Shared Prosperity Fund

Net Zero Interventions Recommendations Report

May 2022

An independent review produced by **Local Net Zero Hubs**

VERSION 1

Introduction

This report has been produced through a collaboration of Local Net Zero Hubs in England.

This is an independent report that aims to identify opportunities for Shared Prosperity Funds to support Net Zero outcomes. This report is intended to:

1. **Raise awareness of the net zero interventions and indicators included in SPF Guidance**

2. **Identify types of Net Zero projects and programmes that align with interventions.**

3. **Raise awareness of existing projects and programmes from across England that have been funded under previous programmes which might be**

4. **Support local authorities to include Net Zero outcomes as a local need in SPF Investment Plans so as to encourage projects to come forward.**

This survey of existing net zero projects and potential areas is not exhaustive. There is scope for Local Authorities to achieve Net Zero outcomes through interventions not highlighted. Net Zero is a cross cutting outcome across the whole programme, and the Hubs will do further work on the methodologies that can be used to evidence that all funding is securing positive environmental outcomes.

About Local Net Zero Hubs

The **BEIS Local Net Zero programme** (previously the Local Energy Programme) supports local authorities and communities in England to play a leading role in decarbonisation and clean growth.

The programme was announced in 2017 as part of the Clean Growth Strategy. Funding was provided for the creation and support for five Local Net Zero Hubs (previously known as the Local Net Zero Hubs).

The Hubs were established to promote best practice and support local authorities to develop net zero projects up to the point of commercial investment. The objectives include:

1. Increase number, quality and scale of local energy projects being delivered.
2. Raise local awareness of opportunity for and benefits of local energy investment.
3. Enable local areas to attract private and/or public finance for energy projects.

Local Net Zero Hubs are named in the Governments **Net Zero Strategy, November 2021** as playing a wider role supporting Government to deliver local net zero objectives.

> **Local Net Zero Hubs can provide further support to Local Authorities who are scoping SPF Investment Strategies. The Local Net Zero Hub covering your area may be able to help develop project briefs for delivery of Net Zero Projects, and to convene stakeholders to participate in delivery.**

Contents

1. Shared Prosperity Fund

What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF or the Fund) is a central pillar of the UK government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. It will help places right across the country deliver enhanced outcomes and recognises that even the most affluent parts of the UK contain pockets of deprivation and need support.

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

Full Guidance - https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus

Levelling Up - Missions

SPF Overarching objective = **Building pride in place and increasing life chances**. All 3 investment priorities relate to Levelling Up White Paper Mission 9: *By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.*

SPF Missions Aligned with Interventions
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf

Levelling Up Missions Full Guidance
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1054766/Technical_annex_-_missions_and_metrics.pdf

Shared Prosperity Fund & Net Zero

'2.6 Other policies or plans to take into account'

Interventions supported by UKSPF will need to consider other local and national policies and priorities – including those of the Scottish and Welsh governments and departments across the Northern Ireland Executive where relevant. These include:

- *Investment made under this Fund should demonstrate the extent of contribution to net zero and nature recovery objectives, including the UK's legal commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, wider environmental considerations, such as resilience to natural hazards and the 25 Year Environment Plan commitments, and any specific commitments in Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland.*

- *To support green growth, places should also consider how projects can work with the natural environment to achieve project objectives, and – at a minimum – consider the project's impact on our natural assets and nature. For further information on how to take these considerations into account, see the Enabling a Natural Capital Approach (ENCA) resources.*

Important dates

- Fund launch: 13 April 2022

- Investment plan platform launch: 22 April 2022. A pre-registration form will need to be completed before accessing the investment plan platform

- **Investment plan submissions window: 30 June 2022 to 1 August 2022**

- First payments expected to lead local authorities: from October 2022

- Funding period: April 2022 to March 2025

2. Shared Prosperity Fund – Interventions & Indicators

2.1. Communities and place

- Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.
- Building resilient, safe and healthy neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Interventions

- **E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs. (See Section 3 for outputs)**
- E2: Funding for new, or improvements to existing, community and neighbourhood infrastructure projects including those that increase communities' resilience to natural hazards, such as flooding. This could cover capital spend and running costs.
- E3: Creation of and improvements to local green spaces, community gardens, watercourses and embankments, along with incorporating natural features into wider public spaces.
- E4: Enhanced support for existing cultural, historic and heritage institutions that make up the local cultural heritage offer.
- E5: Design and management of the built and landscaped environment to 'design out crime'.
- E6: Support for local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities.
- **E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.**
- E8: Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.
- E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.
- E10: Funding for local sports facilities, tournaments, teams and leagues; to bring people together.
- **E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups.**
- **E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.**
- **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.

