

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 8 August 2023

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

Executive/routine
Wards

Routine
All

1. Recommendations

It is recommended that Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the end of financial year report provided to the UK Government and the progress made with UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) programme delivery in Edinburgh;
- 1.2 Notes the underspend on the Multiply programme as a result of a delayed start in delivery and the permission from UK Government to utilise this underspend on interventions in the People and Skills strand of the UK SPF; and
- 1.3 Agrees the recommended additional spend on projects delivering People and Skills Interventions, and feasibility studies under the Regional Prosperity Framework, to ensure that Edinburgh's UK SPF allocation, including Multiply, is fully utilised in 2023/24.

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Report

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides a progress summary of projects which are funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF). The report, which was submitted to the UK Government, covers the period October 2022 – March 2023.
- 2.2 The report also recommends that additional spending under People and Skills Interventions is agreed by Committee in order to utilise an anticipated underspend from the Multiply Programme and that two feasibility projects are funded from the portion of allocation earmarked for Regional Prosperity Framework delivery.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee previously agreed the programme of projects delivering the UK SPF in Edinburgh.
- 3.2 On [1 December 2022](#), Committee agreed that regular reports would provide an update on the progress of UK SPF delivery.

4. Main report

- 4.1 Twenty UK SPF projects began delivery during 2022/23. The first project started in October 2022, with many others starting in January 2023. In addition, some projects had a development and recruitment stage while others were continuing or building on existing work and therefore were able to produce outputs and outcomes quicker.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 shows the outputs and outcomes achieved in 2022/23. Projects have selected the UK SPF outputs and outcomes most relevant to them to report on – therefore not all projects are reporting on all outputs or outcomes.
- 4.3 Projects will continue to report on their selected outputs and outcomes on a quarterly basis. The cumulative outcome and output targets for the three-year Investment Plan are also being reviewed in line with the shortened timeline to ensure they reflect the revised programme of delivery.
- 4.4 In addition to the carbon impact measures in the programme outputs and outcomes, a carbon impact assessment was undertaken by the Council's Sustainability Team. It found that the majority of projects would have a positive environmental impact. Where a short term/limited negative impact was found (generally relating to construction materials), feedback has been offered to projects to mitigate these.

4.5 More broadly, there is an opportunity through to promote awareness of environmental issues and carbon impact throughout the strategic themes. The PMO is in discussion with relevant support organisations with the aim of building in resource-sharing and training for UK SPF-funded projects to upskill organisations and provide opportunities for sharing of best practice. A network event is planned for early autumn and will include content on these topics.

4.6 Expenditure in 2022/23 (Year 1 of the programme) against each theme was:

Priority	Expenditure at end of 2022/23 Financial Year
Communities and Place	£262,507
Local Business	£82,685
People and Skills	£196,911
Multiply	£0.00
Management and Administration	£39,362

4.7 As the full allocation of funding was not used in 2022/23, the progress report submitted to the UK Government requests a carry forward of £713,115 for core UK SPF activities and £647,290 for Multiply.

4.8 The UK Government have given assurance that funds can be carried forward into Year 2 given the programme delays in Year 1, on the condition that robust plans are in place for this to be spent. Formal confirmation of this is expected during summer 2023 once the report submission has been reviewed. Core UK SPF funds for Year 2 (inclusive of underspend) are fully detailed in the agreements to projects and the programme is on track to achieve delivery against expenditure.

4.9 The Multiply programme of activity has been planned and agreed by the Council's Lifelong Learning team and the Edinburgh Community Learning and Development Partnership but capacity has had an impact on delivery. This, combined with wider issues around getting Multiply rolled out nationally, has led the UK Government to confirm that any Multiply underspend from 2022/23 could be carried forward into 2023/24, and/or be spent on interventions under the People and Skills strand.

4.10 Following the LifeLong Learning review, which members have been briefed on separately and which will be reported on to the Culture and Communities Committee on [10 August 2023](#), there are now two adult and learning managers in post who will oversee the Multiply programme, and recruitment is ongoing for a co-ordinator and admin post, with delivery expected to commence in August.

