

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 21 JUNE 2022

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – ANGUS INVESTMENT PLAN

REPORT BY ALISON SMITH, DIRECTOR OF VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

ABSTRACT

This paper provides an overview of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and conditional financial allocation for Angus. It sets out the approach to the preparation of an Investment Plan and seeks approval for delegated authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to submit the Plan to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by the required deadline.

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Note the preparation of an Investment Plan for Angus, in conjunction with partners and stakeholders, and delegate authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to submit the Plan to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund by 1st August 2022;
- (ii) Note that the specific projects within the Investment Plan will be reported back to future meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 The fund through the Investment Plan will provide a number of opportunities to address the following priorities in the Council Plan.

Economy: We want Angus to be a 'go-to' area for business

- spend Council money locally where we can help to grow our local economy
- support the creation of local, paid, and lasting job opportunities for our citizens
- make Angus a low-carbon, sustainable area
- support business and economic growth by improving the physical and digital infrastructure

People: We want to maximise inclusion and reduce inequalities

- offer our citizens a range of opportunities to help them achieve their potential and to reduce poverty

Place: We want our communities to be strong, resilient and led by citizens

- continue to reduce the council's carbon footprint with the aim of reducing our net carbon emissions by zero by 2045
- engage with citizens and communities to deliver the right services in the right place and the right time
- coordinate our place-based activity and investment through the development of the Angus Local Development Plan (known as the AngusPlan)

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), a succession to EU Structural Funds, is a central pillar of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and forms part of a suite of complementary levelling up funding, building on the competitive Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation of revenue and capital funding, via a funding formula rather

than a competition. It will support the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives:

- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
- Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
- Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
- Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency

3.2 The UKSPF was launched on 13th April and funding allocations and the prospectus were published. The funding allocation is conditional upon submission and sign off on an Investment Plan which should set out measurable outcomes that reflect local needs and opportunities.

3.3 Allocations have been made to each nation (Scotland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland). For Scotland the allocations are based on the approach as follows:

- 60% of funding is allocated on a per capita basis across Scotland
- 30% of the allocation uses the same needs-based index previously used to identify UK Community Renewal Fund priority places (Angus is identified within Priority 2)
- 10% are allocated using the lower population density measure contained within the UK Community Renewal Fund, to recognise the higher cost of delivering services in rural areas and the unique rurality of some Scottish authorities

3.4 The prospectus sets out the conditional allocations over a 3 year period. The total conditional allocation for the Tay Cities Region is £16.2M of which £4.9M is allocated to Angus.

4. UKSPF PRIORITIES AND ALLOCATIONS

4.1 UKSPF allocations are split between Core Funding and Multiply. Multiply aims to help transform the lives of adults across the UK by improving their functional numeracy skills. The breakdown of the £4.9M conditional allocation for Angus is £4M for Core and £849k for Multiply.

Core Funding (£4M)

4.2 Underneath the overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances, there are three UKSPF investment priorities:

- Communities and Place;
 - Strengthening our social fabric and fostering a sense of pride and belonging.
 - To build safe and resilient neighbourhoods.
- Support for Local Business; and
 - Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion by supporting local businesses.
 - Promoting networking and collaboration and stimulating innovation and growth.
 - Targeted support to help businesses grow – e.g. innovation, productivity, energy efficiency, low carbon and exporting.
- People and Skills
 - Boosting core skills and supporting adults to progress into work.
 - Supporting disadvantaged people to access the skills they need.
 - Funding local skills needs and supplementing local adult skills provision.
 - Reducing levels of economic inactivity and supporting those furthest from the labour market.

4.3 There is no prescription as to the level of funding which must be directed to each priority so sufficient flexibility to ensure that interventions are targeted to the most appropriate priorities.

4.4 The funding will ramp up in line with the national allocations with the annual allocations with the detail for Angus set out below. Funding must be spent/committed within each year.

22/23	23/24	24/25
£493,831	£987,782	£2,587,989

- 4.5 For each year, there is a minimum amount of capital that places must spend (10.4% in 22/23, 12.5% in 23/24 and 17.9% in 24/25) but there is the option to spend more than this.

