

Councillor Malik seconded by Councillor Grant, moved:-

That Council:-

- (1) Notes Parliament introduced Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended to protect Elected Members and the public from Conveners and others who fail to act with integrity and abuse the spirit of Councils own Standing Orders for their own political ends;
- (2) Agree the action by the Convener of Finance and Resources Committee denying Amendments at Committee have consequences for the Administration, one of those actions is to face a special Council meeting whereby 25% of the Members call for a meeting on a matter that should have been dealt with at Committee, thus costing the Council unnecessary time and expense;
- (3) Agree the UK Shared Prosperity Fund demonstrates devolution in action whereby the UK government provides money directly to Scottish Councils;
- (4) Agree there are many worthy applications for consideration including Aberdeen Arts Centre which applied for one hundred thousand pounds of Culture Investment Funding from the Common Good Fund but were unsuccessful at the Council Budget meeting on Wednesday 5th March 2025;
- (5) Agree in recent correspondence with elected members, Castlegate Arts have recognised areas of weaknesses within this application and have explained the mitigatory circumstances around them;
- (6) Notes recent correspondence from Sharon Robertson, Chair of Castlegate Arts, which made clear that, 'A lack of funding award places the Arts Centre at a very real and significant risk of closure.';
- (7) Welcomes the Castlegate Arts plans towards 'Building a Sustainable Future' for the Arts Centre and agrees that the closure of the Arts Centre would have a significant adverse impact upon Aberdeen's creative and cultural community;
- (8) Agrees to allocate one hundred thousand pounds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund 25/26 to Castlegate Arts to meet the imminent needs of the Arts Centre and instructs the Chief Officer - City Development and Regeneration to work with Castlegate Arts to help towards compliance with UKSPF requirements; and
- (9) Further agrees that applications from within the Finance and Resources Committee Convener's own Electoral Ward, namely Tillydrone Community Development Trust and Tillydrone Community Campus - Art for all in Tillydrone, should be supported from the Fund and agrees to allocate £160,600 and £42,140 respectively.

Councillor McLellan seconded by Councillor Greig, moved as an amendment:-

- (1) Notes Aberdeen City Council Awarded £1,429,228 through the Cultural Investment Framework as part of the 2025/26 budget (as details below);

Catalyst

	Organisation	Award for 2025/26	In Principle Award for 2026/27	In Principle Award for 2027/28
1	Crowhouse Projects	£15,000		
2	Friends of Elphinstone	£12,000		
3	Aberdeen Mela	£15,000	£15,000	
4	Four Pillars (Grampian Pride)	£15,000		
6	Pushing Out the Boat	£5,000		
7	Touch of Love Outreach	£11,228		
Total Catalyst		£73,228	£15,000	£0

Cultivate & Cornerstone

	Organisation	Award for 2025/26	In Principle Award for 2026/27	In Principle Award for 2027/28
10	Citymoves Dance Agency SCIO	£100,000	£98,000	£95,000
11	Grampian Hospital Art Trust	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
12	Sound Festival	£20,000	£18,000	£18,000
13	Open Road	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000
14	Belmont Community Cinema	£40,000	£40,000	£40,000
15	Jazz Scotland	£16,000	£16,000	£16,000
16	Aberdeen Inspired (Nuart)	£88,000		
18	Peacock Visual Arts	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
20	Aberdeen Performing Arts	£961,000	£913,000	£865,000
Total Cultivate & Cornerstone		£1,311,000	£1,171,000	£1,120,000

Acorn Programme

		Award for 2025/26	In Principle Award for 2026/27	In Principle Award for 2027/28
	Pilot project to support community groups and individual creatives	£45,000		
	Total	£1,429,228	£1,186,000	£1,120,000

