

AGENDA ITEM NO: 6

Report To: Environment and Regeneration Date: 31 October 2024

Report By: Director, Environment and Report No: ENV069/24/SJ/NM

Regeneration

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Subject: UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 ⊠For Decision □For Information/Noting

- 1.2 This is a follow up to the August Committee report, to provide an update on the progress of the Inverclyde projects funded by UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF).
- 1.3 It also sets out virement from the Priority 'Local Business' to 'Communities & Place' Priority, to mitigate the impact of the recently announced loss of Nature Restoration funding.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
 - (a) Note progress to date.
 - (b) Approve suggested virement at 4.8.
 - (c) Note anticipated underspend against Multiply projects of £367,941.

Stuart W Jamieson Director, Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 Inverclyde Council has a 3 year UKSPF allocation of £3,563,931, which is part of the Glasgow City Region Investment Plan, approved by UK Government in December 2022.
- 3.2 In April 2023, Environment & Regeneration Committee approved 17 Core SPF projects across the 3 Investment Priorities of 'Communities & Place', 'Local Business' and 'People & Skills', as well as 6 Multiply projects.
- 3.3 In addition, funding was allocated to 3 Glasgow City Region projects; Extend, Clyde Climate Forest and Multiply marketing.
- 3.4 These projects, along with the eligible management and administration fee, provided full allocation commitment.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 **2024/25 Update**

- 4.2 The mobilisation and delivery of projects commenced mainly within quarters 3 and 4 of 2023/24.
- 4.3 The table below shows the split of the projects across the SPF themes and the anticipated underspend at Programme end (March 2025).

Investment Priority & Allocation	Spend to June 2024	Forecast Spend to March 2025	Projected Underspend at March 2025
Communities & Place			
£830,952	£297,096	£830,952	£0
Local Business			
£747,755	£93,665	£747,755	£0
People & Skills			
£1,243,861	£365,606	£1,243,861	£0
Multiply			
£590,849	£106,820	£222,908	£367,941
Management &			
Administration			£0
£136,881	£58,970	£136,881	
GCR Projects			
£13,633	£8,600	£13,633	£0
TOTALS	£930,757	£3,195,990	£367,941

- 4.4 A significant proportion of spend has been achieved in Q2 2024/25 which is not yet shown in the above table, but once defrayed it will bring all, but Multiply projects, in line to achieve full spend by March 2025. (Please refer to Appendix 1)
- 4.5 All, but Multiply projects, are on track to achieve or exceed their outcomes and outputs.

- 4.6 Despite actions to improve uptake across Multiply projects, there will be underspend, with UK Government confirming this cannot be vired to any other Investment Priority.
- 4.7 In 2024/25 first quarter, 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 improve business visibility and sales. This will be monitored during remaining quarters and further re-alignment will take place as required.
- 4.8 Due to the loss of Nature Restoration funding, a further sum of £50,000 will be vired from 'Local Business' to 'Communities and Place' to support the continuation of relevant works associated with net zero and improvements to the natural environment.

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	Χ	
Legal/Risk		Х
Human Resources		Х
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	Χ	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People's Rights		Χ
& Wellbeing		
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

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Cer	itre	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 of 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.

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.

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.

YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.

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?

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

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.

Environment & Regeneration - UKSPF Update - Appendix 1 – UKSPF Projects At October 2024

Investment Priority – Communities & Place – 6 Projects

Organisation, Project Name, SPF Intervention	Project Description	3 Year Allocation	Projected Underspend	Progress to Date
Inverclyde Council CLD and Environmental Services 'Public Lighting'	In response to Inverclyde Women's Safety Survey, this pilot project aims to improve lighting in public parks.	£150,000	0	Battery Park works complete with lighting operational and full spend achieved. COMPLETE
Regeneration & Town Centre Improvements				
Inverclyde Council Regeneration Service 'Town Centre Action Plans' Support Relevant Feasibility Studies	Consultants to be appointed to create Town Centre Action Plans for Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow, with residents, businesses and Town Centre Regeneration Forums completing town centre health checks which will propose short, medium and	£90,000	0	Consultants Ironside Farrar appointed. Consultations completed via town centre walk abouts with Town Centre Regeneration Forum members, public drop-in events and on-line surveys. Findings have been presented to each TCRF.
	long term projects which would improve the vitality and vibrancy of the town centres.			External funding challenges noted. Each town has an action plan which is aspirational but realistic over the 10 year timeline, with activities identified as Priority Actions, Early Actions and Medium Term Actions. A Report will be put to October 2024 E&R Committee. Project has achieved full spend and outcomes achieved. COMPLETE

