

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	22 November 2023
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	UK Shared Prosperity Fund
REPORT NUMBER	COM/23/372
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Julie Richards-Wood
REPORT AUTHOR	Laura Paterson
TERMS OF REFERENCE	1.1.8, 1.1.11 & 3.4

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. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Committee:-

UKSPF Communities And Place

- 2.1 Awards up to £40,000 to Belmont Community Cinema Ltd for the community engagement and refurbishment project.
- 2.2 Awards up to £40,000 to Crow House Projects for the Film Accelerator programme:
- 2.3 Awards up to £5,000 to Aberdeen City Council for the Danestone Community Centre upgrade feasibility study;
- 2.4 Awards up to £25,000 to Aberdeen City Council for the SPECTRA festival accessibility improvements;
- 2.5 Awards up to £216,000 to Sport Aberdeen for the Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre Refresh; and
- 2.6 Does not approve the request for up to £17,400 from the Aberdeen Chinese Women's Society due to the application being incomplete.

UKSPF Local Business Support

- 2.7 Awards up to £64,500 to Aberdeen City Council for the City Centre Regeneration; and

- 2.8 Awards up to £125,359 to Aberdeen City Council for the Digital Business Support programme;

UKSPF People and Skills

- 2.9 Awards up to £15,000 to Aberdeen City Council for the HMP Grampian Construction course project;
- 2.10 Awards up to £38,022 to Aberdeen City Council for the Admin Apprentice post;
- 2.11 Awards up to £70,000 to Aberdeen City Council for the ESOL project;
- 2.12 Awards up to £70,625 to Aberdeen City Council for pilot projects for people with long term health issues or disabilities; and
- 2.13 Awards up to £60,000 to Aberdeen City Council for the Skills audit 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.
- 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 Website [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. Six complete applications are presented to Committee for consideration, outlined in Table 1 and summarised within Appendix 1. Where applications have been returned, the applicant has been provided with detailed feedback around the additional information required and offered a meeting with officers to discuss the feedback further.
- 3.6 Proposals are also being developed under the Local Business support priority through the ‘inhouse route’. Officers engaged with the Projects team which is seeking funding for projects which align with the interventions of the fund. Two

applications are presented to Committee for consideration, outlined within Table 2 and summarised within Appendix 1.

3.7 It should be noted that funding can be allocated over more than just a single year, as outlined in the tables below.

Table 1: UK Shared Prosperity Fund

Communities and Place - Applications for consideration

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Total UKSPF ask	Grant Request 2023/24	Grant Request 2024/25	Officer Review Outcome and Proposed Award
Aberdeen Chinese Women's Association	Elderly Fun Day	£17,400	£17,400	£8,700	£8,700	Recommended not to approve – Application was incomplete. Officers will work with Aberdeen Chinese Womans Society to explore alternative sources of funding.
Belmont Community Cinema Ltd	Belmont Cinema Community Engagement and Refurbishment	£141,067	£40,000	£40,000	£0	Recommended for approval of up to £40,000 - Application scored well and has strong ties to interventions within UKSPF and LOIP.
Crow House Projects	Crow House Projects- Film Accelerator	£44,000	£40,000	£20,000	£20,000	Recommended for approval of up to £40,000– application scored well showing strong links to interventions. Providing opportunities and experience within the City linking to the Regional Economic Strategy.

ACC (Danestone Community Centre)	Danestone Upgrade Feasibility Funding	£5,000	£5,000	£0	£5,000	Recommended for approval of up to £5,000 - Application scored highly with strong links to the programme. Feasibility study has potential to have high benefit to local community.
Spectra Festival	Accessibility Improvements for Spectra 2024	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£0	Recommended for approval of up to £25,000 - Application showed strong links to the fund's interventions - improving accessibility at Spectra
Sport Aberdeen	Northfield Outdoor Sports Centre Refresh	£367,000	£216,000	£0	£216,000	Recommended for approval of up to £216,000 - Application scored well and has strong links to UKSPF interventions. Regeneration area benefitting from redeveloped outside sports facility.
	TOTAL	£599,467	£334,700	£93,700	£251,000	

Table 2. Local Business Support – Applications for consideration

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Request 2022/23	Grant Request 2023/24	Grant Request 2024/25	Officer Review Outcome and Proposed Award
Aberdeen City Council	City Centre Regeneration	£64,500	£0	£12,900	£51,600	To award up to £64,500. This will be used to pay for the additional resource to manage and promote the Union Street Empty Shops Action Plan and liaise with stakeholders.

