

Information

for County Councillors

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From:	Melanie Roberts, Service Manager Economic Policy
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Relevant SLT Director and sign-off date:	Paula Hewitt, Deputy Chief Executive, Lead Director for Economic and Community Infrastructure & Director of Commissioning
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Date:	14 April 2022
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To:	All County Councillors
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UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Multiply Programme (2022-25)

The Government, in its Autumn 2021 Budget, confirmed that the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) would be launched in April 2022. The UKSPF sets out a bold new approach to improve livelihoods and opportunities in all parts of the UK. The fund is a central pillar for the [levelling up agenda](#) and will provide £2.6bn of new funding for local investment by March 2025. Of the £2.6bn, an initial £559m will be allocated, nationally, to an adult numeracy skills programme called Multiply.

Notionally Somerset has been allocated £7,263,760 over three years for the core UKSPF with around 10% allocated as capital spend. For Multiply we have received a 3-year notional allocation of £2,485,156.

The UKSPF will support the UK government’s wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

There are three investment priorities, each with detailed objectives:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills

The interventions, to help meet the objectives of the investment priorities, will be planned and delivered by Local Authorities through the development of a Local Investment Plan. The funding is allocated via formula and is subject to submission, and approval, the plan.

Somerset County Council, as the continuing authority for Somerset, has been identified as the Lead Authority and is coordinating the development of the plan. It will need to be submitted to Government by end of July. Work will commence shortly, with wider key stakeholders. A website will be created as a key method of communication alongside press releases and social media.

The Government also confirmed its commitment to deliver the £559m adult numeracy programme: Multiply. Multiply will provide adults with the opportunity to learn and develop essential numerical skills they need to succeed at any age to support improved life chances. Funding will boost people's ability to use maths in their daily life, at home and work and enable adults to achieve a formal qualification. The 3 year funding programme will enable delivery of bespoke adult numeracy interventions; development of a new national online platform offering personal tutoring and digital training; and building an evidence base of 'what works' in improving functional adult numeracy. A separate Investment Plan will be developed and submitted to Government by end of June. Funding will be awarded, subject to the approval of the plan, to Somerset County Council to deliver the interventions.

The UKSPF is the successor to the EU Structural Investment Funds and whilst the Somerset [allocations](#) fall significantly short of previous EU funding levels we do fare relatively well in comparison to our neighbours. Cornwall, however, has secured significant levels of funding following previous commitments made by Government.

Both the main UKSPF and the Multiply funding is subject to Government approval of the Investment Plans referenced above.

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