- (2) Notes the Castlegate Arts unsuccessful application for Culture Investment Framework funding was considered through a fair and transparent process, with the officers recommending not to award funding due to the organisation not meeting investment priorities and the “Following the Public Pound” guidance, with the final decision being made at the Budget meeting on 5 March 2025;
- (3) Notes the Finance and Resources Committee unanimously agreed on 26 March 2025 to allocate £508,000 for Local Business Support and £521,380 for People and Skills from the 2025/26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- (4) Notes the competitive application process for allocation of the 2025/26 UK Shared Prosperity Fund, with approximately £4 million worth of applications received for the Community and Place element, and only £1.2 million of funding remaining to allocate within the programme, and that the Finance and Resources Committee will make the final decision on the applications at its scheduled meeting on 7 May 2025;

- (5) Agrees that any proposal to allocate funds directly from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which bypasses this process sets a concerning precedent and is disrespectful to those organisations who have already applied for funding;
- (6) Notes that directing funds to specific projects without a clear process undermines objectiveness and fairness and could lead to similar claims from other organisations who were not approved for funding and may risk non-compliance with “Following the Public Pound” guidance and may also create a risk of the Council having to repay some of the money back to the UK Government on the grounds of having awarded money to projects which may not meet UK Shared Prosperity Fund eligibility and criteria;
- (7) Acknowledges the funding provided to date by Aberdeen City Council's SNP and Liberal Democrat Partnership in 2024/25:

Communities and Place – 2024/25		
Organisation	Project	UKSPF Award
ACVO	Aberdeen Third Sector Hub feasibility Study	£60,000
Aberdeen City Council	Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 Culture Programme 24/25	£99,200
Growing2gether	Strengthening Communities by Building Local Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience project	£26,447
Look Again	Aberdeen Independents project	£63,000
Soundfestival	Soundcommunities	£37,000
St Georges Community Centre	Saint Georges Community Centre	£45,228
Port of Aberdeen Trust Port	Tall Ships Community Promotion, which includes volunteer recruitment and engaging young people with sail traineeships;	£108,000
Avenue	Mental Health and Relationship Support for Families and Individuals in Aberdeen	£116,777
Aberdeen Performing Arts	Repointing and Exterior Restorations at His Majesty's Theatre	£91,078.58
Aberdeen City Council	Phase 2 of the Denis Law Trail	£85,000
Belmont Community Cinema	Belmont Community Cinema	£75,000

Cairncry Community Centre	Community Café Refurbishment project	£14,391.60
Granite City Taekwondo	Tillydrone Community Centre Upgrades	£100,000
SHMU	Redevelopment to Station House	£99,954
Local Business Support – 2024/25		
Organisation	Project	UKSPF Award
Aberdeen City Council	Business Start-up grants	£562,680
Aberdeen City Council	Aberdeen Renewable Energy Groups (AREG)'s Enhancing Offshore Wind Renewables through Digital Innovation	£45,000
Aberdeen City Council	Culture Aberdeen Network Coordination Service	£40,000
Aberdeen City Council	Energy Pilot Project	£137,592
Aberdeen City Council	Learning Journey Support for SMEs	£40,000
Aberdeen City Council	AI Upskilling for SMEs	£48,740
Aberdeen City Council	Tall Ships Creative Makers Programme	£55,000
Aberdeen City Council	Vibrant & Sustainable City Centre Pilot	£100,000
Aberdeen City Council	Freebie Fortnight	£115,000
Aberdeen City Council	Love Local Card	£10,000
Aberdeen City Council	The Travel Trade Tours –Countryside Ranger Service	£10,700

- (8) Given the above outlined process for the allocation of UK Shared Prosperity Funding for 2025/26, take no further action.

On a division, there voted:-

For the motion:- (19) - Councillors Ali, Blake, Bonsell, Boulton, Crockett, Farquhar, Graham, Grant, Houghton, Kusznir, Lawrence, Macdonald, Malik, Massey, Nicoll, Mrs Stewart, Thomson, Tissera and Watson.

For the amendment:- (22) - Lord Provost; Depute Provost; and Councillors Al-Samarai, Allard, Alphonse, Hazel Cameron, Clark, Cooke, Copland, Cormie, Davidson, Fairfull, Greig, Henrickson, Hutchison, MacGregor, McLellan, McRae, Mennie, Radley, van Sweeden and Yuill.

The Council resolved:-
to adopt the amendment.