

and E28 (supporting exports) will be commissioned following the appropriate competitive process. It is likely that costs can be reduced, and quality

improved by commissioning this package with one or more neighbouring authorities. The results of discussions concerning how to tender are subject to

government feedback on the relevant Investment Plans. A small allocation will be retained to support Dorset Business Mentors, formerly DORMEN, a

well-established SME mentoring service run in-house but dependent on third party funding.

E26: Social Economy support is likely to be competitively commissioned for Dorset alone, as this type of service tends to be more locality specific.

E29: Low Carbon Business Support is likely to be delivered in-house, to provide service continuity with the current ERDF-funded Low Carbon Dorset

programme, although the service design and eligibility requirements will be better tailored to local need and funding availability.

E31: Feasibility Studies: The funding is not allocated to specific studies at this point, however there is a steady stream of business opportunities that merit

further investigation but cannot be funded at present.

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

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.

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

the subsidy is permitted.:

While development of specific projects is currently at the conceptual stage, the interventions for E17, E18, E20, E24, E26 and E28 will all be delivered using

competitively procured services, so there is no issue of subsidy to the programme administrator(s). The final beneficiaries of the schemes will receive

relatively small grants and non-financial aid. The likelihood of Subsidy Control implications for small grants has been assessed in-house in line with the

guidance, and it is considered very unlikely any grant would affect international trade, so subsidy is not an issue. Part of any grant scheme project design



will include designing out subsidy where possible or providing for an allowable subsidy such as De Minimis if this is not practical.

Intervention E29 is likely to be administered in-house to provide service continuity with an established scheme. The service is designed to meet policy

objectives and no financial benefit will accrue to the council. Intervention E31 will be carried out by third parties following procurement policy

proportionate to the size of contract.

Interventions: People and Skills

Does your investment plan meet the People and Skills investment priority?

Yes

Interventions: People and Skills

What are the outcomes you want to deliver under this investment priority? Select all that apply.

Number of economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support, Number of people with basic skills (English,

maths, digital and ESOL), Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support, Number of people engaged in job-searching

following support, Number of people in education/training, Number of people experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills

provision, Number of people familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace, 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

Interventions: People and Skills

Select the interventions you intend to use which meet this priority. Select all that apply.

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. This provision can include project promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives,

alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and

facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to

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). \*via Multiply., E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills\*\*

provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by

financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community

cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. \*\*where not being met through

Department for Work and Pensions provision., E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to

address barriers to accessing education and training courses. This includes supporting the retention of groups who are likely to leave the labour market

early. , E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental

ambitions. , E41: Funding to support local digital skills.

Interventions: People and Skills

Do you plan to use any interventions not included on this list?

No

Interventions: People and Skills

Have you already identified any projects for 2024-2025 which fall under the People and Skills investment priority?

Yes

## Interventions: People and Skills

Describe these projects for 2024-25, including their proposed locations and how they fall under this investment priority.

Describe these projects for 2024-25, including their proposed locations and how they fall under this investment priority.:

The selected interventions are designed to contribute to mission 1 (boosting pay, employment and productivity), 6 (skills training), 7 (healthy life

expectancy) and 8 (wellbeing) as they are all designed to improve employment prospects, whether maximising the number of people able to be

economically active in the workplace or gaining higher level skills and those in growing sectors such as the green economy. These skills boost the pay of

the direct beneficiaries and their families, and indirectly the communities where they spend their increased incomes and benefits the wider economy

through increased taxes and/or decreased demand for in and out of work benefits. Employment in itself is one of the key wider determinants of a healthy

life, bringing physical and mental health benefits to Dorset residents.

Proposed projects are at a conceptual stage. The basic package of services will be commissioned through Skills and Learning, Dorset Council and

neighbouring BCP Council's jointly run provider and commissioner. It will be designed to complement existing statutory provision and Multiply provision.

