



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The report outlines the arrangements for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) and sets out a proposed approach to developing the required Investment Plan by August 2022.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to:
- i. Note work being undertaken to develop the Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan;
 - ii. Approve that the Edinburgh Partnership take on the role of the Local Partnership Group for the development of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability.
 - iii. Agree to review and agree, via email, the proposed recommended funding plan following the assessment of bids, in late July.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 On 13 April 2022 the UK Government published a prospectus for the new [UK SPF](#). As part of the Levelling Up programme, and as a successor to European Union Structural Funds, the SPF plans to invest £2.6bn in projects across the UK between 2022 and 2025.
- 3.2 This paper sets out Edinburgh's conditional allocation from the SPF over this time period, and a proposed approach to development of an investment plan needed to access the funds.
- 3.3 SPF aims to boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards across the UK, closing inequalities in opportunity, health and wellbeing, and improving sense of community, local pride and belonging. The three identified themes in the programme are Community and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills. A number of interventions reflecting this have been listed in the prospectus and all activity needs to define which intervention they attribute to.
- 3.4 As part of the fund allocation, a sum is also earmarked for delivery of Multiply, a national programme to increase numeracy skills in adults.

- 3.5 The Fund can support activity that started from 1 April 2022. All activity should end by March 2025 or have a break clause allowing for closure by March 2025 if required.
- 3.6 All UK areas have received a conditional SPF distribution, and Edinburgh's allocation is set out in Appendix 1. To access this allocation, places need to submit an investment plan for approval by the UK Government by 1st August 2022.
- 3.7 The UK Government have confirmed that extensions to the 1 August deadline will be considered on a case by case basis where local elections and timings of recess have made that timeline difficult to adhere to.

UK SPF Investment Plan

- 3.8 Whilst allocations have been made on a Local Authority level, in Scotland, the SPF "supports delivery through Regional Economic Partnerships, where this is the preference of local areas". In Edinburgh and South-East Scotland, the delivery area described by the SPF prospectus includes: the City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Midlothian, West Lothian, and Fife.
- 3.9 Following conversations with regional partners, the decision has been made that due to the short time frames and local needs, individual investment plans will be submitted for each Local Authority rather than one plan for the region.
- 3.10 Officers are currently working on delivery proposals for Edinburgh but are also continuing conversations with regional partners as to jointly funding regional projects as identified through the Regional Prosperity Framework.
- 3.11 The current approach is to focus on continuing and/or expanding on existing initiatives funded under European Structural Funding in year 1 but to also invite applications from third parties for projects to complement these initiatives. In year 2 and 3 it is envisaged that further third party projects can be funded alongside a number of regional initiatives which are currently in development.
- 3.12 The Council's SPF allocation also includes a minimum of £1,608,217 of capital funding. Consideration has been given as to how this funding could potentially be utilised in line with the investment priorities of the SPF. It is envisaged that this funding could be utilised for investments in keystone community facilities in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Edinburgh that will significantly improve carbon performance; investing in the delivery of new/refurbished business space of which there is presently a structural undersupply, particularly industrial space and flexible space for microbusinesses, in regeneration areas; and strengthening Edinburgh's strategically important technology sector via practical interventions to boost the digital skills of people in Edinburgh and address the undersupply of skilled technology workers. Detail on the proposed utilisation of the capital funding will be set out in the SPF Investment Plan.



- 3.13 A call for applications was made on 21 June 2022. This was distributed to third parties (from the public, voluntary and private sectors), including networks such as EVOC, Edinburgh Social Enterprise network, Chamber of Commerce, Lifelong Learning/Community Learning and Development, Edinburgh Partnership and City Region Deal.
- 3.14 The call requires that projects are aligned to one or more of the UK SPF interventions, clearly evidencing which outcomes and outputs they will achieve. It is also expected that activities will support the priority themes of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan and the Council's Business Plan priorities of Net Zero, Poverty Prevention and Health and Wellbeing. Proposals will need to be clearly developed with a defined costing plan as well as an exit plans for when the funding ends in March 2025.
- 3.15 The submission of proposals opened on 20 June 2022 and will close on 11 July 2022. Proposals will be assessed by a panel which will consist of council officers, members of Edinburgh Partnership and strategic partner organisations.
- 3.16 Recommendations for which proposals to take forward as part of the Investment Plan will be circulated to the Edinburgh Partnership Board via email for review and comment prior to being reported to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee on 4 August 2022.
- 3.17 The delivery programme for Multiply is currently being developed by officers in the Lifelong Learning service.

Governance

- 3.15 While Local Authorities are responsible for the Investment Plan and its delivery, the Prospectus mandates that a Local Partnership Group should be in place to support the development of the Investment Plan and, once plans are approved, to provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability. Members of this group should be "a diverse range of local and regional stakeholders, civil society organisations, employer bodies responsible for identifying local skills plans, and businesses or business representative groups to achieve Fund outcomes in their areas". While MP endorsement is not a pre-requisite for the Investment Plan approval, the Prospectus sets out that engagement with MPs and MSPs is expected.
- 3.16 A series of workshops/engagement sessions have taken place over the last few weeks to get a wide range of views on areas for priority, but it is requested that the Edinburgh Partnership take on the role of the Local Partnership Group, with a separate consultation group for MPs and MSPs established.

4. Contact

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Appendix 1: Edinburgh SPF Allocation

	22-23	23-24	24-25	TOTAL
Core UKSPF	£1,244,788	£2,489,577	£6,522,691	£10,257,056
Revenue	£1,115,330	£2,178,380	£5,355,129	£8,648,839
Capital	£129,458	£311,197	£1,167,562	£1,608,217
MULTIPLY	£647,290	£746,873	£746,873	£2,141,036

SPF Admin*	£49,792	£99,583	£260,908	£410,282
Multiply Admin*	£25,892	£29,875	£29,875	£85,641

* Included in numbers above