



UK Government

**LEVELLING  
— UP —**

**GMCA** GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Greater Manchester**  
VCSE Briefing

# Agenda

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- **Greater Manchester VCSE Accord:** Anne Lythgoe, Principal – VCSE Accord Implementation
- **Core UKSPF & its link to the GMS:** Alison Gordon, Assistant Director, Place
- **Wider funding landscape:** Neil Cragg, Principal – ESF Funding & Business Development
- **Core UKSPF next steps:** Alison Gordon, Assistant Director, Place
- **Multiply adult numeracy programme:** Sharon Kelly, Senior Principal Skills Manager (Adult Education)
- **Q&A** (if time allows)

# Greater Manchester VCSE Accord

Anne Lythgoe

Principal, VCSE Accord Implementation

# Greater Manchester VCSE Accord

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- VCSE organisations are seen as an important ‘partner’ for the public sector – locally and nationally.
- Greater Manchester VCSE Accord is a **collaboration agreement** between the Mayor of Greater Manchester, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the Greater Manchester Integrated Care System and the VCSE sector based on a relationship of trust.
- Agreed by GMCA and Health and Social Care Partnership in September 2021 – then approved through Executive Structures of all 10 local authorities.
- Provides a **frame for future working** – GMCA uses the Accord commitments and principles to engage with VCSE – so will apply for UKSPF (probably only place in the country to have this).
- VCSE Accord works through a **shared understanding of the contribution that VCSE organisations make** towards tackling inequality in society, creating a more inclusive economy and addressing the climate crisis.
- And – by **building effective partnerships and relationships** between the statutory sector with VCSE organisations across different geographies (for example GM-wide, district-wide, or in neighbourhoods and communities).

**GMCA will be working through and with the VCSE Accord during the UKSPF development and delivery process.**

# **Core UKSPF & its link to the Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS)**

Alison Gordon  
Assistant Director, Place

# What is the UK Shared Prosperity Fund?

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The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the UK Government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF).

The UK Government have set out their overall aim for the UKSPF: to support their wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the four parts of the Levelling Up agenda:

- ➔ Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards, 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.

The primary goal of UKSPF is to **build pride in place** and **increase life chances** across the UK, while recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the Covid pandemic. This will be achieved across **three**