Multiply (£896k)

- 4.6 Multiply is an early priority for UKSPF. The funding for this is 100% revenue funding.
- 4.7 It will be delivered as part of the single UKSPF investment plan. The Multiply programme will enable local areas to delivery bespoke adult numeracy programmes. The profiling for the Multiply allocation is set out below:

22/23	23/24	24/25
£256,823	£296,355	£296,355

- 4.8 The provision should be aimed at:
- Improving functional maths skills: *increase confidence with numbers, help people use numeracy to manage their money, lead to a functional skills qualification;*
 - Focused on employment outcomes: *innovative programmes delivered with employers, including specific numeracy skills required in the workplace, courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and to encourage upskilling*
 - Targeting key cohorts: *courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills, prisoners, those leaving or have just left the care system and the hardest to reach learners.*

5. TAY CITIES REGION AND APPROACH TO UKSPF IN ANGUS

- 5.1 The prospectus recognises the strong collaborative approach of the City and Growth deals and therefore invites Local Authorities across each strategy geography to collaborate in developing Investment Plans and delivering the Fund.
- 5.2 Officer discussions have taken place with Tay Cities Region partner Councils to agree the approach. Individual Investment Plans will be prepared and submitted for each local authority area. Oversight of these will be through the Heads of Economic Development from the 4 authorities to ensure alignment to the Regional Economic Strategy, collaboration on interventions where there is added value, or existing strengths, of a regional approach, coordination on stakeholder engagement and to ensure that all the Investment Plans reflect the existing strong working relationship across the four Councils.
- 5.3 The UK Government Cities and Local Growth Unit (CLGU) lead on the UK Government's economic growth policy, including a range of initiatives including support for regenerating towns and high streets, local growth plans and economic intelligence. The approach is very much place-based and they work closely with COSLA, the Scotland Office, Scottish Government, regional development organisations, third sector and community bodies.
- 5.4 For Angus we are supported by the area and depute lead for the NE Scotland and Tay Cities area of the CLGU Scotland team and officers are in regular contact. The CLGU leads for the area provide support on the fund, understanding of the requirements of the prospectus and will assist with early oversight of draft Investment Plans and manage delivery.

6. THE INVESTMENT PLAN

- 6.1 To access the Angus allocation, we are required to submit an Investment Plan which sets out measurable outcomes that reflect local needs and opportunities and inform the interventions that we intend to deliver through the funding.

- 6.2 The prospectus for UKSPF is extremely detailed and sets out a long list of interventions which can be selected from to include within Investment Plan. Some examples of these are included below:

Communities and Place: place based investment for town centres and regeneration, support for sports, arts, cultural heritage and creative activities, projects and facilities and institutions, active travel projects, volunteering and/or social action projects, community measures to reduce the cost of living.

Supporting Local Business: development and promotion of the visitor economy, research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services, business support measures to drive employment growth, support for business resilience.

People and Skills: employment support for economically inactive people, intervention to increase levels of digital inclusion, support for local areas to support local skills needs, green skills courses, support for education and skills targeting vulnerable young people.

- 6.3 Local partnerships will be a key component both in the preparation and delivery of the Investment Plans. Plans will also require to take account of the existing funding landscape.
- 6.4 The specific format and process for submission of the Investment Plan is prescribed in the prospectus and further technical guidance will be published shortly. Given the time period that the Investment Plan covers and from review of the interventions these are likely to be fairly high level which some scope to provide specific detail thereafter.

Timescales and Approval

- 6.5 Timescales for the preparation of the Investment Plan are extremely tight, with submissions to be made by 1st August 2022. Feedback has been provided that the preparation period started during the pre-election period and runs over the majority of local authority summer recess periods which precludes Council committee sign off. At present there is no movement on the submission date.
- 6.6 There is a significant level of work required in order to pull together the Investment Plan in this timeframe and ensure appropriate engagement in its preparation, in the context of limited staff resource.
- 6.7 The UK Government will sign off the plans, currently estimated to be in October 2022.
- 6.8 It is therefore recommended that Committee agrees to delegate authority to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth to submit the Investment Plan by 1 August 2022 with further detail on proposed projects to be brought back to committee for agreement should the Plan be approved.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council as the funding will provide both capital and revenue support for delivery of projects/initiatives in local communities. There are however indirect significant implications through officer time to prepare the Investment Plan and subsequent administration and delivery of the funding. This will impact on other work. Whilst some provision is made for this through scope to use 4% of the fund total for administrative costs this does not assist with the early upfront work.

8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions):

Committee Report – UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Angus Investment Plan

The report provides an overview of the UKSPF and process for preparation of the Investment Fund. The Investment Plan itself will be subject to EIA/FSD.

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment Yes/No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| (i) It does not impact on people | Yes/No |
| (ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics | Yes/No |
| (iii) It is for information only | Yes/No |
| (iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year | Yes/No |
| (v) It is technical | Yes/No |

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment	Yes/No
Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment	Yes/No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service:

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

(iv)Is it a new proposal? Yes/No Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? Yes/No Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees Yes/No

Job Applicants Yes/No

Service users Yes/No

Members of the public Yes/No

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

Other (general information as appropriate).

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? Yes/No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact

Disability

Impact

Gender reassignment

Impact

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact

Religion or Belief

Impact

Sex

Impact

Sexual orientation

Impact

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Jill Paterson, Service Leader Planning and Sustainable Growth

Reviewed by:

Approved by:

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