Need for green skills training including qualifications needed for PAS 2035 such as retrofit assessors and coordinators, and heat pump engineers will be

defined and refined prior to delivery ramping up in 2024/5. Appropriate digital skills training will also be scoped in time for delivery in 2024/5.

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

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.

Detail the assessment you undertook to consider whether the proposed projects constitute a subsidy/State Aid and any specific measures you will take to

make sure the subsidy is permitted. :

The delivery of most of these services is outside the scope of subsidy control legislation. Where they are not outside the scope, the training providers will be commissioned through competitive processes proportionate to the contract values involved.

Interventions: People and Skills

Have you identified a local voluntary and community provision at risk as part of this intervention?

No

Approach to delivery and governance

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

If so, describe how you have engaged with these organisations. Give examples where possible.

If so, describe how you have engaged with these organisations. Give examples where possible. :

Dorset Council's first stage of engagement was conducted via an online consultation and invited a wide range of representatives of all the stakeholders

described in the guidance. Some stakeholders also publicised the link more widely through their own contacts and communications. It asked about

challenges and opportunities (the "What?" for SPF before we considered the "how?"), it asked participants to rank groups of interventions under the three

investment priorities, and it invited participants to be further involved in the process.

The second stage was an online meeting. Invites were sent to the original group plus all who had responded to stage one. Dorset Council presented the

findings of stage one and data it considered relevant to the SPF Investment Plan.

The meeting had a follow-up online survey where respondents were

asked both about a proposed set of interventions based on the data and round one responses, and to submit additional data if they considered the

dataset presented to be lacking useful or relevant data.

The third stage was a circulation of a first draft of the first part of this Investment plan for comment.

Copies of all of the responses, ranking exercises etc available on request.

Stakeholders who were also past, current, and potential future suppliers of some of the interventions proposed provided valuable input into the design

stage but should not be part of the partnership group in the delivery phase to prevent possible conflicts of interest.

Stakeholder engagement and support

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

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

Now that consultation on the design of the Investment Plan has concluded, those stakeholders who are not potential beneficiaries and who have

expressed an interest in further involvement will be invited to form the initial Advisory Panel. An attempt to further engage local MPs will also be made.

Government feedback over the past few years has been that Dorset LEP's key strength lay in its capital programme management procedures and

templates - essentially that it ran a tight ship in this regard. DC has commissioned Dorset LEP to produce standard operating procedures and templates

based on its successful model, adapted to suit the needs of a programme with significant revenue elements. Dorset Council will establish programme

boards and the local partnership over Summer and early autumn 2022.

Have all the MPs covering your lead authority been invited to join the local partnership group?

Yes

Stakeholder engagement and support

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

No

Project selection

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

Yes

Project selection

Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way

Describe your approach to selecting projects, and why you intend to do it this way. :

Competition will be the principal mechanism, used for E2, 12, 14, 15, 18, 20, 24, 26, 28 and 31.

E13 will be managed in-house but use competition for the delivery elements, in the case of Healthy Homes Dorset an existing scheme tendered with

sufficient headroom for additional funding such as this.

E17 will be managed by the in-house Destination Management Organisation, Visit Dorset, but again the delivery will be through competition.

E29 will be delivered in-house to provide service continuity for the currently ERDF-funded Low Carbon Dorset programme.

The skills interventions, which are in general not subject to subsidy control or procurement law, may be tendered or managed through existing contracts

through Skills and Learning, the joint BCP Council and Dorset Council Adult Studies service. Service delivery for 2025 has not yet been agreed.

Working with other places: Communities and Place

Do you intend to work with other places on any of the interventions which fall under the Communities and Place investment priority?

Yes

Working with other places: Communities and Place

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

None of the above.

Describe any interventions not included in this list

Describe any interventions not included in this list:

Which places do you intend to collaborate with?

Which places do you intend to collaborate with?:

N/A

Working with other places: Supporting Local Business

Do you intend to work with other places on any of the interventions which fall under the Supporting Local Business investment priority?