4.11 The total Multiply allocation across 2022/23 and 2023/24 is £1,394,163. Lifelong Learning expect to be able to spend approx. £850,000, meaning there will be an underspend in the Multiply programme of approx. £545,000. As per paragraph 4.9, this can be deployed to broader use under the People and Skills priority area.

4.12 There would not be a sufficient timescale to commission/start up new projects to utilise this underspend, especially given the extensive reporting requirements, so it is recommended that the underspend is used to add capacity to existing projects that are already delivering projects successfully under this strand.

- 4.13 Accordingly, all People and Skills delivery partners were asked to submit proposals for additional in-year capacity. Proposals were reviewed by officers from the Council's Employability and Lifelong Learning teams, Capital City Partnership and NHS Lothian. The review was made against existing delivery within the People and Skills strand, as well as wider Employability delivery in the city. The resulting recommendations can be found Appendix 2.
- 4.14 If Committee agree these recommendations, there is still a remaining underspend of c. £182,600. It is recommended that this is deployed to add capacity to the Vocational Training Framework (VTF) delivery for 2023/24 which is currently in place via No One Left Behind funding. This programme is successfully delivering sector specific and basic skills courses focused on employer demand and there is a need for additional capacity to offer more places to participants requiring support.
- 4.15 As the framework is already in place it can scale up delivery quickly to meet the requirements of programme spend before the end of this financial year, and reporting requirements are similar to UKSPF. Clients would be economically inactive, unemployed and in low income employment, all target areas under People and Skills.
- 4.16 As agreed by Committee in August 2022, UKSPF is supporting Regional Prosperity Framework projects. Two priorities have been identified for delivery in 2023/24, namely feasibility studies for a Net Zero Accelerator Hub and a Climate Risk Opportunity Assessment. These feasibility studies will inform the planned Edinburgh UK SPF spend on these regional projects for 2024/25.
- 4.17 Edinburgh's share of spend on the feasibility studies is £18,775 for the Net Zero Accelerator Hub and £51,000 for the Climate Risk Opportunity Assessment and Committee are asked to agree to deploy part of the allocation earmarked for regional delivery to fund these projects.
- 4.18 Progress on the regional projects and the outcomes of these studies will be reported back to Committee as part of the regular progress updates.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee approves the recommendations of this report:
- 5.1.1 Projects requesting additional funding to deliver additional People and Skills Outcomes and Outputs will be informed of the outcome of their request;
 - 5.1.2 The PMO will work with the projects to update their funding agreements to reflect revised delivery outcomes, outputs and expenditure; and
 - 5.1.3 Officers will liaise with Capital City Partnership to increase the scale of delivery of the Vocational Training Framework for 2023/2024.
- 5.2 The PMO will continue to liaise with projects on the implementation of the Edinburgh programme of delivery, making links across projects, including networking and training sessions.

- 5.3 A further update on progress will be provided to Committee following the next report that is submitted to the UK Government.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The expenditure on this programme has been met by the funding received for UK SPF.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 To support the development of Edinburgh's UK SPF Investment Plan, engagement and promotion activities were held with stakeholders as outlined in previous reports.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus.](#)
- 8.2 UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Levelling Up Fund – Report to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, [23 June 2022.](#)
- 8.3 UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Report to Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee, [4 August 2022.](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – UKSPF Edinburgh Outputs and Outcomes Delivered 2022/2023.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – Recommendations for additional People and Skills Project Delivery for 2023/24.

Appendix 1 – UKSPF Edinburgh Outputs and Outcomes Delivered 2022/2023

Outputs	Oct 22 – Mar 23
Amount of green or blue space created or improved (m2)	15,340
Amount of land made wheelchair accessible/step free (m2)	1,123
Amount of public realm created or improved (m2)	8,998
Amount of rehabilitated land (m2)	8,998
Businesses receiving non-financial support	41
Economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services	29
Economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system	8
Effective working between keyworkers and additional services (number of engagements)	28
Events / participatory programmes	208
Facilities supported /created	11
Feasibility studies supported	2
Households receiving support	19,168
Local events or activities supported	209
Neighbourhood improvements undertaken	11
Number of people reached	19,268
Organisations receiving non-financial support	62
Organisations receiving financial support other than grants	17
People accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment	12
People attending training sessions	47
People receiving support to gain a vocational licence	2
People receiving support to gain employment	25
People receiving support to sustain employment	4
People supported to access basic skills	21
People supported to engage in job-searching	25
People supported to engage in life skills	256
People supported to gain a qualification or complete a course	110
People supported to participate in education	23
People taking part in work experience programmes	43
Rehabilitated premises	11
Socially excluded people accessing support	101
Trees planted	19
Volunteering opportunities supported	655

Outcomes	Oct 22 – Mar 23
Active or sustained participants in community groups as a result of support	9
Businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	3
Community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	3
Early-stage firms which generate or increase their revenue	4
Economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education and training	2
Economically inactive individuals in receipt of benefits they are entitled to following support	13
Greenhouse gas reductions (Tonnes of Co2e)	355
Increased users of facilities/amenities	44
Increased visitor numbers	44
Jobs created	7
Jobs safeguarded	1
New businesses created	1
New or improved community facilities as a result of support	11
Number of R&D active businesses	4
People engaged in job-searching following support	27
People engaged in life skills support following interventions	102
People engaging with mainstream healthcare services	30
People experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	255
People familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	31
People gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	3
People gaining qualifications, licences and skills	2
People in education/training	170
People in employment, including self-employment	8
People reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF	19
People sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	33
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	220

Appendix 2 – Recommendations for additional People and Skills Project Delivery for 2023/24.

Recommendations to fund

Organisation	Project	SI	Category	Budget	Summary
Space @ The Broomhouse Hub	Space The Broomhouse Hub	S40: Support for community learning and development	Support for people to gain basic skills	£27,039	Provide English as a Second Language classes per week from various community groups in South West Edinburgh, helping to promote community cohesion, integration into Scottish society and foster employment and learning outcomes for adults aged 16+
Fresh Start	Fresh Connections	S40: Support for community learning and development	Support for people to gain basic skills	£19,036	Supporting the development of our ESOL activities programme. The programme supports the social integration, language development skills, and employability opportunities of new Scots and Refugees living in the Northwest locality.
Edible Estates CIC	Lend a Hand	S40: Support for community learning and development	Support for people who are 50+ to re-enter the labour market	£34,043	This pilot project “Lend a Hand” will support people over 50 (who are economically inactive) to re-enter the labour market, by providing community-based learning and development opportunities in joinery, horticulture and construction, within community greenspace/growing projects across the city.
Challenges Worldwide	Making Work Work - LEAP (Learning, Employability and Purpose)	S40: Support for community learning and development	Support for people to gain basic skills.	£70,860	LEAP will support ten women facing barriers to employment to return to work through an 8-10 week volunteering placement accompanied by management and leadership training, while in parallel training and supporting 3rd sector organisations in how to find, recruit, and retain this talent through flexible working and positive workplace cultures.

Organisation	Project	SI	Category	Budget	Summary
Space @ The Broomhouse	Vintage Vibes	S33: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.	Support for people to gain basic skills.	£74,777	A 33-week project to build community and office-based volunteering capacity within Edinburgh, creating opportunities that develop skills, confidence and relationships long-term. This project includes both immediate volunteer recruitment, training and support, and building a foundation of activity and collaborations to consistently deliver more city-wide volunteering opportunities past the funding period.
Enable Scotland (Leading the Way)	One Digital (All in Edinburgh)	S34: Intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion.	Support for people to gain basic skills.	£75,000	The Edinburgh Supported Employment Consortium seeks to deliver digital skills courses to clients who have disabilities and health conditions to boost digital inclusion and enhance life skills of Edinburgh's most disadvantaged groups. Topics will include IT confidence, computing skills for employability, managing your money, social media and staying safe online.
Capital City Partnership	MacMillan Skills Hub	S31: Employment support for economically inactive people S37: Green skills courses to ensure we have the skilled workforce to support the Just Transition to a net zero economy	Support for people who are 50+ to re-enter the labour market	£60,000	To extend the current MacMillan Skills Hub capacity to reach out and engage with additional people who are economically inactive. We will also run a 50+ Transferable Skills Academy and a Green Skills Academy with employers offering a guaranteed interview. The latter will link into the Green Freeport vision.