**Investment Priorities:**

1. Communities and Place

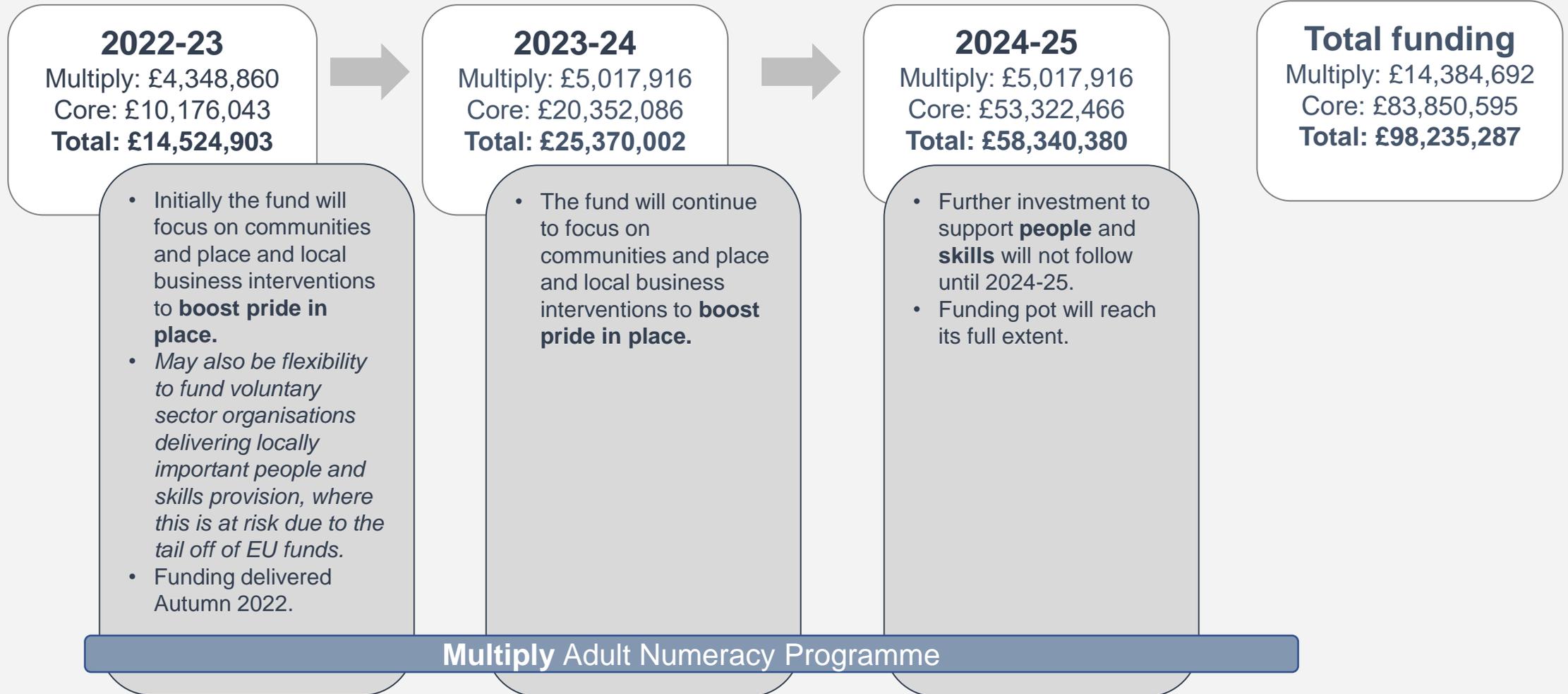
2. Local Business

3. People and Skills

UKSPF investments will also need to demonstrate their contribution to **net zero** and **nature recovery** objectives.

*To note: The UKSPF will be split between a core allocation/main fund, and the Multiply Adult Numeracy Programme.*

# Greater Manchester UKSPF funding allocation



# Role of GMCA as UKSPF Lead Authority

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- GMCA has been assigned by UK Government as **lead authority** for the fund in Greater Manchester and will receive the area's allocation to manage. GMCA will have overall accountability for the funding and how it operates.
- This includes the development of an **Investment Plan** which will set out a series of interventions and outcomes that reflect local needs and opportunities. GMCA is developing this high-level Investment Plan in conjunction with Local Authorities and other key stakeholders, building upon the extensive consultation undertaken for the Greater Manchester Strategy in 2021. This Investment Plan will need to be submitted to UKG by 1<sup>st</sup> August.

# Local UKSPF Partnership Board

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- UK Government require Lead Authorities to create a UKSPF Local Partnership Board to support the development of their Investment Plan and to provide guidance on strategic fit and deliverability of UKSPF activity over the three years of funding.
- Greater Manchester will re-purpose the existing GM ESIF Sub-Committee, as its key stakeholder membership is similar to that required by UK Government for UKSPF.
- Membership of the UKSPF Local Partnership Board will include relevant GMCA Portfolio Leads, business, health, academic, and police and crime representatives. MPs will also be involved via a new GM MP UKSPF Engagement Forum.
- The UKSPF Local Partnership Board will also include a representative from the VCSE sector.
- The UKSPF Local Partnership Board will have to agree the Greater Manchester UKSPF Investment Plan before submission to UK Government.

# Emerging key principles for UKSPF in Greater Manchester

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There are a number of key principles that we want to follow to ensure the UKSPF is maximised in Greater Manchester:

- The fund should be focused on the delivery of the **Greater Manchester Strategy (GMS)**: the 15 commitments in the GMS should be used to help shape Greater Manchester Investment Priorities and further define the principles of how we use this funding.
- This funding replaces previous **EU strategic funding** and will focus on programmes of activity that lead to outcomes for people or places, rather than stand-alone/individual projects.
- Need to ensure we maximise the opportunity that comes with having **flexibility** in how we use this funding to ensure the best impact and outcomes for our residents.
- Ensure it will **fund programmes** that complement, provide added value and do not duplicate other activity.
- Ensure it **complements other funding and activity** (where possible) e.g. Towns Fund, LUP etc.

# How can UKSPF support Greater Manchester's Strategic Vision?

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**GREATER  
MANCHESTER**  
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Greater Manchester  
Strategy 2021–2031  
*good lives for all*



## Our vision:

**Good Lives for All: that Greater Manchester is a great place to grow up, get on and grow old; a great place to invest, do business, visit and study.**

Through the delivery of this strategy Greater Manchester is determined to become **greener, fairer and more prosperous**, in all parts of Greater Manchester.

The [strategy](#) sets the interconnected challenges of inequalities and climate emergency at its heart.