Inverclyde Council Regeneration Service 'Town Centre Improvements - From Action Plans' Design and management of built and landscaped environment	Following completion of the Town Centre Action Plan, each Town Centre would be allocated funds to take forward project(s) from the Town Centre Action Plan that will make a positive improvement to the town centre and surrounds.	£190,000	0	This project is linked to the TCAP and funding will be fully utilised to progress projects within each Plan which have the capacity to be completed by March 2025. Identified longer term projects fall outwith the timeline of SPF and new sources of funding will be required to take these forward in future years. SPF will be used to partly off-set the reduction of Placed Based funding.
Inverclyde Council Road and Environmental Services 'Port Glasgow Shipbuilders Environmental Improvements' Improvements to the natural environment, green & open space	The project will improve the visitor experience to the Shipbuilders statue by delivering environmental improvements to Coronation Park which will improve accessibility, provide information and undertake landscaping to enhance the natural environment.	£150,000	0	Four actions are progressing:- 1 Installation of pedestrian lighting. 2 Repair and refurbishment of fountain. 3 Interpretation signage/boards. 4 Planting/landscaping around sculpture. All on schedule to complete by March 2025.
'Parklea Community Hub and Gardens' Support the improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects	Support the creation of new flexible community-based hub and resource that will have a direct impact on some of the most vulnerable members of our community. The project will provide inclusive community spaces in areas where there are none, build community capacity by working with local groups, young people and vulnerable groups to create spaces, work in partnership with other organisations and provide opportunities in training in the creation and management of the spaces.	£80,000	0	Progressing with soft landscaping, working with trainees from the Community Options Programme. UKSPF has contributed to improvements in the PBO area, enhancing accessibility and improving the surrounding landscape. This support has also enabled PBO to secure additional funding to cover rising costs associated with capital development, which includes various enhancements for better accessibility, including workshop, bicycle storage centre, changing places toilet, and paved pathways throughout the site. These pathways connect to the Parklea walkway and car park, linking the area to the wider site and Parklea Park.

			The project is on target to achieve full spend and meet all outcomes.
Inverclyde Council CLD and local Food Growing Network 'Invergrow' Capacity building, resilience and infrastructure support for local civil society and community groups	This project will support the development of Inverclyde wide community gardening and food growing in public spaces, to impact on climate change and help alleviate food insecurity and food waste while improving mental health wellbeing.	£170,952	Dedicated Invergrow worker appointed to engage with existing growing spaces and provide development support, including to the Inverclyde Community Food Network. Activities include:- An event showcasing each growing space and highlighting future objectives. Collaboration with Unpaid Work and Riverclyde Homes to place raised beds at various locations, and provision of growing spaces at sheltered housing. Placing raised beds at PG Shared Campus to encourage growing activities with school pupils and staff and revival of growing space at St Stephens HS to provide out of class learning for 13 pupils. Collaboration with Community Growers, including needs assessment. Collaborative working with:- The Shed, Auchmountain Resource Centre, Broomhill Hub, Branchton Community Centre, Belville Gardens, Wellington Allotment Gardens Association, Blooming Inverkip (Inverclyde Academy & Inverkip Primary), Parklea Branching Out, RIG Arts, Wellington Park Bowling Club. Launch of training Moodle platform. The project will achieve full spend and achieve outcomes by March 2025.