UKSPF England Outputs and Outcomes
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf

Indicators	Net Zero Project Types *See case studies section 3 for examples*
E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area. **Outputs** ▪ Amount of new or improved cycleways or paths ▪ Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken ▪ Amount of public realm created or improved ▪ Number of facilities supported/created ▪ Amount of green or blue space created or improved **Outcomes** Increased use of cycleways or paths	Inviting community engagement in active travel plans Making cycle paths accessible to people in need of mobility aid by providing electric cycles Digital innovation in monitoring use of active travel and raising awareness
E11: Investment in capacity building and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups. **Outputs** - Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants ▪ Number of organisations receiving grants Number of organisations receiving non-financial support ▪ Number of Tourism, Culture or heritage assets created or improved ▪ Number of people attending training sessions ▪ Number of facilities supported/created ▪ Amount of green or blue space created or improved **Outcomes** - Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support - Improved engagement number	Projects which provide small grants to local communities for them to engage in the net zero agenda and implement projects to enhance the local environment as a way to bring people together Schemes to support local people to overcome social isolation and fuel poverty by providing warm, safe and sociable hubs. Projects which bring volunteers together to participate in environmental projects
E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration. **Outputs** ▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants ▪ Number of organisations receiving grants ▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support ▪ Number of volunteering opportunities supported ▪ Number of people reached ▪ Number of local events or activities supported **Outcomes** - Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support - Improved engagement number	Projects that engage people in neighbourhood planning to evidence community buy in for large scale generation projects Projects which establish clear routes to community energy project development Projects that support young people to engage in local action on the Net Zero Agenda
E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change. **Outputs** - Number of people reached ▪ Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants ▪ Number of organisations receiving grants ▪ Number of organisations receiving non-financial support ▪ Number of households receiving support ▪ Number of households supported to take up energy efficiency measure **Outcomes** - Greenhouse gas reductions ▪ Increased take up of energy efficiency measure	Community based energy advisors, providing advice to individuals or groups locally to save money and energy. Funding for energy cafes to bring people together to discuss energy alongside expert energy advice and digital tools. Schemes to support local people to overcome social isolation and fuel poverty by providing warm, safe and sociable hubs.
E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies. **Outputs** Number of feasibility studies supported **Outcomes** Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	Funding to form community groups to develop feasibility studies Providing capacity for community groups to consider group purchase of renewable technologies, or for local authorities to promote and market an opportunity in their area.

2.2. Supporting local business

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

Interventions
- E16: Investment in open markets and improvements to town centre retail and service sector infrastructure, with wrap around support for small businesses.
- E17: Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
- **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.**
- **E19: Increasing investment in research and development at the local level. Investment to support the diffusion of innovation knowledge and activities. Support the commercialisation of ideas, encouraging collaboration and accelerating the path to market so that more ideas translate into industrial and commercial practices.**
- E20: Research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services.
- E21: Funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation infrastructure at the local level.
- E22: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects. This can help to unlock site development projects which will support growth in places.
- E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.
- E24: Funding for new and improvements to existing training hubs, business support offers, 'incubators' and 'accelerators' for local enterprise (including social enterprise) which can support entrepreneurs and start-ups through the early stages of development and growth by offering a combination of services including account management, advice, resources, training, coaching, mentorship and access to workspace.
- E25: Grants to help places bid for and host international business events and conferences that support wider local growth sectors.
- E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.

UKSPF England Outputs and Outcomes
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf

Indicators	Net Zero Project Types
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. **Outputs** Number of businesses receiving grants ▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants ▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support ▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready **Outcomes** Jobs created ▪ Jobs safeguarded ▪ Number of new businesses created ▪ Number of businesses adopting new to firm technologies or processes ▪ Increased amount of investment ▪ Number of businesses introducing new products to the firm ▪ Number of organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity ▪ Number of early-stage firms which increase their revenue following support ▪ Number of R&D active business	Services that provide financial and R&D support to enable businesses to bring to market net zero solutions Funding which supports demonstration of new solutions to Net Zero.
E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises. **Outputs** Number of people attending training sessions ▪ Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grant -Number of businesses receiving grants ▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support ▪ Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready **Outcomes** - Jobs created ▪ Jobs safeguarded ▪ Number of new businesses create -Increased number of businesses engaged in new markets ▪ Increased amount of investment	Supporting community businesses to provide net zero related services

Supporting local business - continued

- E27: Funding to develop angel investor networks nationwide.

