

# LGA Employment and Skills Provision Survey – 2022/23

Research Report

May 2023



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## Summary

### Background

The Local Government Association (LGA) Research & Information Team conducted a survey to capture data on key elements of English local authorities' employment and skills provision. This included local partnerships, the services being provided, and funding.

Field work took place in March and April 2023.

The heads of economic growth or education in all councils in England were sent the survey. The final overall response rate achieved was 27 per cent (89 councils). Regionally, the response was highest from Greater London (55 per cent) and lowest from the West Midlands (15 per cent).

### Key findings

#### **Local partnerships**

Nearly all the councils surveyed reported being in discussions with local employment and skills partners (96 per cent). Seven in ten (71 per cent) were involved in multiple discussions locally convened by others, and 58 per cent convened a local employment and skills board. The level of engagement between local partners and councils on issues related to employment and skills was consistent. All respondents (100 per cent) with an employment and skills provision were working with at least one local partner.

#### **Services provided**

Nearly all the councils surveyed (94 per cent) had some form of employment and skills provision. Employment and skills provision was most commonly structured by running multiple support programmes coordinated by an in-house team (67 per cent). The most common employment and skills provision was for young people at risk of, or not in education, employment, or training (88 per cent). A similar percentage (89 per cent) reported offering traineeships and apprenticeships. Councils which are members of a devolved authority were more likely to engage in 'skills for business' (89 per cent) than authorities which were not (63 per cent). The most common organisation group accessing local authority employment and skills provision were local employers. Nine in ten (89 per cent) reported that local

employers had accessed their service. Similarly, just under nine in ten (87 per cent) of councils reported unemployed people on out of work benefits accessing their services. Local authorities were asked whether their employment and skills provision achieved any positive outcome. Ninety five per cent reported they had at least one positive outcome. The two most common positive impacts were supporting local employers (85 per cent) and providing a pathway to further learning or work (82 per cent).

## **Funding**

Sixty three per cent of the local authorities which participated in this project reported that the European Social Fund (ESF) was a source of funding for their authority's employment and skills provision. Councils which are members of a devolved authority were more likely to report receiving support from the ESF (80 per cent) than local authorities which are not (54 per cent). Councils were more likely to report the level of funding they had received from the European Social Fund (ESF) for their employment and skills provision would be greater than the support they will be able to receive from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). Half (50 per cent) answered the funding from the ESF is higher than it would receive from the UKSPF in comparison to the three in ten (29 per cent) which reported it would be lower. Eighty-six per cent identified at least one issue with changes in funding from ESF to UKSPF. The most common issue identified was being less able to assist people who previously accessed support (49 per cent). Authorities were asked to give how long, in months, the gap would be between receiving UKSPF support after no longer receiving ESF funding. Among the councils which responded to this question or did not say 'Don't know', seven months was the mean amount of time given for the gap. The standard deviation about the mean was five meaning any number from two to 12 is within a normal range. Sixty five per cent reported that UKSPF would be an appropriate source of funding for their employment and skills provision in the 2024/25 financial year. In comparison, thirty per cent responded that it would not be an appropriate funding source.

## **Local changes in demand**

Respondents were asked to explain what changes, if any, they were noticing locally in employment and skills demand. The three key themes taken from the responses to this question include skills shortages, economic inactivity, and funding issues. Some of the primary issues identified in regard to skills shortages, were that there had been an increase in the demand for skills in 'new' industries such as

technological, cyber-related, and environmental. However, more established industries, such as hospitality and haulage, were also struggling for skilled workers. Upskilling was also identified as an area where much more could be done. A common issue identified by respondents was that the number of economically inactive people had increased. Respondents also identified some possible explanations for this trend including a lack of variety in training or apprenticeships being offered to young people as well as the incidence of physical and mental health issues. Finally, problems relating to the funding of employment and skills provisions were a key theme. The loss of ESF funding and its replacement with UKSPF has some authorities concerned that they will no longer be able to provide the same level of service to local residents when compared to previous years. Furthermore, there was concern about the consequences of less well funded employment and skills services and how it could, for example, result in higher unemployment.

## Introduction

The Employment and Skills Provision survey was conducted by the Local Government Association's (LGA) Research and Information Team. The survey aimed to capture information relating to council's provision of employment and skills services. This included: local partnership, the services provided, and funding.

