

Appendix 3: UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 – Extracts from Projects Recommended for Approval

Aberdeen Deeside Rotary Trust - All ability Wheelchair Swing Project - £13,000.00

Aberdeen, population circa 214,000, is Scotland's third largest city. It is served by NHS Grampian which has over 9000 wheelchair users -- a large proportion of these being children and young adults. There is currently no wheelchair accessible swing equipment in any public park in Aberdeen.

Following discussions with Aberdeen City Council, the Rotary Club of Aberdeen Deeside Trust, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Aberdeen Bon Accord, have agreed to raise £24,000 to purchase and install an Ability Wheelchair swing in Duthie Park as part of the planned upgrade to the play area. The Council has undertaken to maintain the swing post installation. The swing will enhance opportunities and allow wheelchair dependent people access to an activity many take for granted, improving well-being, inclusivity, and fuller participation in park activities.

Aberdeen Inspired - Aberdeen City Centre Property and Retail Strategy - £39,000.00

Aberdeen Inspired is seeking funding to commission a leading retail insights firm to produce an Aberdeen City Centre Retail and Property Strategy. This comprehensive review will assess the current health of retail property in Aberdeen's city centre and create an actionable plan to understand existing gaps, identify viable investment prospects, and enhance the retail offering. The strategy will focus on optimising property utilisation and delivering a more vibrant, resilient occupier mix for the city.

The project will conduct catchment demand analysis, geodemographic data collection, and competitor benchmarking to understand consumer patterns, spend leakage, and market saturation. This knowledge will help determine how vacant spaces can be repurposed to improve the city centre and better serve local and regional consumer markets.

Aberdeen Performing Arts - Building Management System Upgrade – HMT Project - £48,895.00

Aberdeen Performing Arts seeks funding to upgrade the Building Management System (BMS) at His Majesty's Theatre to ensure efficient operation of the building. Currently, the BMS panels operate independently, but with the planned upgrades, they can be managed centrally and operate more energy efficiently. The upgrades will cover multiple areas including the boiler house, auditorium, dress rooms, foyers, and bars.

Independent site audits have identified the BMS upgrade as beneficial for sustainability and cost reduction. Through implementing these changes, the organisation will reduce emissions and operating costs, allowing for further

improvements to venues, buildings, and programming while preparing for future cost increases.

Aberdeen Science Centre - Community Engagement and Accessibility project - £73,198.00

Aberdeen Science Centre seeks support for their Community Engagement Programme and new accessibility initiatives. This programme connects underserved individuals in Aberdeen with STEM learning opportunities to enhance skills, knowledge, and raise aspirations. The project aims to directly impact around 1,155 individuals through community engagement and 2,950 through accessibility initiatives.

The programme includes community STEM engagement sessions, tailored group visits, quiet sessions, sensory space improvements, and visual communication tools. By targeting underrepresented groups and providing hands-on workshops, the project helps develop both STEM and life skills while challenging preconceptions about who can engage with STEM subjects.

Aberdeen City Council – Increasing Opportunities for Young People - £40,330.00

The proposal seeks funding to recruit two youth workers for Aberdeen City Centre to engage with young people, develop educational and recreational opportunities, identify safe spaces, and collaborate with partners, aiming to make the city centre safer, reduce antisocial behaviour, and support vulnerable youth.

This project delivers on the UKSPF Communities and Place interventions by improving the city-centre for young people and stakeholders. Young people will feel safer and their needs will be listened and responded to by service providers. Opportunities for young people to engage positively with adults will have positive outcomes such as young people being supported directly by youth workers or signposted to relevant services; challenging behaviour being addressed; increased educational and recreational activities in city-centre spaces and vulnerable young people being diverted from risk-taking behaviour.

This project will meet the Communities and Place objectives by strengthening social fabric and building resilient, healthy and safe neighbourhoods.

Alcohol and Drugs Action - Family Harm Reduction/Recovery Support - £19,801.41

The Family Harm Reduction/Recovery Project targets family members who support loved ones with substance use issues across Aberdeen City. The project aims to increase awareness about reducing drug-related harm, increase the availability of Naloxone alongside practical harm reduction tools, develop recovery-focused support for family members, and build capacity through accessible resources designed to aid self-learning and peer-led volunteering.

The project will develop various media formats and resources, integrate with existing resources like the 'Aberdeen Protects' app, utilise opportunities via community-based events, and co-design with lived experience involvement. This vital investment will enable new community-level approaches to tackling a major health priority within Aberdeen City, creating a legacy that can be sustained beyond the initial funding cycle.

