Investment in Places series

Places Campaign: Technical Report

Authors:
Marianne Sensier[x]
Kate Penney[x]
Philip McCann[x]
Michael Francis[x]
Alfonso Silva Ruiz[x]

Date:
August 2026

[x] The Productivity Institute

Key words
Place, investment, labour productivity, infrastructure, transport.
Authors' contacts
marianne.sensier@manchester.ac.uk
kate.penney@manchester.ac.uk

Acknowledgements
The IPPC project team would like to thank the extensive input of local authority partners, as well as that of wider local stakeholders, public policy experts and UK Government teams (particularly MHCLG). This project was envisaged as action-research, and this would not have been possible without the continued support of The Productivity Institute (TPI) colleagues, and Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS) professional and catering staff, as well as from the University of Manchester more generally. Lastly, we would also like to thank James Noble for his analysis of the theory of change workshop which provided us with useful findings for the future direction of the project.

Suggested citation
M. Sensier, K. Penney, P. McCann, M. Francis, A. Silva Ruiz (2026) *Places Campaign: Technical Report*, The Productivity Institute.

The Productivity Institute is an organisation that works across academia, business and policy to better understand, measure and enable productivity across the UK. It is funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (grant number ES/V002740/1).

The Productivity Institute is headquartered at Alliance Manchester Business School, The University of Manchester, Booth Street West, Manchester, M15 6PB. More information can be found on The Productivity Institute's website. Contact us at theproductivityinstitute@manchester.ac.uk

Abstract

This technical report summarises the project design and methodology of the Investment in Productive Places Campaign (Phase 1). This was an action research project led by The Productivity Institute between 2023-2026. The campaign was designed to help UK localities strengthen productivity and prosperity by developing a richer evidence base on their distinctive assets.

Working with local stakeholders, the project applies a seven-capitals framework - covering physical, human, intangible, financial, social, institutional and natural capital - to help inform strategic investment decisions at the local authority level.

In this report we give a brief overview of the campaign, summarise the Theory of Change workshop, project conception, research aims and design. We describe the capitals framework and the scorecards for the drivers of productivity. We detail the questions in the survey, workshop and interviews from the qualitative research. We review the projects ethical considerations and the appendix contains the participant information sheet, consent form and prospectus.

Table of Contents

1. Acknowledgements

The IPPC project team would like to thank the extensive input of local authority partners, as well as that of wider local stakeholders, public policy experts and UK Government teams (particularly MHCLG). This project was envisaged as action-research, and this would not have been possible without the continued support of The Productivity Institute (TPI) colleagues, and Alliance Manchester Business School (AMBS) professional and catering staff, as well as from the University of Manchester more generally. Lastly, we would also like to thank James Noble for his analysis of the theory of change workshop which provided us with useful findings for the future direction of the project.

2. About the project team

Role and academic affiliations of the Investment in Productive Places Campaign (IPPC), 2023-2026 (all based at The Alliance Manchester Business School, The Productivity Institute, The University of Manchester).

Professor Philip McCann: Principal Investigator, IPPC Project (2023-2026), Sir Terry Leahy Professor of Regional and Urban Economics.

Dr Marianne Sensier: Project Manager and Research Fellow, IPPC Project (2023-2026).

Dr Kate Penney: Research Fellow, IPPC Project (2023-2026).

Michael Francis: Research Assistant, IPPC Project (2023-2026) and AMBS Doctoral Researcher.

Alfonso Silva-Ruiz: Research Associate, IPPC Project (2025-2026) and AMBS Doctoral Researcher.

Joel Hoskins: Research Assistant, IPPC Project (2023-2024).

Abhi Sharma: Research Assistant, IPPC Project (2024).

3. Project Overview

The Investment in Productive Places Campaign (IPPC) [1] project phase 1 ran from March 2023 to July 2026 and was administered, funded and launched by the Productivity Institute at the University of Manchester. Initially, the project collaborated with Rochdale Development Agency (RDA) and Rochdale Borough Council on a pilot project in March 2023. The aims of the pilot were to establish a report on capital assets in the local economy in collaboration with the RDA and Borough Council, led by researchers from the Productivity Institute and the Productivity Lab.

The overall theoretical basis of the project followed the six-capitals framework presented in the UK Government 'Levelling-Up' White paper in 2022 [2]. The theory focuses on several key capital assets in the local economy, namely, physical, human, intangible, institutional, social, and financial; these capital assets are explained in more detail in section 6. We argue that the approach is a useful organising structure through which to identify the distinct challenges and opportunities which places face, and how to navigate strategic investment decisions to foster inclusive growth. The IPPC team also added natural capital to the framework in line with various academic publications which demonstrate the importance of natural assets in place-based development.

As part of the research, The Productivity Institute hosted a Theory of Change Workshop in June 2023, with a range of expert policy practitioners and academics, who participated in a situation analysis conducted by James Noble. The aims of the workshop were to understand the causes of persistent regional inequalities in the UK, particularly of the UK's second-tier cities, and how the Productivity Institute could contribute to reducing these inequalities through its activities. The findings of that workshop are summarised in the next section of this technical report and formed the basis for the IPPC team's approach to conducting the campaign. From this stage, the IPPC was framed as 'action-research', which operated on a more collaborative and co-productive basis with places, rather than a more traditional 'top-down' approach.

A place prospectus was circulated to potential candidate authorities in September 2023 (see section 17). This prospectus gave a concrete overview of the project, as well as the input required of local authorities and deliverables on the part of the IPPC project team. An outline of timescales is also provided in this prospectus, although the time varied place to place due to feedback and various iterations of reports.

---

[1] https://www.productivity.ac.uk/regions-nations/investment-in-places/

[2] DLUHC (2022). Levelling Up the United Kingdom, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities White Paper, from: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom .

Following the Theory of Change Workshop and further conversations with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLHUC) [i], as well as stakeholders from the Regional Productivity Forums and academic partners across the UK, the project was expanded to a further four local authorities in late 2023, including three London Boroughs as a tri-borough partnership (Enfield, Haringey and Waltham Forest) and Fermanagh and Omagh in Northern Ireland. The final cohort of places approached in 2023/24 covered Newport (South Wales), Walsall, South Tyneside, Cumberland, and Great Yarmouth.