Investment Priority - Local Business – 6 Projects

Organisation, Project Name,	Project Description	3 Year Allocation	Projected Underspend	Progress to Date
SPF Intervention		Allocation	Onderspend	
'Inverclyde Community Enterprise Programme' Support for growing local social economy, including community businesses, co-operatives and social enterprises	The project works with local social enterprises offering tailored support to augment CVSI's core activities, including building capacity through a bespoke programme which provides the tools to develop and grow their enterprise by tendering for contracts and generating income from charitable sources.	£120,000	0	The Enterprising Project in Communities (EPIC) team are currently working with 25 individuals and organisations to grow or develop social enterprise in Inverclyde. An intensive group training programme and individual support packages have been developed to help people to develop the skills and knowledge to make their social enterprise aspirations a reality. A key event will be 'A Social Enterprise (and Volunteering) Showcase' event, taking place at the Beacon Arts Centre on 30th October 2024, bringing together a range of local and national organisations as well as keynote speakers from local government and the national third sector. It will also feature a social enterprise trade fair and 'meet the experts' speed networking session. The project is on target to achieve full spend and meet its targets. Officers are looking at funding opportunities to continue and develop this provision post March 2025.
Inverclyde Council Business Development	The project will work with businesses to do an audit/online survey to assess the energy efficiency and sustainability of	£126,500	£50,000 (to be vired to	GCR 'Extend' Programme provides Net Zero audits for businesses, however low uptake from Inverclyde within the available timeline, resulted in £30,000 being

'Net Zero How Do I go About It?' Support for expert business advice regarding decarbonisation, climate adaptation and circular economy	the business and their premises. Following the audit the business can apply for grant funding to carry out improvements for their property.		Communities & Place)	approved for virement to Communities & Place for tree planting actions. It is suggested a further virement to Communities & Place of £50,000 be approved to mitigate the recent loss of the Nature Restoration Fund.
Inverclyde Council Business Development 'Improving Your Business Skills' Support for business resilience and COVID-19 recovery	To enhance the skills and knowledge of business owners in Inverclyde which will enable them to operate from a more competitive position.	£155,000	0	Project is complete and at full spend, via provision of the West Blackhall Street Resilience Fund which supported 61 local businesses with grant support. COMPLETE
Inverclyde Council Business Development 'Business Networking' Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development	To provide a forum for local business owners to regularly meet to learn about a topic of interest from a presenter, share ideas and explore opportunities to work together.	£22,400	0	Women in Business Network established, with face to face and online networking events taking place. 8 events have run to date seeing 187 different people attend. A well received addition to the networking opportunities available in the area. Project will achieve full spend and achieve outcomes. Officers looking at funding options to enable continuation and development of the Network post March 2025.
Inverclyde Council Business Development 'Supporting Growth and New Start Growth' SME development grant and support	Providing grants and expert support to businesses who show growth potential as a new start business or supporting growth of existing business. Building on existing growth advice and grant infrastructure which is part o	£115,000	0	A range of business grants have been made available which add value to the Council's core business grants programme. The Digital Marketing grant has been particularly well received. Where there is lower uptake in some of the grants, flexibility is available to re-direct resources to other areas of the grants programme, ensuring employer demand is able to be met.

				To date, 59 businesses have received grant support. Business grants and loans - Inverclyde Council The project will achieve full spend by March 2025 and achieve its outcomes.
Inverclyde Council Business Development 'Business Accelerator Programme' Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development	Through procurement of expert support, this project will develop a programme of training to assist new businesses in the first 5 years of start up to support their sustainability and diversify the business base of Inverclyde.	£208,855	0	Tendering processes completed which enabled 2 expert support programmes to take place earlier in 2024, with 22 businesses taking part in the 6 week programmes, which included 1-1 advice & support, as well as grant support. Two further programmes are taking place during October 24 – February 25, with one focussing on independent hospitality businesses given the need to support this sector through what has been, and continues to be, particularly challenging times. Twenty four businesses will be supported across the 2 programmes, which will include 1-1 advice and grant support. The programme will achieve full spend and meet its outcomes by March 2025.

