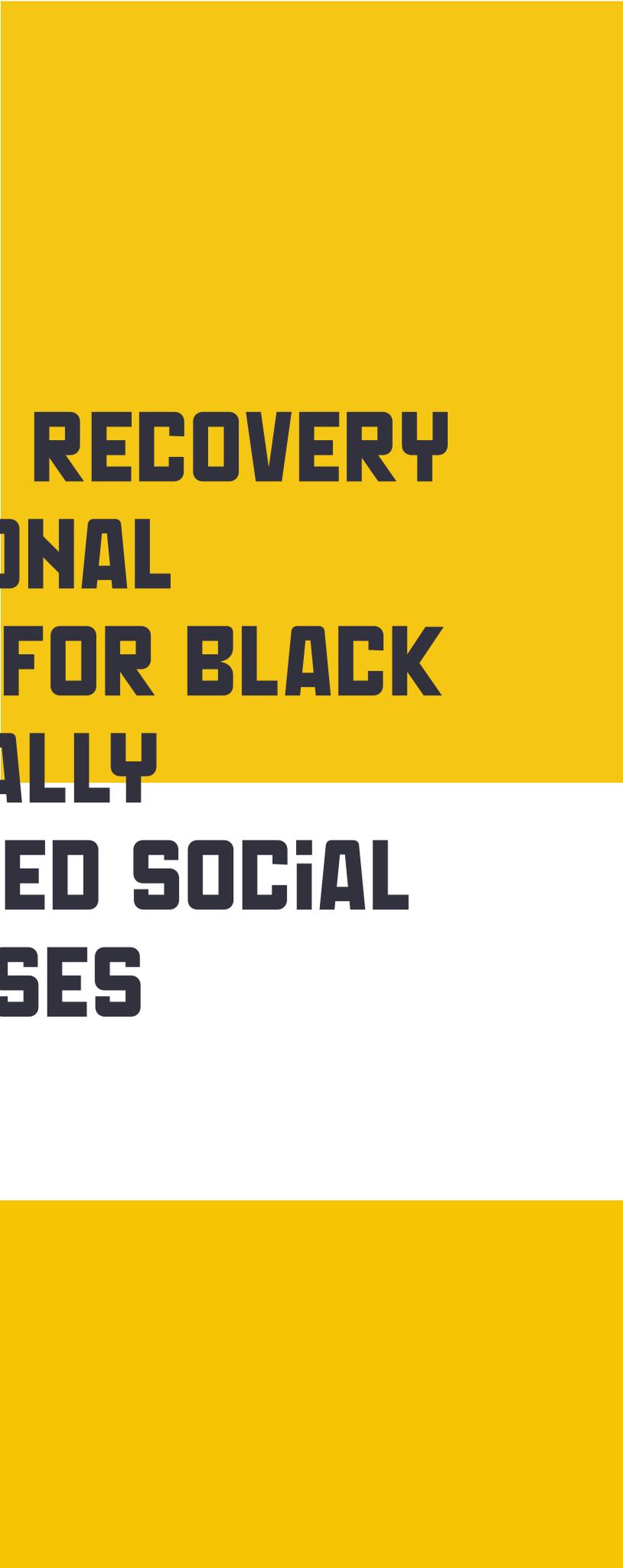




INTANGIBLE BENEFITS:

November 2023

**POST-COVID-19 ECONOMIC
RECOVERY AND REGIONAL
SUPPORT FOR BLACK AND RACIALLY
MINORITISED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

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**ECONOMIC RECOVERY
AND REGIONAL
SUPPORT FOR BLACK
AND RACIALLY
MINORITISED SOCIAL
ENTERPRISES**

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ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR BLACK AND RACIALLY MINORITISED SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Introduction: Black and racially minoritised communities were disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic not only in relation to health but also economically.

In 2020, The Ubele Initiative investigated the impact of COVID-19 on community organisations and social enterprises, and found many were at risk of closure due to the impact of lockdown.

¹. In a study carried out by Black South West Network, 90% of Black and racially minoritised businesses surveyed incurred significant financial loss during the pandemic, while 67% had to close their businesses due to the impact of lockdown. ²

90% of Black and racially minoritised businesses surveyed incurred significant financial loss during the Pandemic,

As the COVID-19 pandemic brought into focus the nature of institutional racism and highlighted the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Black and racially minoritised communities the economic recovery and the Levelling Up agenda have provided central and local governments with the opportunity to address inequalities across different communities. Both the Government and local authorities have acknowledged the disadvantage our communities

face, but what is being done to address these inequalities and the economic impact on our communities?

We conducted research into regional post COVID-19 economic recovery missions and UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) investment plans to get an idea of national and regional support programmes that target our communities. We surveyed regional funding, investment opportunities and community wealth building initiatives to assess and build a national picture of available support for Black and racially minoritised community businesses and social enterprises. We examined recovery and investment plans for London, Birmingham, Manchester, Leicester, Leeds, Nottingham, and Bristol, as cities with sizable Black and racially minoritised communities. While targeted support is often provided by the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, our focus has remained on local authorities to assess what they are doing to address inequalities across their different communities.