The approach taken by the IPPC team, was organised as follows: (1) to make initial contact with policy officers in local authorities across the UK and share the project prospectus with them, (2), hold onboarding meetings to explain the goals, stages and outputs of the projects, (3) meet to understand specific characteristics of the place, local initiatives, policies, and strategies, as well as expectations as to the scope and content of reports and data tool, (4) help arrange the logistics of a visit from the IPPC team to that place and a stakeholder workshop with around 20-30 local participants, (5) help the place host the stakeholder workshop in person, each lasting around 2 hours, (6) request for follow-up interviews from stakeholder workshop participants on each one of the capital asset areas, (7) submit draft reports containing quantitative indicator findings from the seven capitals, as well as qualitative findings from the interviews, stakeholder workshops and baseline survey, (8) receive feedback from each local place and amend reports accordingly (this took several iterations and rounds of corrections), (9) publish the final reports on the TPI website. The dates and timings of each of the workshops and place report publications are detailed in section 10.

The IPPC team also requested to use the data collected throughout the project, stakeholder workshops, baseline survey and participant interviews, in future reports and academic publications. These reports include a data tool technical report [3], this IPPC technical report, an academic paper of the qualitative findings, a paper on the structural linkages between capital indicators and an Insights Paper. The academic publications are in draft stages as of July 2026.

4. The Theory of Change Workshop and Implications for the IPPC

In June 2023 we held a Theory of Change workshop at the University of Manchester with stakeholders from academia, public policy, local government and civil society. The workshop identified the problems associated with persistent regional productivity gaps in the UK, driven by fragmented central government policies, limited fiscal devolution, and weak local capacity.

---

[3] https://doi.org/10.48420/31241401, Blog: https://lab.productivity.ac.uk/insights/tpi-local-authority-capitals-dashboard/ and Data Tool: https://lab.productivity.ac.uk/tools/investment-in-places/

Past efforts have been piecemeal and ineffective, leaving places with low confidence, poor civic pride, and limited investor appeal. Structural challenges include small-scale governance units, underused assets, and inadequate infrastructure, compounded by economic shocks and long-term industrial decline. These issues have created barriers such as short-term political pressures and lack of coordination between public and private sectors.

To address these challenges, The Productivity Institute proposed providing supporting evidence to help places develop broad-based investment strategies that integrate the seven capitals. The approach emphasises local ownership, inclusive engagement, and a long-term vision backed by quick wins to build momentum. Key short-term outcomes include improved understanding of productivity, stronger stakeholder collaboration, enhanced leadership capacity, and positive shifts in local attitudes. Longer-term impacts aim for increased private and devolved public investment, economic transformation through infrastructure and skills development, and social benefits such as higher incomes, civic pride and well-being.

5. Project Conception, Research Aims and Design

Following the pilot phase in 2023, and the theory of change workshop, it was determined that action research with a mixed-methods approach was the overall best fit for delivering the aims of the campaign. These aims are “to work with stakeholders in places across the UK to help develop a broad-based investment strategy which will allow these places to improve the productive use of their resources.” (Place Prospectus, 2023, see section 17). The project team worked with The Productivity Institute’s eight Regional Productivity Forums (RPFs) to identify potential places and partners across the UK and continued to feedback information to the RPFs for the duration of the project.

The terms of the action research can be summarised as:

1. Places will own the plan and lead on its development.
    a. The project will be based upon the ‘action research’ approach which is characterised by working in close partnership with places, iteratively, to development their investment strategy. We will engage with key stakeholders in the place (local policy makers, business, education and civil society) and complement their institutional capacity.
    b. A stakeholder meeting will be organised with each place with 20-30 local stakeholders representing a broad range of civil society (policymaking, education, business and others), the results of which will be used for the analysis later on.

    c. A baseline survey will be distributed to all stakeholders to understand how they approach and integrate productivity into their planning and strategy (see section 12).
2. A data toolkit will be developed which tracks investment for each place.
    a. The data, which will be in part be based on official data available at the subnational level and in part on complementary data collected at the local level, will be integrated into a database maintained by the Productivity Institute's Productivity Lab.
    b. This will be made available to local areas following the report of the project and is available down to local authority geographic areas.
3. An evidence-based report will be produced to improve understanding of the ways in which places shape policy-options and opportunities.
    a. A key goal of this project is to use the seven capitals approach to help places to better understand trade-offs and complementarities of different investment opportunities. Going forward, the report will help the place liaise with the central government as the UK shifts towards more devolved decision-making.
    b. Follow-up interviews will also be completed with each place, to enrich the depth of the discussion.
    c. The place report includes an overview of key data metrics of each capital area from ONS datasets. The report also includes the qualitative analysis consisting of interviews and word clouds from the stakeholder workshops, as well as a synthesis and conclusion for policymakers based on the main findings of the qualitative research.
4. Sharing information across places.
    a. Places can learn from other localities and a conference (in July 2025 at AMBS, University of Manchester) bringing participants together to share findings.
    b. A follow-up survey will provide for feedback for the project team.

6. Transforming the Six-Capitals Framework for Action Research

The six-capitals framework as laid out by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, in the 'Levelling Up Britain' White Paper in 2022, includes physical, human, social, financial and intangible. Natural capital was added by the project team in order to "support environmental conservation, access to green space, and contribute to net-zero targets by reducing CO_2 emissions" (Prospectus, 2023, Appendix).

In the stakeholder workshops and presentations to local areas, these different areas were defined in both theoretical and applied terms so that policymakers and stakeholders could accessibly engage with the capitals and apply them to their own local context. The working definitions and examples of each capital are as follows:

Physical capital: the stock used to produce goods and services, including dwellings, other buildings and structures, machinery and equipment (including transport equipment, ICT hardware, and other machinery and equipment), weapons systems, and cultivated biological resources.

Human Capital is defined as the stock of knowledge, skills, competencies and other attributes embodied in people that are acquired during their life and used in the production of goods, services and ideas.

Social Capital refers to the extent and nature of peoples' connections with others and the collective attitudes and behaviours between people that support a well-functioning, close-knit society. It can be classified into four categories: personal relationships, social network support, civic engagement, and trust and co-operative norms.

Intangible Capital: Intangible assets, also known as knowledge capital, are defined as assets without a physical or financial embodiment, such as software and databases, research and development (R&D) and mineral exploration, artistic originals, design, and training, market research and branding.

Financial capital refers to financial assets needed by a company or household to provide goods or services. This includes peer-to-peer loans, business loans, credit card loans and a wide range of other financial mechanisms.

Institutional Capital can play an important role in the development of local economies through strong leadership and local governance; fiscal, administrative, and policy autonomy; relationships between local government, businesses, communities and individuals; and local knowledge.

Natural capital refers to a place's stock of natural resources and ecosystems that provide a wide range of valuable services and products for humanity.