## Methodology

The research project was conducted by the LGA's Research and Information Team using an online survey. In March 2023, an email containing a unique link was initially sent to heads of economic development or growth across all councils in England (333). However, the initial return rate of surveys was lower than expected. This is potentially because employment and skills services are placed inconsistently across local authorities meaning heads of economic development or growth may not manage their council's employment and skills provision. In response the survey was sent to heads of education, who may also oversee the provision of employment and skills at their local authority. As a result of this the numbers of surveys returned did increase. As the number of completed surveys was initially low, a total of four reminders were sent to those on the contact list to boost the level of response. In total 89 complete responses had been submitted when the survey closed on 3 April 2023.

## Response rate

The total response was 89 complete responses out of 333 (27 per cent).<sup>1</sup> Table 1 shows the response rate by type of council. London boroughs had the highest return rate (55 per cent). In comparison shire district councils had the lowest (14 per cent), possibly because they do not have responsibility for employment and skills provision. For example, this service may be administered by the relevant county council.

**Table 1: Response rate by authority type**

Type of council	Total number	Number of responses	Response rate %
County	24	9	38
Shire district	181	26	14
London borough	33	18	55
Metropolitan district	36	10	27
Unitary	59	26	44

Table 2 shows response by region. The response rate was highest from Greater London (55 per cent) followed by Yorkshire and the Humber (50 per cent). The lowest rate of response was from local authorities in the West Midlands (15 per cent).

**Table 2: Response rate by region**

Region	Total number	Number of responses	Response rate %
East	50	8	16
East Midlands	39	9	23
Greater London	33	18	55
North East	12	5	42
North West	41	8	20
South East	70	15	21
South West	33	10	30
West Midlands	33	5	15
Yorkshire and the Humber	22	11	50

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<sup>1</sup> The survey was conducted before the start of the 2023/24 financial year. From this point the total number of local authorities in England is 318.

Table 3 shows the response rate by council membership of a devolved authority.<sup>2</sup> The response rate of councils which are members of a devolved authority was 38 per cent and 23 per cent for councils which are not part of a devolved authority.

<b>Table 3: Response rate by devolved authority</b>			
<b>Membership of a devolved authority</b>	<b>Total number</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>	<b>Response rate %</b>
Part of a devolved authority	85	32	38
Not part of a devolved authority	248	57	23

### **Notes**

Where tables and figures report the base, the description refers to the group of authorities which were asked the question and the number in brackets refers to the number which answered. Please note that bases vary throughout the survey.

Where the response base is less than 50, care should be taken when interpreting percentages, as small differences can seem magnified.

Throughout the report, percentages in figures and tables may add to more or less than 100 per cent due to rounding.

The data presented is not weighted meaning these results should strictly be taken as a snapshot of the views of this particular group of respondents/authorities, rather than representative of all councils in England; this level of response means that the results are likely to provide a reasonable indication of the position of the sector more widely.

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<sup>2</sup> In this report 'Devolved authority', is defined as a legal body set up using national legislation that enables a group of two or more councils to collaborate and take collective decisions across council boundaries. Furthermore, with the exception of the North East Combined Authority, devolved authorities are those with directly elected mayors.



# LGA Employment and Skills Provision Survey 2023

This section contains analysis of results from the survey.

## Local partnerships

### Discussions with local partners

Participants were asked if their council is currently in discussion with employment and skills partners locally. Table 4 shows that 97 per cent of respondent councils reported being in discussions. This includes 71 per cent which were involved in multiple discussions locally convened by others and 58 per cent which convene a local employment and skills board. One council reported having a redundancy / recovery taskforce to deal with the impact of the pandemic and two local authorities had no discussions with employment and skills partners locally.