Aberdeen City Council – Bucksburn Swimming Pool - £173,140.00

The Bucksburn Swimming Pool Recommissioning Project focuses on bringing a vital community asset back into public use following its closure. This project will undertake comprehensive improvements to the facility to create an accessible, energy-efficient, and modern swimming pool that serves the local community and contributes to health, wellbeing, and social cohesion in the area.

The project includes: Creation of an enlarged, fully accessible changing room with direct access from reception to the pool hall, significantly improving accessibility for disabled users; Internal fabric repairs to address deterioration and improve the user experience; and installation of new fixtures, fittings, and equipment to modernise the facility

The project will directly benefit:

- Local residents of all ages, particularly children, families, and older adults who rely on the pool for exercise and recreation;
- Schools and community groups who use the facility for swimming lessons and activities;
- Individuals with disabilities who will benefit from enhanced accessibility features;
- The wider community through improved health outcomes, increased social connections, and enhanced community pride

The recommissioned facility will provide a safe, accessible, and sustainable swimming venue that promotes physical activity, improves wellbeing, and strengthens community bonds in the Bucksburn area and beyond.

Befriend a Child - Family Support Project - £19,152.50

The funding will deliver a Family Support Project to 40 parents and carers struggling with hardship and social isolation in priority areas of Aberdeen City. A Family Support Co-ordinator will build supportive relationships with each family, providing individualised support plans with achievable goals in areas such as advice and guidance, financial support applications, community connections, life skills training, and employment resources.

From October 2025 – March 2026, families will also receive care packages to help with financial hardship. The project will improve the lives of socially isolated families with defined outcomes including improved mental health and wellbeing, improved resilience, reduced social isolation, and reduced financial hardship. It supports the

fund's core objectives by improving people's life chances, strengthening communities and supporting mental health and wellbeing.

Belmont Community Cinema - Improving the Entrance project - £100,000.00

The Belmont Cinema Ltd. is a charity established to reopen Aberdeen's only independent cinema as an accessible, not-for-profit venue for all. Based in the city centre, the cinema aims to improve Aberdeen by bringing educational, cultural, and economic benefits through diverse film screenings, festivals, and educational opportunities in partnership with local organisations.

The funding will cover essential refurbishments to the entrance, lobby, and kiosk areas to increase space, light, and ease of use. These improvements will support accessibility, increase audience numbers, improve customer experience, and enhance in-venue spending. Once fully operational, it is estimated the venue will attract audiences of around 100,000 per annum, contributing to community cohesion, the local economy, and pride in place while preserving the significant heritage of the C-listed building.

Visit Aberdeenshire – Northern Nights Campaign - £50,000.00

Funding is sought for the "Northern Nights: The City Comes to Light" campaign, which will promote Aberdeen as a vibrant winter destination in early 2026, leveraging cultural events like SPECTRA and Granite Noir to boost hotel occupancy, visitor footfall, and revenue, while supporting local tourism and hospitality businesses through targeted marketing, digital cultural trail maps, and night-time city photography.

The proposed Northern Nights: the City comes to Light campaign will promote experiences in the city during the early months of 2026 when nights are longer. The message will be about making this a positive reason to travel. It is our intention to bolster hotel occupancy and revenue per available room (RevPar) during this time in the city centre. Average weekend occupancy in Q1 2024 was down 14.9% compared to 2023, with RevPar down 21.4%. Footfall in Aberdeen city centre over winter 2024 totalled 4.7 million, a reduction from 4.8 million from 2023. There is an opportunity to help mitigate this reduction by encouraging more visits.

Citymoves Dance Agency - United Aberdeen Dance project - £47,089.00

Citymoves Dance Agency aims to collaborate with Dance United Yorkshire to deliver "Unite Aberdeen," an intensive four-week dance intervention for disengaged young people aged 14-25 who are excluded from mainstream education, at risk of offending, or suffering from poor mental health. The project invites approximately 20 young people to work towards a community-facing performance at The Lemon Tree in Aberdeen.

The eight-month project (August 2025 – March 2026) includes artist training, choreographic laboratory, intensive recruitment with home visits, a 25-day project period, and a final performance. This multi-layered initiative will create lasting impact by investing in young people, artists, families, cultural engagement, and community

wellbeing while engaging those who would not traditionally encounter contemporary dance.

Community Outreach Group – Upgraded Kitchen - £3,800

This funding would allow them to install new work benches, extra cupboards and paint the kitchen which will allow them to be able to offer users a proper meal and two breakfasts each week with the kitchen supporting those facing homelessness, addiction, mental health, loneliness and isolation and poverty.

Cog currently sees and supports around 200 vulnerable people each week. To be able to offer them a proper meal and two breakfasts each week will assist us in further supporting these people. We support those facing homelessness, addiction, mental health, loneliness and isolation and poverty.