Lastly, we included some prompts in the session to ensure that stakeholders did not get lost in the discussion:

- What would this capital include/cover from your point of view?
- What are the key priorities and considerations for this capital?
- Are these ever competing/conflicted priorities?
- What are the key challenges?
- Who do these issues matter the most for?
- How do you know when you are making progress in this area?

- Who and how do different agencies/partners work together to address this-who leads? What makes it effective/challenging?

7. Scorecards for the Drivers of Productivity

Each local authority IPPC report included quantitative and qualitative analysis of capital asset indicators. The headline measure of labour productivity is analysed [4] for the local authority and we present a four-type taxonomy by The Productivity Lab (Watson and Ortega-Argilés, 2025 [5]). This is a cross-plot of the productivity level against its growth since 2008 to show how the place's productivity compares to its regional average (at the ITL1 level) and neighbouring local authorities. This taxonomy shows whether the place's growth since 2008 has been steaming ahead, catching up, losing ground or falling behind.

Next, we present scorecard data for each local authority showing how its economic measures (productivity, GDP per capita and income per capita) compared to its parent region. We also present the drivers of productivity in the scorecard with the current level of the data series and its change over time in the short, medium and long-term (ONS indicators were used). We use the constant price measures of the monetary variables to calculate growth rates in the short, medium and long-term. The aim of this analysis is to compare a place to its regional context but also to understand the growth trajectory over time. Short term volatility in the data may cause spurious readings, but in the medium and long-term, trends in the drivers of productivity should be monitored as bottlenecks in growth need to be addressed.

8. Data Tool Methodology

We have developed a data tool so places can compare themselves with other local authorities across the UK. We group indicators for each capital and present these in the place reports. We will discuss each of the capitals in our data tool along with the variables selected. For more information on the data tool see the sources and methods report Silva-Ruiz, et al (2026) [6].

---

[4] Gross Value Added (Balanced) per hour worked from Office for National Statistics (2025), Labour Productivity Estimates, Regional and subregional labour productivity, UK: 2023. https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/economicoutputandproductivity/productivitymeasures/bulletins/regionalandsubregionallabourproductivityuk/2023, released 19/6/25.

[5] Watson, R. and Ortega-Argilés, R. (2025). The 2025 TPI UK ITL3 Productivity Scorecard Series. The Productivity Institute Blog: https://www.productivity.ac.uk/the-productivity-lab/the-2025-tpi-uk-itl3-productivity-scorecard-series/ .

[6] Alfonso Silva-Ruiz, Marianne Sensier, Raquel Ortega-Argiles, William Sarsfield, (2026), TPI Local Authority Capitals Dashboard: Sources and Methods, https://doi.org/10.48420/31241401.

9. Ethical Research Framework

A full ethical approval was not required upon consultation with the appropriate officers at the University (Ethics Ref: 2021-12345-67890). The Data Management Plan (see section 14) details the responsible use, security and storage of the data in line with University and ESRC data management regulations.

Participant information sheets were provided to each participant, along with a participant consent form upon arrival. All were collected and stored in a secure cabinet. Some were digital copies where the person could not complete them physically. The participation information sheet is in Appendix 16A and the consent found can be found in Appendix 16B.

This is a mixed-methods project which utilises data collected from a range of primary and secondary sources. Regarding data collected directly from individuals as part of stakeholder panels and interviews, we only intend to use data pertaining to individuals as professionals and not any personal, sensitive or disclosive information. We have checked with the University's ethical advisory team regarding a review, and this project does not require a full review. Nonetheless, we have considered any ethical concerns arising from this project in the following paragraphs.

To ensure the proper ethical and data management aspects of the in-person interviews, we intend to anonymise data and remove any named information which could potentially be used to identify individuals. Secondly, this data will not be presented in the form of direct quotes as this could potentially disclose identities; instead, we will consider interviews through textual analyses and assimilate in terms of themes and 'keywords'. All individuals will be provided with consent forms, copies of the Data Management Plan (DMP), confirmation of ethical approval, and the results of the analyses in report format.

In terms of the secondary data, most of this data is publicly available and does not require secure access from the ONS or the UK Data Service. This means that we do not require ethical approval for the collection, use or analysis of this data. Moreover, as we are not linking personal or firm-level data row-by-row to other datasets, there is no risk of personal or commercial disclosure. We outline the full process of data management and storage in this plan, again, it is worth reiterating the publicly available nature of the data.

10. Stakeholder Workshops Programme

As part of the active research element of the project, each one of the ten local authorities were asked to select local stakeholders from a broad range of civil society to respond to each of the capital areas. Attendance ranged from around 15 to 30 individuals per workshop in total depending on availability, at a venue organised by the local authority. A list of dates of each of the stakeholder workshops can be found in the table below.

Table 1: List of Local Authority Partners and Key Dates

Local Authority Name	**Date of Initial Meeting**	**Date of Stakeholder Workshop**	**Date Report Released**
Rochdale (pilot)	03/2023	15/01/2024	13/11/2024
London Boroughs (Enfield, Haringey, Waltham Forest)	13/11/2023	04/06/2024	12/03/2026
Fermanagh & Omagh, NI	16/10/2023	22/05/2024	10/02/2026
Newport, Wales	12/04/2024	29/11/2024	9/06/2026
South Tyneside	14/05/2024	04/02/2025	24/02/2026
Walsall	23/11/2023	20/03/2025	28/07/2026
Cumberland	07/05/2024	14/04/2025	31/03/2026
Great Yarmouth	22/01/2024	16/05/2025	13/05/2026

To begin with, each workshop was introduced to each of the capital areas and the wider aims of the project and the Productivity Institute. Following this, participants were asked to discuss each of the seven capital asset areas for 10 minutes per capital, with the descriptions in Section 6. Notes of each point were taken by researchers as recording equipment was not always available or feasible due to a different range of acoustic settings. Clarifications were sought if the researchers were unsure that they had heard correctly, or they did not understand the point raised; multiple notes were then cross-referenced to ensure that no substantive points were missed. Each of the stakeholder workshop findings were then integrated into the place-based reports for each local area, with a regard to the overall discussion, and each specific capital area.