- 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.

- E30: Business support measures to drive employment growth, particularly in areas of higher unemployment.

- E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

- E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.

UKSPF England Outputs and Outcomes

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf

Indicators	Net Zero Project Types
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. **Outputs** Number of businesses receiving financial support other than grants ▪ Number of businesses receiving grants ▪ Number of businesses receiving non-financial support ▪ Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed ▪ Number of decarbonisation plans develop **Outcomes** -Jobs created ▪ Jobs safeguarded ▪ Number of new businesses created ▪ Number of premises with improved digital connectivity ▪ Greenhouse gas reductions ▪ Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	Supporting the growth of local businesses which provide low carbon and environmental solutions and engaging the wider business community to adopt good practices Funding for business to understand decarbonisation and energy saving opportunities followed up with grants to install low carbon heating controls
E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies. **Outputs** Number of feasibility studies supported **Outcomes** Increased number of projects arising from funded feasibility studies	Funding to form community energy groups to develop feasibility studies Funding to support communities to commercialise energy projects and attract crowd sourced funding Funding for community energy groups to address planning requirements Providing capacity for community groups to consider group purchase of renewable technologies, or for local authorities to promote and market an opportunity in their area.
E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion. **Outputs** Number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion **Outcomes** - Jobs created ▪ Jobs safeguarded ▪ Increased number of properties better protected from flooding and coastal erosion	Funding to support communities to develop adaptation plans and implement measures Building capacity to understand and then implementing measures for natural flood management measures

2.3. People and Skills

- Boosting core skills and support adults to progress in work, by targeting adults with no or low-level qualifications and skills in maths, and upskill the working population, yielding personal and societal economic impact, and by encouraging innovative approaches to reducing adult learning barriers (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland only. In England, this is delivered through the Department for Education's Multiply programme).
- Reducing levels of economic inactivity through investment in bespoke intensive life and employment support tailored to local need. Investment should facilitate the join-up of mainstream provision and local services within an area for participants, through the use of one-to-one keyworker support, improving employment outcomes for specific cohorts who face labour market barriers.
- Supporting people furthest from the labour market to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills.
- Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

Interventions

Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills

- 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.

Supporting people furthest from the labour market through access to basic skills

- 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.
- **E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.**
- E36: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, with a focus on essential digital skills, communicating the benefits of getting (safely) online, and in-community support to provide users with the confidence and trust to stay online.

Skills to progress in work and to fund local skills needs

- 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.
- E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that is not being met through other provision.
- E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.
- E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors.
- E41: Funding to support local digital skills.

UKSPF England Outputs and Outcomes
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1068875/UKSPF_England_Outputs_and_Outcomes.pdf

Indicators	Net Zero Project Types
E38: Support for local areas to fund local skills needs. This includes technical and vocational qualifications and courses up to level 2 and training for vocational licences relevant to local area needs and high-value qualifications where there is a need for additional skills capacity that is not being met through other provision. **Outputs** Number of people receiving support to gain a vocational licence **Outcomes** Number of people in education/training ▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support -number of economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education and training	Funding for training in housing retrofit qualifications, including addressing governments targets for 30,000 new heat pumps installers in the coming decade Funding for improved facilities to train and upgrade skills in sustainable technologies Funding for skills and training for electrification of transport Funding for technical training in high skilled specialisms in the energy sector
E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions. **Outputs** Number of people receiving support to gain employment **Outcomes** Number of people gaining a qualification following support ▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	
E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors. **Outputs** Number of people receiving support to gain employment ▪ Number of people attending training sessions ▪ Number of people retraining ▪ Number of people receiving support to sustain employment **Outcomes** Number of people gaining a qualification following support ▪ Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	

3. Net Zero Project Case Studies

Communities and place

E1: Funding for improvements to town centres and high streets, including better accessibility for disabled people, including capital spend and running costs.

Example Projects (Government Guidance):

Regenerating a town square
▪ Public realm improvements, for example street art, street furniture or other decorative improvements
▪ Regenerating a town square or high street
▪ The delivery of outreach/engagement/participatory programmes for community spaces, including youth centres and public libraries

Objectives (Government Guidance):

Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Indicate Outputs

Number and m2 of commercial buildings developed or improved
▪ Amount of rehabilitated land or premises
▪ Amount of public realm treated or improved
▪ Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed
▪ Number of decarbonisation plans developed
▪ Sqm of land made wheelchair accessible/step free

Net Zero as a cross cutting outcome

Net zero is an agenda that cuts across all of the outcomes sought the Shared Prosperity Fund.