This report provides an assessment of targeted support in regional recovery and Levelling Up agendas and highlights gaps in provision for Black and racially minoritised social enterprises across a limited regional scale. It also provides a resource of regional programmes and will help inform our strategy of national support for Black and racially minoritised social enterprises.

¹ Karl Murray, *The Impact of COVID-19 on BAME Community and Voluntary Organisations: A Follow Up*, The Ubele Initiative, December 2020.

² *Impact of COVID-19 on BAME Led Businesses, Organisations & Communities*, Black South West Network, 2020.

ECONOMIC RECOVERY MISSIONS: REGIONAL PROGRAMMES



OVERVIEW

Towns and cities across the UK faced some of the biggest challenges following the impact of COVID-19 on their economies and communities. In the contexts of nationwide lockdowns, reduced social contact and health implications, businesses had to adapt or risk closure due to reduced economic activity. Businesses and social enterprises suffered economic setbacks which many are still recovering from.

In response to the economic impact of COVID-19, local authorities formulated their own recovery missions to direct local interventions for economic recovery and initiate support programmes to help businesses bounce back from the economic fallout and return to pre-pandemic levels.

As mentioned above, Black and racially minoritised businesses and social enterprises have been adversely and disproportionately affected by the impact of the pandemic and lockdown. Coupled with the barriers our communities face in accessing finance and support ³, economic inequalities mean Black and racially minoritised businesses and social enterprises are at a greater disadvantage and require targeted support to stimulate and sustain their economic recovery.

We assessed the recovery missions of 7 cities in England to examine how far some of the most affected communities and their businesses have been addressed in regional economic recovery plans and support programmes.



³ see: *Reclaiming the Future: Reframing Social Investment for the Next Decade, The Final Report of the Commission on Social Investment, 2022.*

KEY FINDINGS

- Many recovery missions acknowledge the impact of COVID-19 on Black and racially minoritised communities, yet few recovery programmes are targeted at these communities.
- Some missions give vague reference to 'disadvantaged' or 'diverse' populations, rather than ethnic or racial communities.
- Business and enterprise support remains broad rather than targeted. Many local authorities understand the impact of COVID-19 on our communities as primarily one of health for which targeted programmes are mostly in this area.
- Some localities have prioritised employment support for our communities. Targeted support is sometimes channelled through other agencies and organisations, such as community organisations and the VCSE sector more broadly.



- As many recovery missions and their associated programmes were initiated during the pandemic, many programmes have ended and information and impact from many of these are not accessible.

REGIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY MISSIONS

LONDON

London's Economic Framework centres around five pillars of activity: Jobs, Business, Thriving Neighbourhoods, Connected City and Global London.⁴ Within each pillar there is a focus on key issues including narrowing social, economic and health inequalities. The framework is informed by the London Recovery Board's 2022 report, *Building a Fairer City*.⁵ It acknowledges and seeks to address inequalities among young people, those with low qualifications, Black and racially minoritised Londoners and older people.

Under the Business pillar, London's economic framework calls for targeted support that is 'tailored to the specific barriers certain communities face such as access to finance'.⁶ London's framework explains how each pillar contributes towards narrowing inequalities and in targeting underrepresented/most affected groups. This includes a number of targeted support programmes as well as general programmes with quotas for Black and racially minoritised groups.

⁴ *An Economic Framework for London*, The Mayor of London and London Councils, December 2022. The original framework was published in November 2021. This is a refreshed framework.

⁵ *Building a Fairer City*, The London Recovery Board, 2022.

⁶ *An Economic Framework for London*, p. 21.

BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham's recovery priorities include 'creating a more inclusive economy and tackling the inequalities and injustices highlighted by the crisis'.⁷ Community wealth building is built into the strategy as an effective way of rebuilding the local economy with special reference to the Birmingham Anchor Network. Though a city with sizable Black and racially minoritised communities, there is almost no mention of these groups except as a 'diverse' population. East Birmingham, an area badly affected by COVID-19 due to its 'deprivation' and home to a large population of Black, Asian and ethnic minorities, is given some priority and a personalised growth strategy. Yet while the proposed interventions consider these demographics, there is no indication of targeted business support programmes for these communities.

"COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING IS BUILT INTO THE STRATEGY AS AN EFFECTIVE WAY OF REBUILDING THE LOCAL ECONOMY..."

LEEDS

Leeds's economic recovery incorporates a community wealth building approach through partnership with the Leeds Inclusive Anchors Network.⁸ It is through this approach that they see the potential to address inequalities in the city, including ensuring that the workforce of the largest publicly funded organisations in the city is representative of the communities it serves and works more closely with the city's disadvantaged neighbourhoods. However, no mention is made of who these communities are. While the local authority acknowledges the impact of COVID-19 on Black and Asian communities, no proposed programmes or initiatives are targeted at these communities.