11. Follow-up Interviews

Several stakeholders from each locality were selected for follow-up interviews, primarily based on their inputs in the workshops and their expertise in particular capital areas. 53 on-line interviews have been completed overall, six to eight per local authority area, as shown in the table below:

Place	Interviews Completed
Rochdale	8
Fermanagh & Omagh	8
Upper Lea Valley, London Boroughs of Haringey, Enfield and Waltham Forest	7
Newport	6
South Tyneside	6
Cumberland	6
Walsall	6
Great Yarmouth	6

In terms of the scope of the interviews, the following guidelines were drawn up. Firstly, the interviews would be semi-structured, meaning that the broad definition and aim would remain the same each time, but the order and exact wording may vary somewhat to fit the flow of the discussion. Second, interviews should be carried out by at least two members of the IPPC team (where possible); this was the case in most interviews. Third, the interviews should last for somewhere between 30 minutes and one hour. Lastly, all participants were given an information and consent sheet to sign prior to interview and interviews. The semi-structured questions were defined in September 2023 as follows:

1. How do you set the priorities for the region/place?
   a. who or what informs this?
   b. what are the biggest challenges/opportunities
2. How prominent is productivity in these plans?
   a. What does productivity mean to you?
3. Who are you biggest collaborators/contributors to your strategic plans?
   a. who do you plan with internally
   b. who do you plan with externally
   c. what are the biggest challenges and opportunities in this process?
4. How useful is the Levelling Up seven capitals framework in shaping your plans? (outline what they are)
   a. how do you currently work across different departments/ teams/ institutions?
   b. What are the biggest challenges and opportunities of this?
5. How important is data in steering and informing plans?
   a. what is the most useful? i.e., formats, content
   b. what is the most useful/important data that you don’t have?
   c. are there any other challenges around data?
6. how do you track and measure the progress of your plans?

   a. how flexible and agile can you be when plans are set?
   b. how do you keep stakeholders involved/informed in this process? Who?
7. How do you create a cohesive narrative (for investment?)
   a. how do you decide on priorities and focus
   b. who is this narrative important for?
   c. Who or what informs it? How?
8. what are the biggest challenges and enablers for being able to implement your plans?
9. Is there anything else important for us to know about?

12. Baseline Survey Design

The Baseline survey was designed using Qualtrics and presented to all stakeholders at the start of each workshop and also followed up via email link through the contact point at each local authority. Responses are stored on the University of Manchester Qualtrics platform and moved to a private drive following the end of the project (after March 2026). The questions in the survey were designed to evaluate how local stakeholders understand productivity overall but also how this is embedded (or not) within their role, planning, and strategy. The survey also asks about what types of stakeholders and data are consulted to inform policy design and how this is monitored; we also ask if there are gaps in data availability and what those are. Up until 26/03/2026, the baseline survey has approximately 130 complete responses.

The exact wording of the questions is shown below:

No.	*Question*
1	How frequently do you engage in strategic planning for your authority/geographic Area?
2	Is productivity explicitly considered in your strategic planning process?
3	What does productivity mean to you?
4	How do you identify and prioritise areas where productivity improvements are needed?
5	Are there Specific Productivity Goals or Targets Set During your Planning Process? If so, please provide examples.
6	What is the most important data and metrics for you to include in your productivity planning?
7	Is there any data that you need but don't have access to?
8	Do you involve relevant stakeholders in your planning for productivity?
9	How do you involve relevant stakeholders (e.g., department heads, community members) in the productivity planning process?

10	Who do you go to for advice? (tick all that apply)
11	How do you communicate productivity objectives and progress to your team and the authority?
12	How do you track and measure the success of productivity initiatives in your authority?
13	How flexible/agile are you able to be in relation to your plans?
14	Who would you go to for support and advice if your plans needed changing?
15	How confident do you feel that your plans to improve productivity will lead to the results that you want to achieve?
16	Are there any best practices or lessons learned from your productivity planning experiences that you would like to share?
17	Is there anything else you would like to add or any recommendations for improving productivity planning at the local level?

13. Follow-Up Survey Design

The follow-up survey is designed to understand the impact that the IPPC project had on local authorities and key stakeholders working in those areas and was released in August 2025. The questions largely reflect the inputs in the baseline survey, to gauge whether the project has assisted in the promotion of productivity-oriented planning and/or policy design, as well improving the collaboration with other stakeholders. To date (26/03/2026), there are approximately 10 complete responses.

The exact wording of the follow-up survey questions is shown below:

No.	Question
1	Has this project (including the stakeholder workshop) changed the way in which you think about productivity?
2	As a result of this project (including the stakeholder workshop), would you say that you have now incorporated productivity into your planning and/or strategy?
3	Have you approached, collaborated or plan to work with any stakeholders you wouldn't have considered previously as a result of discussions arising from this project (including the stakeholder workshop)?
4	How important to your work do you now consider productivity to be following these discussions around this project (including the stakeholder workshop)?
5	Is there any data you still do not have access to but would like to access?

6	Overall, as a practitioner, how useful would you do you think this project (including the stakeholder workshop) has been?
7	Finally, is there anything you'd like to feedback to us about the project, what we could improve or do differently?

14. Data Storage and Management Plan

The proper collection, use and storage of the data included in this project is covered by the Data Management Plan (DMP, ID: 136935). The data manager is Dr Marianne Sensier, and both Mr Michael Francis and Dr Kate Penney are also contactable for data-related inquiries, their emails can be found on the University of Manchester Alliance Manchester Business School website.

This project draws on both primary and secondary data to analyse local development through the UK Government's Six Capitals framework (Levelling Up Technical Annex, 2022). Primary data will consist of interviews with local authority stakeholders and two short anonymous surveys administered via Qualtrics at the beginning and end of engagement. All questions are strictly professional and policy-related, with no personal or sensitive information collected. Ethical considerations have been reviewed in line with University of Manchester policy, in the Data Management Plan (DMP). Secondary data will be obtained from publicly available national statistics, including the Labour Force Survey, Annual Population Survey, UK Census, R&D Survey, DfE statistics, Employer Skills Survey, Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Interdepartmental Business Register, and the Transport for Greater Manchester Survey (2022). All datasets will be analysed at aggregate level, ensuring no individual or commercial identification is possible.

Most analysis will be descriptive, examining trends over time, with some regression modelling used where appropriate. Statistical reporting will include measures such as model fit indices, standard errors, confidence intervals, p-values etc. Data quality will be supported using established national statistics, third-party quality assurance documentation, and stakeholder feedback on interpretation.

Quality assurance procedures include MS Teams audio transcription (with consent) to ensure accurate interview records, alongside structured templates for data organisation. Secondary data from the ONS and government departments has already undergone rigorous validation, and any statistical limitations will be clearly reported. Data will be securely stored in restricted-access University of Manchester folders protected by two-factor authentication, and subsequently transferred to the Research Data Storage facility, which provides backup protection for up to 35 days following data loss; the data is stored here four years prior to archiving and deletion. Physical consent forms will be stored securely in locked storage accessible only to the data manager; these will also be destroyed following the four years post-project (March 2030).