Providing meals will further strengthen the relationships we have with attendees which then leads us to helping them to engage with appropriate services such as Aberdeen In Recovery and Alcohol and Drugs Action.

Denburn Residents and Tenants Association - Upper Denburn Gardens - £10,000.00

Following the closure of the Denburn Health Centre, the surrounding deck area has faced challenges with weeds, graffiti, and disrepair. The Upper Denburn Gardens Group has conducted fortnightly community-led clean-ups and now plans to transform this space into a vibrant, artistic, and green park in the heart of Aberdeen through the introduction of raised planters, improved accessibility, and outdoor art, gardening and social activities.

The project will bring the community together to tackle loneliness and anti-social behaviour, strengthen the local network of small businesses, offer a platform for local artists and school children, and create opportunities for learning about biodiversity in an urban context. This takes advantage of an existing under-utilised structure with high embodied carbon and extends its lifespan with limited resources.

East Grampian Coastal Partnership - Aberdeen City Coastal Path Study - £9,450.00

East Grampian Coastal Partnership seeks funding for a feasibility study on the Aberdeen City section of a proposed 140-mile North East Scotland Coastal Trail, which would link St Cyrus to Cullen and connect to existing networks in Angus and Moray. With support from Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Councils, VisitAberdeenshire, and other stakeholders, the project aims to establish the route as one of Scotland's Great Trails.

The five-month feasibility study will assess the Aberdeen City coastline, covering various neighbourhoods and including route assessment, infrastructure review, accessibility recommendations, stakeholder engagement, development strategy, and funding opportunities. This study represents a valuable investment for the UKSPF,

laying the groundwork for a transformative coastal route that delivers lasting economic, social, and environmental benefits to North East Scotland.

Grampian Cardiac Rehabilitation Association - Service development – specialist exercise service for people with cardiac and chronic health conditions in Aberdeen City project - £15,000.00

The project centres around promoting and increasing community engagement with a network of 11 specialist exercise classes for people with cardiac and long-term health conditions in Aberdeen City. The unique exercise programme is specifically formatted to support people with health conditions to exercise safely and effectively for the long term, rather than the time-restricted statutory programmes typically available for only 8-12 weeks.

The service is delivered by six professional specialist exercise instructors with a Marketing Coordinator leading promotional activities. This funding represents a good investment because it will support a unique specialist service that empowers people to proactively self-manage their conditions, alleviate pressure on strained statutory health and social care systems, and address preventable health conditions with high morbidity and mortality rates.

Grampian Women's Aid - GWA Women's Support Services - £45,469.70

Grampian Women's Aid provides essential practical and emotional support to women and children who have experienced domestic abuse. With a 14% increase in referrals this year supporting over 1,400 women, they currently have 54 women and 32 children on waiting lists. This funding will increase Support Practitioner hours to reduce waiting lists and meet the growing demand for vital services in Aberdeen City.

Support Practitioners provide crisis intervention, risk assessment, recovery support, and sustained wellbeing assistance through face-to-face support at their Northfield base. The organisation also provides the only safe refuge accommodation in the city for women and children (currently operating at 96% occupancy) and peer support services to reduce isolation and amplify the voice of lived experience in strategic planning forums.

Growing2gether - Strengthening Communities by Building Local Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience project - £28,865.00

Growing2gether is the only project in Scotland to build positive health and wellbeing, skills and life chances of disadvantaged young people by connecting them as mentors to nursery children. Three 16-week programmes will target 24 pupils from low-attaining schools (Lochside Academy/Northfield Academy/St Machars) who will mentor 24 nursery children with social/personal/communication challenges.

Young people mentor the children for 1.5 hours weekly followed by group sessions on emotional skills, leading to an accredited SCQF Level 4 qualification. The programme will also train 2-3 additional youth workers to deliver Growing2gether independently in future, supporting capacity building and sustainability. With a proven track record since

2017, 93% of participants reach positive destinations, making this a good investment for strengthening communities.

Instant Neighbour - UpcycleInc Project - £10,000.00

For over 40 years, Instant Neighbour has supported low-income individuals and families in Aberdeen by providing essential reused furniture at affordable prices, foodbank services, and employment opportunities. They seek funding to purchase essential tools and machinery for woodworking, upholstery, and textiles that will enable them to repair, restore, and transform furniture and household goods that would otherwise be discarded.

This investment will increase production quality, expand upcycling capacity, divert an estimated 15 additional tonnes of waste from landfill annually, and provide hands-on training opportunities for at least 20 people annually. The workshops will equip participants with valuable skills in upcycling, restoration, and design, enhancing their employability while supporting Scotland's circular economy and climate resilience goals.