MANCHESTER

Manchester's economic recovery strategy focuses on three pillars: people, place and prosperity. It is driven by four strategic areas of investment to drive growth which include, "innovation, Manchester city centre and urban realm, zero-carbon (including housing retrofit), and north Manchester."⁹ Manchester have identified the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black, Asian and racial minority communities, particularly in unemployment. Therefore, support has been proposed to help these groups back into employment. However, business support is not targeted. Rather, Manchester City Council recommend targeted support via the VCSE sector, through organisations like BASE and the Greater Manchester BAME Network.¹⁰



LEICESTER

Leicester experienced the longest lockdown periods of any locality in the UK and so businesses and services have taken longer to recover. Leicester has a large population of Black and racially minoritised residents who have been more severely affected by COVID-19 and lockdowns. Leicester's economic recovery mission includes both business support and community wealth building initiatives.¹¹ However, despite the significant impact of the pandemic on our communities, there is little mention of these groups nor any targeted initiatives recommended as part of their recovery mission.

⁷ COVID-19 Economic Recovery Strategy, Birmingham City Council, March 2021.

⁸ Leeds Economic Recovery Framework, Leeds City Council, October 2020.

⁹ Manchester Economic Recovery and Investment Plan, Manchester City Council, 2020.

¹⁰ <https://www.base-x-community.org.uk/about-us;>²⁰<https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/GMBAME-Network>

NOTTINGHAM

Prior to the pandemic, specialist support for Black and racially minoritised businesses in Nottingham was already available through B-Global, a black-led business network.¹² This service is promoted in Nottingham's recovery mission. Nottingham have acknowledged the existing inequalities and the impact

of COVID-19 on Black and racially minoritised communities and has proposed targeted support in employment. However, besides B-Global there are no further business support programmes that are targeted.



BRISTOL

Black South West Network and Bristol Commission on Racial Equality helped to inform Bristol's recovery strategy.¹³ As a result, there is a greater attention towards needs of Black and racially minoritised

communities and a strategy to focus support towards them. Part of their recovery is to support Black and racially minoritised people into employment through services and programmes. In business and investment, they propose targeted specialist financial and advisory support for Black and racially minoritised and women led businesses. They also seek to improve the representation of Black and racial minority led businesses and develop a community-based enterprise model for the Black and racially minoritised business sector.



¹¹ Leicester Economic Recovery Action Plan, Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership, 2020.

¹² <https://www.bglobalnow.com/>

¹³ Economic Recovery and Renewal Strategy, Bristol One City 2020.



£2.6 BILLION

**THE UK SHARED
PROSPERITY FUND**

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND: REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLANS

Overview: The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a £2.6 billion local investment fund which is part of the government's Levelling Up Agenda. The primary goal of UKSPF is building pride in place and increasing life chances across the UK, while recognising the acute challenges town centres and communities have faced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

All areas of the UK will receive an allocation from the fund, the amount of which is determined by Local Authority population size and a needs-based index. Local governments have been given the responsibility of developing an investment plan for approval by the UK government and for delivery of the fund thereafter.



“ALL AREAS OF THE UK WILL RECEIVE AN ALLOCATION FROM THE FUND...”

Alongside the Greater London Authority (GLA), we examined the UKSPF investment plans of the West Midlands Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, West of England Combined Authority, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and Nottingham and Leicester unitary authorities. Besides GLA, the 6 cities selected as part of this research sit within the broader plans of each of their respective combined or unitary authorities, who are responsible for distributing an allocation of UKSPF funding to each city within their region. On the other hand, GLA’s allocation is distributed amongst local authorities for each borough within the city, at an amount determined by the government. Many of these investment plans are guided by and often an extension of economic recovery missions for each city or region. The fund therefore provides a continuity in post-COVID recovery and support, in addition to contemporary challenges such as the cost-of-living crisis.

The tables below show allocations by city, total population, and non-white population. Some of the highest amounts are received by cities with the largest populations. However, when we adjust the allocations to reflect the size of the population, we find that Birmingham, Manchester and Nottingham have received some of the highest amounts in proportion to their population size.¹⁴ While London is the most ethnically diverse place in the UK, it has received one of the lowest amounts in proportion to its population from the cities assessed.¹⁵ However, when we examine the allocations for each borough the proportion of funding per person increases for some localities. Newham, Brent and Redbridge have the highest percentages of non-white populations and the highest proportions of funding after Barking and Dagenham.¹⁶

Allocations by citywide proportions of non-white populations ¹⁷

City	% of non white population	Population	UKSPF Allocation
London	63.2%	8,799,800	£144,444,970
Leicester	59.1%	368,600	£9,081,013
Birmingham	51.4%	1,144,900	£36,375,301
Manchester	43.2%	552,000	£16,613,628
Nottingham	34.1%	323,600	£8,602,151
Leeds	21%	812,000	£21,292,920
Bristol	18.9%	472,500	£5,309,571