**Table 4: Is your council currently involved in discussions with employment and skills partners locally? Please select all that apply.**

	N <sup>3</sup>	%
<b>Yes</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>97</b>
Yes – the council convenes a local employment and skills board (or similar)	52	58
Yes – the council is involved in multiple discussions locally convened by others	63	71
No – but we did have a redundancy / recovery taskforce to deal with the impact of the pandemic	1	1
No	2	2

Base: all respondents (89)

Respondents could tick more than one option

### Engagement with local partners

The survey data, as shown on Table 5, indicates a high level of engagement between local partners and councils on issues germane to employment and skills. With a majority of each local partner listed having worked with a council to any extent. Of the councils which have an employment and skills provision, 100 per cent are coordinating with local further education colleges on how to address local employment and skills issues. A similar proportion are working together with the

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<sup>3</sup> 'N' in the table represents the frequency of responses for the answer options

voluntary and community sector (98 per cent) as well as Jobcentre Plus (98 per cent). The organisation or sector worked with least often is the Education and Skills Funding Agency with 73 per cent reporting having coordinated with them to any extent and 20 per cent saying not at all. However, it is important to remember this is still a relatively high amount of cooperation with this organisation.

**Table 5: To what extent, if at all, is your council working together with the following partners to coordinate how to address local employment and skills issues?**

	To a great extent		To a moderate extent		To a small extent		Not at all		Don't know		To any extent	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Local further education colleges	55	65	23	27	6	7	0	0	0	0	84	100
Voluntary and community sector	35	42	40	48	7	8	2	2	0	0	82	98
Jobcentre Plus	60	71	17	20	5	6	1	1	1	1	92	98
Employer Representative Bodies	33	39	31	37	15	18	3	4	2	2	79	94
Employment support providers	45	54	20	24	13	15	4	5	2	2	78	93
Independent training providers	22	26	33	39	22	26	4	5	3	4	77	92
Careers and Enterprise Company	28	33	19	23	25	30	8	10	4	5	72	86
Education and Skills Funding Agency	18	21	25	30	18	21	20	24	3	4	61	73

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84).

## Services provided

### Whether employment and skills services are currently being provided

Table 6 shows that 94 per cent of the councils which responded to the survey had some form of employment and skills provision. The most common way the councils surveyed structured its employment and skills provision is by running multiple

support programmes coordinated by an in-house team (67 per cent). Of the options given to respondents, not including 'Other', the council being a strategic commissioner of skills and employment provision was least likely to be reported (52 per cent). Six per cent of councils which took part in the project did not report having an employment and skills provision.

**Table 6: Which of the following is your council currently engaged in to increase the skills and employment outcomes for local residents? Please select all apply.**

	N	%
<b>Any</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>94</b>
The council runs multiple support programmes coordinated by an in-house team	60	67
The council has an employment and skills service	55	62
The council has an adult education service	55	62
The council is strategic commissioner of skills and employment provision	46	52
Other	18	20
None of the above	5	6
Don't know	0	0

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)  
 Respondents could tick more than one option

### **The employment and skills services currently being provided**

As shown by Table 7, among the councils with an employment and skills service, the most common provision is for young people at risk of, or not in education, employment, or training (88 per cent). Similarly, a little under nine in ten report (86 per cent) offered traineeships and apprenticeships. Of the employment and skills services listed, not including 'Other', support for career changers was the least likely to be reported (44 per cent). Councils which are members of a devolved authority are more likely to engage in 'skills for business' (89 per cent) than authorities which are not (63 per cent). However, other than this data point there were no statistically significant differences between devolved authority members and non-members across any of the other answer options presented to participants.

**Table 7: Which of the following employment and skills provision is your council engaged in? Please select all that apply.**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Any</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>100</b>
Young people at risk of, or not in education, employment, or training	74	88
Traineeships and apprenticeships	72	86
Employment support	69	82
Skills for business	67	80
School engagement	66	79
Adult and community learning	65	77
Young people in school and through transitions	59	70
In work progression	47	56
Similar models to Troubled Families programme	42	50
Support for career changers	37	44
Other	7	8
NA – My council does not provide any of these services	0	0
Don't know	0	0

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)  
 Respondents could tick more than one option

### **The groups or organisations accessing employment and skills services**

Councils were asked to report which groups or organisations have accessed their employment services. The data on Table 8 shows that nine in ten (89 per cent) report that local employers accessed their employment and skills provision. This is closely followed by the percentage of local authorities which report unemployed people on out of work benefits accessing their services (87 per cent). Of the socioeconomic groups or organisations listed, not including 'Other', people looking for a career change were least likely to go to their local council's employment and skills service (62 per cent).