Yes

Working with other places: Supporting Local Business

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

E18: Supporting Made Smarter Adoption: Providing tailored expert advice, matched grants and leadership training to enable manufacturing SMEs to

adopt industrial digital technology solutions including artificial intelligence; robotics and autonomous systems; additive manufacturing; industrial internet

of things; virtual reality; data analytics. The support is proven to leverage high levels of private investment into technologies that drive growth,

productivity, efficiency and resilience in manufacturing. , E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and

services. , 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. , E28: Export Grants

to support businesses to grow their overseas trading, supporting local employment.

Describe any interventions not included in this list.

Describe any interventions not included in this list.:

Which places do you intend to collaborate with?

Which places do you intend to collaborate with?:

Any collaboration is subject to confirmation and government validation of Investment Plans, however Dorset Council has often collaborated with

neighbouring BCP Council on business support initiatives as it forms one effective live-work area. Where it is clear than there is similar demand in other

neighbouring authorities with similar needs and economies, such as in Wiltshire, Somerset, and Devon, we will explore benefits and disbenefits of a wider

business support offer.

Working with other places: People and Skills

Do you intend to work with other places on any of the interventions which fall under the People and Skills investment priority?

Yes

Working with other places: People and Skills

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

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. This provision can include project promoting the importance of work to help people to live healthier and more independent lives,

alongside building future financial resilience and wellbeing. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community cohesion and

facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. Expected cohorts include, but are not limited to

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). \*via Multiply., E34: Courses including basic skills (digital, English, maths (via Multiply) and ESOL), and life skills and career skills\*\*

provision for people who are unable to access training through the adult education budget or wrap around support detailed above. Supplemented by

financial support for learners to enrol onto courses and complete qualifications. Beyond that, this intervention will also contribute to building community

cohesion and facilitate greater shared civil pride, leading to better integration for those benefitting from ESOL support. \*\*where not being met through

Department for Work and Pensions provision., E37: Tailored support to help people in employment, who are not supported by mainstream provision to

address barriers to accessing education and training courses. This includes supporting the retention of groups who are likely to leave the labour market



early. , E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions. , E41: Funding to support local digital skills.

Describe any interventions not included in this list.

Describe any interventions not included in this list.:

Which places do you intend to collaborate with?

Which places do you intend to collaborate with?:

Any collaboration is subject to confirmation and government validation of Investment Plans, however Dorset Council has a shared adult studies service

with BCP Council, and is collaborating on the Multiply Investment Plan and may seek to collaborate on the People and Skills IP

Public sector equality duty

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

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

There is a strong correlation between places with high populations of people with protected characteristics, and lower levels of wellbeing. This policy as a

whole aims to close the gap between the best performing areas and other areas, so it contributes towards advancing equality of opportunity in general.

At this stage the individual projects are at the conceptual stage, however DC EQIA screening tools will be used, and full EQIAs undertaken as appropriate,

at the relevant stage of intervention and project development.

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

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

In addition to the steps described above, attention to our equality duty will be an integral part of the assessment of any funding bid. DC has experience of operating a similar process as part of recent LEADER projects.

Risks

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

Yes

Risks

Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them

Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them:

A full risk register for the programme, and individual risk registers for the Investment Priorities will be developed in Summer 2022.

Risks

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

Yes

Risks

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

Describe these risks or issues, including the contingency measures you have in place to mitigate them. :

We are familiar with a host of ways funds may be channelled into uses other than those for which they were awarded, through experience running many

grant schemes ranging from the very broadly similar LEADER programmes to Covid grants and have seen everything from outright fraud at one extreme

to poor attention to record keeping at the other. At present projects are at the conceptual stage, but they will be designed with appropriate safeguards to

ensure beneficiaries identities are verified and grants are only paid for the goods, services, or works detailed in any grant agreement.

Capacity and capability

Team resource

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

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

2.6

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

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

Some of this capacity will be funded from the 4% administration allowed and some from internal resource. During the programme the focus of activity

will change, as interventions, programmes and projects are designed, scoped, commissioned, launched, delivered, and closed down. In addition to the

Economic Growth staff directly involved, Dorset Council will benefit from its extensive corporate teams of legal, financial, communications, and

procurement experts, alongside supporting back office finance and accounts staff. South West Audit Partnership will also be involved in performing audit

checks as required. There will also be staff carrying out a couple of projects in-house, and these will be managed in a similar way to those delivered

externally, with similar reporting and governance structures, and separate accounting codes so funding is easily traceable and identifiable. Dorset Council

may also use the support services of Dorset LEP particularly if any projects are delivered with other local authorities. At this stage it is not clear whether

Dorset LEP proposes to act as a supplier or an independent voice.

The current team has strong capability with extensive experience of working on broadly similar EU and UK government funded grant schemes. Capacity

at the moment is somewhat restricted however since the recent appointment of a new senior manager there is budget allocated for the recruitment of

new staff which will ease this capacity constraint in Autumn 2022.

Team experience and capability

How would you describe your team's current experience of delivering funding and managing growth funds?

Some experience

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capability

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for procurement?

Strong capacity

How would you describe your team's current capability to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong capability

How would you describe your team's current capacity to manage funding for subsidies?

Strong capacity

Capacity and capability: Communities and Place

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

Yes

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

Strong capability

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

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

There are no challenges for us to manage delivery of a scheme of this size. We have managed similar schemes such as two LEADER programmes and much larger grant schemes such as ARG and the recent High Streets Funds.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.:

The 4% administration budget is very much appreciated. There is sufficient internal budget for training and recruitment of additional staff.

Capacity and capability: Communities and Place

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

Strong capacity

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

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

There are no challenges for us to manage delivery of a scheme of this size. We have managed similar schemes such as two LEADER programmes and much larger grant schemes such as ARG and the recent High Streets Funds.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.:

The 4% administration budget is very much appreciated. There is sufficient internal budget for training and recruitment of additional staff.

Capacity and capability: Supporting Local Business

Does your lead authority have any previous experience of delivering the Supporting Local Business interventions you have selected?

Yes

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

Strong capability

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

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

Delivering all of the interventions in-house would require significant resources but we have sufficient resource to design, develop, and commission the delivery of the majority of these interventions. Those we intend to deliver in-house rely on capable staff on fixed term contracts nearing their end. SPF will

enable broadly similar service delivery to continue, tailored to suit local and UK government need rather than EU funding requirements.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.:

The 4% administration budget is very much appreciated. There is sufficient internal budget for training and recruitment of additional staff.

Capacity and capability: Supporting Local Business

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

Strong capacity

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges

within your lead authority or your local/regional delivery system.

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering Supporting Local Business interventions. This may include challenges within your local

authority or your local/regional delivery system.:

Delivering all of the interventions in-house would require significant resources but we have sufficient resource to design, develop, and commission the

delivery of the majority of these interventions. Those we intend to deliver in-house are well resourced.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.:

The 4% administration budget is very much appreciated. There is sufficient internal budget for training and recruitment of additional staff.

Capacity and capability: People and Skills

Does your lead authority have any previous experience of delivering the People and Skills interventions you have selected?

Yes

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

Strong capability

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your

lead authority or your local/regional delivery system.

Describe the key capability challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local

authority or your local/regional delivery system.:

We have a shared Adult Studies service. Staggering the deadlines for “Multiply” and the main SPF investment plans has meant there was no stress on the

service. The service has plenty of time to gear up, if necessary, for 2024/5 delivery of the People and Skills interventions.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.:

The 4% administration budget is very much appreciated. There is sufficient internal budget for training and recruitment of additional staff.

Capacity and capability: People and Skills

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

Strong capacity

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your

lead authority or your local/regional delivery system.

Describe the key capacity challenges (if you have any) for delivering People and Skills interventions. This may include challenges within your local

authority or your local/regional delivery system.:

We have a shared Adult Studies service. Staggering the deadlines for “Multiply” and the main SPF investment plans has meant there was no stress on the

service. The service has plenty of time to gear up, if necessary, for 2024/5 delivery of the People and Skills interventions.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.