London borough allocations by proportions of non-white populations ¹⁹

Borough/local authority	% of non white population	Population	UKSPF Allocation
Newham	69.2%	351,036	£6,802,122
Brent	65.4%	339,821	£6,388,146
Redbridge	65.1%	310,260	£5,794,257
Harrow	63.5%	262,205	£4,306,310
Tower Hamlets	60.8%	310,306	£4,644,337
Ealing	56.8%	367,115	£6,000,121
Hounslow	55.8%	288,181	£3,982,474
Barking and Dagenham	55.1%	218,871	£4,611,998
Croydon	51.6%	390,719	£4,505,054
Barnet	42.2%	389,344	£6,622,484

¹⁶ Newham: £19/person; Brent: £19/person; Redbridge: £19/person; Barking and Dagenham: £21/person.

¹⁷ According to Census 2021.

¹⁸ London's allocation is significantly higher, not only due to its larger population, but also because GLA is required to distribute its funding to the different boroughs in a similar way to combined authorities.

¹⁹ Figures derived from data on ethnic groups in the Census 2021, Office of National Statistics,

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/datasets/TS021/editions/2021/versions/11/filter-outputs/d2f0a39a-75b6-4995-b4bd-a5b68ff79027#get-data>

KEY FINDINGS

- Many regional UKSPF investment plans refer to racial minority communities and the impact of COVID-19 on these communities, but few have priorities and planned programmes that are specifically targeted at them.
- Leicester is home to one of the largest non-white populations outside of London and proposes targeted support. However, existing programmes are not targeted at these communities but rather ‘encourage’ applications from priority groups.
- Birmingham has a sizeable Black and racially minoritised population, yet the West Midlands’ investment plan mentions only ‘diverse’ populations. Birmingham’s UKSPF programmes for supporting businesses are not targeted.
- London is one of the few places with UKSPF programmes that are targeted at Black and racially minoritised businesses and enterprises, while broader programmes of support are also geared towards tackling social inequalities.
- Brent and Harrow are two of the few London boroughs that have released plans for business support programmes in their boroughs.
- Timetables for the delivery of support differ across regions. Some local authorities have yet to release details of interventions and support programmes, while others are in the process of delivery.



REGIONAL UKSPF INVESTMENT

Greater London Authority

GLA's UKSPF Investment Plan links directly to its economic recovery framework and is informed by the London Recovery Board's 2022 report, Building a Fairer City, which prioritises addressing inequities.

As part of their investment plan, GLA have promised dedicated programmes for the growth of Black and racially minoritised led businesses. Their open call for UKSPF funding

to support local businesses, sets out eight programmes, out of which three are targeted at Black and racially minoritised communities, including supplier readiness, support for fast growing diverse founders, and investment readiness for diverse founders/SMEs.



West Midlands Combined Authority (including Birmingham)

Birmingham has received the highest allocation of UKSPF funding in the West Midlands and not only has the highest population in the combined authority but one of the largest non-white populations outside London. The West Midlands Combined Authority Investment Plan proposes interventions to strengthen local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses to grow and innovate. However, there is no mention of Black and racially minoritised communities, only 'diverse' populations and neither are targeted programmes and interventions proposed. Birmingham's current UKSPF programmes for supporting businesses focus on SMEs and the climate.



West Yorkshire Combined Authority (including Leeds)

West Yorkshire contains a sizeable non-white population, particularly in Bradford. Leeds has received the highest allocation in the combined authority as the city with the highest population in West Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire investment plan acknowledges that its large racial minority population are at a greater disadvantage and so there is a need to address economic and health inequalities. While they encourage interventions that engage with these communities, programmes are not targeted nor mention how they propose to address these inequalities. However, there is mention of targeted investment for SMEs starting from Summer 2023 but there is no indication of which groups will be targeted.



Greater Manchester Combined Authority (including Manchester)

West Yorkshire contains a sizeable non-white population, particularly in Bradford. Leeds has received the highest allocation in the combined authority as the city with the highest population in West Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire investment plan acknowledges that its large racial minority population are at a greater disadvantage and so there is a need to address economic and health inequalities. While they encourage interventions that engage with these communities, programmes are not targeted nor mention how they propose to address these inequalities. However, there is mention of targeted investment for SMEs starting from Summer 2023 but there is no indication of which groups will be targeted.

Leicester (Unitary Authority)

Leicester contains one of the largest non-white populations outside of London and was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Their investment plan proposes targeted business support for underrepresented groups, including ethnic minorities and support for Black and racially minoritised groups into employment. As part of their open call for applications in business support, their Business Growth Fund 'encourages' applications that 'peer support for Black and female business owners'.