Kingswells Community Centre - Youth Club Equipment - £876.99

The Youth Café at Kingswells Community Centre was established about 18 months ago to provide a safe, warm place for S1-S6 aged children in an area with limited amenities and poor public transport links. Run by younger volunteers who have built strong relationships with attendees, the club offers a space for socialising, games, and sports activities free of charge.

The club has been borrowing electronic equipment from another group, but now seeks to purchase their own. After consulting with the youth, they've identified a need for a karaoke machine, Nintendo Switch console, and table tennis table. The children have already raised money toward these items and are seeking funding for the remainder to ensure the continued success of this valued community resource.

Sound Scotland - Soundcommunities year 2 project - £24,000.00

Sound Scotland aims to consolidate and develop their work with local musicians and offer more opportunities for the wider community through soundcommunities 2025-2026. The project will nurture home-grown talent through youth programmes (Get Creative Ensemble, Get Creative Orchestra, and Go Compose), school workshops prioritising regeneration areas, and support for early-career composers working with local music organisations.

Community events during the festival will include workshops for children at the Science Centre, family concerts at the Maritime Museum, a late-night gig curated by a local composer, and a participation day for local amateur musicians. This project represents a good investment as it targets arts and creative activities, provides employment, develops skills, increases access to musical leisure activities, and showcases local talent at an internationally renowned festival.

Station House Media Unit - Extension to Station House Project - £110,000.00

Station House Media Unit (shmu) is Scotland's leading community media organisation, working with over 1,000 residents annually from Aberdeen's regeneration areas. They are currently transforming the oldest part of their building into a film and recording studio with UKSPF funding, but consultation has highlighted the need for additional space to realise the full potential of this investment.

The proposed extension will provide a dedicated training space, edit suite, staff workspace and kitchen, control room, and storage facilities. These enhancements will double training capacity and allow shmu to expand its public-facing programme to host film screenings, talks, performances, and collaborative events. By improving community access to high-quality media facilities and training, this project directly supports the Communities and Place priority of the UKSPF.

Techfest - TechFests Blueprint Challenge: A Future Highstreet - £10,000.00

TechFest, a leading STEM charity, proposes refocusing their Blueprint Challenge project on Aberdeen, challenging secondary school pupils to redesign their local high street. Students will consider electric power generation, mental health, architecture, and economic stability while developing STEM-driven solutions for their communities, potentially focusing on specific areas like Rosemount, Torry, or Union Street.

The project will run from June 2025 to February 2026, with resources developed by experts from academia and industry. Students will present their final designs at an in-person showcase to stakeholders including council representatives and industry partners. This offers young people a unique opportunity to have their voices heard by decision-makers, bringing fresh perspectives and creative solutions to Aberdeen's community spaces.

The Kings Community Foundation - the Bridge Centre Retrofit - £50,000.00

The project will purchase the first stage of energy-efficient retrofit of the Bridge Centre community building, which is currently difficult and expensive to heat as well as uncomfortably cold in low temperatures. Based on a specialist retrofit assessment, this first stage will include insulation and airtightness measures to the roof and ventilation upgrades, with project management provided by the consultants to ensure proper implementation.

This investment will improve the building's energy efficiency, thermal comfort, indoor air quality, and climate resilience while reducing carbon emissions. The improved building will be more cost-efficient to run, enabling better services to the community, increased comfort for users, and improved air quality. It will also demonstrate the impact of fabric-first retrofit and provide warm spaces during the winter.

Visit Aberdeenshire - Cruise Volunteer Programme - £23,932.00

The 'Welcome' volunteer scheme was created to meet and help orientate visitors during their first moments in Aberdeen, focusing primarily on cruise passengers

arriving in the city. The programme aims to provide a positive first impression of the region, create fulfilling volunteering opportunities that upskill local people and generate civic pride, and change the narrative of the region as a tourism destination.

This funding will enhance the delivery and experience of the welcome volunteer scheme, supporting programme development and preparation for the 2026 season through additional training and recruitment to grow the volunteer pool to 40 people. By driving more footfall into Aberdeen businesses during the cruise season, engaging local residents as volunteers, and fostering civic pride, the programme benefits the local economy, people, and place.

Local Business Support

Aberdeen City Council/SCARF - The Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme

The Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme supports the city's transition to net-zero carbon by 2045 while assisting businesses and third-sector organisations in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Building on the success of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Energy Pilot project, which supported 37 small and medium-sized enterprises with energy-efficiency upgrades totalling £241,798, the scheme offers co-financing for energy and carbon-saving projects.

The programme provides non-repayable grants of up to £10,000, covering up to 50% of total project costs. Eligible initiatives include upgrading heating systems, enhancing insulation, installing LED lighting, improving equipment efficiency, and implementing renewable heat technologies. Aberdeen City Council will work with SCARF, a charity with over 35 years of experience in energy-saving advice, to deliver the scheme effectively.