Data will be carefully prepared and documented to facilitate reuse. Interview transcripts will be anonymised and stored as structured text files, while quantitative datasets will be organised using spreadsheets, CSV files, metadata tabs and clearly labelled figures. Anonymisation will be done in line with procedures and compliance with University and ESRC data, copyright and licensing requirements. Only aggregated findings and thematic summaries will be published, ensuring confidentiality. Intellectual property for primary data and research outputs will be owned by the University of Manchester, while publicly available datasets remain the property of their original providers. Data will be retained in the Research Data Storage facility for four years, and access requests will be considered in accordance with institutional and ESRC policies. Overall, the project ensures robust governance of data collection, storage, documentation and sharing, supporting transparency and future research use.

15. Qualitative Research Methodology

a. Overall Research Aims & Outline for Qualitative Research Component

The Investment in Productive Places Campaign phase 1 ran from March 2023 to July 2026 and collected a large amount of primary data from expert local stakeholders and interviewees recommended by local councils involved in the project. Overall, this comprised over 50 interviews, 130 responses to an online baseline survey, and the responses of over 150 individuals in the stakeholder workshops which were organised and hosted by eight different local authorities across the UK. Stakeholders and interviewees were selected to broadly represent the different capital asset areas (human, physical, social, financial, intangible, institutional and natural), and from a wide range of civil society, covering local government, further and higher education institutions, civil society and voluntary organisations, charities, the local private sector, community groups, health and social care providers and others.

The main research aims of the qualitative part of the IPPC project are to identify and theorise issues arising from how the capitals framework is perceived, approached and implemented by different local stakeholders across the UK in a range of different geographic, economic and employment contexts. Many of these local areas face considerable social and economic challenges and differ in their approaches to local development. A further aim of this research, therefore, is to create typologies of how types of places intersect with the different challenges raised by the capital areas, and in turn how these intersect with governance capacities and capabilities. Finally, we aim to describe and infer behavioural features of actors in how they perceive, approach and implement policy, and how this varies across capital areas.

b. Main Research Questions

1. How do stakeholders conceptualise capital assets within the context of their institutional reality?
2. How does the local context influence actors conceptualisations of issues within the capitals framework?
    a. Economic, employment, geographic and governance structures.
3. What types of behaviours do stakeholders exhibit when considering and implementing these approaches and how does this affect their institutional effectiveness?
4. What do other stakeholders locally think about this?
5. How can we frame and synthesise these behaviours between and across actors, i.e., what are the differences and how/why do these emerge?
6. How can the capitals approach be adapted to improve specificity?
    a. How do the actors interviewed see this transformation?

c. Methods

1. Develop introductory typology of place within their economic, demographic, employment, geographic and governance structures.
2. Coding of transcripts with thematic ‘nodes’ to draw out key themes running through the research.
3. Provide comparative analysis of the baseline survey, which follows a similar logic to the interview questions, see section 12.
4. Compare and contrast the approaches taken by stakeholders in different places to similar problems, and what behaviours and structures drive differences in policy implementation and decision-making.
5. Provide examples of areas of conflict and contradiction to demonstrate key problems in understanding the synergies and trade-offs between policies affecting different capital areas.
6. Synthesise and produce a framework for measuring institutional capital and its components, so that the capacity and experimentation of governance can be better understood in the context of policy delivery.
7. Assimilate into a modified capabilities-possibilities framework.
    a. This is adapted from a range of empirical and methodological studies, which has been used often in multilevel and multi-actor contexts. It is important as it allows for a discussion of agency within structural constraints, but also

acknowledges the degree to which institutional flexibility, i.e., the possibilities, can have a significant impact on policy design and delivery.

d. Word Clouds

All word clouds were generated in R using the notes from the observing researchers of the nine place-based stakeholder discussions. Recorded transcripts were not possible due to the fact that meetings were often taking place in third-party venues, and we did not have the time or resources to plan the audio recording of discussion, not least because of the wide variation in the size of venues and number of participants. Instead, we ensured the comparison of various notes and stopped the discussion if we were unsure or required clarification about the wording of a particular point. Participants were informed beforehand not to divulge any sensitive information pertaining to individuals or organisations, and these instances were not recorded or included in the analysis if provided either way. Evidently, we cannot eliminate the possibility of human error or omission in minute-taking, however, we attempted to minimise this wherever possible, and participants were fully aware and consenting prior to the discussion.

As for the methodology, word clouds were generated by loading in each capital discussion as a separate ‘corpus’ and then cleaning the text by removing stop words, such as articles, pronouns, conjunctions, numbers or punctuation using the *tm* and *wordcloud* packages in R, as well as standard base and data manipulation packages such as *dplyr*, *stringr* and *tidyr*. This technique is based on the idea of a ‘bag of words’ approach, in which texts are pooled and each word becomes a specific vector (‘token’) in a matrix. Attention was also paid to remove proper nouns or named examples in the discussions as per the framing of the discussion we provided participants with prior to the meeting.

Following the cleaning and preparation of the texts, word clouds were generated to simply rank the frequency of the occurrence of terms. The sizing of the words is also specified to correspond to their importance (occurrence) relative to the whole text. For each of the individual capital discussions, word clouds only used the top 100 words, whereas the total discussion word cloud, and the word cloud using all of the text from four items of the baseline survey (free text entry), used 200 as there were more words in total. While there are many more sophisticated techniques regarding text analysis, this is a simple demonstration of key themes which were raised in each capital discussion, mainly to provide a descriptive summary of those discussions.

16. Appendices

a. Participant Information Sheet

Investment in Productive Places Campaign

Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

You are being invited to take part in a research study on how places across the UK can improve their productivity and become more investable. Before you decide whether to take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being conducted and what it will involve. Please take time to read the following information carefully before deciding whether to take part, and discuss it with others if you wish. Please ask if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

<u>About the research</u>

- **Who will conduct the research?**

The Productivity Institute (TPI) is a large UK wide research network funded by the ESRC. It is exploring what productivity means for business, for workers and for communities -how it is measured and how it truly contributes to increased living standards and well-being. TPI is based in the Alliance Management Business School at the University of Manchester. The project leads are Professors Philip McCann and Bart van Ark and the project is managed by Dr Marianne Sensier. The other project researchers are Kate Penney, Michael Francis and Joel Hoskins.

- **What is the purpose of the research?**

This research is interested in how places are thinking about and creating a broad-based investment strategy to improve the conditions and productivity in the region. We are particularly interested in gaining a better understanding of how institutions work together when developing economic strategy and how they think about productivity as part of this.