**Table 8: Which of the following groups access your council's employment and skills provision / service? Please select all that apply.**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Any</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>98</b>
Local employers	75	89
Unemployed people on out of work benefits	73	87
Recently unemployed people	70	83
Economically inactive (people out of work but not in receipt of out of work benefits)	69	82
NEETs	67	80
People in work and on Universal Credit	62	74
People looking for a career change	52	62
Other	18	21
None of the above	1	1
Don't know	1	1

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)  
 Respondents could tick more than one option

The following 'Other' responses were given:

- Care leavers
- Children and young adults
- Refugees and asylum seekers
- People experiencing or recovering from alcohol and drug issues

### **The positive impact of councils' employment and skills provision**

Local authorities were asked whether their employment and skills provision achieved any positive outcome. Table 9 shows that 95 per cent had at least one positive outcome. The two most common positive impacts were supporting local employers (85 per cent) and providing a pathway to further learning or work (82 per cent). Three-quarters (76 per cent) of councils responding to this question reported increasing basic skill levels in comparison to just over half (54 per cent) achieving higher skill levels.

**Table 9: In which of the following areas has your council's employment and skills provision / service had the most positive impact? Please select all that apply.**

	<b>N</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Any</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>95</b>
Supported local employers	71	85
Provided a pathway to further learning or work	69	82
Increased basic skills	64	76
Achieved higher skill levels	45	54
Other	9	11
Don't know	3	4
NA – It has not had a positive impact in any areas	1	1

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)  
 Respondents could tick more than one option

## Funding

### Sources of funding for 2022/23 financial year (not including February and March 2023)

The local authorities participating in this survey were asked whether they had received funding for their employment and skills provision in the 2022/23 financial year, with the exception of February and March.<sup>4</sup> The most common source of support for an employment and skills provision was apprenticeship funding (67 per cent), closely followed by the Adult Education Budget (65 per cent). European Social Fund (ESF) and core funding were the joint third most reported source of funding (63 per cent). Councils which are members of a devolved authority were more likely to report receiving support from the ESF (80 per cent) than local authorities which were not (54 per cent).

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<sup>4</sup> Given that the survey was distributed in early March, respondents were not asked about February and March to avoid any potential difficulties where data regarding funding and employment and skills was not available to the individual answering the survey.

**Table 10: From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2023, which, if any, of the following, provided funding for your council's employment and skills provision / service? Please select all that apply.**

	N	%
<b>Any</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>98</b>
Apprenticeship funding	56	67
Adult Education Budget	55	65
European Social Fund (ESF)	53	63
Core funding	53	63
Multiply	52	62
Community Learning	42	50
DWP Flexible Funds	29	35
Community Renewal Fund	28	33
Free Courses for Jobs	18	21
Bootcamps	17	20
Traineeships	12	14
Gainshare	6	7
Other	18	21
None of the above	2	2
Don't know	0	0

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)  
 Respondents could tick more than one option

The following 'Other' responses were given:

- Section 106
- UKSPF
- Homes for Ukraine / Hong Kong

### **Differences in funding levels between the European Social Fund (ESF) and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)**

The data displayed on Table 11 indicates that the level of funding councils have received from the European Social Fund (ESF) for their employment and skills provision is more likely to be greater than the support they will receive from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). For example, half (50 per cent) of respondents answered the funding from the ESF is higher than it will receive from the UKSPF, compared to three in ten (29 per cent) which reported it would be lower. Around one in five (19 per cent) were unable to say.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, there are some large differences in the responses given between those councils which received funding from the ESF in 2022/23 financial year versus those which had not. For example, 70 per cent of councils which received support from the ESF said it would provide a higher level of funding than UKSPF when compared to 16 per cent of authorities which had not accessed ESF funding in 2022/23.

**Table 11: Thinking about the difference in the amount of funding provided by the European Social Fund (ESF) in the 2022/23 financial year and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in the 2024/2025 financial year, which of the following statements is true?**

	All		Received ESF funding in 2022/23		Had not received ESF funding in 2022/23	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
The money my council's employment and skills provision / service received in funding from the ESF is <u>higher</u> than it will receive from the UKSPF	42	50	37	70	5	16
The money my council's employment and skills provision / service received in funding from the ESF is <u>about the same</u> it would receive from the UKSPF	2	2	1	2	1	3
The money my council's employment and skills provision / service received in funding from the ESF is <u>lower</u> than it would receive from the UKSPF	24	29	11	21	13	42
Don't know	16	19	4	8	12	39

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)

### **The impact of funding changes after the end of the 2022/23 financial year**

Authorities were asked to give a maximum of three potential negative effects of the changes in funding from the end of the 2022/23 financial year, relating to ESF no longer being an available source. Table 12 shows that 86 per cent selected at least one issue; the most common issue identified was supporting fewer people who previously accessed support (49 per cent). The potential issue, except for 'Other', least likely to be identified was provider expansion, with eight per cent of participants selecting this option.