Organisation	Project	SI	Category	Budget	Summary
Networking Key Services Limited (NKS)	Communities Empowered	S31: Employment support for economically inactive people	Support for people who are 50+ to re-enter the labour market	£23,650.00	South Asian individuals aspiring to gain employment or join further studies for increased chances in the job market will be supported with digital learning and English conversation to enhance their basic career skills. Individuals will be supported one to one, to improve their digital and English-speaking skills and increased access to labour market.
Cyrenians	Cook School	S40: Support for community learning and development	Support for people who are 50+ to re-enter the labour market	£51,935	We will support people who are unemployed and who are homeless or with experience of homelessness to gain skills, experience and qualifications in food hygiene and preparation. 60% of participants are expected to be aged 50+.
			Total	£361,563.72	

Not recommended for funding

Organisation	Project	SI	Budget	Summary	Reason
Edible Estates CIC	Growing Youth	S40: Support for community learning and development	£34,043	Participants will learn about horticulture, joinery and/or landscaping whilst contributing to the construction or renovation of community gardens across Edinburgh.	Projects for young people are currently experiencing low numbers at the moment so there is capacity in existing funded provision
People Know How	Reconnect Digital Community Support	S40: Support for community learning and development	£45,465	Deliver digital community support to elderly people, enabling more people to learn how to use the internet cost-effectively, securely and confidently. Access affordable devices/data packages	Project focusses on delivery to the elderly so does not fit with the People and Skills criteria of supporting clients into employment
Southside Community Centre	Southside Community Centre	S33: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.	£69,934.50	Using the therapeutic power of art and nature, Southside Community Centre will deliver trauma-informed, skills-sharing programs to 25 hard-to-reach, economically-inactive individuals from the mental-health community. Immersion learning activities, spanning music, art, nature, and cultural heritage will provide skills while improving well-being and recovery.	Project does not meet People and Skills criteria of supporting clients into employment
Volunteer Centre	Bespoke Youth Volunteering	S33: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.	£18,928	Support for excluded and disadvantaged young people to explore and engage in volunteering which supports their personal development and improves their well-being, confidence, and employability skills.	Projects for young people are currently experiencing low numbers at the moment so there is capacity in existing funded provision

Organisation	Project	SI	Budget	Summary	Reason
Cyrenians	Key to Future	S33: Activities such as enrichment and volunteering to improve opportunities and promote wellbeing.	£75,000	An early intervention project for young people aged 14 – 17 living in Edinburgh who have already, or are at high risk of, disengaging from school and at high risk of offending. Also offering support offers to sixteen-year-old non-attenders and their families as they transition from school.	A significant proportion of the client group for this programme are under 16 and therefore out of scope for the People and Skills theme; duplication with Activity Agreement programme
Barnardo's	Barnardo's BEST/Explore	S31: Employment support for economically inactive people	£59,900	Increase capacity of existing employability programmes to meet demand, engaging economically inactive young people.	Projects for young people are currently experiencing low numbers at the moment so there is capacity in existing funded provision
Enable	All in Edinburgh	S31: Employment support for economically inactive people: Intensive and wrap-around one-to-one support to move people closer towards mainstream provision and employment, supplemented by additional and/or specialist life and basic skills (digital, English, maths and ESOL) support where there are local provision gaps.	£75,000	The Edinburgh Supported Employment Consortium (ESEC) seek to expand their successful All in Edinburgh supported employment service in order to support an additional 24 economically inactive clients across the authority and delivering increased jobs and welfare rights support for those clients furthest removed from the labour market.	This application had no detail on how they will get additional clients from whom they are currently working with. It is therefore unclear that there is a need for this additional funding.