The Levelling Up (LU) White Paper, launched in February 2022, has the broad objective to give every citizen of the UK the opportunity to flourish, meaning people everywhere living longer and more fulfilling lives, benefitting from sustained rises in living standards and well-being. It recognises that achieving this will require an understanding of a number of interdependent factors and identifies seven drivers that will address spatial disparities. These are referred to as capitals. We want to find out how places are thinking and dealing with these different drivers, and we need more than just quantitative data to do this. That is why we are carrying out these focus groups/ interviews.

You have been asked to be part of our study due to your experience and knowledge of the region and/or social and economic development. Our strategy has been designed to capture insights from a range of different roles and perspectives within each place. Your role has been identified as one that will add value and key insights to the research. The focus groups/ interviews are not about giving “right” and “wrong” answers, but to shed light on how this policy approach is applied in practice.

Will the outcomes of the research be published?

We anticipate the findings of this research will be published as reports, blogs and may be published in academic journals.

Who has reviewed the research project?

The project has been reviewed by The University of Manchester Research Ethics adviser in the Alliance Management Business School.

Who is funding the research project?

The project is being funded by The Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) which is part of UK Research and Innovation, a non-departmental public body funded by a grant-in-aid from the UK government.

<u>What would my involvement be?</u>

- **What would I be asked to do if I took part?**

Baseline survey prior to engagement

There will be a brief anonymous survey for participants at the start of their involvement with the project and at the end of their involvement in the project. This will be filled in through Qualtrics (UoM recommended), responses will be anonymous and questions are entirely professional/policy related in nature. The survey should not take longer than 30 minutes to complete.

We may also ask you to complete no more than 3 very short (3 to 5 minute) pulse surveys to gain your views on key topics. These will not be frequent but may take place at the first part of a meeting for example. This will be filled in through Qualtrics (UoM recommended), responses will be anonymous and questions are entirely professional/policy related in nature.

For interviews:

All interviews will be conducted by two members of the research team and only upon receipt of a signed consent form and after you have had the opportunity to ask any questions about the interview and overall process. The interviews will be semi-structured meaning that there will be a series of set questions that all interviewees will be asked. The interviewer can elaborate on questions if the interviewee says something that requires additional exploration. Any identifiable details such as names and locations will be given a pseudonym if deemed appropriate.

The interviews will be conducted digitally over Teams or Zoom if in person is not convenient. It is essential that all interviews are audio recorded for the purposes of transcription by the interviewer and/or an authorised person. When a mutually convenient time is agreed for the interview it will be the responsibility of the interviewer to send through the details for the interview including joining instructions for the digital platform and passwords. The timeframe for the interview is a maximum of one hour.

You will know in advance of the interview which member/s of the research team will be conducting the interview. It will be carried out by two team members; Professor Bart van Ark, Professor Philip McCann, Dr Marianne Sensier, Kate Penney, Michael Francis or Joel Hoskins.

- **Will I be compensated for taking part?**

There is no compensation for taking part in the focus groups, interviews or surveys.

- **What happens if I do not want to take part or if I change my mind?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you would like to take part, please email Marianne Sensier on marianne.sensier@manchester.ac.uk to confirm your interest.

If you do decide to take part you will be given this information sheet to keep and will be asked to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to yourself. However, it will not be possible to remove your data from the project once it has been anonymised as we will not be able to identify your specific data. This does not affect your data protection rights. If you decide not to take part you do not need to do anything further.

<u>Data Protection and Confidentiality</u>

- **Under what legal basis are you collecting this information?**

We are collecting and storing this personal identifiable information in accordance with UK data protection law which protect your rights. These state that we must have a legal basis (specific reason) for collecting your data. For this study, the specific reason is that it is “a public interest task” and “a process necessary for research purposes”.

- **What information will you collect about me?**

Personal details are restricted to name, publicly available contact details, and signed consent form. Interview recordings will be audio only and not video.

If the focus groups/ interviews are transcribed by an authorised transcriber all data will be dealt with in the strictest confidence. Following the transcription, the digital recordings will be deleted from all appliances. Your identity will be anonymised and your name and exact job title will not be used, however, there will be a description of your role. This will not explicitly name the role but describe it, for example, Senior Manager with responsibility for economic growth. The geographical locations (places) will be named in the event of future publications. Your words may be quoted in reports and other research outputs. You will not be named in these outputs unless you specifically request this.

The survey questions will be entirely professional and we will not collect any personal or sensitive information from the survey. The responses from the survey will be anonymised and stored in encrypted folders with restricted access for UoM team members only.

- **What are my rights in relation to the information you will collect about me?**

You have a number of rights under data protection law regarding your personal information. For example you can request a copy of the information we hold about you, including audio recordings.

If you would like to know more about your different rights or the way we use your personal information to ensure we follow the law, please consult our Privacy Notice for Research.

- **Will my participation in the study be confidential and my personal identifiable information be protected?**

In accordance with data protection law, The University of Manchester is the Data Controller for this project. This means that we are responsible for making sure your personal information is kept secure, confidential and used only in the way you have been told it will be used. All researchers are trained with this in mind, and your data will be looked after in the following way:

Your personal details will be stored in compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the UK Data Protection Act 2018, and the Common Law Duty of Confidentiality. All data will be stored with suitable password protection and encryption of folders and files. Any personal identifiers will be removed and stored under a unique identifier or pseudonym name. The data will be stored on a shared project password protected folder managed by The University of Manchester. Only the researchers have access to the folder and the files will be individually password protected. Any devices that can access the folder will have encrypted hard disk drives.

To summarise

- Information will be stored on a device (laptop) that is protected and secured by the University of Manchester.
- Personal information will not be copied onto laptops or personal devices without prior authorisation.
- Laptops and portable devices containing personal information will be encrypted.
- Personal information will not be copied onto public computers.
- Paper printouts containing personal information will be locked away when unattended and shredded when no longer required.
- Personal data will be safely destroyed after five years of the research completion.

Your participation in this research will be recorded in Teams or Zoom and your personal data will be processed by Microsoft Teams or Zoom. This may mean that your personal data is transferred to a country outside of the European Economic Area, some of which have not yet been determined by the United Kingdom to have an adequate level of data protection. Appropriate legal mechanisms to ensure these transfers are compliant with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Protection Regulation are in place. The recordings will be removed from the above third party platform and stored on University of Manchester managed file storage as soon as possible following the completion of data collection.

If using Zoom, please also consult the FAQs for more information on recordings.