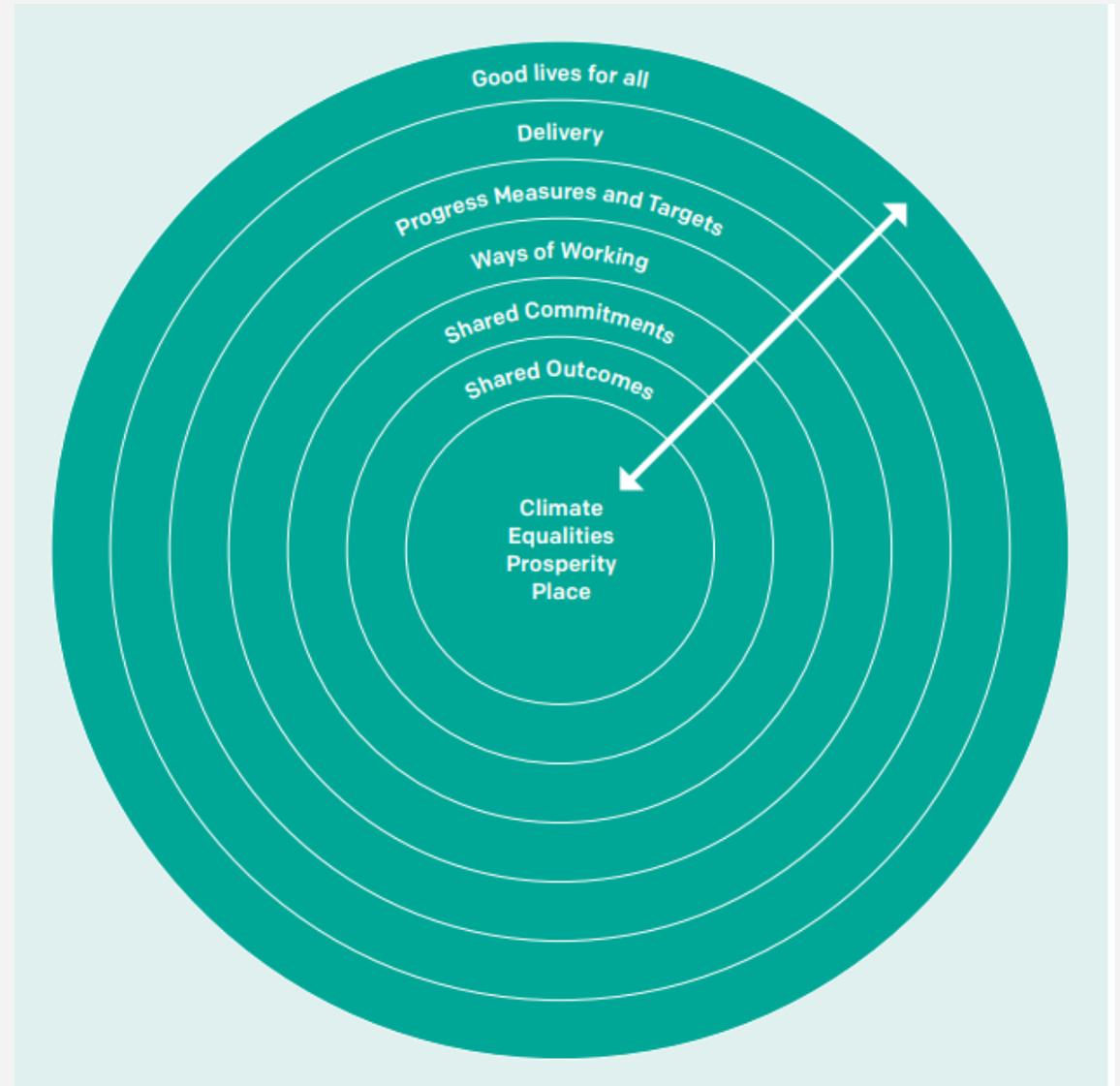
# GMS - A New Era

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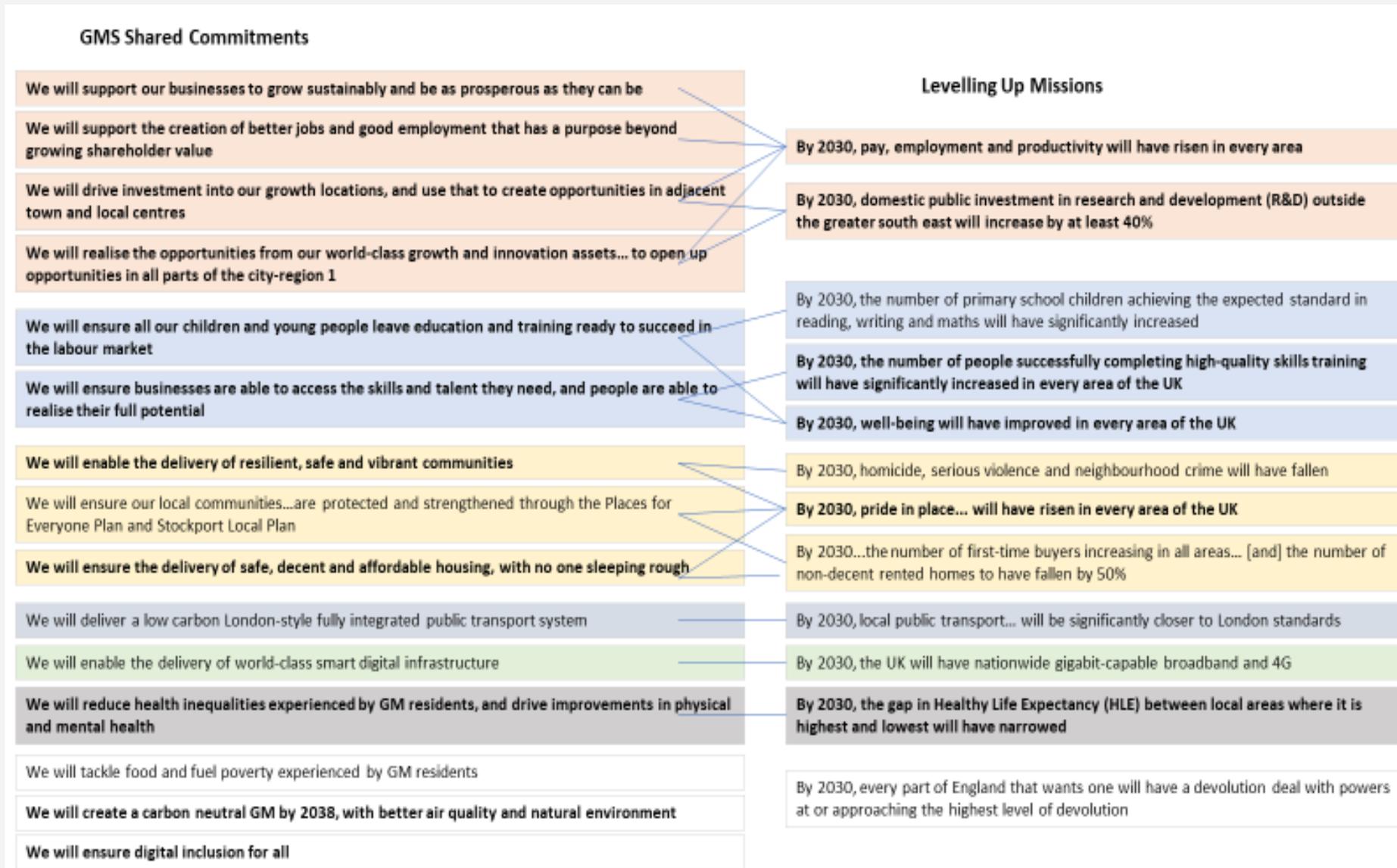
We have plans in place covering the wide range of activities to help us deliver a greener, fairer, more prosperous Greater Manchester to deliver our vision of good lives for all.

These are led by organisations across our city region, who have come together to agree:

- **Our shared outcomes** (the Greater Manchester we want to see)
- **Our shared commitments** (the things we are going to do)
- **Our ways of working** (how we will work)
- **Our progress measures** (how we will know we are achieving)
- **Our delivery** (3 Year Delivery Plan, with 6 monthly progress reports)