Funding for improving public realm, public spaces and community buildings is a good example of an activity that can promote the Net Zero agenda by ensuring that any construction activity has evaluated energy and environmental impacts and is seeking to improve performance, reduce running costs and capture other benefits such as awareness raising and improving biodiversity.

Evidencing of the Net Zero impacts of projects will be necessary, either at the time of commissioning or as part of monitoring. The Hub will be doing more work in methodologies that may support a range of programme interventions.

E7: Support for active travel enhancements in the local area.

Example Projects (Government Guidance):

- Creation of new foot paths and cycle paths, particularly in areas of health need
▪ Upgrading of existing foot paths and cycle paths, particularly in areas of health need

Objectives (Government Guidance):

Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

Case Study: Bay Trails, Torbay

A mission to create the trails to get people in Torbay walking and cycling, developed through community consultation.
Link https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives/bays-trails

Addressing local needs – Inviting community engagement in active travel plans

Case Study: ReDiscover Dundee

Making cycling accessible through electric tricycles with ReDiscover Dundee, with a direct link from healthcare professionals via Green Health Prescriptions.
Link https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives/rediscover-dundee

Addressing local needs – Making cycle paths accessible to people in need of mobility aid by providing electric cycles

Case Study: Sustainable Green Travel Corridors, Liverpool City Region

Walking and cycling encouraged through digital innovation
Link https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/projects/lcr-sustainable-green-travel-corridors

Addressing local needs – Digital innovation in monitoring use of active travel and raising awareness

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

Example Projects (Government Guidance):

Funding for community spaces, such as village halls, libraries or community centres for local civil society and community groups to use

Training programmes to support local civil society and community group leaders

Objectives (Government Guidance):

Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

Case Study: LCR Community Environment Fund – Liverpool City Region

A £500,000 fund that brought wildflowers, bees, upcycling, food planting and climate awareness to communities
Managed by a combined authority
Link https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/community-environment-fund-2022

Addressing local needs - Projects which provide small grants to local communities for them to engage in the net zero agenda and implement projects to enhance the local environment as a way to bring people together

Case Study: The Rural Coffee Caravan

Community outreach programmes delivered by voluntary/charity sector organisations
Link https://ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk/map/

Addressing local needs - Projects which reach out to hard to access communities to provide advice

Case Study: Stroud Valleys Projects

Stroud Valleys Project aims to enrich lives and transform places through a host of interconnected environmental projects
Link https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives/stroud-valleys-project

Addressing local needs – Projects which bring volunteers together to participate in environmental projects

E12: Investment in community engagement schemes to support community involvement in decision making in local regeneration.

Example Projects (Government Guidance): Programmes to encourage participation in local democracy, for example information events on how to become a local councillor or developing youth participation in decision making

Objectives (Government Guidance): Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects

Case Study: Energy in Neighbourhood Planning

Research into role of local plans in enabling energy infrastructure
Link https://www.cse.org.uk/local-energy/neighbourhood-plans
Link https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/Energy-in-neighbourhood-planning.pdf

Addressing local needs Projects that engage people in neighbourhood planning to evidence community buy in for large scale generation projects

Case Study: Community Energy Pathways, Community Energy South

Helping community groups who are new to energy develop projects.
Link https://www.communityenergysouth.org/essex

Addressing local needs Projects which establish clear routes to community energy project development

Case Study: Cumbria Youth Climate Summit

The involvement and representation of young people in Cumbria on climate action and sustainability is recognised as vital to achieving the aims of the Zero Carbon Cumbria Partnership.
Link https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives/cumbria-youth-climate-summit

Addressing local needs Projects that support young people to engage in local action on the Net Zero Agenda

E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

Example Projects (Government Guidance): Programmes/campaigns to encourage uptake of energy efficiency measures for homes, including water pumps and increased insulation

Objectives (Government Guidance): Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects. Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention

---

Case Study: Community Action Northumberland Energy advice

Community energy advisors with the remit of engaging groups and individuals to help keep them warm and save money on energy. Ranging from installing simple measures, changing habits, accessing financial help and applying for grants.

Link http://ca-north.org.uk/supporting-individuals/energy-advice

Addressing local needs - Community based energy advisors, providing advice to individuals or groups locally to save money and energy.