Nottingham (Unitary Authority)

While Nottingham's recovery mission acknowledged the impact of COVID-19 on Black and racially minoritised communities and proposed targeted support, their investment plan lacks attention to these communities. They identify health inequalities amongst the broader population and high levels of deprivation, as well as the challenges businesses face in productivity and investment. While they propose that sustainable investment is needed to support underrepresented businesses to survive and prosper, Nottingham's UKSPF programmes for supporting businesses are not targeted nor give priority to any specific groups.



NOTTINGHAM'S RECOVERY MISSION ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON BLACK AND RACIALLY MINORITISED COMMUNITIES BUT INVESTMENT PLAN LACKS ATTENTION TO THE COMMUNITIES

West of England Combines Authority (including Bristol)

The West of England UKSPF investment plan proposes to ensure there is an inclusive enterprise and growth support offer. They also propose extended enterprise support targeting communities and sectors currently underserved. Bristol has secured funding for a programme of support in Building Community Agency and Wealth. At this point there is no further information on which communities this support will target.

THE WEST OF ENGLAND UKSPF INVESTMENT PLAN PROPOSES TO ENSURE THERE IS AN INCLUSIVE ENTERPRISE AND GROWTH SUPPORT OFFER. BUT AT THIS POINT THERE IS NO FURTHER INFORMATION ON WHICH COMMUNITIES THIS SUPPORT.



CONCLUSION

While the recovery missions of each of these cities acknowledge the negative economic impact COVID-19 has had on Black and racially minoritised communities and their businesses, there have been few resulting targeted support programmes. Targeted support has mostly addressed health inequalities, which, while certainly necessary, overlook the economic inequalities our communities have faced historically and that have been exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. Employment is another area in which some local authorities have provided targeted support. Most business support programmes are open to a broad range of beneficiaries meaning access to local resources is competitive and does not provide a level playing field for Black and racial minority-led social enterprises. Bristol is one of the few places to have benefited by input from those within our communities through engagement with the Black South West Network and the Bristol Commission on Racial Equality.

Regional UKSPF investment plans refer to Black and racially minoritised communities, but few have investment priorities that are targeted at these groups. Birmingham has sizable Black and racially minoritised communities, yet the West Midlands' UKSPF Investment Plan currently has no targeted interventions. Similarly, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority investment plan aims to 'address inequalities', yet their interventions remain broad. Leicester have proposed targeted business support for ethnic minorities, however there is no information of when this will be released and what this will look like. While Bristol's recovery mission addresses the needs of our communities, there is little information on their proposed UKSPF programmes and so it is unclear whether there will be a continuity in targeted support.



The emerging picture suggests that outside of London local authorities are not doing enough to address the economic impact of COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crisis on our communities. This is not to say that London should be used as the measure for regional economic recovery, and it is needless to say that London can and should do more. However, in the spirit of 'levelling up', local governments need to be doing more to address inequalities and ensure that no community gets 'left behind'. While many cities are implementing community wealth building initiatives as part of their local recovery strategies, the lack of targeted programmes means that Black and racially minoritised communities continue to face the same challenges and barriers in accessing support. Economic recovery needs to be equitable and growth needs to be even across different communities to ensure that local economic development is inclusive and benefits all.



Local authorities have promised strategies to tackle inequalities amongst their communities but have failed to take action to address the economic inequalities facing our businesses and social enterprises. The larger focus on inequalities in health and unemployment overlook the challenges and barriers our businesses and social enterprises are facing. In an attempt to compensate for the lack of targeted support, some local authorities direct Black and racially minoritised communities to community organisations and agencies, which are already underfunded and overstretched. Local authorities need to engage directly with these communities to understand their broader needs to effectively tackle social inequalities.

Community wealth building (CWB) provides an opportunity to address economic inequalities across local communities. Cities like Birmingham, Leeds, Leicester and Bristol have established community wealth building initiatives and anchor networks as part of their economic recovery,

while many regional programmes relate to elements of community wealth building such as an inclusive economy and making financial power work for local places. However, few cities have community wealth building initiatives that are targeted at our communities. A community wealth building approach requires direct engagement with communities and an understanding of their needs. Black and racially minoritised communities are best placed to articulate their needs and local governments need to work with them to develop a community wealth building approach that is conducive to inclusive growth and a progressive economy.



The Ubele Initiative have been working in this direction and as part of our commitment to community wealth building, we established the National Community Wealth Building Strategic Alliance. The Alliance is made up of a membership of Black and Minoritised community-led infrastructure bodies, social and community enterprises and anchor organisations. With a membership from across the UK and from within our communities, the Alliance has adopted a targeted approach to community wealth building which addresses the unique challenges Black and racially minoritised communities face and places their local needs at its core. Besides its central purpose to increase community wealth, the Alliance will increase the visibility and impact of Black & Minority Voluntary & Community Enterprises, influence key national policy and

programmes, and provide a platform for wider systemic change and more equitable outcomes.

