

**UK Shared Prosperity Fund Workshops: Local Business**
**Developing the Priorities for Local Business Intervention E23 – Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks**

**Background**
The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the UK Government’s domestic replacement for European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) such as the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the European Social Fund (ESF). These funds have supported a range of job creation, innovation, carbon reduction and skills programmes across Greater Manchester.

**UKSPF Investment Plan for Greater Manchester**

* Greater Manchester has been allocated £83,850,595 for the three core UKSPF investment priorities of Communities and Place, Local Business, and People and Skills for 2022-23 to 2024-25.
* GMCA, as lead authority for the UKSPF in Greater Manchester, submitted a [high-level three-year Investment Plan](https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s22017/16%20FINAL%20GMCA%20-%20UKSPF%20Investment%20Plan%2029%20July%202022.pdf) in July to UK Government in order to access Greater Manchester’s funding allocation. GMCA hopes to receive approval of this Investment Plan shortly.
* The [Investment Plan](https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s21939/UKSPF%20Investment%20Plan%2029%20July%202022_GMCA.pdf) sets out the interventions, outputs and outcomes selected by Greater Manchester from the Government’s framework that best reflect local needs and opportunities for the three investment priorities.
* The Plan was developed in consultation with Greater Manchester’s ten local authorities and other key partners and stakeholders across the private, public and VCSE sectors. This engagement built upon extensive consultation previously undertaken for the [Greater Manchester Strategy](https://aboutgreatermanchester.com/). The Strategy’s shared commitments form the priorities for core UKSPF activity in Greater Manchester.

**Local Business Interventions**

* One of the interventions selected for Local Business is E23: ***Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks.***
* Funding for this intervention will be prioritised to support the delivery of the [Greater Manchester Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/economy/greater-manchesters-local-industrial-strategy/) and wider [Greater Manchester Strategy](https://aboutgreatermanchester.com/).
* [£500k has already been allocated for E23 delivery in 2022-23](https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s23415/21%20UKSPF%20Proposals%2028102022.pdf) to provide support for Greater Manchester businesses dealing with the increased cost of doing business over winter.
* Plans are now being developed to shape the priorities for E23 delivery in 2023-25 (£9.4m of Greater Manchester’s UKSPF allocation).
* As the [Investment Plan](https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s21939/UKSPF%20Investment%20Plan%2029%20July%202022_GMCA.pdf) sets out, the aim will be to continue to provide a core business support offer that adds value to existing support, working in conjunction with the already established Greater Manchester Growth Hub, to support GM’s diverse business base.

**Local Business Workshops (E23)**

To shape the priorities for this intervention, we will be holding the following two workshops:

1. **~~In Person at the~~** [**~~Friends’ Meeting House in Manchester City Centre~~**](https://meetinghousemanchester.co.uk/find-us/)**~~, Thursday 1 December, 2.30pm – 4.30pm (places strictly limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis).~~ IN-PERSON WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER NOW FULL**
2. **Online (via Teams), Thursday 8 December, 10am – 12noon**

**~~The content of the two workshops will be identical, so attendance is only required for one event. However, two options have been provided so that there’s more chance that people will be able to attend.~~**

**We ask that you read the information below and recommend that you only attend one of the workshops if it is directly relevant to your organisation.**

* The two workshops will help shape priorities for Local Business intervention E23 (Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks).
* All feedback, queries and comments from the sessions will be minuted and used as market research in order to define a needs analysis.
* They are not general information briefings for UKSPF as a whole or any of the other Investment Priority areas such as Communities and Place and People and Skills.
* Planning for the other Local Business interventions E19 (Research & Development) and E26 (Growing the local social economy) will not commence until spring 2023 so will not be the focus of these workshops.

**If you would like to attend the online workshop on Thursday 8 December at 10am – 12noon, please RSVP with your name, organisation and contact details to:** **ukspf@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk****. IN-PERSON WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER NOW FULL**

**~~Please note for the in-person event, places are strictly limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. As such, we can only accept one representative per organisation.~~IN-PERSON WORKSHOP ON THURSDAY 1 DECEMBER NOW FULL**

**For more information on the UKSPF in Greater Manchester, visit the** [**GMCA website**](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/investment/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/)

**If you have any queries, please email** **ukspf@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk**