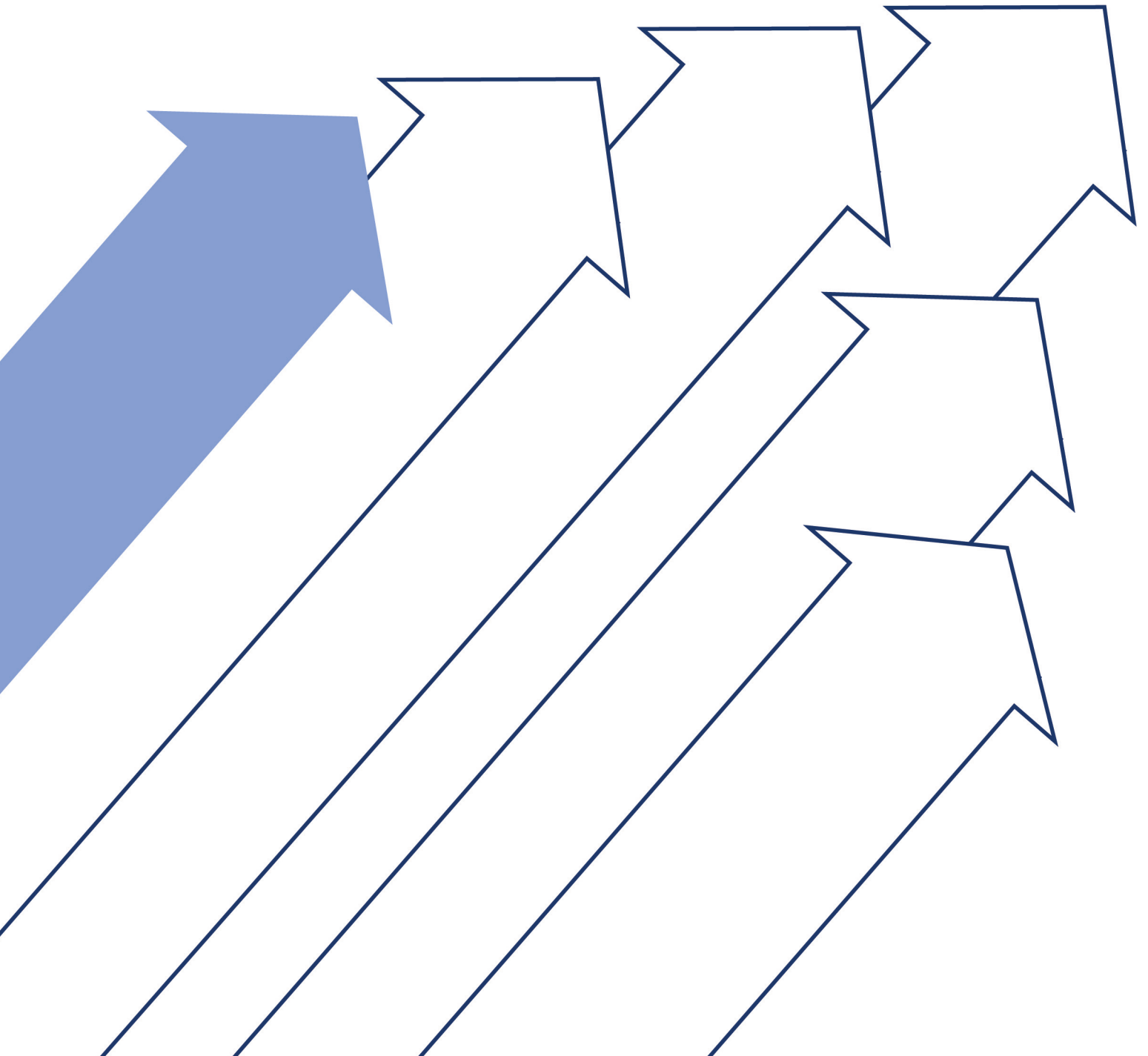




UK COMMISSION FOR
EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS

UK Futures Programme - Guidance Document: Types of project



Types of project

The UK Futures Programme is focussed on addressing problems by adopting a testing and shared learning approach to better understand what does/doesn't work when addressing skills and workforce development issues. Different types of projects will attract different levels of public contribution, see 'Public and Private Contributions guidance for further information.

The types of innovative projects that we will invest in are the following:



Research

1. Research – A research project will shine new light on the problem that we have identified, for example by explaining the wider context and identifying potential solutions.

Some examples of this could be:

- Developing an explanation of how the problem came to exist
- Informing solutions by detailing previous attempts to solve the problem
- Elaborating on the wider impact of the problem beyond the immediate effects identified by UKCES

Employers will be welcome to identify gaps in the evidence and the means to address them. However, research projects will not be invited for every competition.



Development

2. Development – A development project turns understanding of a problem into a model for solving it.

Ideas for solving the problem need refining and developing into concrete, practical steps which employers can take. It is important to explain how taking these steps will solve the problem, and to explain through use of the logic chain any other consequences that implementing the solution might have. For information on how to do this consult the 'Potential for Impact' guidance section.

Applicants are encouraged to offer multiple solutions and develop more than one model. Different models could represent different types of innovation:

- Transformative innovation: involving the development of entirely new products or ways of doing things
- Context-specific innovation: solving a problem by implementing existing practice in a new context

- **Adaptive innovation:** modifying existing practice so that it is better tailored to the specific problem, or adapting existing practice so that it has wider application.

For more information on the types of innovation, please consult the 'Innovation' guidance section.



Piloting

3. Piloting – A pilot project involves implementing a modelled solution, identifying its long-term impact and demonstrating its suitability for wider application.

A pilot project would involve testing solutions in a 'real world' context. We would expect the intended outcome of the intervention to be clearly explained in advance by use of the logic chain (see "Potential for Impact" guidance section.) However, the UK Futures Programme is at heart a learning opportunity. As such, the most important feature of the 'piloting stage' is the ability to clearly evaluate the difference made by the intervention.

For more information, please consult the "Testing and Shared learning" guidance section.

Projects which seek to 'pilot' more than one model provide a strong basis for testing what works through providing a controlled environment. This allows us to establish the difference made by the overall intervention and the importance of particular features of the intervention. For example, a project could test two or more ways of engaging with hard to reach employers to see which is most effective, or test alternative models of refining job design in growing workplaces.



Scaling

4. Scaling – A scaling project takes solutions that we know work, and implements them in a different context.

This could involve taking a successful solution to a particular problem and adapting it to a new context, one that requires little new development or testing.

When scaling a solution, it is important to take account of the new circumstances and to ensure that these do not undermine the effectiveness of the solution.

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This guidance document is 1 of 6 relating to the UK Futures Programme. The guidance documents and all further information about the UK Futures Programme can be found on the following website - www.gov.uk/government/collections/ukces-futures-programme-overview.