

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 5 December 2023

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
All

1. Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Notes the six-month report provided to the UK Government and the progress made with UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) programme delivery in Edinburgh;
 - 1.1.2 Notes that the People and Skills projects which were allocated funding from the underspent 2022/23 Multiply allocation have commenced delivery;
 - 1.1.3 Agrees to allocate £130,415 on five projects under the Regional Prosperity Framework (RPF)'s Visitor Economy & Culture Delivery Programme, as detailed in Appendix 2;
 - 1.1.4 Agrees to reallocate the remaining capital funds which had been earmarked for RPF project delivery to deliver Council-led projects which align with the UK SPF criteria and can be completed within the timescales required;
 - 1.1.5 Agrees to reallocate the remaining revenue funds which had been earmarked for RPF project delivery to boost existing projects delivering under Edinburgh's UK SPF programme; and

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: Elin Williamson, Head of Business Growth and Inclusion

E-mail: elin.williamson@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0751 348 4817

1.1.6 Notes that a report will be submitted to Committee in February 2024, further detailing recommendations for the spend of the reallocated funds.

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 covers activity during the period 1 April – 30 September 2023.
- 2.2 This report also makes recommendations for allocation of the funds earmarked for delivering projects aligned with the Regional Prosperity Fund (RPF).

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.
- 3.3 As [agreed](#) by Committee on 4 August 2022, UK SPF is supporting RPF projects and all unallocated funds in 2024/25 were earmarked for delivery of these. On 8 August 2023, Committee [agreed](#) to fund feasibility studies for a Net Zero Accelerator Hub and a Climate Risk Opportunity Assessment.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The outputs and outcomes of the UK SPF framework have been set out in the [guidance](#) for the programme.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 shows the outputs and outcomes achieved in Edinburgh for the period April to October 2023.
- 4.3 Outputs and outcomes are self-selected by the projects and are chosen to reflect their relevance to the project. The information gathered only reflects the actual outputs and outcomes achieved within the reporting period, therefore these will not reflect the totality of the action progressed in each reporting period. This means that some outputs might be reported once, and then there will be no further updates, e.g. the amount of rehabilitated land might only appear once, if the action was to

create a garden - once the garden has been created, there will be no further activity on this.

- 4.4 Some outputs are only available under certain interventions, according to the UKSPF framework, and will therefore only be reported on by projects delivering under that intervention. For example, 'People Reached' will only be reported on under certain interventions and therefore will only reflect the projects which specifically have a target under this.
- 4.5 The outputs may also vary depending on the type of project. A website or marketing initiative will, naturally, have wider reach than a skills project.
- 4.6 Projects will continue to report quarterly on the outputs and outcomes achieved and these will continue to be monitored throughout the duration of the programme so that the cumulative impact for the three-year Investment Plan is captured.
- 4.7 The cumulative targets for the Investment Plan are also being reviewed in line with the shortened timeline to ensure they reflect the revised programme of delivery.
- 4.8 As UK SPF programme delivery is now properly underway, Capital City Partnership (CCP) has launched [a website](#) to provide further insight into the various projects and an opportunity for providers to showcase their activities.
- 4.9 Expenditure in the first six months of 2023/24 against each theme was:

Priority	Expenditure As at 30 September 2023
Communities and Place	£721,345
Local Business	£291,653
People and Skills	£1,026,996
Multiply	£5,152
Management and Administration	£52,270

- 4.10 Expenditure has been allocated against the lead priority as selected by projects, however activity may span across one, two or all three priorities.
- 4.11 As agreed by Committee on 8 August 2023, the anticipated underspend in the carried forward 2022/23 Multiply allocation has been reallocated to projects delivering interventions within the People and Skills strand and delivery has commenced. The two feasibility studies under RPF have commenced, with the Edinburgh contribution to be made in 2024/25.
- 4.12 Work has been ongoing to develop additional projects under RPF and Appendix 2 details an additional five projects from the Visitor Economy & Culture Delivery Programme which have been put forward for funding. The total cost for these projects would be £400,000 with the contribution from Edinburgh being £130,415.
- 4.13 Two projects decided to withdraw from the programme before commencing delivery, for reasons unrelated to the UKSPF. This means that there is currently, assuming the recommendations in Appendix 2 are agreed, around £560,000 of capital spend

and £230,000 of revenue spend in the 2024/25 allocation of SPF which is not committed.