Case Study: Step-In, Greater Manchester

This project worked to reduce energy costs and to help improve your quality of life, household energy efficiency and comfort levels
Link https://www.step-in-project.eu/wp-content/uploads/step-in_flyer_consumers_en.pdf

Addressing local needs – Funding for energy cafe's to bring people together to discuss energy alongside expert energy advice and digital tools.

Case Study: Community Action Northumberland Warm Hubs

Warm hubs are guaranteed places where community members can find a safe, warm and friendly environment, to socialise, and tackle fuel poverty and social isolation.
Link http://ca-north.org.uk/supporting-individuals/warm-hubs

Addressing local needs - Schemes to support local people to overcome social isolation and fuel poverty by providing warm, safe and sociable hubs.

Net Zero Hubs – Recommendation

Local Energy Saving Support Programmes

Key Indicator E13: Community measures to reduce the cost of living, including through measures to improve energy efficiency, and combat fuel poverty and climate change.

Other Indicators Supported: E11, E12, E26/

Scope: At a time of steeply rising energy bills, councils can consider whether providing funding to third sector organisations to raise awareness of options to lower bills would support vulnerable and hard to reach communities.

There are national funded programme to provide grants to vulnerable households. There are also telephone advice schemes engage low income households. These programmes could be reinforced by recognising the local context and targeting schemes at hard to reach communities in particular need of support. Home visits to provide advice could be made available alongside small capital grants for measures to improve heating systems.

Outcomes: Providing advice on energy can reduce household bills in itself. Home visits can identify any opportunities for changes to systems that can improve performance. Reducing energy bills retains household budgets in the local economy and install efficiency measures will provide savings year on year.

Policy Context: Supporting communities to consider net zero projects aligns with the governments net zero strategy, sustainable warmth policies to address fuel poverty.

Precedent: Evidence shows that support for households is variable across the country. Schemes operate in many low income areas but not others. Funding could support an existing scheme to expand provision in an area or into a new geography.

Delivery models: Charities and third sector organisations have experience engaging communities on energy. Local Authorities can deliver programmes alongside disability support schemes as part of Home Improvement Agencies. Expert advisors may be subcontracted.

Considerations:

- Energy advice should be provided by competent persons. Schemes can be aligned with existing provision, signposting to other funding such a housing retrofit programmes and programmes to help households with other cost of living challenges.
- Advisors can consider the particular performance of the insulation of a property with a digital assessment and optimise heating systems. Improvements to heating controls and radiator valves are low-cost measures that can make a significant difference to running costs.
- Any solutions provided should be straightforward to use. A programme that is 75% revenue 25% capital can fund advisors to spend time with people and fully investigate issues and options.
- Schemes could deliver support equivalent to £1500 per property, and funding would also need to support mobilisation and management functions.

E14: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

Objectives (Government Guidance): Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of
local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects.

Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Case Study: Swaffham Prior Heat Network

A project to tackle the challenge of decarbonising heating in a village
Link https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/climate-change-energy-and-environment/climate-change-action/low-carbon-energy/community-heating/swaffham-prior-heat-network

Addressing local needs – Funding to form community energy groups to develop feasibility studies

---

Case Study: Congleton Hydro Project

A project for community investment in a revenue generating renewable energy solution
Link https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives/congleton-hydro-project

Addressing local needs - Funding to support communities to commercialise energy projects and attract crowd sourced funding

---

Case Study: Bretton Hall Community Solar Farm,

Bretton Hall Community Solar Farm is at the planning stage, with the intention for this large scale, community-owned, renewable energy site to become a significant, local community asset
Link https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives/bretton-hall-community-solar-farm

Addressing local needs – Funding for community energy groups to address planning requirements

---

Case Study: Solar Together, Windsor and Maidenhead

A group buying scheme for solar and batteries.
Link **https://solartogether.co.uk/windsor-and-maidenhead/home**

Addressing local needs – Providing capacity for community groups to consider group purchase of renewable technologies, or for local authorities to promote and market an opportunity in their area.

Net Zero Hubs – Recommendation

Community Net Zero Projects

Key Indicator E14: Other Indicators Supported: E2, E9, E11, E12. E13,

Scope: *Councils can consider whether providing feasibility funding to communities to develop Net Zero projects is aligned with Climate Emergency Declarations and other Net Zero priorities.*

Feasibility studies for Community Net Zero Projects could enable community groups to develop proposals to invest in equipment for buildings and homes. Revenue funding to communities can support them to identify where there is an opportunity for energy costs savings or the ownership of renewable generation solutions. It could include proposals for bulk purchase of systems.

