

United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

The Conservative manifesto promises a United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF). It will be “designed to reduce inequalities between communities,” delivering “sustainable, inclusive growth.” The government has identified disparities in productivity between regions (and the UK’s underperformance internationally) as a priority for the future fund. Promoting productivity and inclusive growth will therefore be at the forefront of UK SPF goals and objectives.

Work is taking place to consider the most effective means to raise both productivity and inclusive growth as well as how a future model is aligned and contributes to the Governments Industrial Strategy.

Appendix 1. UK Shared Prosperity Fund: Discussion Questions

Question 1 : The LEP and West Yorkshire Combined Authority's design principles

- Do you agree with the headline principles? If not why not?

Question 2 : The fund – breadth and scope

- What types of intervention do you think are the most effective in support of productivity and inclusive growth in Leeds City Region (LCR)?
- Are there important activities which should be part of a LCR SPF which you see as falling outside of productivity and inclusive growth?
- What sort of outcomes/metrics should be used in delivering inclusive growth and shared prosperity at a local level?

Question 3 : Accountability to local partners and Government

- If Government were to devolve the implementation and distribution of the SPF funding to, for example, LEPs/Combined Authority's/Mayoral Combined Authorities, how can we best ensure local partners are engaged and equipped to deliver effectively, using structures and mechanisms which provide both value for money and deliver against key policy outcomes?
- What characteristics should any Lead Body have in order to best deliver the future fund?
- Should there be different levels of discretion for local delivery partners for different policy areas?

Question 4 : Distributing the Funding

- What have been the best examples of how delivery institutions receive funds (e.g. grants, borrowing, commissioning, delegated grants, financial instruments, payment by results)?
- How can we confidently say local is best – do you have any evidence to support effective local delivery mechanisms which we can draw on?