When comparing councils which reported the money their authority's employment and skills provision / service received in funding from the ESF is either higher or



lower than it would receive from the UKSPF, there is one statistically significant difference. The councils which agree that ESF funding would be a higher amount of support than UKSPF (60 per cent) are more likely to indicate that reduced scale of operation would be a negative impact than authorities which reported it would be lower (33 per cent).

**Table 12: Thinking about your response to the previous question, what do you think will be the likely impacts on employment and skills providers in your local area as a consequence of changes to funding? Please select the three most relevant options.**

	All		Funding from the ESF is higher than it will receive from the UKSPF		Funding from the ESF is lower than it will receive from the UKSPF	
	N	%	N	%	N	%
<b>Any</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>88</b>
Supporting fewer people who previously accessed support	41	49	27	64	10	42
Less capacity and less innovation	39	46	25	60	12	50
Reduced scale of operation	36	43	25	60	8	33
Need to target certain customer groups or geographical areas	32	38	20	48	9	38
Fewer local providers will be viable	27	32	17	40	9	38
Provider expansion	7	8	2	5	3	13
Other	4	5	1	2	2	8
None of the above	2	2	0	0	1	4
Don't know	10	12	1	2	2	8

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)  
 Respondents could tick more than one option

### **Estimated time, in months, between receiving funding from UKSPF after the end of ESF**

Authorities were asked to give how long, in months, the gap would be between receiving UKSPF support after no longer receiving ESF funding. Table 13 summarises the responses. Among the councils which responded or did not say 'Don't know', seven months was the mean amount of time given for the gap. The standard deviation about the mean was five. This means any number from two to 12 is considered to be within a normal range. Similar to the mean, six is the median month gap in funding. It is important to note that while this survey was in field the government announced that it had brought forward by a year access to the skills strand of UKSPF. This means in theory councils can now receive funds from UKSPF early. However, some authorities may already be locked into different funding sources which could still affect when UKSPF is a realistic option for them. The timing of the announcement may have also affected the responses. As, for example, some councils which responded believing they would have access to UKSPF until 2024/25 may now have been able to receive support sooner.

**Table 13: In months, please state how long the gap is between receiving ESF funding for the employment and skills provision / service and receiving the first funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)?<sup>5</sup>**

	<b>N</b>
Mean	7
Standard deviation	5
Median	6
Upper range	18
Lower range	0

Base: Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision which had accessed ESF funding in the 2022/23 financial year (53)  
Don't know and blank responses removed from analysis

### **Suitability of UKSPF funding**

Local authorities were asked whether the focus of UKSPF on supporting economically inactive people will make it a feasible funding option for their council's employment and skills provision / service for 2024/25. Table 14 shows that 65 per cent answered that it would be. Three in ten (30 per cent) of local authorities

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<sup>5</sup> In cases when councils gave a range of months rather than just one figure, the highest number in the range was used in the calculations. The figures in table should be interpreted as 'at most' how long the gap is between no longer receiving ESF funding and when UKSPF funding is first being received.

responded that it would not be an appropriate funding source. Of these councils, 23 per cent said UKSPF would not be suitable because at least one alternative funding option has been identified and seven per cent answered 'no' but have not identified an alternative source of funding.

**Table 14: Looking ahead for the 2024/2025 financial Year, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will likely focus on supporting economically inactive people. Is this a feasible funding option for your council's employment and skills provision / service?**

	N	%
<b>No</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>
Yes	55	65
No – Because at least one alternative funding option has been identified	6	7
No – And no other option has been identified yet	19	23
Don't know	4	5

Base: all respondents whose authority has an employment and skills provision (84)

## Local changes in demand

### Changes in the demand for and of Employment and Skills Provisions

Respondents were asked to explain what changes, if any, they were noticing locally in employment and skills demand. Below are some key themes taken from the responses.

