

Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 27 February 2024

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
All

1. Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Committee agree the recommendations, as set out in Appendices 1 and 2, for the reallocation of UK Shared Prosperity funds from Regional Prosperity Framework delivery.

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UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report responds to Committee's request to reallocate funds previously earmarked for delivering projects aligned with the Regional Prosperity Fund (RPF) and makes recommendations of projects to fund.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 4 August 2022, Committee [agreed](#) the programme of projects delivering the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) in Edinburgh. This included allocating funds for the delivery of projects aligned with the RPF so all unallocated funds in 2024/25 were earmarked for this purpose, awaiting confirmation of projects.
- 3.2 On 8 August 2023, Committee [agreed](#) to fund feasibility studies for a Net Zero Accelerator Hub and a Climate Risk Opportunity Assessment and on 5 December 2023 Committee also [agreed](#) to fund five projects under the Visitor Economy and Culture Delivery Programme.
- 3.3 In December 2023, it was also agreed to reallocate the remaining funding to ensure that it could be utilised before the end of the funding period:
- 3.3.1 Revenue funds which had been earmarked for RPF project delivery would be reallocated to boost existing projects delivering under Edinburgh's UK SPF programme; and
- 3.3.2 Capital funds which had been earmarked for RPF project delivery would be reallocated to deliver Council-led projects which can be completed within the timescales required on projects related to net zero, climate adaptation and nature recovery.
- 3.4 Committee requested that an additional update report be presented in February to make recommendations on the capital projects to be funded and to clearly outline how the projects selected deliver against the various workplans/strategies which fall under the remit of the Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Council's Sustainability Team was consulted for recommendations on where the capital investment would be most likely to be effectively implemented and what the sums would be required (Appendix 1).
- 4.2 The projects identified support the objectives of the Council's Emission Reduction Plan, Biodiversity Action Plan, Thriving Green Spaces Strategy and Climate Strategy. They align directly with the objectives of the Net Zero Edinburgh Leadership Board which seeks to tackle both the climate and nature emergencies simultaneously. Feedback from the identified projects will be shared with the Board and Climate Compact members to enable potential additional collaboration opportunities to be unlocked and best practice to be shared.
- 4.3 With regards to the unallocated revenue funding, a review has been performed of the projects currently delivering under UKSPF and where projects are currently performing well and have scope for expansion/extension, recommendations to that effect have been made in Appendix 2.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee agree the recommendations in this report, the Programme Management Office (PMO) will liaise with projects on the implementation of delivery and making links across projects, including networking and training sessions.
- 5.2 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 is met from 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.
- 7.2 The projects delivered in Edinburgh through UK SPF help achieve a just transition in Edinburgh primarily by improving the areas of social justice, economic wellbeing and 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. 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 will be undertaken for each capital project.
- 8.5 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); together with 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

Appendix 1: Recommendations for reallocated Capital funding.

Appendix 2: Recommendations for reallocated Revenue funding.

Appendix 1: Recommendations for reallocated Capital funding

Sector	Proposal	UKSPF Investment Priority	Description	Amount
Parks & Green spaces / Nature	Increase and improve biodiversity of Living Landscapes	Communities and Place	Increase the amount for Living Landscape and altering existing maintenance standards will require a change of machinery types (introduce more flail cutting decks for ride-on machines and tractor spearhead cutters). Also include machinery purchase (electric where possible) for the continuation and expansion of meadow areas.	£180,000
Parks & Green spaces / Nature	Stop Glyphosate use	Communities and Place	As per (Transport and Environment) committee approval, introduce mechanical edging of paths and edges across estate to stop all glyphosate use. Funding required for machinery purchase.	£90,000
Parks & Green spaces / Nature	Electrical utilities (parks)	Communities and Place	Install event electrical utilities to reduce the use of diesel generators in our city and provide clean power for event and community use. Estimated cost is for 2 sites.	£100,000
Transport	Replacement of small equipment with electrical alternatives	Communities and Place	Electric alternatives for small equipment (chainsaws, blowers, lawn mowers etc) have a higher upfront cost (50% increase) but lower running costs. They improve health and safety for operators (noise reduction, no harmful pollutants during use etc). This is a commitment in the CERP: "F9. Commit to replace equipment such as lawnmowers and chainsaws with non-fossil fuel alternatives when appropriate". £15k already allocated from Net Zero community budget but more budget would help replace more equipment	£138,529
Transport	Pool bikes / e-bikes / cargo bikes	Communities and Place	Purchase of 2 four-wheeled cargo bikes (EAV) for use by the parks team in Princes Street Gardens and a potential other service (e.g. street cleansing) + purchase of 1 conventional cargo bike (one for Kindergarten use and one as a shared bike located in a Council building for business travel). Costs include accessories, locks, panniers, branding etc.	£50,000
Total:				£558,529

