
Report To:	Environment & Regeneration Committee	Date:	29 August 2024
Report By:	Director, Environment & Regeneration	Report No:	ENVO/047/24/SJ/NM
Contact Officer:	Neale McIlvanney	Contact No:	01475 715592
Subject:	Shared Prosperity Update		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This report is to provide an update to Committee on Inverclyde Council and Glasgow City Region's progress with the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee note progress and approve re-allocation of funding.

Stuart Jamieson
Director, Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a £2.6bn fund for local investment, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation of funding. Inverclyde has a total allocation of £3,563,961 over the 3 years of the programme as shown in the table below.
- 3.2 Inverclyde has worked with the Glasgow City Region to deliver the Investment Plan which was approved by the UK Government in December 2022.
- 3.3 Inverclyde Council's Environment and Regeneration Committee approved 17 Core SPF projects and 6 Multiply projects in April 2023. Years 1 and 2 of the fund were allocated across projects in year 2.
- 3.4 In addition, funding was allocated to 3 Glasgow City Region projects; Extend, Clyde Climate Forest and Multiply marketing within the overall £3,563,961 allocation to the Council.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 2023/24 Update

- 4.2 Following the approval in April 2023, the teams mobilised for the commencement of projects and the delivery of projects commenced mainly within quarters 3 and 4 of 2023/24.
- 4.3 The following table shows the split of the projects across the SPF themes and funding spent as well as showing the allocation for 2024/25:

Priority	2023/24 Spend to date by Investment Priority	2023/24 Allocation	2024/25 Allocation
Communities & Place	£297,096.00	£415,296.00	£449,597
Local Business	£93,665.00	£236,577.00	£491,589
People & Skills	£365,606.00	£399,357.00	£844,504
Multiply	£106,820.00	£342,918.00	£206,108
Management & Administration	£58,970.00	£58,970.00	£83,588
IC Allocation to GCR Projects		£21,130.33	£14,326.67
Total	£922,157	£1,474,248	£2,089,713

**Note – 24/25 spend to date not included as programme implementation is live and reports 6-monthly*

- 4.4 Spend is below the allocated funding with Inverclyde Council projects achieving 63% of project spend of the 23/24 allocation for years 1 and 2 of the programme.

- 4.5 Underspend in the programme to date is a result of challenges in mobilising projects in the first year of delivery such as recruiting employees and procuring services as well as third party delivery partners also requiring to establish arrangements to implement projects. Notwithstanding this, steps to expedite spend in final year of the SPF programme have been taken that will ensure delivery of the programme, such as accelerating routes to programme delivery, including through issue of grants. As such although spend is lower than previously forecast, projects are on track or have already exceeded the proposed outcomes and outputs for their project and to maximise commitment of the programme within the current financial year.
- 4.6 The UK Government has allowed for funding to be carried over from last year to this current financial year to support Council's to fully spend their allocation.
- 4.7 At the May Environment and Regeneration Committee it was reported that funding would be reallocated from the Multiply programme to the Local Business project to utilise underspend but also support businesses in West Blackhall Street. However, due to complications in reallocating funds from the Multiply programme and to meet demand, support to West Blackhall Street businesses through grants has been supported through Local Business underspend from year 2 of the programme. This aligned with the purpose of the West Blackhall Street grant in terms of that the Local Business project is intended to support business resilience and also allowed the funding provided to businesses to be increased to a total of £147, 500.
- 4.8 **2024/25 Proposals**
- 4.9 Since April 2024 SPF projects have continued to progress, with most on track to achieve full spend by the end of the Programme.
- 4.10 In 2024/25 quarter 1, there was a requirement to re-align some of the Business support projects to take account of current economic pressures and to focus funds on aspects of support which will improve business visibility and sales. This will be monitored during quarter 2 and further re-alignment will take place as required.
- 4.11 It is also intended to reallocate £30k of funding from the Local Business theme to the Communities and Place theme to provide delivery capacity to an emerging Tree Planting Strategy, currently in development but which can ensure spend within the lifetime of the programme. This has arisen through predicted underspend in the Local Business theme, which has already targeted/delivered a wide range of business interventions. Related to this, continued monitoring may identify further reallocation opportunities to support improvements to the natural environment and green and open spaces.
- 4.12 Despite actions to improve uptake across a number of Multiply projects, it is likely there will be underspend by the end of the Programme. This is similar to other local authorities within GCR and other parts of Scotland. Multiply underspend cannot be vired to any of the other Investment Priorities. However, if the SPF Programme is extended, or parameters related spend are relaxed by Government, there may be opportunities to diversify provision and achieve full spend.
- 4.13 The new UK government advise they are still working on what happens next regarding SPF. They indicated that the request for an extension, financial or not, was still being considered but there was no clarity on timing of decisions. The Regeneration Service is working with the Glasgow City Region and other Member Authorities to provide support and evidence on reasons to continue extend/continue SPF. At present current understanding of programme closure is that spend requires to be incurred within the current financial year.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	X	
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		X
Environmental & Sustainability		X
Data Protection		X

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
	2,606,347	24/25	2,606,347	N/A	

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (if Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

5.3 Legal/Risk

None.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

The proposal supports the Partnership Plan and the Economic Development Strategy in support local business.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty.

(c) Children and Young People

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts, positive or negative, which relate to this report.

None.

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.