**Skills shortages:** Respondents commonly highlighted that skills shortages were important issues in their localities. One element of the issues highlighted were increasing demand for skills in new industries 'such as renewables and green tech' as well as 'digital, cyber and tech'. However, demand for skills in more established sectors remained a priority. With one respondent emphasising that 'Hospitality struggling to get staff. Care sector and Logistics struggling to get staff'. Other issues relating to skills shortages included higher skilled people increasingly taking on low skilled work leaving 'those at the bottom even further from the Labour Market'. Other councils have mentioned that there is greater need for upskilling residents. With one council reporting that 'reskilling and upskilling is a big untapped opportunity' this is while, as another authority reports, 'employer interest in upskilling and looking at wider recruitment approaches is more apparent'.

**Economic inactivity:** Another important issue respondents have highlighted is economic inactivity or people not in education, employment or training (NEETs). One general observation made by multiple councils is that the number of economically inactive people has increased. One council highlighted a 'significant increase in the economically inactive cohort' and another respondent made a similar observation with their locality having experienced 'higher levels of economic inactivity'. Some respondents gave some potential causes for the level of economic inactivity in area. One example is a 'limited' number of options available to younger people outside of the mainstream such as a college. Following on from this, the lack of career options may be a consequence of issues relating to apprenticeships. A respondent described how the 'hollowing out of level 2 apprenticeships makes the pathways to employment harder'. Physical and mental health have been mentioned as underlying issues effecting the level of economic activity among adults. A respondent suggested that economically inactive adults may 'need a substantial amount of support to overcome barriers such as mental and physical health issues'. Furthermore, the importance of supporting people with 'complex needs' has been highlighted. This in some cases could include health issues, but as one respondent has mentioned may also include 'migrants, care leavers, and the digitally excluded'.

**Funding issues:** Earlier questions relating to funding have indicated that councils are concerned that UKSPF funding may not be as substantial as ESF has been and that funding generally will be lower after the end of ESF. This sentiment has been reflected in some of the open text responses as one respondent has written that UKSPF 'levels of funding are not as high as ESF'. According to one participant some risks of the end of ESF funding include: an increase in the numbers of NEETS and unemployment. The same respondent also suggested there would be a decline in skills, productivity, and in the numbers of individuals with multiple barriers engaging in further education or employment. There has also been concern over the timing of the UKSPF funds. As previously mentioned, the government announced the skills strand of UKSPF has been made available for the 2023/24 financial year, but many of the responses were given before this announcement. Nonetheless, it is still worthwhile highlighting issues relating to the availability of UKSPF as there may be possible lessons to learn on how it could be better communicated in future and how uncertainty can have negative consequences. For example, 'given the timing of UKSPF there are concerns that organisations will lose talent to support the people and skills strands'.

## Annex A: Questionnaire

# Employment and Skills provision survey 2023

q3 Is your council part of a combined authority?

Yes (1)

No (2)

Don't know (3)

q4 Is your council currently involved in discussions with employment and skills partners locally? Please select all that apply.

Yes – the council convenes a local employment and skills board (or similar) (1)

Yes – the council is involved in multiple discussions locally convened by others (2)

No – but we did have a redundancy / recovery taskforce to deal with the impact of the pandemic (3)

No (4)

Don't know (5)

q5 Which of the following is your council currently engaged in to increase the skills and employment outcomes for local residents? Please select all that apply.

The council has an employment and skills service Their own local discretionary or devolved employment and skills services (including employment hubs, one stop shops) (1)

The council runs multiple support programmes coordinated by an in-house team Individual programmes managed by council teams (e.g. to help young people not in education, employment or training) (2)

The council is strategic commissioner of skills and employment provision As strategic commissioners of provision (e.g. LEP skills funds) (3)

The council has an adult education service Influencing the provision of partners and stakeholders (e.g. local and national education, training and employment providers, institutions and agencies). (4)

Other, please specify (5)

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None of the above (6)

Don't know (7)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q6 Which of the following employment and skills provision is your council engaged in? Please select all that apply.