Describe what further support would help address these challenges.:

The 4% administration budget is very much appreciated. There is sufficient internal budget for training and recruitment of additional staff.

#### Support to deliver 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 on using more than 4%?

No

If so, explain why you wish to use more than 4%.

If so, explain why you wish to use more than 4%.:

N/A: We will use 4% plus internal capacity to manage delivery of the SPF Investment Plan.

#### Approvals

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, explain why this is

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

#### Additional documents

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

Yes

#### Edit your answers

#### Next steps

1.7 Rural England Prosperity Fund Addendum to SPF Investment Plan, original version from government document:



Response ID ANON-695G-SBYK-4

Submitted to Rural England Prosperity Fund - Addendum to UKSPF Investment Plan

Submitted on 2022-11-30 19:44:42

Overview

Rules for applying

Additional information content

Select your area

1 Select area

Select your area:

Dorset

2 Name of person submitting REPF additional information and contact details

Name:

Jon Bird

Contact email:

jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk

3 Alternative contact name and details

Alternative contact name:

Nick Webster

Alternative contact email address:

nicholas.webster@dorset.gov.uk

4 SRO name and contact details

SRO name:

Peter Hopkins

SRO email:

peter.hopkins@dorset.gov.uk

5 UKSPF Investment Plan reference number

UKSPF reference number:

UKSPF-585-Dorset Council

Information

Information

Local context

6 You have already submitted your UKSPF investment plan. Here, we would like you to provide any additional information about specific rural

challenges, market failures, and opportunities for rural businesses or rural communities in your area that you would like us to consider.

Here, we would like you to provide any additional information about specific rural challenges, market failures, and opportunities for rural businesses or rural communities in your area that you would like us to consider.:

Since all of Dorset apart from Weymouth is a rural area, the information on local challenges (demographics, connectivity, low productivity, high house prices, economic development within a high quality landscape) market failures (poor digital and physical connectivity leads to low-density demand that weakens or eliminates competitive markets), and opportunities (improving productivity, sustainability, and accessibility, making the best use of streamlined government structure) is already contained in the Investment Plan and the data sources referenced there. There have been no significant strategic changes since the Investment Plan was submitted, although national and international issues including higher inflation rates and fuel process are challenges for rural Dorset businesses and communities as they are across the country.

Interventions – rural business

7 Please choose the interventions you wish to use under the rural business investment priority (2023 - 2024). Select as many options as you wish from the menu.

Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas, Capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy

8 Please choose the interventions you wish to use under the rural business investment priority (2024 - 2025). Select as many options as you

wish from the menu.

Capital grant funding for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas, Capital grant funding for developing and promoting the visitor economy

9 Please explain how the interventions selected will address local rural business challenges, market failures, and opportunities (max 300

words)

Please explain how the interventions selected will address local rural business challenges, market failures, and opportunities (max 300 words):

1.1: As stated in the SPF Investment plan, Dorset usually has relatively high employment rates but low levels of productivity. Dorset's physical geography, peripheral location, protected landscapes, and relatively poor road and rail links also influence the types of business and sectors where it has a

competitive advantage Low density also leads to a lack of competition, and the market failure that brings. The main share of this intervention is dedicated

to capital grants for small business to increase productivity and help keep and grow higher skilled, higher-paid jobs in rural areas. Previous LEADER and

Additional Restrictions Grant experience has shown how relatively small-scale investment in more modern machinery can help rural enterprises improve

productivity and competitiveness. A subset of this intervention is to Support Low Carbon Dorset capital grants from SME energy efficiency and renewable

energy investment.

1.3: Dorset is a leader in the delivery of the Great Southwest vision for tourism, looking to improve productivity, sustainability, and accessibility.

Investment in new and improved routes or trails (waymarking, promotion, information boards etc) is designed to encourage tourists to venture further

inland from the mainly coastal "honeypots", which are often at or over capacity in peak season, to explore both further inland and the variety of local high

quality food producers.