- 4.14 Given the long lead in time for capital projects, it is unlikely that any RPF projects will be ready in time to commence in 2024/25 and so it is recommended that the capital element of the funding earmarked for RPF projects is dedicated to projects led and driven by the Council's Place Directorate. Work would commence with the different service areas to identify suitable projects that will meet the UK SPF criteria, and can be completed within 2024/25, and bring these back to Committee for approval in February 2024.
- 4.15 As there are currently no other projects being proposed for delivery under RPF, it is recommended that the revenue element earmarked for this is reallocated to boost existing projects who are performing well and have capacity to increase delivery. Officers will review the current projects, including those which were introduced within the People and Skills strand with the reallocated Multiply underspend, and bring a recommendation to Committee for approval in February 2024.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee agree the recommendations in this report, a report will be submitted to Committee in February 2024, making recommendations for the unallocated £560,000 capital funding and £230,000 revenue funding.
- 5.2 The Programme Management Office (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 All expenditure on this programme has been met by the funding received for UK SPF.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 The Shared Prosperity Fund is part of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and Edinburgh's Investment Plan was designed specifically to complement the Council's Business Plan priorities of Net Zero, Ending Poverty and Creating good places to live and work.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 The impacts of this report have been considered in relation to the three elements of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties requiring public bodies to contribute to climate change mitigation and to climate change adaptation, and to act sustainably. Relevant Council sustainable development policies have also been considered.
- 8.2 There are no direct negative impacts in the effects of climate change or improving the resilience to the effects of climate change as a result of this report.
- 8.3 There are no direct nature emergency implications as a result of this report.
- 8.4 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. The assessment of projects highlights the following key considerations:
 - 8.4.1 Capital projects will ensure that any construction has energy efficiency in mind; Projects involving capital works will submit plans to the UK SPF PMO to outline the environmental impact;
 - 8.4.2 Projects that are already in design or build phase are very proactive in this area, including the new Bike Station in Gorgie and the new building for the Spartans Community Foundation youth work;
 - 8.4.3 The Forever Edinburgh marketing campaign will promote low-carbon transport modes; and
 - 8.4.4 The Chamber of Commerce's project is dedicated to supporting businesses towards Net Zero.
- 8.5 The projects delivered in Edinburgh through UK SPF help achieve a sustainable Edinburgh primarily by improving the areas of social justice, economic wellbeing and a just transition to a sustainable economy. By supporting local employment opportunities in local businesses and helping people into positive destinations there is a positive impact on inclusion, employment and training, and shared prosperity.
- 8.6 More broadly, there is an opportunity through UK SPF to promote awareness of environmental issues and carbon impact throughout the strategic themes. As well as being an important focus for the Council, Net Zero and nature recovery is also a cross-cutting theme in the UK SPF framework.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 To support the development of the investment plan, engagement and promotion activities with stakeholders included online sessions with potential applicants attended by almost 100 participants (the majority of which were from Third Sector or community groups); information and engagement sessions with Council elected members, local MPs and MSPs and the Edinburgh Partnership;

10. Background reading/external references

10.1 None

11. Appendices

11.1 Appendix 1 - UKSPF Edinburgh Outputs and Outcomes Delivered April – October 2023.

11.2 Appendix 2 - Regional Prosperity Framework projects recommended for funding.

Appendix 1: UKSPF Edinburgh Outputs and Outcomes Delivered April – October 2023

UKSPF Output	Delivery
Amount of green or blue space created or improved (m2)	3,471
Amount of land made wheelchair accessible/step free (m2)	1,090
Businesses receiving non-financial support	53
Commercial buildings developed or improved	1
Economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services	32
Economically inactive people supported to engage with the benefits system	28
Effective working between keyworkers and additional services	7
Events/participatory programmes	164
Facilities supported / created	7
Feasibility studies supported	6
Households receiving support	12,318
Households supported to take up energy efficiency measures	137
Improved engagement numbers	3
Local events or activities supported	710
Low or zero-carbon energy infrastructure installed	2
Neighbourhood improvements undertaken	8
Number of projects	19
Organisations receiving non-financial support	391
People accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment	65
People attending training sessions	230
People reached	176,447
People receiving support to gain a vocational licence	3
People receiving support to gain employment	293
People receiving support to sustain employment	32
People supported onto a course through providing financial support	20
People supported to access basic skills courses	84
People supported to engage in job-searching	153
People supported to engage in life skills	2,202
People supported to gain a qualification or complete a course	1,980
People supported to participate in education	61
People taking part in work experience programmes	19
Potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready	67
Rehabilitated premises	1
Socially excluded people accessing support	320
Trees planted	5
Volunteering opportunities supported	1,819

UKSPF Outcome	Delivery
Active or sustained participants in community groups as a result of support	5
Businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	3
Community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support	20
Early-stage firms which generate or increase their revenue	4
Economically active individuals engaged in mainstream skills education and training	44
Economically inactive people receiving benefits they are entitled to following support	11
Greenhouse gas reductions (Tonnes of Co2e)	682
Improved engagement numbers	783
Improved perceived/experienced accessibility (number of people)	146
Improved perception of events (number of people)	219
Improved perception of facilities/amenities	247
Increased affordability of events/entry (Affordability in £)	12
Increased number of innovation-active SMEs	2
Increased take-up of energy efficiency measures (number of households)	10
Increased users of facilities/amenities	157
Increased visitor numbers	51
Jobs created	12
New businesses created	16
New or improved community facilities as a result of support	35
Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes	3
Number of R&D active businesses	4
Organisations engaged in new knowledge transfer activity	67
People engaged in job-searching following support	18
People engaged in life skills support following interventions	907
People engaging with mainstream healthcare services	30
People experiencing reduced structural barriers into employment and into skills provision	210
People familiarised with employers' expectations, including, standards of behaviour in the workplace	159
People gaining a qualification or completing a course following support	8
People gaining qualifications, licences and skills	36
People in employment, including self-employment, following support	69
People reporting increased employability through development of interpersonal skills funded by UKSPF	29
People sustaining engagement with keyworker support and additional services	13
Projects arising from funded feasibility studies	3
Volunteering numbers as a result of support	673