The study team at The University of Manchester will have access to your personal information and they will anonymise it as soon as possible. Your name and any other identifying information will be removed and replaced with a random ID number. The research team will have access to the key that links this ID number to your personal information. Your consent form will be retained for 5 years in a locked cabinet on UoM premises for audit purposes. With your consent, we would also like to retain your contact details for 5 years in order to provide you with a summary of the findings for this study and also to inform you about future studies that you may be interested in. If you provide consent for this, your details will be safely stored on UoM servers in a digital folder only accessible to the study team and used only for the purposes described above.

Please also note that individuals from The University of Manchester or regulatory authorities may need to look at the data collected for this study to make sure the project is being carried out as planned. This may involve looking at identifiable data. All individuals involved in auditing and monitoring the study will have a strict duty of confidentiality to you as a research participant.

What if I have a complaint?

➢ **Contact details for complaints**

If you have a complaint that you wish to direct to members of the research team, please contact Marianne Sensier on marianne.sensier@manchester.ac.uk Before the interview takes place, you will be given the opportunity to raise any questions and concerns with the project manager Dr Marianne Sensier.

If you wish to make a formal complaint to someone independent of the research team or if you are not satisfied with the response you have gained from the researchers in the first instance then please contact

The Research Ethics Manager, Research Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9PL, by emailing: research.complaints@manchester.ac.uk or by telephoning 0161 306 8089.

If you wish to contact us about your data protection rights, please email dataprotection@manchester.ac.uk or write to The Information Governance Office, Christie Building, The University of Manchester, Oxford Road, M13 9PL at the University and we will guide you through the process of exercising your rights.

You also have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner's Office about complaints relating to your personal identifiable information Tel 0303 123 1113

Contact Details

If you have any queries about the study or if you are interested in taking part then please contact the researcher(s) **DR MARIANNE SENSIER on marianne.sensier@manchester.ac.uk**

b. Participant Consent Form

MANCHESTER
1824
The University of Manchester

Investment in Productive Places Campaign: Consent Form

If you are happy to participate, please complete and sign the consent form below

	Activities	Initials
1	I confirm that I have read the attached information sheet (Version 2_10/1/2024) for the above study and have had the opportunity to consider the information and ask questions and had these answered satisfactorily.	
2	I understand that my participation in the study is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason and without detriment to myself. I understand that it will not be possible to remove my data from the project once it has been anonymised and forms part of the data set. I agree to take part on this basis	
3	I agree to the interviews being audio recorded.	
4	I agree that any data collected may be published in anonymous form in academic books, reports or journals	
5	I agree that the researchers/researchers at other institutions may contact me in future about other research projects.	
6	I agree that the researchers may retain my contact details in order to provide me with a summary of the findings for this study.	
7	I agree to take part in this study	

Data Protection
The personal information we collect and use to conduct this research will be processed in accordance with data protection law as explained in the Participant Information Sheet and the Privacy Notice for Research Participants.

______________________ ______________________ __________

Name of Participant Signature Date

______________________ ______________________ __________

Name of the person taking consent Signature Date

A copy of this form will be stored in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the Participant Information Sheet.

17. Place Prospectus

THE PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE

REGIONAL PRODUCTIVITY FORUM

Investment in Places

Project prospectus for places looking to improve local prosperity

SEPTEMBER 2023

THE PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE

We are a UK-wide research organisation exploring what productivity means for business, for workers and for communities – how it is measured and how it truly contributes to increased living standards and well-being.

UKRI Economic and Social Research Council

What is productivity?

Productivity is a positive notion which allows societies, people and firms to **"do things better"** by creating proportionally more value relative to the amount of resources being used. This is associated with technological change and innovation, requiring joined up value creating activities. It includes investment in places, people, digital capabilities and organisational knowledge. As a result of productivity growth, places become more prosperous, and people will get better off in terms of living standards and general well-being.

Project Aim

The Productivity Institute, headquartered at The University of Manchester, launched the **Investment in Places** project in September 2023. The Institute will work with places to better understand how they can improve productivity, along with their economic and social conditions with the aim of becoming more prosperous.

The project aims to work with stakeholders in places across the UK to help develop a broad-based investment strategy which will allow these places to improve the productive use of their resources. The project team will be working closely with The Productivity Institute's eight Regional Productivity Forums (RPFs) to identify potential places and partners across the UK and will continue to work with the RPFs for the duration of the project.

Context

This project aligns with the missions as laid out in the Levelling Up White Paper, launched in February 2022, to give every citizen of the UK the opportunity to flourish, meaning people everywhere benefitting from sustained rises in living standards and well-being and living longer and more fulfilling lives.[1]

Specifically the project aims to operationalise the "six-capitals" concept as developed in the White Paper. This recognised that achieving better outcomes will require an understanding of a number of interdependent factors and identifies six drivers that will address spatial disparities. These are referred to as capitals, as follows:

- **Physical capital** Infrastructure, equipment and housing.
- **Human capital** the skills, health and experience of the workforce.
- **Intangible capital** innovation, ideas and patents.
- **Financial capital** resources supporting the financing of companies.
- **Social capital** the strength of communities, relationships and trust.
- **Institutional capital** local leadership, capacity and capability.

We are also interested in an additional important factor, **natural capital**, the investment in which could support environmental conservation, access to green space, and contribute to net-zero targets by reducing CO_2 emissions.

The capitals closely align to The Productivity Institute's Productivity Lab drivers of productivity with their regional scorecards. We have aligned our research agenda with the Levelling Up Advisory Council which advises the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) on how to implement the Levelling Up strategy.

[1] The missions are outlined the Levelling Up the United Kingdom White Paper

The research activities

A research team from The Productivity Institute would like to work with places across the UK. We will share our research findings with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The research will involve a series of linked case studies, which will consist of four parts:

1. **Places will own the plan and lead on its development.** The project will be based upon the 'action research' approach which is characterised by working in close partnership with places, iteratively, to develop their investment strategy. We will engage with key stakeholders in the place (local policy makers, business, education and civil society) and complement their institutional capacity.
2. **A data toolkit will be developed which tracks investment for each place.** The data, which will in part be based on official data available at the subnational level and in part on complementary data collected at the local level, will be integrated into a database maintained by The Productivity Institute's Productivity Lab.
3. **An evidence-based report will be produced to improve understanding of the ways in which places shape policy options and opportunities.** A key goal of this project is to use the seven capitals approach to help places better understand trade-offs and complementarities of different investment opportunities. Going forward, the report will help the place liaise with the central government as the UK shifts towards more devolved decision making.
4. **Sharing information across places.** Places can learn from other localities and a conference will bring participants together to share findings.

A key objective of the research is to assess the capitals that are required as the core components of successful regeneration. The research team will use the seven capitals framework as organising principles for understanding how local policy makers make their investment decisions.