10 Please rank the interventions selected in order of expected value added.

Please rank the interventions selected in order of expected value added:

1. Intervention 1.1: The economic value added is directly to the beneficiary companies, and then their supply chains plus wider environmental benefits from the low Carbon actions.

2. Intervention 1.3 The economic, social, and environmental value is added more widely across the visitor economy and local food and drink industry.

Interventions – rural communities

11 Please choose the interventions you wish to use under the rural communities investment priority (2023-2024). Select as many options as you wish from the menu.

Capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities, Capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups, Capital grant funding for active travel enhancements in the local area

12 Please choose the interventions you wish to use under the rural communities investment priority (2024-2025). Select as many options as you wish from the menu.

Capital grant funding for investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities, Capital grant funding for investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups, Capital grant funding for active travel enhancements in the local area

13 Please explain how the interventions selected will address local rural communities challenges, market failures, and opportunities (max 300 words)

Please explain how the interventions selected will address local rural communities challenges, market failures, and opportunities (max 300 words):

There are widespread challenges relating to its rural nature, and related challenges of connectivity, access to services, the cost of heating especially off

the gas network, and its demographics: it has high levels of long-term illness and disability generally related to its high and growing population of older

people: The Dorset Council area has a population of 380,000 residents, 30% of whom are aged 65 and older (compared to 19% in England and Wales). It

has limited higher education provision and relatively high house prices coupled with relatively low salaries, which explain the high levels of young adults

moving away from the area. While its protected landscapes are an important asset, balancing the need to preserve and improve landscapes with

demands for modern services is an ongoing challenge:

Intervention 2.1 helps tackle the issue of digital connectivity in harder to reach communities, enabling access to online services to benefit the community

and opening up the possibility of remote working for business. Intervention 2.2 both reduces Carbon and makes community buildings more comfortable

and cost-effective to run. Intervention 2.6 funds a specific access improvement, making travel to and from the village and tourist attraction of Corfe safer

and more pleasant for all.

14 Please rank the interventions selected in order of expected value added.

Please rank the interventions selected in order of expected value added:

2.1: In an area with many constraints on physical connectivity, digital connectivity is even more valuable.

2.2 Sustainable energy measures benefit not just the buildings and the communities that use them but also help promote and normalise investment in energy efficiency, as well as the impact on overall emissions.

2.6 This intervention will have significant impact but in one specific location, while the other interventions are more distributed.

Interventions outcomes

15 Please select what outcomes the interventions selected in the rural business investment priority are expected to achieve

Jobs created, Jobs safeguarded, Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes, Number of businesses with improved

productivity, Number of businesses increasing their turnover

16 Please select what outcomes the interventions selected in the rural communities investment priority are expected to achieve

Improved perception of facility or infrastructure project, Improved perception of facilities or amenities, Improved perceived or experienced accessibility,

Increased use of cycleways or paths, Improved perception of local facilities or amenities

Delivery

17 Please set out the indicative spend profile of your REPF allocation, additional to that of your UKSPF investment plan. Please detail the

indicative budgets at investment priority level and at intervention level, for the 2 years of the fund, including if REPF money will be used to

complement UKSPF funded projects. (300 words max)

Please set out the indicative spend profile of your REPF investment plan, additional to that of your UKSPF investment plan. Please detail the indicative

budgets at investment priority level and if known, at intervention level, for the 2 years of the fund (300 words max):

Three elements of REPF will be used to complement UKSPF funded projects:

£800,000 of intervention 1.1 will be used for capital grants, which will be administered alongside UKSPF business grants, with their own separate cot codes, and financial and project management systems.

£300,00 of intervention 1.1 and all £206,918 of intervention 2.2 will be used for Low Carbon capital funds, which will be supported by the UKSPF Low

Carbon consultancy/advice project.