While this research has focused on 7 cities across England, it provides a starting point from which to consider where our businesses and social enterprises can draw support, as well as the gaps in local government provision. A broader examination of support for Black and racially minoritised businesses and social enterprises across England and further investigation into other avenue of targeted support, will provide a national picture of support opportunities and give us an idea of how we can work with national and local governments, and local businesses to address the gaps in targeted support.





NATIONAL SUPPORT PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

The tables on page 22 contain details of support programmes for businesses and social enterprises across the 7 cities examined as part of this research. As the summaries above have indicated a lack of targeted support in many regions of England, support programmes that are open to all groups/communities have been included. Those that are targeted or give priority to Black and racially minoritised groups have been highlighted

Many of the support programmes that were initiated as part of the regional economic recovery missions discussed above, have now closed. These included a number of targeted programmes, such as the Brent Black Community Action Plan, which have now come to an end and have therefore not been included. Those that do remain open have been included.

Details of regional UKSPF programmes are also limited as regional timelines differ meaning some open calls for applications have either closed or have yet to be released. Some programmes and support delivered by voluntary and community organisations have also been included where their support has a regional focus or is recommended by local authorities.

This is not an exhaustive list and many UKSPF programmes are yet to be confirmed.



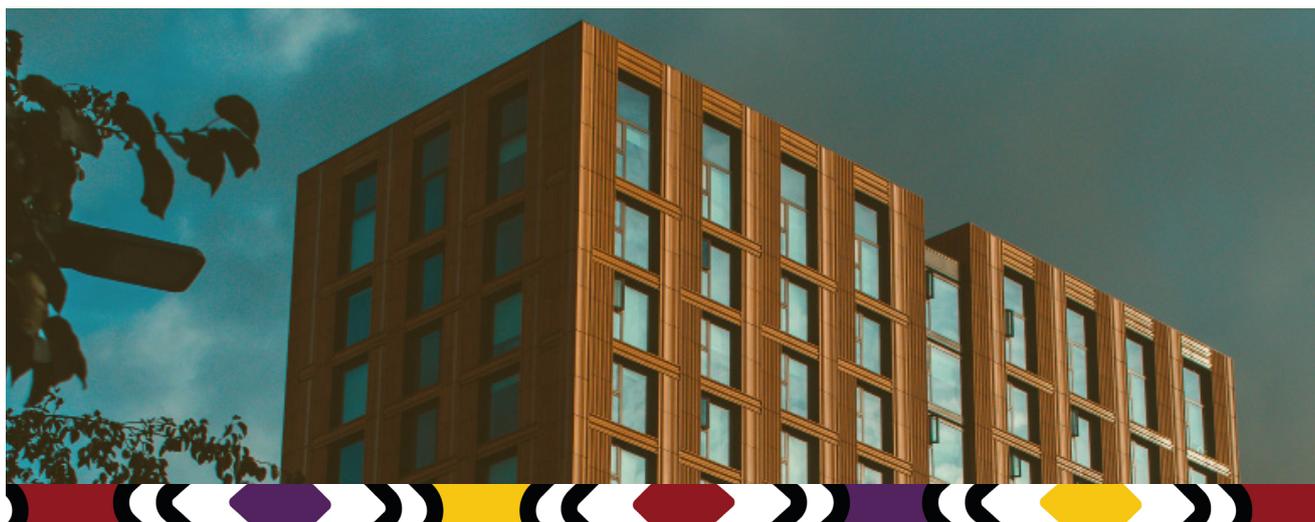
London

Programme	Description and Website	Deadline	Targeted
The London Business Hub	Support and funding for SMEs. https://www.businesshub.london/	Ongoing	No
The Mayor's Entrepreneur Programme	An entrepreneurship competition for young people.	Next round opening soon	No
Wayfinder Project	Business support for SMEs in Barking and Dagenham, Newham, Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Wandsworth, and Lambeth. https://www.businesshub.london/resource/wayfinder/	Ongoing	No
Culture and Community Spaces at Risk Programme	Support for culture and community spaces at risk. https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/cultural-infrastructure-toolbox/culture-and-community-spaces-risk	No Deadline	Priority to groups including Black and racial minority
Grow London Global	A 12 month programme for London-based companies that want to expand internationally. https://www.grow.london/global	No Deadline	No
Black Business Association	Provides a platform for Black owned businesses to network, do business and address barriers to equality. https://www.londonchamber.co.uk/business-groups/clubs-and-associations/black-business-association/	Ongoing	Yes
Inclusive Entrepreneurship Programme (Islington)	provides tailored business support and seed funding to support entrepreneurs in Islington get their idea off the ground https://www.islington.gov.uk/business/support-information-for-business/business-recovery-programme	No Deadline	Yes
Equality and Diversity Community Fund (Barking & Dagenham)	Community organisations across Barking and Dagenham are invited to apply for grants of up to £500 https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/news/2019/council-launches-equality-and-diversity-community-fund	Opens 1st October 2023	Yes



FUTURE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Borough	Programme	Timescale
Brent	Business Support Programme	04/23 - 03/25
Brent	Brent Business Expo	04/23 - 03/25
Harrow	Business Support Project	04/23 - 03/25