Outcomes: *Funding can galvanise a community interest in acting on climate issues. A programme in itself can support community pride in place and could set the stage investment in retrofit and community owned assets. Communities can raise funding for investment from crowdsourcing, enabling wealthier investors to support projects in lower income areas.*

Policy Context: *Supporting communities to consider net zero projects aligns with the governments net zero strategy, sustainable warmth policies to address fuel poverty.*

Precedent: *Rural Community Energy Funds were administered across England by Local Energy Hubs until March 2022. This £10Million programme was successful in attracting communities to come forward with proposal to develop community owned energy generation and energy efficiency projects. The funds supported early-stage initial feasibility studies and could subsequently provide funding for commercial development to address planning and financing requirements. Urban Community Energy Funds were also available under a previous scheme that ended in 2017.*

Delivery models: *A Community Energy feasibility scheme could be administered by a local council, or across a wider area where there is an agreement to collaborate on Shared Prosperity Funding. Existing umbrella community groups and charities could deliver a programme. A well established process for administering grants can be made available by Net Zero Hubs how can offer training.*

Considerations:

- *Communities receiving early-stage grants can be supported by an existing charity or parish council acting as the legal entity. Ultimately community groups can form Community Benefit Societies to enable them to deliver projects.*
- *Grants of between £10k and £40k will enable communities to develop projects from conception to credible proposals. Further funding up to £100k could be made available for projects that demonstrate a robust case for investment. This additional funding could be in the form of a recyclable loan.*
- *Projects could seek to address the need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels for heating and to consider village scale heating schemes or bulk purchase of individual systems.*
- *Funding could be expanded from energy projects to include other activities that generate a revenue for communities such as reuse and recycling programmes.*

Supporting local business

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.

Example Projects (Government Guidance):

Funding to establish a new local business accelerator/growth programme ▪ Funding to support local business support offers

Objectives (Government Guidance):

Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities. Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth. Increasing private sector investment in growthenhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium sized businesses to undertake new-to-market innovation, adopt productivity enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports

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

Example Projects (Government Guidance):

Funding for net zero initiatives for local business

Objectives (Government Guidance):

Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities. Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth. Increasing private sector investment in growthenhancing activities, through targeted support for small and mediumsized businesses to undertake new-to firm innovation, adopt productivity enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports

---

Case Study: RedCAT, Lancashire

RedCAT provides a pathway of financial and R & D support to accelerate the commercialisation of low carbon technologies.
Link - https://www.red-cat.uk/

Addressing local needs - Services that provide financial and R&D support to enable businesses to bring to market net zero solutions

---

Case study: Innovation Grant – New Anglia LEP

The Net Zero Challenge Fund supports flagship projects or technology pilots to be carried The Challenge Fund is designed to bring innovative/creative ideas and the testing of technologies in the private sector to help solve public sector net zero challenges.
Link https://newanglia.co.uk/grant/road-to-net-zero-grants/

Addressing local needs - Funding which supports demonstration of new solution to Net Zero

---

Case Study: Growth Company *Net Zero* **Greater Manchester**

An award-winning provider of environmental services designed to accelerate the net zero ambition.
Link https://www.growthco.uk/what-we-do/net-zero/

Addressing local needs – Supporting the growth of local businesses how provide low carbon and environmental solutions and engaging the wider business community to adopt good practices

---

Case Study: Low Carbon Barrow Grants

Link: Low Carbon Barrow - Art Gene (art-gene.co.uk)

Addressing local needs:

E31: Funding to support relevant feasibility studies.

Example Projects (Government Guidance): n/a

Objectives (Government Guidance): Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality and leisure sector facilities. Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to hare knowledge, expertise and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth. Increasing private sector investment in growthenhancing activities, through targeted support for small and mediumsized businesses to undertake new-tofirm innovation, adopt productivityenhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies and techniques, and start or grow their exports

Case Study: BEEP/BEST/BREEZ North East (various LAs)

Three ERDF funded schemes collectively covering the entire North East, which offer funded energy efficiency audits for SMEs, and potential capital grants towards the installation of agreed measures (e.g. LEDs, PV, insulation, heating upgrades). Led typically by LAs.
Link Business Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP) - Durham County Council
Link BEST – Fully Funded Energy Audits (best-ne.co.uk)
Link BREEZ - Business Renewables Energy Efficiency Sunderland - Sunderland City Council

Addressing local needs: Schemes to provide energy audits, and part fund energy interventions, to local SMEs in order to help them reduce their energy costs, move towards net zero, and become more resilient.