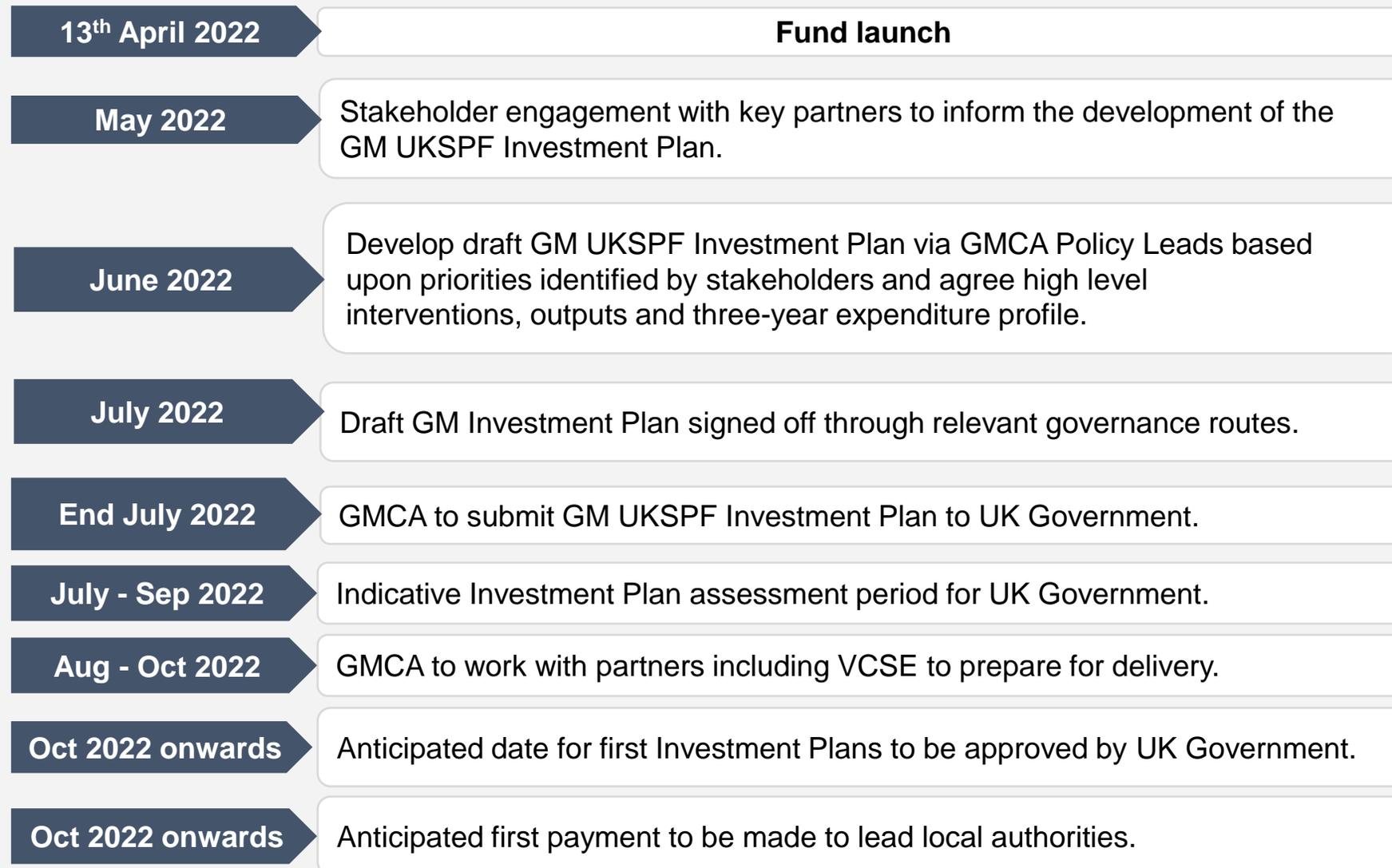


# Alignment of GMS, Levelling Up Missions and UKSPF



UKSPF is expected to deliver against the national Levelling Up Missions set out in **BOLD** which then align with the GMS Shared Commitments also highlighted in **BOLD**

# Core UKSPF timeline & key dates



# Wider funding landscape

Neil Cragg

Principal, ESF Funding & Business Development

# UKSPF in the wider funding landscape

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- UKSPF is only one of several funding pots that can help Greater Manchester to deliver the priorities set out in the Greater Manchester Strategy.
- UKSPF should therefore be considered in the wider funding landscape and should complement other funding and activity in Greater Manchester. Examples for each of the three UKSPF investment priorities include:

## Communities & Place

- Levelling Up Fund
- Community Ownership fund
- Future High Streets Fund
- Towns Fund
- Get Building Fund
- Heritage Action Zones
- City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement

## Local Business

- GM Innovation Accelerator
- Levelling Up Fund
- Community Renewal Fund
- Extension of ERDF funded business support to mid-2023

## People & Skills

- Devolved Adult Education Budget
- National Skills Fund: Bootcamps
- Working Well Work & Health and DWP Restart LTU Programme
- Community Renewal Fund

# UKSPF interventions & outcomes

- The UKSPF Prospectus provides a long list of interventions and outcomes across the three investment priorities which could be supported by the Fund ([Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs – England \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk))
- Wide ranging interventions which also could involve investment in:
  - capacity building and infrastructure support for community groups;
  - support for local social economy initiatives;
  - support for economically inactive individuals from 2024/25.