IP 1:

Intervention 1.1: £800,000 SME grants, £300,000 Low Carbon SME grants (Y1 £440,000/Y2 £660,000)

Intervention 1.3: £65,000 for trail development and marketing (Y1 £26,000/Y2£39,000)

IP2:

Intervention 2.1: £580,000 for fixed wireless for hard-to-reach communities (Y1 £232,000/Y 2 £348,000)

Intervention 2.2: £206,918 for community sustainable energy/energy efficiency (Y1 £82,767/Y2 £124,151)

Intervention 2.6: £115,000 for active travel enhancements (Y1 £46,000/Y 2 £69,000)

18 Please set out how you intend to select projects to support, detailing including how you will ensure they deliver value for money, including additionality. Please also set out how you will determine that projects cannot be funded by private finance. (500 words max)

Please set out how you intend to select projects to support and ensure they will deliver value for money (500 words max):

Intervention 1.1 – SME grants: We will build on experience with LEADER (which had a sound rationale but overcomplex administration requirements) and

Additional Restrictions Grants (which were purposefully simple and quick to respond to unique circumstances but would benefit from more robust

verification and governance when speed is less of an issue) to develop a set of grant eligibility and scoring criteria designed to compensate for market

failure and weakness and complement market provision. Use of UKSPF funded diagnostic, information, and advice services will improve the quality and

relevance of grant applications, and use of minimum level of private sector match will encourage prudent use of state funds and encourage use of private sector finance wherever feasible.

Intervention 1.1 and 2.2 Low Carbon grants will use eligibility and evaluation frameworks adapted from the current Dorset Council-led Low Carbon Dorset scheme. UKSPF-funded Low Carbon advice/consultancy will complement the grant offering. Part of the scoring process is assessing return on investment and need (or otherwise) for public subsidy and private sector alternatives.

Intervention 1.3: An ever-growing evidence base shows how long-distance trails boost spending in local business. The trails are largely a public good so need public sector support. Two trails are proposed – one supporting local food processors and producers, the other designed to move tourists away from the most famous honeytraps toward less known inland sites. The trails will make use of existing rights of way, with funds used for naming,

waymarking, and promoting the named trails.

Intervention 2.6 is an improved, more accessible, public path. The business case shows how it will benefit the village, the tourist attraction, and use of the park and ride site, while improving safety.

Delivery

19 Have you identified opportunities to work with other places on specific interventions and/or projects for the rural business interventions?

No

Delivery

22 Have you identified opportunities to work with other places on specific interventions and/or projects for the rural communities

interventions?

No

Approach to engagement with rural partners

25 Further to your UKSPF Investment Plan engagement, have you engaged or consulted with rural stakeholders, or expanded your UKSPF

local partnership group, to inform the information you have submitted above? If yes, please give details. You should also use this section to

tell us about planned future engagement with rural stakeholders.

Describe the engagement you have undertaken with your Rural Advisory Group and any other local rural stakeholders to inform your investment plan

and what support you have from them (500 words max):

Following the encouraging level of interaction with Dorset Council's broad, digital-led engagement on SPF, a similar method was used for REPF but inviting

more rural-focused stakeholders including the NFU, in line with the published guidance. The results showed a broad prioritisation for business support

over community support, while sector representatives unsurprisingly proposed support for the sectors they represent.

At the engagement stage we welcomed feedback from all organisations, including potential beneficiaries and supply chain organisations. We will shortly



be engaging again with respondents to set up steering groups composed of those who will not be seeking to be beneficiaries or part of the supply chain, in order to reduce the risk of conflict of interest.

26 Are there aspects of your plans to use your REPF allocation that are not supported by rural stakeholders and the rural community?

No

Approach to engagement with rural partners

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

No

Confirmation of approval

30 Chief executive

Chief executive name:

Matt Prosser

31 Elected leader

Elected leader name:

Spencer Flower

32 Section 151 officer

Section 151 officer name:

Aidan Dunn

Confirmation

33 Email address

Email address to receive PDF:

jon.bird@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk