

# [News story: Strengthening local places and regions: apply for funding](#)

[UK Research and Innovation](#) has up to £50 million each for place-based consortia to work together, build on existing research and innovation capabilities and grow the local economy.

Businesses and research organisations that are located closely together can collaborate with local partners on research and innovation projects that create an economic improvement in a particular geographic area.

This is part of the [Strength in Places Fund](#), announced in the [Industrial Strategy white paper](#). The fund will tackle the regional disparities across the UK and grow prosperous communities.

[Get the latest on the Industrial Strategy and how it is boosting productivity and people's earning power in the UK.](#)

## **A 2-stage application**

The competition is being run in 2 phases.

In this first phase, we are seeking expressions of interests that set out plans for large collaborative consortia. There is up to £50,000 each for consortia in 'seed corn' funding, which is money invested in a project at the beginning with the intention that this will produce a profit.

Successful projects will then be invited to bid in a second phase. Individual consortia can get up to £50 million to develop full-scale proposals. Projects in this phase are expected to start in June 2019 and complete by April 2024.

## **Competition information**

- the competition is open, and the deadline for expressions of interest is at midday on 25 July 2018
- there is up to £50,000 each for consortia in the first phase, and between £10 million and £50 million each in the second phase to develop your project further
- a business, university, research institute, Catapult centre or research and technology organisation can lead a project
- consortia must include at least one business and one research organisation. Other members could include local civic partners including Local Enterprise Partnerships, combined authorities, enterprise bodies and other, similar economic agencies
- [briefing events](#) will be held throughout May and June 2018

[Find out more about the competition and apply.](#)

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## **News story: Adult Education Budget (AEB) 2018 to 2019 increased flexibility for learners in receipt of low wage**

The one-year trial, for the 2018 to 2019 funding year, will enable more eligible adults to access AEB funding.

This will help to increase AEB participation and lift social mobility barriers to learning for those who would not otherwise engage due to course fees being unaffordable. It will also support those who have been motivated to move out of unemployment and are in receipt of a low wage to further progress in work and their chosen career.

The current AEB fee remission rules focus on providing full funding for eligible unemployed adults, young people (aged 19 to 23) with skills below level 2, and adults aged 19 and over, without English and maths up to level 2. Currently individuals who do not fall into one of these categories may have to contribute 50% towards the cost of their learning (commonly known as co-funding).

The new eligibility requirements for learners to receive full funding during the trial are:

- those that are eligible for co-funding, and,
- earn less than £15,736.50 annual gross salary based on the Social Mobility Commission's low pay threshold of £8.07 (hourly rate in 2016) and on the assumption of a 37.5 hour contract with paid statutory holiday entitlement

To confirm learner eligibility providers must:

- see and keep supporting evidence in the learner file, for example, this could be a wage slip within 3 months of the learner's learning start date, or a current employment contract, which states gross monthly/annual wages)
- enter the ILR monitoring code (363) for every eligible learner they fully fund through this trial, this is imperative as we will use data collected from this trial to inform future adult funding policy development

We have engaged with representative bodies, Mayoral Combined Authorities and

the Greater London Authority, who have been supportive of the trial and it's aims to make learning more accessible for the low paid.

The rules associated with the trial are in [version 1 of the adult education budget \(AEB\) funding rules 2018 to 2019](#).

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## **News story: CMA consults on draft consumer law advice for care homes**

It follows the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) year-long market study into the residential and nursing care home sector in the UK for people over 65. The study found that there is a risk of residents being treated unfairly and that some care homes may potentially be breaching consumer law.

The draft advice sets out what the CMA considers care homes should do to comply with consumer law, including:

- what upfront information they need to provide to prospective residents and their representatives to help them make informed choices
- what they need to do to ensure that their contract terms and the way they treat residents and their representatives are fair
- their obligation to provide services to residents with reasonable care and skill
- what they need to do to ensure that their complaint-handling policies and procedures are easy to find, easy to use, and fair

The CMA is [seeking views](#) on the draft advice from a range of interested parties including care homes and their representative bodies, enforcers such as local authority Trading Standards Services and sector regulators. The CMA also welcomes views from residents and their families, charities representing the elderly and consumer groups. The consultation closes on 12 July.

The consultation is part of the CMA's ongoing consumer protection work in the care home sector. As part of this work, the CMA has also today published its final advice on the [charging of fees after a resident's death](#) following a consultation earlier this year.

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## **Press release: Motorists called on to**

# plan their journeys to Download Festival

Road users not heading to the festival are being advised to seek alternative routes to avoid delays.

About 80,000 people are expected at the three-day festival, being staged from Friday 8 to Sunday 10 June, and surrounding roads are likely to be very busy.

Gates to the campsite open at midday on Wednesday 6 June to allow an expected 60,000 or more campers to spread their arrival times. Up to 20,000 visitors are expected to buy day tickets.

Sarah Redfearn, Highways England's Emergency Planning Officer for the East Midlands, said:

Major roads and motorways in the area, including the M1, A42, A50 and A453, are likely to be busy.