***Below are just a few examples of the UKSPF interventions available; the full list is available via the link above***

## 1. Communities & Place:

- **E9: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places.**

(Examples include funding for local volunteering groups, such as youth charities, carers groups or refugee support groups; support for people to develop volunteering and/or social actions projects locally)

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

(Examples include 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).

## 2. Supporting Local Business:

- **E23: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.**

(Examples include strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and connecting businesses to wider support on, for example, innovation, trade and skills; establishing local peer-to-peer networking/support and learning to improve sharing of best practice; development of evidence-based regional entrepreneurial support, led by entrepreneurs, risk capital providers, corporates, academia and government)

- **E26: Support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises.**

(Examples include training schemes for local people looking to set up a new cooperative business)

## 3. People & Skills:

**A: 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. \*via Multiply.**

*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).*

**B: 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. \*\*where not being met through DWP provision.**
- **E35: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.**

**C: 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.**
- **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 cannot be met through mainstream funding.**

# Risk of Voluntary & Community Sector funding gap in 2022-23 / 2023-24

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Excepting Multiply, funding to the People and Skills Investment Priority is only available from 2024-25 (Year 3). The UKSPF Prospectus states:

*‘Lead local authorities have the flexibility to fund targeted people and skills provision in 2022-23 and 2023-24 where this is a continuing priority for 2024-25 and may be at significant risk of ending due to the tail off of EU funds. This flexibility may only be used where provision is currently delivered by voluntary and community organisations, having regard for the focus of the Fund and available funding.’*

## **GMCA is undertaking initial work to inform our local understanding including:**

- Identified the tail off in GM ESIF provision and wider programmes across Greater Manchester
- Undertaken GM mapping of skills & work provision survey
- Started local engagement to shape Investment Plan priorities

# GM ESIF Provision (for information)

(Including some complementary, non-ESIF provision which will conclude in 2022 and 2023)

Employment Support	Young People - NEET	Support for most disadvantaged cohorts
<b>ESF: WW Work &amp; Health Programme</b> supports 5-6k unemployed residents per year with c.35% starting employment. £20m ESF funds 40% additional starts until March 2022. Two year WHP extension pending but without ESF volumes.	<b>ESF: NEET Contract (ESFA):</b> Since 2017 contracts totalling up to £11.1m have supported nearly 10k residents (c1.6k pa) with c40% gaining an EET progression. Last starts Autumn 2022.	<b>ESF: Community Grants (ESFA):</b> £7.1m of grants provided to 250+ VCSOs between Jul 2019-Dec 2021. Support 'hidden' disadvantaged residents gain skills and progress towards employment. Fully committed no further grant giving in 2022.
<b>ESF: WW Specialist Employment Service</b> supports progression into employment for 1k residents with learning difficulties. Part funded by ESF (£2m) finishes in Sept 2023. Last starts Autumn 2022.	<b>ESF: NEET / Youth Unemployment (GMCA):</b> £10m ESF to support 6k most hidden NEET young people between Jan 2022 and Sept 2023. 45% EET progression target. Last starts expected Spring 2023.	<b>ESF: Building Better Opportunities (National Lottery):</b> 4yr £9.7m Motiv8 programme supporting 4k disadvantaged residents into and towards sustainable employment. Ends Summer 2023.
<b>Non-ESIF: WHP Job Entry Targeted Support</b> – COVID response to support newly unemployed. £19m DWP funded over 2.5 years to March 2023. Last starts Oct 2022. c40% into work employment rates achieved.	<b>Non-ESIF: Future Workforce Fund (GMCA):</b> £6.5m HMT provision supporting 7.3k (at risk of) NEET young people since 2019. Concludes Sept 2022.	

Skills Support	Business Support / Innovation / Low Carbon
<b>ESF: Skills Support for Unemployed (ESFA):</b> Since 2016, an average of 3.7k unemployed residents per year supported with EET outcomes and skills progression at mainly Level 1 / 2. Last starts Winter 2022.	<b>ERDF:</b> Range of business support programmes including Growth Hub , Access to Finance, Start Smart and Sector based programmes conclude in June 2023. Less immediate provision cliff edge as support continues until the end of contracts.
<b>ESF: Skills Support for the Workforce (ESFA):</b> Since 2016, an average of 2.1k employed residents per year supported to enhance skills and enable progression within the workplace. Element of redundancy support within core service offer.	<b>Non-ESIF: Enterprising You (DfE)</b> programme supporting 2.8k self employed or gig economy residents concludes in March 2023. Also no intention to currently renew the national NEA programme which concluded in 2021. <b>Creative Scale-Up Pilot (DCMS)</b>
<b>ESF: Skills for Growth (GMCA):</b> Locally designed and commissioned service based on employer intelligence-led started in 2020. By September 2023, programme should have supported 25k employees and 3k SMEs with targeted sector skills support.	<b>ERDF Innovation:</b> Range of primarily GM universities-led programmes supporting innovation and commercialisation scheduled to conclude between Dec 2022 and June 2023.
<b>Non-ESIF: Bootcamps (DfE):</b> Pilots concluding in 2022 with further 1 year funding through National Skills Fund recently confirmed.	<b>ERDF Low Carbon:</b> Range of clean energy and carbon reduction programmes scheduled to conclude between Dec 2022 and June 2023.