Case Study: Chamber Low Carbon and Low Carbon Heat Grant, Lancashire
East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce, Businesswise Solutions Ltd and BOOST are supporting Lancashire businesses in saving money and reducing their carbon footprint.
Link https://www.chamberlowcarbon.co.uk/
Link https://www.boostbusinesslancashire.co.uk/support/low-carbon-heat-grant/

Addressing local needs - Funding for business to understand decarbonisation and energy saving opportunities followed up with grants to instal low carbon heating

E32: Investment in resilience infrastructure and nature-based solutions that protect local businesses and community areas from natural hazards including flooding and coastal erosion.

Example Projects (Government Guidance):

Funding for schemes that better protect local businesses from flooding and coastal erosion

Objectives (Government Guidance):

Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of local pride and belonging, through investment in activities that enhance physical, cultural and social ties and amenities, such as community infrastructure and local green space, and community-led projects. Building resilient and safe neighbourhoods, through investment in quality places that people want to live, work, play and learn in, through targeted improvements to the built environment and innovative approaches to crime prevention.

Case Study: Low Carbon Lake District

Helping locals build resilience and adapt to a changing climate. Adaptation reports published in 2012, 2014 and 2015 - an assessment of risks, opportunities and actions for climate change adaptation in the Lake District.
Link https://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk/caringfor/policies/lowcarbonlakedistrict

Addressing local needs: Funding to support communities to develop adaptation plans and implement measures

Case Study: River Clwyd Natural Flood Risk Management

In January 2017, a collaborative project began on the River Clwyd in Denbighshire with the aim of piloting natural measures to prevent flooding. By July 2020, a series of innovative and sustainable measures had been implemented over 8,000 hectares by a team dedicated to mitigating the risk of flooding in the area.
Link https://carboncopy.eco/initiatives/river-clwyd-natural-flood-risk-management

Addressing local needs: Building capacity to understand and then implementing measures for natural flood management measures

People and Skills

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

Objectives (Government Guidance): Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes

E39: Green skills courses targeted around ensuring we have the skilled workforce to achieve the government's net zero and wider environmental ambitions.
Example Projects (Government Guidance): Increased number of people developing their skills to deliver local environmental priorities, such as those set out in Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Relevant courses could include environmental conservation or forestry operative apprenticeships, or Agriculture, Land Management and Production T Levels

Objectives (Government Guidance): Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available through national employment and skills programmes.

E40: Retraining support for those in high carbon sectors.
Example Projects (Government Guidance):

Courses targeted at employees from local high carbon sectors to develop their existing skills in lower-carbon alternatives

Objectives (Government Guidance): Supporting local areas to fund gaps in local skills provision to support people to progress in work, and supplement local adult skills provision e.g. by providing additional volumes; delivering provision through wider range of routes or enabling more intensive/innovative provision, both qualification based and non-qualification based. This should be supplementary to provision available

Case Study: Essex Community Renewal Fund Project

As part of Essex's CRF programme, Essex County Council and The Retrofit Academy are offering fully-funded support to achieve PAS 2030 certification and TrustMark accreditation. Courses range from Level 2 to Level 5
Link: https://retrofitacademy.org/crf-essex/

Addressing local needs: Funding for training in housing retrofit qualifications, including addressing governments targets for 30,000 new heat pumps installers in the coming decade

Case Study: Net Zero Training Hub, Portsmouth

A new government-funded facility dedicated to training and upgrading skills in sustainable technologies.
Link https://www.highbury.ac.uk/news-and-events/2022/05/01/15/34/ground-breaking-net-zero-training-hub-launched/

Addressing local needs: Funding for improved facilities to train and upgrade skills in sustainable technologies

Case Study: Charge Up Your Future, Coventry

A series of brand-new programmes, which will provide the people of Coventry and Warwickshire with the innovations they need to make change, create opportunities and energise themselves for a zero-carbon future
Link https://www.coventrycollege.ac.uk/charge-up-your-future/

Addressing local needs: Funding for skills and training for electrification of transport

Case Study: Green Skills Bootcamps, Liverpool City Region

Green Energy Skills Bootcamp is funded by The Department for Education, granting eligible learners across Liverpool City Region access to the technical training required to secure employment within the renewable energy sector.
Link https://greenskillsbootcamp.co.uk/

Addressing local needs: Funding for technical training in specialisms in Net Zero sectors

SPF Investment Plans

In order to access UKSPF funding, lead local authorities are being asked to complete an investment plan, setting out how they intend to use and deliver the funding. UKSPF has been designed to empower local leaders and communities to deliver locally-identified priorities and the investment plan process has been designed with this in mind.