Appendix 2: Recommendations for reallocated Revenue funding

Organisation	Project	UKSPF Investment Priority	Description	Amount
Space and Lifecare	Volunteering Vibes New accessible website	Communities and Place	Vintage Vibes is funded through UKSPF to support isolated older people across Edinburgh, pairing them with volunteer befrienders and running engaging activities and events. Additional funding was agreed for Volunteer Vibes, which is a drive to increase the number of volunteers within the project through developing new marketing, enhancing the support infrastructure for volunteers, and creating more varied voluntary roles within the organisation. Both projects have been very successful. Additional funding is now required to develop a new website to support this strategy. It will have a focus on accessibility, signposting and making the volunteering process as barrier free as possible. Funds will support collaborating with an accessible communication charity, creating engaging content and running community-led focus groups to develop the site. Vintage Vibes have already demonstrated significant learning because of the Volunteer Vibes initiative and work in a collaborative manner to ensure this is shared with others in the third sector. This approach would continue in the context of the website development.	£12,000
People Know How	Digital Inclusion Boost	People and Skills	People Know How is funded through UKSPF to deliver digital inclusion support across Edinburgh. They have been continuing to develop partnerships with support services across the city to ensure that digital inclusion is embedded in local communities. Support is tailored to meet varying levels of digital skills and to be able to respond to a variety of needs such as disability or language barriers. Client numbers have consistently been high and there is growing demand both from existing groups and other agencies in the City who would like to partner with People Know How to establish new groups. The additional funding will enable this extra capacity.	£50,000
Chamber of Commerce & Everyone's Edinburgh	BCorp500	Supporting Local Business	UKSPF funds Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce to support small and medium businesses on the journey to Net Zero. Everyone's Edinburgh received a small amount of funding to carry out research to understand how businesses in Edinburgh can be supported to consider and pursue being businesses of purpose who pursue inclusion and sustainability alongside their profit-focussed activities. As a result of these pieces of work, an ambition has developed to support businesses in Edinburgh to become certified B Corporations (B Corps); companies verified by B Lab to meet high standards of social and environmental performance, transparency and accountability. This initial funding would help to lay the groundwork to support 500 Edinburgh businesses to become BCORPs. With only 2,350 BCORPs in the UK currently, this is an ambitious and long-term goal that could	£65,000

			be transformative for the city, having a significant impact on fair work practices as well as the environment.	
Networking Key Services	One-to-one digital support	People and Skills	Networking Key Services (NKS) are funded by UKSPF to deliver holistic support for those from South-Asian communities. They received additional funding for six months to provide one-to-one digital support. Digital skills are important for access to basic services, but also are supporting many participants to progress into education and work. The digital support very quickly became fully subscribed. The additional funds will allow the digital support to continue for a further 12 months.	£40,000
Capital City Partnership	Macmillan Hub for the Forth Green Freeport	Supporting Local Business	Capital City Partnership is funded to provide the Macmillan Hub, a local corridor of employability support in an area of high deprivation in the north of Edinburgh with a focus on connecting with the Waterfront development regeneration. Since the establishment of the Hub, plans for the Forth Green Freeport have been confirmed, which will lead to new jobs in Leith. Additional funding will create a new strategic arm of the Macmillan Hub, designed specifically to focus on engaging with employers connected to the Freeport development. As part of this initiative, the Hub will also work closely with partners to establish and strengthen education and training pathways that enable local people to benefit from the opportunities emerging as the Freeport grows.	£50,000
Challenges Group	Making Work Work and Development of LEAP programme	People and Skills	The Challenges Group is funded to run Making Work Work, which is an 8-week structured learning programme for women returning to the workplace after a career break. The project received additional funding to pilot the new Learning Employability and Purpose (LEAP) programme, which offers an 8 - 10 week volunteering placement alongside management training. The project has consistently exceeded targets and has been very successful at supporting women into positive destinations, with the majority moving into work. This additional grant will extend capacity to allow for an extra cohort of 15 women to complete the Making Work Work programme in the coming year.	£25,000
TOTAL:				£242,000