All routes to the festival will be well signposted, but people travelling in the area should plan their journey in advance.

Festival-goers can check the traffic conditions using our Highways England travel app, or follow us on Twitter @HighwaysEMIDS to check the latest traffic updates before you set out.

Donington Park is located next to East Midlands Airport, four miles west of junction 23a of the M1 and five miles from junction 24. Anyone travelling to the airport should allow plenty of extra travel time for their journey.

Highways England will use electronic message boards on surrounding motorways to advise people of any delays. Extra Traffic Officers are also being deployed for the duration, both in event control and around junction 24 of the M1, to assist motorists, clear incidents quickly and keep traffic moving.

Highways England provides live traffic information via its website, local and national radio travel bulletins, electronic road signs and mobile platforms, such as Android and iPhone apps. Further information is available from the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

Image supplied by Festival Republic // Download Festival taken by Paulo Gonçalves

## **General enquiries**

Members of the public should contact the Highways England customer contact centre on 0300 123 5000.

## Media enquiries

Journalists should contact the Highways England press office on 0844 693 1448 and use the menu to speak to the most appropriate press officer.

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# [News story: Professor Jonathan Haskel appointed to the Monetary Policy Committee](#)

The Chancellor, Philip Hammond, today (Thursday 31 May) announced the appointment of Professor Jonathan Haskel as an external member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Philip Hammond said:

I am delighted that Professor Haskel is joining the MPC. I am confident that his expertise in productivity and innovation will further sharpen the Committee's understanding of the British economy.

I also want to thank Ian McCafferty for his six years of service. His insights from business have been invaluable and I wish him well for the future.

The Governor of the Bank of England, Mark Carney said:

I am delighted to welcome Jonathan Haskel to the Monetary Policy Committee and am very much looking forward to working with him. His broad academic experience and the depth of his knowledge on productivity and innovation will be hugely valuable to the Committee as we seek to promote the good of the people of the United Kingdom by maintaining monetary stability.

I would also like to thank Ian McCafferty for his service to the Monetary Policy Committee over the past six years. Our discussions have benefitted greatly from Ian's profound knowledge of the UK economy and his carefully argued views on monetary policy.

Professor Haskel said:

I'm truly honoured to be nominated to the MPC and to follow Ian

McCafferty who has been such a dedicated and hard-working member over the last six years, especially with his work visiting schools. I look forward to contributing to the MPC's vital role in maintaining the UK's price stability and communicating its thinking.

As an external member of the MPC, Professor Haskel will hold one of nine votes to decide the future path of UK monetary policy. The MPC meets eight times a year to set monetary policy in line with the objectives set out in its remit.

Professor Haskel will replace Ian McCafferty, who will come to the end of his second term on 31 August 2018.

## **About Professor Jonathan Haskel**

Professor Jonathan Haskel has been appointed as an external member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Bank of England. He was appointed by the Chancellor following an external appointment process.

Professor Haskel is currently a Professor of Economics at Imperial College Business School, where he will continue to teach part time, and prior to that was Head of the Economics Department at Queen Mary, University of London. He is a Non-Executive Director of the UK Statistics Authority and has expertise in productivity growth, and particularly intangible assets. He recently published *Capitalism Without Capital: The Rise of the Intangible Economy*, co-authored with Stian Westlake. He received his PhD from the London School of Economics.

## **About the Monetary Policy Committee**

The Monetary Policy Committee makes decisions about the operation of monetary policy. It comprises the Governor of the Bank of England, the three Deputy Governors, one member of the Bank with responsibility in the Bank for monetary policy and four external members who are appointed by the Chancellor. External members may serve up to two three-year terms on the MPC.

With this appointment, the full list of MPC members from 1 September 2018 will be:

- Mark Carney (Governor)
- Ben Broadbent (Deputy Governor, Monetary Policy)
- Sir David Ramsden (Deputy Governor, Markets and Banking)
- Sir Jon Cunliffe (Deputy Governor, Financial Stability)
- Andy Haldane (Executive Director, Monetary Analysis and Chief Economist)
- Professor Silvana Tenreyro (external member)
- Michael Saunders (external member)
- Dr Gertjan Vlieghe (external member)
- Professor Jonathan Haskel (external member)

## **About the appointment process**

Professor Haskel has been appointed following an open recruitment process. Twenty-seven applications for the position were received. A panel comprising Clare Lombardelli and Richard Hughes from HM Treasury and Dame Kate Barker, external member to the MPC from 2001 to 2010, interviewed a number of candidates and made recommendations to the Chancellor, which informed his decision.

The Treasury is committed to appointing a diverse range of people to public appointments, including at the Bank of England. The Treasury continues to work to attract the broadest range of suitable applicants for posts. As part of this recruitment process, the Chief Economic Advisor at the Treasury and chair of the interview panel contacted 87 potential applicants to inform them of the vacancy, of whom 44 were women. There were 27 applications, of which five candidates were interviewed.

The gender breakdown for this appointment is below:

### **Application stage Shortlisted for interview Appointee**

MPC External Member	8 women, 19 men	4 women, 1 man	1 man
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