Investment Priority – People and Skills – 5 Projects

roject aims to deliver we destinations for inactive people across Inverclyde. focus on increasing and cing volunteering tunities, making this a	£121,486	0	The project has developed young people's skills and experiences by supporting them to take up local volunteering opportunities. It has also created a volunteering mentoring service and developed a youth
cing volunteering tunities, making this a lle way for young people to			volunteering mentoring service and developed a youth
le way for young people to			champion programme. Participants are supported to access and gain the national Saltire Award, providing
xills and experience in a rted environment.			them with certification for their volunteering activities. 128 young people have taken part in the programme to date.
			The project is on target to achieve full spend and to meet its outcomes by March 2025.
rogramme will enhance services by enabling ion of a more diverse amme of personal opment and skills opment opportunities for able people. This will target people with autism and/or onal support needs to e access to further tion, training and yability options.	£90,000	0	The programme provides accredited training in horticulture, gardening, landscaping, and maintenance skills, alongside improving communication and teamwork abilities and essential life skills, such as independent travel and budgeting. Participants can also enhance their literacy, numeracy, and digital skills with support from PBO staff and Inverclyde Council's CLD Adult Literacies team. 81 young people have taken part in the programme. Over 95% have sustained positive destinations including school, further education, volunteering and employment. With employability support, 20 young people are in sustained employment including landscaping, joinery,
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				A partnership with West College Scotland has seen young people undertake a series of accredited gardening and horticultural courses. Additionally young people have been supported to achieve first aid certificates, customer service awards, food safety and SQA personal development awards. To date 60 young people have achieved certification with a further 13 young people on course to achieve in the coming months.
				Engagement and consultation have been ongoing with young people, parents, and carers to enhance the service and provide guidance to various programs across Inverclyde.
				In collaboration with Morton in the Community and Inverclyde Council CLD team, a new project for the café facility, "Plants and Plates", launched in September.
				The Independent Travel programme has been expanded, providing 50 young people with the skills to travel independently, opening doors to opportunities in further education, volunteering, and employment.
				The project will achieve full spend and exceed its outcomes by March 2025.
Inverclyde Council MCMC 'Steps 2 Progression'	This is a focussed Youth project which will target 125 young people aged 16 - 19 years who	£350,000	0	557 participants have taken part in various aspects of the programme, including 99 being supported by 1-1 provision for young people leaving school without a
Employment support for economically inactive people	are economically inactive and looking to move into a positive destination. The project will add to the training and life skills provision in the area, and will			positive destination; 127 participating in contracted provision with Street League, who provide accredited programmes in Customer Service and Employability Awards, and 331 young people attending the Youth Hub service.

	provide aftercare support to help sustain outcomes.			The project is on target to achieve full spend and meet outcomes by March 2025.
Inverclyde Council Employability & Skills 'Progress to Employment' Employment support for economically inactive people including intensive and wraparound one to one support	Progress to employment will support economically inactive people to move closer to employment by providing end-to-end support including key worker support, action planning, prevocational and vocational skills training. This project will be integrated with the wider all-age provision within the employability service, which currently utilises existing Council and Scottish Government funding.	£483,283	0	This is an all-age, bespoke employability service, available to any local resident who needs help and support to gain the confidence, pre-vocational and vocational skills to move into employment. It is delivered via in-house Key Worker services and complimentary contracted provision, including Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Stepwell Consultancy, Financial Fitness and Enable Scotland. It has supported 712 residents to date, with qualifications gained by 55%, and employment outcomes currently at 30%. Aftercare support will help ensure sustainability of employment. The project is on target to achieve full spend and met its outcomes by March 2025.
Inverclyde Council Employability & Skills 'New Opportunities' Courses and life skills and career skills provision for people who are not economically inactive	The project aims to provide barrier removal activity, prevocational training and vocational training to those furthest from the labour market, through provision of person-centred services which will move clients closer to, or into employment.	£199,092	0	The project supports those with multiple/complex barriers to employment, to overcome those barriers and gain confidence and skills to make employment a real consideration. Work experience programmes, alongside mental health support, financial awareness and skills attainment have been provided by the project, which also links in with the wider employability services in area. Provision is delivered in-house and through employability contractors, including ICDT, Stepwell, Financial Fitness and Enable.

		100 clients have been supported to date, with qualification attainment recorded as 56%.
		The project is on target to achieve full spend and meet/exceed its outcomes.

