

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 9 March 2023

## UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

Executive/routine  
Wards

Executive  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- 1.1.1 Notes that UK Government have now approved Edinburgh's UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan and confirmed the previously announced Edinburgh allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for 2022/23;
  - 1.1.2 Notes the progress made confirming funding to successful projects so that they can progress with project delivery;
  - 1.1.3 Agrees that the funding intended for the one project, that has withdrawn from delivery, is reallocated to regional activities (in line with the previously agreed plan for surplus funding); and
  - 1.1.4 Notes the ongoing sign off process for the Regional Prosperity Framework Delivery Plan and the intention to align funding with the projects agreed in the Delivery Plan.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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# Report

## UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

### 2. Executive Summary

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2.1 This report provides an update on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) in Edinburgh following the confirmation of funding from UK Government.

### 3. Background

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3.1 On [13 April 2022](#), the UK Government published a prospectus for the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund. As part of the Levelling Up programme, and as a successor to European Union Structural Funds, the fund proposed that local interventions should be focussed across three investment themes - Community and Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.

3.2 A national adult numeracy programme “Multiply” is also being funded through UK SPF and the Edinburgh Multiply programme is being delivered by officers in Education and Children’s Services.

3.3 Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee have previously agreed the approach to be taken when delivering the UK SPF in Edinburgh and the 32 projects which would be allocated funding following an open bid process in June 2022.

3.4 On [1 December 2022](#), Committee agreed that regular reports would be provided updating on the progress of UK SPF delivery.

### 4. Main report

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4.1 UK Government confirmed Edinburgh’s UK SPF allocation for 2022/23 on 6 December 2022 and an acceptance was sent on 7 December 2022.

4.2 UK Government have also approved Edinburgh’s UK SPF Investment Plan and confirmed they are happy with the intended activities, outcomes and outputs of the programme planned for delivery up to 31 March 2025.

4.3 Approved projects have now had confirmation of their funding allocation for 2022/23 and 2023-25, subject to UK Government funding confirmation in due course.

4.4 31 projects are now progressing with project delivery and one project (ACE IT) has chosen to withdraw their project from the programme due to a restructure of their organisation. Officers have considered other projects offering digital skills and are confident that the intended activities of ACE IT (digital skills delivery for over 50’s)

can be supported by these other programmes, with additional support from the Programme Management Office. It is therefore recommended that the unused funding from the Ace IT project (£139,800) is reinvested into the funding available for Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF) activities for Edinburgh.

- 4.5 The RPF Delivery Plan is currently being considered by the Local Authorities within the Region and the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal Joint Committee. Once that plan is signed off, work will be carried out to ensure that the SPF funding is aligned with the RPF Delivery Plan.
- 4.6 Due to the delayed confirmation of funding nationally, the reporting schedule from UK Government has been amended and the first report on activities will now be submitted to UK Government at the end of March 2023, with details on further requirements to be confirmed shortly.
- 4.7 UK Government have also confirmed that, due to the delays in confirmation of funding, there will be a one-off possibility to carry forward unspent 2022/23 funding into next financial year, on the condition that a clear and detailed plan is provided for how the underspend will be used in 2023/24. It is anticipated that the funding will be added to providers' allocations in 2023/24.
- 4.8 A UK SPF Grants Manager has been recruited for the Programme Management Office in Edinburgh. The Manager is employed by Capital City Partnership and will work alongside the contract managers supporting other Council funded projects, to monitor and oversee the daily running of the programme.
- 4.9 In addition, the Council's Sustainability Team have been consulted about the carbon impact assessment of SPF activities and have agreed to support funded projects to carry out carbon impact assessments (CIA), where required, to ensure there is consistency with future reporting. Due to the delays in funding, it is anticipated that all capital funded projects will start in 2023/24 at the earliest, which will allow time for CIAs to be completed.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Council Officers and the Grants Manager will continue to liaise with providers and pull together information required for UK Government reporting purposes, including the plan for any underspent 2022/23 funding.
- 5.2 A further update on delivery and a copy of the report submitted to UK Government will be provided at the next committee.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 No additional costs to the Council are expected for the delivery of programmes outlined in this paper.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 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**

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8.1 [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#),

## **9. Appendices**

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9.1 None.