We will identify how the features of the capitals themselves interact with each other in shaping and framing priority-setting decision-making processes at a local level. There will need to be a commitment to:

- private sector investment
- regional social cohesion around a common purpose of shared prosperity
- devolved authority and public investment from central to regional and local government

How can places take part?

The places that we would like to work with will have a population of approximately 100,000-350,000 (this can be a residential population and/or including a working population).

Strong partnership collaboration

Places will need to collaborate across key local and regional stakeholders, for example, Local Authorities, business networks (such as Chambers of Commerce), education providers and skills and labour market leads.

Partners from the public, private and the community and voluntary sector should all play a key role in the development of the investment strategy.

An investment opportunity

Places will need a planned initiative or activity that will support growth in their area. As a measure of success, we will be looking for one substantial demonstration of an investment-based plan taking into account the various capitals and with a commitment from stakeholders in the first year following the project. Examples could include:

- **Sectoral clusters** such as science parks, start-up labs
- **Infrastructure development**
- **Repurposing/regeneration** of existing sites
- **Innovative joining up/strengthening of existing assets**, such as lifelong educational pathways, health care provision (significant innovation to service delivery/provision)

Time Commitment

Stakeholders will not need to make a financial commitment to being involved as a case study, however, there is an expectation that they will attend several events and activities such as scoping meetings, focus groups and provide feedback on written reports.

Contact

For more information, please contact Marianne Sensier at The University of Manchester by emailing Marianne.Sensier@manchester.ac.uk

4

What do places gain from participation?

The places that participate will not only inform academics and policy makers about how the capitals are translated into practice, but they will also gain guidance in how they can create an investment strategy specific to their own needs and assets. They will receive access to the data toolkit that will enable them to identify drivers of growth and evaluate progress, guidance on how to operationalise the capitals and a report on creating/enhancing an investment strategy.

They will widen their networks, learning from similar places. We do not intend to ask stakeholders to do something entirely new. In fact we hope the project will tie in with an existing plan(s), aiming to explicitly apply the capital-based investment approach to it.

Time scales

The 12 places will be added in a stacked manner in two cohorts of six places. Each place case study will take about one year from start to end date with approximate time scale as follows:

Time Scale	Work focus	Outcome
Month 0	Send prospectus and survey link	Place agrees to participate
Month 1	On-line scoping meeting	Agree scope of case study
Months 2	Data & Policy Review	Data report from research team and review of relevant literature
Months 3-4	Place visit. In-person presentation of the background data and seven capitals	Sharing intelligence, feedback from group
Months 5-6	Position paper sharing initial recommendations	Gathering further feedback
Months 6-7	In-person stakeholders meeting	Feedback from stakeholders
Months 7-8	On-line follow-up meetings	Further collection of evidence to feed into final report
Months 9-10	On-line presentation of final report and Productivity Lab's Data Toolkit. Send follow-up survey link	Conclusions presented to key stakeholders with a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of the capitals
Months 11-12	Networking event for all six Places stakeholders	Discussion of reports drawing out similarities and differences

About The Productivity Institute

The Productivity Institute is a £32 million investment, made possible by a grant of £26 million from the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and an additional £6 million from our partners. Based on the premise that the long-term underperformance of productivity in the United Kingdom threatens a future of global excellence in economic performance and shared prosperity across the nation, The Productivity Institute's mission is to lay the foundations for an era of sustained and inclusive productivity growth. Our broad-based interdisciplinary research programme focuses on identifying the causes of the stagnation in UK productivity and making proposals for solutions and with strong regional engagement with stakeholders across the whole country.

THE PRODUCTIVITY INSTITUTE PARTNERS

About Regional Productivity Forums

Our Regional Productivity Forums sit at the heart of The Productivity Institute's practitioner engagement strategy, in addition to a select number of strong partnerships at a national level. The forums are involved in the implementation of research insights, the design of practical business and policy interventions, and in providing input to the development of the Institute's future research agenda. Members include stakeholders from policy, community and business leaders from local, national and multinational enterprises. Each Productivity Forum is chaired by a regional business leader and supported by a Forum Lead from each of the partner universities.

18. Glossary of Abbreviations and Terms

Abbreviation/ Term	Definition
APPG	All Party Parliamentary Group.
APS	Annual Population Survey, published by the ONS.
ASHE	Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, published by the ONS.
CVSE	Community & Voluntary & Social Enterprise Sector.
DfE	Department for Education.
DLUHC	Department of Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (2021-2024).
ESRC	Economic and Social Research Council.
ESS	Employer Skills Survey, published by the Department for Education.
FHLE	Female Healthy Life Expectancy, published by the ONS
GDHI	Gross Domestic Household Income, published by the ONS.
GDHI/head	Gross Domestic Household Income per head, published by the ONS.
GFCF	Gross-Fixed Capital Formation, an indicator used in national accounting using asset-based measures of investment, see ONS.
GFCF per job	Gross-Fixed Capital Formation per job, an indicator found in national accounting using asset-based measures of investment divided by the number of employees at a given firm, see ONS.
GLA	Greater London Authority.
GM	Greater Manchester.
GMCA	Greater Manchester Combined Authority.
GDP	Gross Domestic Product.
GVA	Gross Value Added, a general measure of productivity.
GVA/hour	Gross Value Added per hour worked, a measure of labour productivity.

GVA/per job-filled	Gross Value Added per Job Filled, a measure of labour productivity.
HMRC	HM Revenue and Customs.
IBDR	Inter-Departmental Business Register.
IMD	Index of Multiple Depravation, published by the UK Government in 2013, 2015, 2019 and 2025.
IPPC	Investment in Productive Places Campaign.
ITL1	International Territorial Level 1.
ITL2	International Territorial Level 2.
ITL3	International Territorial Level 3.
LA	Local Authority.
LFS	Labour Force Survey, published by the ONS.
LQ	Location Quotients.
LSOA	Lower-Super Output Area.
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2006-2021; 2024-).
MHLE	Male Healthy Life Expectancy, published by ONS.
MSOA	Middle-Super Output Area.
NECA	North East Combined Authority.
NI	Northern Ireland.
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistical and Research Agency.
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification, (1992-2017, replaced by RQF), see UK Govt.
OECD	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.
ONS	Office for National Statistics.
RQF	Reference Qualifications Framework, (2015-).
SPF	Shared Prosperity Fund.
SIPF	Strength in Places Fund, see UKRI.

TPI	The Productivity Institute.
TFP	Total Factor Productivity.
UoM	The University of Manchester.
UKRI	UK Research and Innovation.
WMCA	West Midlands Combined Authority.

19. End Notes

[i] Now the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government as of July 2024.