Appendix 2: Regional Prosperity Framework projects to be funded under SPF

Project	Lead org.	Studies	Timescale	Cost
Regional Net Zero Accelerator Hub (Agreed)	West Lothian College	This funding is for the delivery of a Net Zero Accelerator Hub (NZAH) feasibility study. The study will undertake the initial preparation, skills mapping, and planning stage in the NZAH development, with supply-side work being undertaken at West Lothian, Borders, Edinburgh, and Fife Colleges. Additionally architectural plans will be produced, and the University of Edinburgh will provide a demand analysis based on the expected Net Zero activity taking place in the six Local Authorities in the ESES City Region Deal area.	Completed by: 31 July 2024	Total cost - £112,650 Edinburgh contribution: £18,775
Regional Climate Risk & Opportunity Assessment (Agreed)	Sniffer	Sniffer will deliver a Climate Risk and Opportunity Assessment for the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region. It will provide detailed evidence of climate risks and will include an economic assessment of risks and extensive public engagement. The assessment will enable the six local authority partners to identify priority actions to address climate risks.	Completed by: 31 March 2025	Total cost - £306,000 Edinburgh contribution: £51,000
Visitor Economy & Culture Delivery Programme: <u>Data</u>	Visit Scotland	In partnership with DDI Smart Data Foundry, this funding will use a DDI-Led approach to visitor economy destination management. This project will harness detailed data analysis of visitor behaviour during the Edinburgh Festivals season, providing actionable insights to enhance regional infrastructure, policy planning, and economic opportunities, laying a foundational framework for the future establishment of a comprehensive Regional Visitor Economy Data Hub.	Estimated duration: 18 months Expected start date: Q4 2023	Total cost - £25,000 Edinburgh contribution: £4,166

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E-mail: elin.williamson@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0751 348 4817

Project	Lead org.	Studies	Timescale	Cost
Visitor Economy & Culture Delivery Programme: <u>Culture</u>		Through two key workstreams, Creative Ambition and Accessible Arts, this project aims to support and promote the region's cultural assets through the development of a new creative content and touring network for live arts across the ESES region. This project will develop sustainable forms of culture and tourism where more of the benefits are retained and magnified within the region, supporting recovery of the regional creative industries workforce and infrastructure.	Estimated duration: 24 months Expected start date: Q4 2023	Total cost - £40,000 Edinburgh contribution: £6,666
Visitor Economy & Culture Delivery Programme: <u>Cycle Tourism</u>		This project will develop a cycle tourism strategic vision and undertake a feasibility study on the opportunities for developing cycle tourism in Edinburgh and the South East Scotland region, drawing upon existing plans and research in relation to active travel, mobility, and infrastructure needs. Based upon the outcomes and recommendations, a destination development plan will be developed with associated business cases, and a programme of capital/revenue work undertaken to bring to life the ambitions of becoming a leading destination for cycling holidays.	Estimated duration: 12-18 months Expected start date: Q4 2023	Total cost - £65,000 Edinburgh contribution: £16,250
Visitor Economy & Culture Delivery Programme: <u>Cruise Management Strategy</u>		With an anticipated threefold increase in cruise visitors expected by 2024, totalling over 246,000 passengers, the regional Cruise Management Strategy is an initiative designed to enhance the management of these visitors. Its primary goal is not to attract more cruise ships but rather to implement effective measures for visitor management. By doing so, it aims to maximise the benefits of tourism for the region, ensuring that the influx of cruise passengers contributes positively to the region's economy and culture.	Estimated duration: 12-18 months Expected start date: Q1 2024	Total cost - £50,000 Edinburgh contribution: £8,333
Visitor Economy & Culture	Fife Council	This project will restore three existing gateway signs as well as see the erection of eight free-standing directional signs and three fence-mounted directional signs across the Forth Bridge corridor.	Completed by 31 March 2025	Total cost - £220,000

Project	Lead org.	Studies	Timescale	Cost
Delivery Programme: Forth Bridges Area Tourism Strategy Delivery		<p>The outcomes of this project are expected to promote sustainable tourism and active travel, improve public transport connectivity, highlight local identity and sense of place, improve the impact and experience of the Forth Bridges Tourism Trail and increase visitor numbers.</p> <p>Due to the location of the signs and the capital nature of the investment, only Fife Council and Edinburgh Council are requested to fund this aspect of the programme.</p>		Edinburgh contribution: £95,000
Total:				Total project costs: £818,650 Edinburgh contribution: £200,190