Employment support (1)

In work progression (2)

Support for career changers (3)

Adult and community learning (4)

Young people at risk of, or not in education, employment, or training (5)

Young people in school and through transitions (6)

Traineeships and apprenticeships (7)

School engagement (8)

Skills for business (9)

Similar models to Troubled Families programme (10)

Other, please specify (11)

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NA – My council does not provide any of these services (12)

Don't know (13)



#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q7 Which of the following groups access your council's employment and skills provision / service? Please select all that apply.

Unemployed people on out of work benefits (1)

Economically inactive (people out of work but not in receipt of out of work benefits) (2)

Recently unemployed people (3)

People in work and on Universal Credit (4)

NEETs (5)

Local employers (6)

People looking for a career change (7)

Other, please specify (8)

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None of the above (10)

Don't know (9)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q8 From the 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2023 how many times was your council's employment and skills service accessed? Please give the most accurate answer possible.

Text entry (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know (2)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q9 In which of the following areas has your council's employment and skills provision / service had the most positive impact? Please select all that apply.

Reduced unemployment (1)

Increased basic skills (2)

Achieved higher skill levels (3)

Provided a pathway to further learning or work (4)

Supported local employers (5)

Other, please specify (6)

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NA – It has not had a positive impact in any areas (7)

Don't know (8)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q10 From 1 April 2022 to 31 January 2023, which, if any, of the following, provided funding for your council's employment and skills provision / service? Please select all that apply.

European Social Fund (ESF) (1)

Core funding (2)

DWP Flexible Funds (3)

Community Renewal Fund (4)

Adult Education Budget (5)

Community Learning (6)

Multiply (7)

Free Courses for Jobs (8)

Traineeships (9)

Apprenticeship funding (10)

Bootcamps (11)

Gainshare (12)

Other, please specify (13)

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None of the above (15)

Don't know (14)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q11 Thinking about the difference in the amount of funding provided by the European Social Fund (ESF) in the 2022/23 financial year and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in the 2024/2025 financial year, which of the following statements is true?

The money my council's employment and skills provision / service received in funding from the ESF is higher than it will receive from the UKSPF (1)

The money my council's employment and skills provision / service received in funding from the ESF is about the same it would receive from the UKSPF (2)

The money my council's employment and skills provision / service received in funding from the ESF is lower than it would receive from the UKSPF (3)

Don't know (4)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q12 Thinking about your response to the previous question, what do you think will be the likely impacts on employment and skills providers in your local area as a consequence of changes to funding? Please select the three most relevant options.

Fewer local providers will be viable (1)

Provider expansion (2)

Reduced scale of operation (3)

Supporting fewer people who previously accessed support (4)

Need to target certain customer groups or geographical areas (5)

Less capacity and less innovation (6)

Other, please specify (7)

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None of the above (9)

Don't know (8)

#All councils which accessed ESF funds in the 2022/23 financial year

q13 In months, please state how long the gap is between receiving ESF funding for the employment and skills provision / service and receiving the first funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)?

Text entry (1) \_\_\_\_\_

Don't know (2)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q14 Looking ahead for the 2024/2025 financial Year, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will likely focus on supporting economically inactive people. Is this a feasible funding option for your council's employment and skills provision / service?

Yes (1)

No – Because at least one alternative funding option has been identified (2)

No – And no other option has been identified yet (3)

Don't know (4)



#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q15 To what extent, if at all, does the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) people and skills strand available in 2024/2025 only give you confidence that there will be sufficient local employment and skills services for the following groups irrespective of who is delivering it?

To a great extent (1)

To a moderate extent (2)

To a small extent (3)

Not at all (4)

Don't know (5)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q16 To what extent, if at all, is your council working together with the following partners to coordinate how to address local employment and skills issues?

	To a great extent (1)	To a moderate extent (2)	To a small extent (3)	Not at all (4)	Don't know (5)
Education and Skills Funding Agency (1)					
Jobcentre Plus (2)					
Careers and Enterprise Company (3)					

Local further  
education  
colleges (4)

Voluntary and  
community  
sector (5)

Employer  
Representative  
Bodies (6)

Employment  
support  
providers (7)

Independent  
training  
providers (8)

#All councils with an employment and skills provision

q17 Please use the space below to explain what changes, if any, are you noticing locally in employment and skills demand?

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q18 Do you have any further comments about the topics covered in this survey?

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