

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Finance and Resources
<b>DATE</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> July 2023
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	COM/23/196
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Gale Beattie
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Richard Sweetnam
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Stuart Bews
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.1.8, 1.1.11 & 3.4

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding of UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:-

#### UKSPF Communities And Place

- 2.1 Notes that the application for up to £167,112 to Tillydrone Community Development Trust for the Benholm's Tower Project, has been withdrawn;
- 2.2 Awards up to £104,000 to Aberdeen Science Centre for the Community Engagement Project;
- 2.3 Awards up to £29,390 to the Denis Law Trail Project;
- 2.4 Awards up to £11,832 to Police Scotland for the Drugs and Alcohol Education and Resilience Project; and
- 2.5 Awards up to £103,191.60 to Absafe for the Safety Training For Aberdeen City Schools Project

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The UK Government published the UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus on 13 April 2022 alongside indicative funding allocations for each Local Authority within the United Kingdom. The Aberdeen City Council area received an indicative allocation of up to £7,156,832 for an initial three-year period covering 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. This is made up of £1,235,919 for "Multiply" and £5,920,913 for the core UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The "Multiply" element

of funding is ringfenced for activity to enhance adult numeracy skills provision and proposals for this will be taken to committee later in 2023.

- 3.2 The core UKSPF element can be used across three priority areas: Community and Place; Supporting Local business; and People and Skills.
- 3.3 In order to access the funding, Aberdeen City Council developed and submitted an Investment Plan to the UK Government in August 2022. The Investment Plan outlined the key priority areas for investment. It was approved in December 2022 and is available on the Council's UKSPF Webpages [UK Shared Prosperity Fund | Aberdeen City Council](#).
- 3.4 There are three routes to allocate the funding: 'Challenge Funds', 'Procurement' or 'in-house' and all proposed expenditure will require Committee approval.
- 3.5 Applications are being sought under the Communities and Place priority through a 'challenge fund route'. Officers promoted the challenge fund on the Council's website including an application form and supporting guidance documents. Four applications are presented to Committee for consideration, outlined in Table 1 below and summarised within Appendix 1.

**Table 1: Shared Prosperity Fund**

**Communities and Place - Applications for consideration**

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant request 23/24	Grant request 24/25	Officer review outcome	Grant Proposed to award from UKSPF
Aberdeen Science Centre	Community Engagement Project	£236,800	£42,000	£62,000	Application showed strong links to fund interventions, delivering STEM education opportunities to all areas of Aberdeen.	£42,000 (23/24) £62,000 (24/25)
ACC	Denis Law Trail	£49,390	£23,890	£5,500	Application is a good fit for the programme benefitting a priority area of Aberdeen.	£29,390 (23/24)
Police Scotland	Drugs and Alcohol Education and Resilience Project	£20,332	£11,832	£0	Detailed application highlighting benefits to the community and strong links to intervention	£11,832 (23/24)
Absafe	Safety Training for	£137,588.80	£68,794.40	£68,794.40	Project has strong and long lasting benefits	£68,794.40 (23/24)

	Aberdeen City Schools				for young people in the City. Application highlighted the importance of this project linking well to the programme. Education service supportive of the application also.	£34,397.20 (24/25)
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#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The Council has been allocated £7,156,831 of UKSPF by UK Government over the next two and a half years. The Communities and Place allocation is £3,809,693. The People and Skills priority allocation is £855,000. The Local Business priority allocation is £1,256,220. The “Multiply” priority, to improve people’s numeracy skills allocation is £1,235,918. Appendix 2 provides an overview of the funds awarded to date under the Communities and Place priority.
- 4.2 The eligible costs for which the grant can be used are capital or revenue costs incurred by the local authority or third parties which are in line with the main objectives of the fund. Officers assess all bids in line with the published criteria and guidance on the Council’s website. Applications which are incomplete or require further information will be returned to the applicant with feedback on the areas which require attention before being resubmitted.
- 4.3 It is essential that the projects comply with the set requirements to avoid issues around eligibility and potential repayment of grant to the UK Government if conditions are not complied with.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Grant Agreements will require to be put in place between Aberdeen City Council and those organisations which are awarded grant funding.
- 5.2 Officers will undertake Subsidy Control risk assessments for all external applications.
- 5.3 To ensure compliance with the Subsidy Control Act 2022, officers established a subsidy control scheme for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund Communities and Place programme. The Council will also comply with subsidy notification requirements to the UK Government’s Subsidy control database and transparency register.

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 7. RISK

Category	Risk	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk level	Target Risks Level Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Does target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	No risks identified	None	L	Yes
<b>Compliance</b>	Non-compliance with grant conditions will require return of grant	External Funding team are familiar with the compliance requirements and will advise and monitor projects as required to ensure compliance.	L	Yes
	Subsidy Control	To ensure all external grants awarded are compliant	L	Yes
<b>Operational</b>	No risks identified	None	L	Yes
<b>Financial</b>	Any unspent, or unallocated funds will require to be returned to UK Government	Close project monitoring will take place throughout to ensure these timescales will be met.	L	Yes
<b>Reputational</b>	Risk of reputational damage if funds are not spent in accordance with the grant conditions	Officers will work with projects to ensure proposals and applications meet the conditions of grant	L	Yes
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No risks identified	None	L	Yes

## 8. OUTCOMES

<b><u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u></b>	
	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to Aberdeen City Council policy and strategies, and these were assessed by officers to ensure clear links.

<b>Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan</b>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to the LOIP as part of the application process.
Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to the LOIP as part of the application process.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	All applicants were requested to detail the contribution of their project to the LOIP as part of the application process.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	Full impact assessment not required
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Other</b>	Not required

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 COM/23/097 - UK Shared Prosperity Fund

## 11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Summary of applications for consideration

11.2 Appendix 2 –UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Funds awarded to date

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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