Investment Priority – Multiply – 6 Projects

Organisation,	Project Description	3 Year	Projected	Progress to Date
Project Name,		Allocation	Underspend	
SPF Intervention				
Inverclyde Council CLD	Group courses aimed at prisoners, those recently	£39,064	£8,000	Work within Gateside Prison is scheduled to commence second week October 2024. Staff have received
'Prison leavers maths and	released from prison or on			personal safety training and undergone PVG check.
numeracy'	temporary licence, with 1-1 support available for those			Delivery will be a partnership with Fife College, offering the opportunity to attain qualifications.
Courses aimed at prisoners and those recently released from prison or on temporary licence.	who need additional support.			Project is on target to meet targets although an underspend is anticipated, which could be utilised if a year 4 were available.
'Partnership Maths and Numeracy' Provision developed in partnership with community organisations and partners aimed at engaging hardest to reach learners	Development and delivery of bespoke programmes to tie in with CLD Partnership services including those on the employability pipeline.	£76,099	£30,000	This project embeds numeracy learning onsite within the initial organisation that the learner has engaged with. The programmes use the learning and teaching materials of the host organisation, ensuring the language of numeracy becomes an everyday practice, and that the numeracy processes are contextualised for the learning being undertaken. Activities are through small group learning, with 1:1 learning available for those who needed additional support.

Organisations taking part include
Oor club – work with 19 to 25year old's who have additional support needs in money transactions
Women's Aid – offer short course in relation to budgeting, DIY and money management for the household
DWP – engagement sessions with those aged 50+, long term unemployed to offer taster session on compare and contrast and cost of living
Jericho House / Inverclyde Faith & Throughcare / – short courses with embedded accreditation, cooking and budget skills
CLD / Parklea / Morton In The Community – short course with embedded accreditation, numbers for employment.
There is ongoing communication with partners and organisations, including attendance at events to promote the services of Multiply
2 learners appearing on a podcast for Sunny Govan radio covering the themes of helping with children's homework and financial learning.
The project will meet approx. 80% of the target number of clients but has an anticipated underspend of £30,000, which could be utilised if a year 4 were available.

'1:1 Maths and Numeracy Support and Volunteer Training' New and flexible courses targeted at those without Level 5 maths, leading to an equivalent qualification	New intensive and flexible courses targeted at people without Level 5 maths in Scotland, leading to an equivalent qualification.	£146,745	£50,000	The project delivers 1:1 intensive support across a range of numerical areas, mapped to participant need, and has improved their knowledge, skills and understanding, while developing confidence to put their new numerical skills into practice in everyday contexts. To date 18 learners have secured accreditation, and been awarded a total of 59 units, and a further 27 learners are currently undertaking qualifications. Ongoing communication with partners and organisations, including attendance at partner events to promote the services of Multiply 2 learners appearing on a podcast for Sunny Govan radio covering the themes of helping with children's homework and financial learning. Project is on target to achieve outcomes, but has an anticipated underspend of £40,000 which could be utilised if a year 4 were available.
Inverclyde Council, Regeneration 'Everyday maths' Courses designed to increase confidence with numbers	Everyday numeracy, adult learning programmes based around every-day numeracy relating to shopping, cooking, ad supporting children with homework. The courses will support people to upskill their numeracy skills, build confidence and potentially work towards a formal qualification in the future.	£173,000	£173,000	Due to competing priorities, insufficient capacity was available to progress this project within available timescales and against the backdrop of known challenges being faced in providing stand alone numeracy services. However, CLD's provision in some way addresses the outcomes originally identified for this project.
Inverclyde Council, Employability & Skills	Workplace numeracy working alongside employers such as social care staff, health staff,	£76,941	£76,941	Due to competing priorities, insufficient capacity was available to progress this project within available

'Workplace Maths and Numeracy Programmes and Staff Training' Programmes delivered together with employers to cover numeracy skills required in the workplace	local call centres. Programme delivery will be shaped by the partnership between employer and employability services to ensure maximum uptake of programme.			timescales, however if an extension is granted, it could be progressed effectively in 2025/26.
West College Scotland 'Multiply – WCS' New and flexible courses targeted at those without Level 5 maths, leading to an equivalent qualification	Additional college programmes to support community members without formal qualification to level 5 maths to achieve an outcome.	£79,000	£30,000	There have been difficulties in attracting sufficient uptake for stand alone numeracy services, however embedding numeracy in the wider college provision has had better success, and to date 60 clients have taken part in the programme. There is an anticipated underspend which could be utilised if a year 4 were available.