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Request 2022/23	Grant Request 2023/24	Grant Request 2024/25	Officer Review Outcome and Proposed Award
Aberdeen City Council	Digital Business Support Programme	£125,359	£0	£25,070	£100,280	To award up to £125,359. This will be used for tailored adviser support for businesses to strengthen their knowledge and skills about all aspects of digital technology.
Total		£189,859	£0	£37,970	£151,880	

Table 3. People and Skills – Applications for consideration

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Request 2022/23	Grant Request 2023/24	Grant Request 2024/25	Officer Review Outcome and Proposed Award
Aberdeen City Council	HMP Grampian Construction Courses	£15,000	£0	£2,000	£13,000	To award up to £15,000. This will be used to fund construction training and CSCS card accreditation to people nearing the end of their sentence in HMP Grampian.
Aberdeen City Council	Admin Apprentice	£38,022	£0	£7,604	£30,418	To award up to £38,023.34. This will be to fund provide an administration modern apprenticeship to an individual who meets the criteria for No One Left Behind support.

Applicant	Project	Total Project Cost	Grant Request 2022/23	Grant Request 2023/24	Grant Request 2024/25	Officer Review Outcome and Proposed Award
Aberdeen City Council	English for Speakers of Other Languages	£70,000	£0	£10,000	£60,000	To award up to £70,000. This will be used to commission full-time English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses to support individuals to progress into employment or other positive destination.
Aberdeen City Council	Pilot Projects for People with Long-Term Health Issues or Disabilities	£70,625	£0	£14,124	£56,501	To award up to £70,626. This will be used to develop and test a series of pilot projects designed to support people with disabilities and/or long-term health issues.
Aberdeen City Council	Skills Audit	£60,000	£0	£22,500	£37,500	To award up to £60,000. This will carry out a skills audit to determine the skills needs and skills base of individuals living in the city's priority areas.
Total		£253,647	£0	£56,228	£197,419	

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. To date committee has awarded £1,491,822.60. There is £89,000 to allocate for 2023/24 and £2,235,861.80 for 2024/25 . Proposed allocations presented in this committee paper are £85,000 for 2023/24 and £251,000 for 2024/25.
- The People and Skills priority allocation is £1,288,650. To date committee has awarded £630,000. There is £421,588 remaining to allocate for 2023/24 and £177,061 for 2024/25. Proposed allocations presented in this committee paper are £56,228 for 2023/24 and £197,419 for 2024/25.
- The Local Business priority allocation is £1,256,220. There is £628,110 remaining to allocate for 2023/24 and £628,110 for 2024/25. Proposed allocations presented in this committee paper are £37,970 for 2023/24 and £151,880 for 2024/25.
- The “Multiply” priority, to improve people’s numeracy skills allocation is £862,264. There is £431,130 remaining to allocate for 2023/24 and £431,134 for 2024/25.

Appendix 2 provides an overview of the funds awarded to date.

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.

4.4 Officers are waiting for guidance from the UK Government as to the rules around carrying forward any unallocated funds to 24/25.

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. Upon establishment of this scheme, all awards will then be uploaded to the UK Government's Subsidy control database and where required the 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?
Strategic Risk	No risks identified	None	L	Yes
Compliance	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
Operational	No risks identified	None	L	Yes
Financial	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
Reputational	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

Environment / Climate	No risks identified	None	L	Yes
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8. OUTCOMES

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	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.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
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
Integrated Impact Assessment	Full impact assessment not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	Not required

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 COM/21/176 External Funding report to City Growth And Resources Committee on 21st June 2022.

10.2 COM/22/277 Place Based Investment Programme and UK Shared Prosperity Fund on 7th December 2022

11. APPENDICES

11.1 Appendix 1 – UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Summary of applications received

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

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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