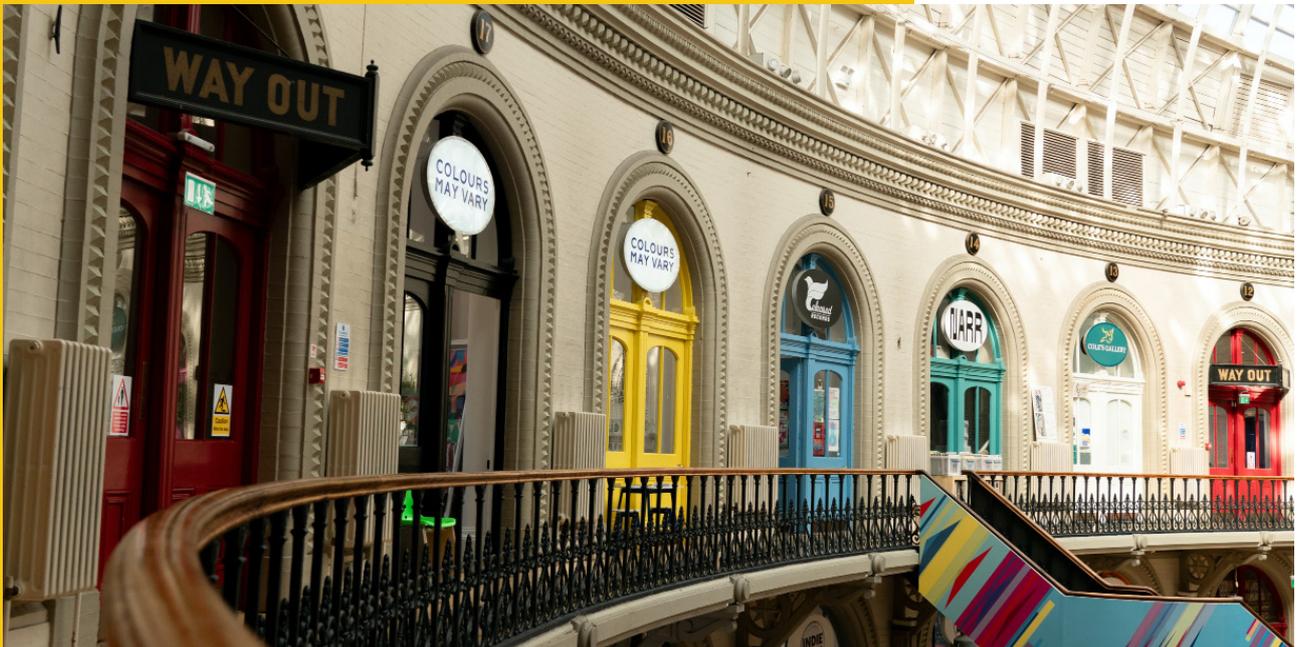


Birmingham

Programme	Description and Website	Deadline	Targeted
Pivot and Prosper Grant Fund	Support for businesses making adaptations to sustain, and growing into economic recovery.	7/07/23	No
Digital Welcome	Support to accelerate digital adoption. https://www.yourstepforward.co.uk/	Ongoing	No
Net Zero Grant Programme	Support to help businesses reduce environmental impact and decrease energy prices. https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/info/50294/net_zero_grant_programme/2690/about_the_net_zero_grant_programme	26/07/23	No
WM SME Grant Programme	Funding for start-up and existing SMEs https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/wmgp	26/07/23	No
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership Growth Hub	Free business advice and guidance for SMEs, including funding and finance. https://www.gbsleprowthhub.co.uk/	Ongoing	No

Leeds

Programme	Description and Website	Deadline	Targeted
Business & IP Centre Leeds	Free support to new and existing businesses, or anyone with a business idea in Leeds and West Yorkshire. https://www.leeds.gov.uk/bipcleeds	Ongoing	No
Ad:venture programm	Support for businesses in their first three years of trading and new start businesses. https://ad-venture.org.uk/	Ongoing	No
Black Asian Minority Ethnic Business Committee	To connect, support and represent Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic businesses. https://www.wnychamber.co.uk/black-asian-minority-ethnic-business-committee/	Ongoing	Yes
Unity Homes & Enterprise	Supporting BME communities through the provision of high-quality housing and social and employment opportunities. https://www.unityha.co.uk/about	26/07/23	No