Lead local authorities will be asked to develop their investment plan in conjunction with local stakeholders. Places should establish or designate a local partnership group to consult when developing their investment plan. Plans will then need to be agreed by both the lead local authority and by UK government to unlock the allocations.

In Scotland and Wales, we want each strategic geography to involve the Scottish and Welsh governments, and the Offices of the Secretary of State for Scotland and Wales respectively, in the preparation of their investment plans.

In Northern Ireland, the UK government will work with local partners to design a Northern Ireland investment plan. This plan will be used by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities who will have oversight of delivery; this reflects the distinct and different role local government plays in Northern Ireland.

6.2 Investment plan questions

The investment plans will feature three broad stages:

*1. **Local context:** an opportunity for places to set out their local evidence of opportunities and challenges through the lens of the three investment priorities for UKSPF.*

*2. **Selection of outcomes and interventions:** where places will identify the outcomes they wish to target based on local context, and the interventions they wish to prioritise, under each investment priority, from the menu of options. These should be clearly linked to local opportunities and challenges.*

*3. **Delivery:** this will represent the most detailed stage of the investment plans and is broken down into the following:*

*a. **Approach to delivery and governance:** where places outline the structures and processes that will support the delivery of their chosen interventions. We will also expect places to set out the engagement they have undertaken as part of the development of their Plan, including their engagement with MPs.*

In this section we will also ask places to set out how they intend to collaborate with other places in the delivery of specific interventions – for example with neighbouring places, or with places across the UK with common needs or challenges.

*b. **Expenditure and deliverables:** detailing what places want to deliver with their investment plan, including the spend profile for the three years of the fund as well as outputs and outcomes figures, and where places have already identified specific projects they wish to fund under each of the investment priorities.*

As part of these spend and indicator profiles, lead local authorities will be asked to detail their intended budgets at priority and intervention level. UK government will use this information as part of the assessment and as initial performance management, along with additional performance management information set out in a Memorandum of Understanding (or Grant Funding Agreement in Northern Ireland).

Please note – expenditure profiles must be accurate and deliverable. Each place must set out a minimum amount of capital funding to invest each year in their investment plan, which will be monitored. Where small authorities have smaller overall allocations we will consider requests for flexibility. We reserve the right to withhold or delay payment from 2023-24 onwards where this does not occur.

*c. **Capability and resource:** to allow places to outline the resource they have to manage and work on UKSPF, as well as their capability and previous experience of delivering similar funds.*

Delivering innovative provision

While we have developed a broad set of interventions, to allow places flexibility, we recognise that there will be instances where our menu of options does not meet specific local challenges or priorities that have been identified. To mitigate against this, places will be allowed to select 'bespoke' interventions that do not feature in our menu of options. Places will need to provide evidence to support their bespoke intervention, including a logic chain or theory of change and demonstrate where they align with UKSPF investment priorities.

Net Zero Recommendations

Net Zero Can be threaded through SPF Investment Plans

Local context:

- Reference to climate emergency and other net zero ambitions of the lead local authorities and partner organisations

- Reference to Local Governments important role in delivering on National Net Zero Strategy https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/

- Reference to the role of communities in the Net Zero Agenda (page 270) https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf

- Reference to the need to engage SMEs on the Net Zero Agenda at the local level, to reinforce national provision https://businessclimatehub.org/uk/

Selection of outcomes and interventions

- A list of outcomes and interventions most relevant to Net Zero are identified in this report

- Net Zero cuts across all outcomes, and SPF Investment Strategies can identify how other interventions will evidence that they are having a positive impact on the environment.

Approach to delivery and governance

a. *Approach to delivery and governance:*

- *Net Zero Hubs support networks of collaboration across regional geographies*
- *Net Zero Hubs support areas to publish carbon stories to share good practice and promote success.*

c. *Capability and resource:*

- *Net Zero Hubs support local government to develop project proposals and make the case for schemes*
- *Scheme monitoring can include environmental impacts of the overall programme including qualitatively where there is not a KPI.*