

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – regional engagement event summary

A regional engagement event took place on 19 May 2022. The purpose of the event was to look at opportunities within the UKSPF framework, where it might make sense to work at a regional level.

This diagram summarises the opportunities that were discussed, where there is cross over between investment themes and the top five issues identified for each investment priority.

People and skills

Support a career path – flexible and adaptive skills

Not just about quals – building confidence and aspirations

People centred

Complementary to existing funding schemes

Use housing providers to support delivery

Support for 50+ key, how to re-engage with employment and retraining

Top five issues identified for People and skills

1. Strengthen skills supply to meet sector demand
2. Reduce unemployment and economic inactivity
3. Improve health outcomes
4. Upskill/train those in employment – Increase the number of apprenticeships – Address unstable employment
5. Support for specific demographics e.g. older workers, women etc.

Better outcomes for people = better outcomes for businesses and communities

Sector skills integrated with business support.

Employer input for careers guidance to support school-employment transition

Skills based on business need – need input from employers

Connection between interventions: health, leisure, skills, confidence, green space = impact on wellbeing

Improve energy efficiency = address fuel poverty, green skills & employment

Opportunity for wrap-around support on housing, health, training: holistic, person-based approach.

Retaining skills in the region vital to support innovation

Good Work Agenda: role of employers in addressing unstable employment

Digital skills & broadband vital for access to skills opportunities and health support

Culture, recreation and leisure = improved mental health outcomes, confidence

Long-term programmes, capital and revenue mix

Build capacity for supply chains in key sectors with regional training, align FE/HE provision

Regional approach to matching inactive/low-skilled with growing sectors

Flexible
Make use of social value and CSR
Tailored – address individual needs
Consistency
Joined up systems – maximise funding
Long term planning for changing economy
Short term – digital exclusion, health
Combined approach to dealing with economic shocks
Economies of scale
No postcode lottery
Outcome/impact focused
Use local anchor institutions
Learn from what works - evaluate

Reducing inactivity = more wealth into communities, regeneration

Volunteering opportunities to build job skills – social prescribing

Supporting local business

Focus on developing sustainable businesses

Include support for sectors that do not qualify for ESIF

Top five issues identified for Supporting local business

1. Strengthen skills supply to meet demand, specifically in sectoral specialisms
2. Increase the rate of business start-ups
3. Grow our business base within our sectoral specialisms
4. Support more businesses to grow
5. Increasing the number of innovation active businesses

Business centred

Culture change – increase aspirations, encourage enterprise and startups

Support development of new supply chains to attract inward investment

Turn good stuff that occurs in communities into businesses

Knowledge sharing between VCS and business support

Business support focused on TTWA – need housing and transport infrastructure

Fuel poverty = retrofit supply chain development

Local bus = local jobs, community/social cohesion.

Link between social and business innovation – entrepreneurial networks

Support for start-ups = growing business base, regeneration for communities

Community centred

Increasing cost of living heightens challenge of deprivation

Scalability – build on existing infrastructure, don't replicate but share good practice

Accessibility – free at the point of use

Community and place

Top five issues identified for Community and place

1. Improve levels of deprivation, specifically reduce children living in low income households
2. Improve resident's engagement with cultural, recreational and leisure activities
3. Reduce household worklessness
4. Reduce household fuel poverty
5. Improve life satisfaction

Utilise capacity of larger VCS to enable smaller orgs to access funding