# People & Skills wider funding opportunities

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The aim is to better align services and funding to ensure duplication is minimised. Some examples:

## 1. Fully devolved Adult Education Budget (AEB)

Developing how the devolved Adult Education funding can enhance the Multiply adult numeracy programme to provide a full essential life skills offer, i.e. not just maths, to include English and ICT skills and complement the existing AEB funded GM ESOL Advice Service.

- Moving into second phase of AEB from the academic year 2023/24:
  - Defined and targeted commissioning from Autumn 2022 in preparation for start in August 2023.
  - Developing a place-based approach across each 10 LA districts.
  - Currently reviewing Community Learning activity and funding to implement clearer approaches for 2023/24.

## 2. Working Well Work & Health Programme

- Unemployed cohort with health and disabilities extension with referrals continuing until October 2024 – intention for more localised integration being sort to support individuals progress towards employment through key worker models.

# Core UKSPF next steps

Alison Gordon

Assistant Director, Place

# Core UKSPF: next steps

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## Investment Plan

Early draft of GM UKSPF Investment Plan shared with GM VCSE Leadership Group

Confirm VCSE nomination for GM UKSPF Local Partnership Board

Local UKSPF Partnership Board to "sign off" Investment Plan before submission to Govt

## Implementation Plan

Following submission of Investment Plan, GMCA will work closely with stakeholders in the development of an Implementation Plan that will set out:

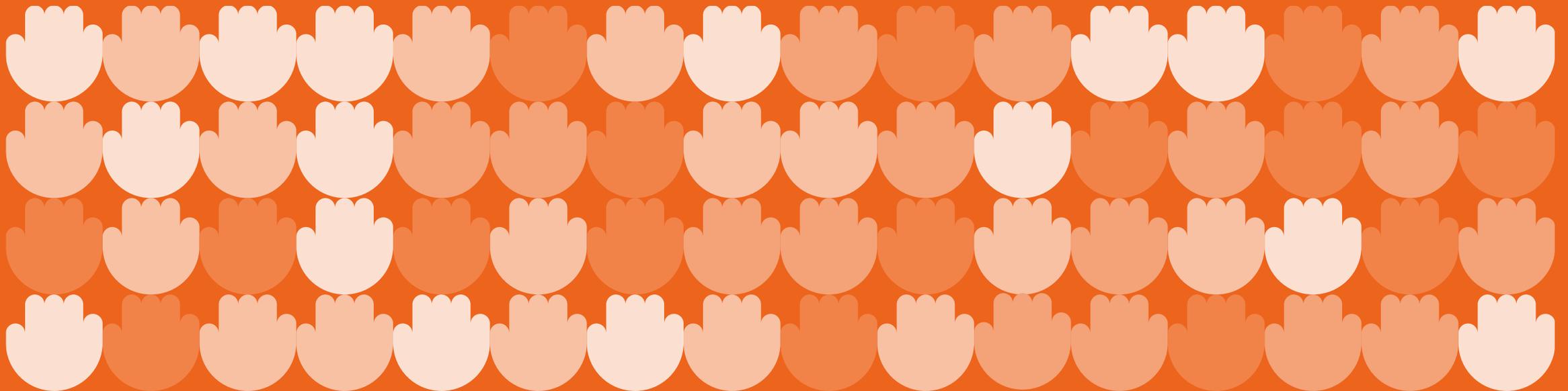
- Projects and funding available to achieve outcomes/outputs
- Routes to market
- Programme management framework

Key role for VCSE to work with LAs and GMCA to define role of sector

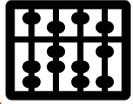
# UKSPF MULTIPLY SCHEME FOR GREATER MANCHESTER

Sharon Kelly

Senior Principal Skills Manager (Adult Education)



# Purpose of Multiply Scheme and GM



Improve adult functional numeracy levels.



Increasing the number of adults participating in and achieving adult numeracy qualifications up to and including Level 2 (both GCSE Grade C/4 or above, and Functional Skills Qualifications).



Proposals need to be complementary and different to existing Adult Education Budget (AEB) interventions & does not displace or duplicate existing adult numeracy provision.



GMCA's intention is to ensure the funding enables access to maths / numeracy skills for those who would not normally consider accessing the usual adults skills offer and that the funding complements and enhances the existing offer.



GMCA is developing how the devolved Adult Education funding can enhance the Multiply Scheme funding to provide a full essential life skills offer, i.e. not just maths, to include English and ICT skills and complement the existing GM ESOL Advice Service.

# Multiply - Menu of interventions

## Interventions

- Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal qualifications.
- Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage their money
- Innovative programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace
- Courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in order to access a certain job/career
- New intensive and flexible courses targeted at people without Level 2 maths, leading to a Functional Skills Qualification
- Courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression
- Courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence.
- Courses aimed at those 19 or over that are leaving, or have just left, the care system
- Activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners
- Additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses.

## Other deliverables & requirements

- Supporting the workforce to increase capability
- Partnership working with local education providers, employers, voluntary and community sector organisations, Job Centres, and others
- Evidence of need and demand
- Strategic Fit – with Levelling Up White Paper, Skills for Jobs White Paper, link to local GMS etc.
- How it will engage and motivate learners
- Measuring success

# Multiply – GM Proposed Investment Plan

Support to build workforce capacity (off-menu)

Pan-GM community focussed engagement through VCSE and other key stakeholders

Link to wider Adult Skills offer

Enhance Level 2 provision for those who need additional support

Work with and develop an Employer based offer

Targeted support to be developed for offender groups and care leavers

Initial aspects of the **Multiply Investment Plan for GM** – not fixed and GMCA will use the feedback from surveys and questionnaires to assist in the detailed development, as well as relevant data sources to highlight areas, and / or resident groups to target.

# Multiply timeline

When	Activity
February – April 2022	<p>Initial consultation with Skills Minister, DfE and Education Skills Funding Agency, discuss menu of options to address maths / numeracy and process going forward.</p> <p>GM Consult survey launched 1st April for 5 weeks for residents and employers. Online surveys/questionnaires issued to local stakeholders (LAs, skills providers etc.).</p> <p>Ongoing analysis of key data sets to develop targeted delivery alongside GM wide offer.</p>
May 2022	<p>Development of final investment plan and final stakeholder consultations.</p> <p>Approval and recruitment of team to support implementation and ongoing development &amp; monitoring.</p>
June 2022	<p>Proposed investment plan to be taken through GMCA governance process.</p> <p>Final submission of Multiply Scheme Investment Plan to be submitted to DfE no later <b>30th June 2022</b>.</p>
July & August 2022	<p>Indicative investment plan assessment period for DfE.</p> <p>Recruitment of Multiply team – management &amp; ongoing development of work.</p> <p>Implement relevant procurement or grant programme in early July ready for activity to start from October 2022, allowing for mobilisation.</p>
September 2022	<p>Anticipated date for Multiply investment plans to be approved.</p> <p>Anticipated first payment to be made to lead local authorities for Multiply scheme.</p>
March 2025	<p>Three-year funding period ends</p>

# Approach to commissioning of activities for Multiply & AEB enhanced offer

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If necessary GMCA will commission activity for Multiply and the AEB enhanced offer through a [Flexible Procurement System](#).

There is expected to be limited opportunities through Multiply for grant funded activity.

Although it is not always necessary for organisations to be registered, we do encourage supply chain and partnerships, linked to specific funding routes where possible i.e. Multiply & AEB.

GMCA's Education, Work and Skills Directorate has a [Flexible Procurement System](#) with the ambition:

- To create a single procurement system that allows easier and quicker commissioning of activity
- To minimise the timescale for procurement activity
- To reduce confusion and administration, whilst creating opportunities for a wider range of suppliers to be engaged with and bid for commissioned activity

The current FPS is open to applications from suppliers/organisations until 6th June 2022 (opened in April) with a further opening anticipated over Winter 2022/23.

The Chest is the online portal used to submit applications and can be accessed at [The Chest: North West Procurement Portal \(thechest.org.uk\)](https://thechest.org.uk)

# Q&A

**For more information on the UKSPF in Greater Manchester, visit**

**[www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/uk-shared-prosperity-fund](http://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/uk-shared-prosperity-fund)**

**For UKSPF questions and queries (including Multiply), email**

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