Future Funding in Leeds

Programme	Timescale
Targeted investment for SMEs	TBA Summer 2023

Manchester

Programme	Description and Website	Deadline	Targeted
Resonance Community Developers Fund	The fund invests in projects looking to develop community-led and owned assets for affordable housing, or sports and leisure facilities in Greater Manchester. https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/gmsocinvest/communitydevelopers	Ongoing	No
Business Growth Hub	Support businesses at all stages of the growth journey including, one-to-one and peer-to-peer business support, events, specialist programmes, funding and more. https://www.businessgrowthhub.com	Ongoing	No
Community Grants Programme	As part of Greater Manchester's UKSPF investment. Funding for local community-based projects which support some of the regions hardest to reach and disengaged residents/communities. https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/investment/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/ukspf-funding-opportunities/	TBC	Projects that support hard to reach and disengaged communities.
Social Economy	As part of Greater Manchester's UKSPF investment. Funding to support community businesses, co-operatives and social businesses https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/investment/uk-shared-prosperity-fund/core-ukspf-timeline/local-business/	TBC	No
BASE	Support for BAME Social enterprises across Greater Manchester. https://www.base-x-community.org.uk/	Ongoing	Yes
Greater Manchester BAME Network	Networking opportunities and better access to knowledge, information and support for Black, racial minority and refugee VCSE sector organisations across Greater Manchester. https://www.gmcvo.org.uk/GMBAME-Network	Ongoing	Yes

Future Funding Opportunities in Greater Manchester

Programme	Timescale
Community Grants Programme	TBA
Cultivating Thriving Business Landscapes	TCA in July 2023
Growing the Social Economy	TBA

Leicester

Programme	Description and Website	Deadline	Targeted
Business Gateway Growth Hub	Free business support in Leicestershire including funding, consultancy and events. https://bizgateway.org.uk/	Ongoing	No
Leicester Employment Hub	Support for businesses and individuals who are seeking apprenticeship, traineeship, and work placement opportunities. https://www.leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk/	Dec 2023	No
Shop front improvement grant	Support for businesses and individuals who are seeking apprenticeship, traineeship, and work placement opportunities. https://www.leicesteremploymenthub.co.uk/	Dec 2023	No
Afro Innovation Group	Support for vulnerable women, those seeking employment and those that want to start their own businesses. https://www.afroinno.org/charity-projects	Ongoing	Yes



Future Funding Opportunities in Leicester

Programme	Description	Timescale
Business Growth	Allocation to be decided.	Jan – Mar 2024
Community Infrastructure Grant Call	Community asset transfer organisations and digital infrastructure in community buildings.	Jul – Sep 2023

Nottingham

Programme	Description and Website	Deadline	Targeted
D2N2 Growth Hub	Schemes that help set up a business and find support with recruiting and training, financial grants, networking and business growth. https://www.d2n2growthhub.co.uk/	Ongoing	No
Business & IP Centre Nottinghamshire	Access support to help start-up or run a small business. https://www.nottinghamcitylibraries.co.uk/our-services/business-ip-centre-nottinghamshire/	Ongoing	No
BGlobal	Support in Nottinghamshire to racial-minority-led businesses. https://www.bglobalnow.com/our-offer-services	Ongoing	Yes
High Street Small Business Grant	UKSPF funding to support and sustain existing businesses on the High Street. https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/information-for-business/business-information-and-support/procurement/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-ukspf/ukspf-high-street-small-business-grant/	Available from Aug/ Sep 2023	No



Bristol

Programme	Description and Website	Deadline	Targeted
YKTO West of England	Provides support for pre-start-up and business growth in Bristol. https://westofengland.ytko.com/business-support-in-bristol/	Ongoing	No
Business & IP Centre	Support for start-ups and SMEs across Bristol. https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/libraries-and-archives/business-and-ip-centre-bristol	Ongoing	No
Outset In Bristol – North and East Bristol Enterprise Support	Support for pre-start-ups. Training, 1:2 support and advice, online learning and events. https://www.outset.org/west-of-england/	Ongoing	No
Business West	support for new and existing businesses including funding, business planning, skills and training, and 1:1 support. https://www.businesswest.co.uk/	Ongoing	No
West of England Growth Hub	tailored support, expert guidance and access to finance and support programmes to SMEs. https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/growth-hub/	Ongoing	No
South Bristol Talent Pathway	supports SMEs in south Bristol to help them develop their workforce and grow their business. https://www.bristol.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/south-bristol-talent-pathway	Ongoing	No
BSWN Social Enterprise Incubator	Offers enterprise development services, small grants and up to £1m of investment and aims to remove the barriers to funding and support that social enterprises often face. https://www.blacksouthwestnetwork.org/incubator	Applications for next cohort TBC	Yes
Babbasa Bright Ideas programme	Support for young people interested in starting their own business. https://babbasa.com/youth-empowerment	Ongoing	Yes
Workforce for the Future	The programme helps businesses develop employees' skills, understand how they can meet their current and future skills needs and attract, develop and retain talented people. https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/employment-skills/workforce-for-the-future/	Sep 2023	Encourage people from black and racial minority backgrounds to participate.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**PHIL TULBA,
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR
COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING.**

PHIL.TULBA@UBELE.ORG

For further information on the UK Shared Prosperity
Fund please visit:
www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus/uk-shared-prosperity-fund-prospectus.



**THE
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