

## **AGENDA ITEM NO 5**

**REPORT NO 142/25**

### **ANGUS COUNCIL**

#### **POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 15 MAY 2025**

#### **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 2025-26 YEAR 4 PROGRAMME**

#### **REPORT BY JILL PATERSON, SERVICE LEADER - PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

### **1. ABSTRACT**

- 1.1 This report provides a brief update on the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) 2022-25 programme, and background and proposals for the UKSPF 2025-26 Year 4 programme. It seeks approval to allocate £1,271,755 to shortlisted projects in 2025-26.

### **2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES**

- 2.1 Delivery of projects and initiatives from this fund will contribute to the following priorities in the Angus Council Plan 2023-2028:

#### **Caring for the Economy**

- Continue to support and deliver elements of the Tay Cities Deal
- Support and deliver programmes that help people into work
- Be more commercial in our approach to contracts and support growth of business locally whenever possible through a community wealth building approach

#### **Caring for our People**

- Support children, young people and adults to access appropriate opportunities which allow them to progress in their learning

#### **Caring for our Place**

- Engage with communities to support their ambitions to deliver on local aspirations (e.g., community asset transfer requests, community gardens, food hubs)
- Support the development of more active travel routes around Angus Council
- Maximise funding opportunities and grant to the Third Sector and communities to support their ambitions to deliver services
- Enhance and restore Angus Biodiversity, corporately and with a range of stakeholders

### **3. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) notes the UKSPF 2022-25 programme update, and that further detail will be provided once UK Government end of programme reporting is completed;
- (ii) agrees the allocation of £1,271,755 to projects in 2025-26 as set out in Section 6.2 and Appendix 1 of this report;
- (iii) delegates authority for the signing and issuing of sub-agreements with project partners allocated funding in accordance with recommendation (ii) above to the Service Leader - Planning & Sustainable Growth, following consultation with the Director of Legal, Governance and Change or their nominated representative; and
- (iv) notes that further updates will be reported back to future meetings of the Policy and Resources Committee.

## 4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The UKSPF was launched by UK Government on 13 April 2023, succeeding the EU structural funds, providing new funding for local investment to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. Following approval of the Angus Investment Plan, £4.9m UKSPF funding was allocated to Angus for the period to 31 March 2025, with annual awards of £770,714 in 2022-23, £1,284,117 in 2023-24, and £2,884,324 in 2024-25. Reference is made to Reports 151/22, 165/23, 262/23, 289/23 and 249/24 which provide background on the Angus Investment Plan, funding allocations, projects, and delegated authority for the 2022-25 programme.
- 4.2 A report to the Grants Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee on 13 March 2025 (Report 98/25 refers) provided an update on the delivery of the current programmed projects and sought a reallocation of funding to alternative projects which could be delivered by the programme close date of 31 March 2025. A detailed report on the 2022-25 programme will be provided once all project reports have been provided and the UK Government end of programme reporting is complete.
- 4.3 As announced in the [Autumn Budget 2024](#) on 30 October 2024, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be extended for 2025-26 at a reduced level of £900 million. Every part of the UK will receive a UKSPF allocation for 2025-26, and this transitional arrangement will provide as much stability as possible in advance of wider local growth funding reforms. Formal notification of this position was received from UK Government on 13 December 2024 as well as notification of the allocations for the Year 4 2025/26 period for lead local authorities.

## 5. CURRENT POSITION

- 5.1 [Allocations for lead local authorities](#) in 2025-26 and a [technical update](#) to the UKSPF prospectus were published on 4 March 2025, confirming funding and details of the key updates to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2025-26.
- 5.2 The allocation for Angus is £1,613,081, consisting of £457,382 Capital, and £1,155,699 Revenue funding. The budget for 2025-26 relates to a new spending review period, so the spend deadline is different. Lead local authorities delivering UKSPF in 2025-26, may wish to extend existing projects using funding from 2025-26, however for budgetary and reporting purposes the first three years are distinct from 2025-26.
- 5.3 The formal requirement relating to the funding under the current Memorandum of Understanding is that any UKSPF funding from 2022-25 allocations that has not been spent on activities that take place by 31 March 2025 must be returned to the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). More recently on 5 February 2025 we received notification that any underspend will be deducted from the Year 4 UKSPF allocation. This means that although there is no change to the figure for Year 4 the Council will receive a reduction in the overall total across both programmes. It also means that projects which were due to receive funding from Years 1-3 will utilise funding from the Year 4 allocation instead. An example of the impact is shown below:

Years 1-3 Allocation	£4.9M
Year 4 Allocation	£1.6M
Years 1-3 Underspend	£0.16M
Total Allocation Across the 4 Years	£6.34M

- 5.4 As outlined in Report 98/25 the projected underspend should all projects be delivered, and no further opportunities be identified, would be £136,788. Officers were able to identify a further 3 projects which saw this underspend total reduce to £66,563.
- 5.5 Project reports for 2022-25 are currently being collated, however officers had been advised of a delay with the Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens project, in addition to those previously, which has meant that works could not meet the terms of the funding and will therefore require to be included as part of the Year 4 funding. This has resulted in the projected underspend increasing back to the level as outlined in Report 98/25.
- 5.6 The three 2022-25 UKSPF programme priority areas of Communities & Place, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills will be replaced and have been mapped 5 national missions:
- Kickstart Economic Growth

- Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower
- Take Back Our Streets
- Break Down Barriers to Opportunity
- Build an NHS Fit for the Future

Beneath these missions sit themes and sub themes as follows:

- **Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities.** Sub Themes: Healthy; Safe; Inclusive.
- **Theme: Thriving Places.** Sub Themes: Development of the Visitor Economy; High Streets and Town Centres Improvements.
- **Theme: Support for Business.** Sub Themes: Advice and Support to Business; Enterprise Culture and Start-Up Support; Business Sites and Premises.
- **Theme: Employability.** Sub Themes: Supporting people to progress towards and into employment; Support for young people who are not at risk of being NEET.
- **Theme: Skills.** Sub Themes: Essential Skills; Employment related Skills.

Further information and details of how the previous programme priorities have been mapped to the new programme missions can be found in the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025-26: Technical note](#)

- 5.7 Lead Local Authorities are required to submit an initial Delivery and Spending Plan for the 2025-26 programme by the submission deadline of 1 May 2025. Initial project proposals for UKSPF funding in 2025-26 have been collated and were submitted to the officer Strategic Funding and Projects Group (Report 288/23 refers) for review and considered at their meeting of 10 March 2025. Projects recommended for, and seeking elected member approval are outlined in Section 6.2 of this report.
- 5.8 At the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 6 June 2023 ([Report 165/23](#)), Elected Members agreed the approach to the allocation of funds and delegated signing and issue of sub-agreements to project partners to the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth following consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services. Following the retirement of the Director of Vibrant Communities and Sustainable Growth, for 2025/26 it is requested that members agree to delegate the signing and issue of sub-agreements to project partners to the Service Leader - Planning & Sustainable Growth following consultation with the Director of Legal, Governance & Change.

## 6. PROPOSALS

- 6.1 In line with Years 1-3 (2022-25) of the UKSPF Programme, 4% of the total allocation can be utilised for management and administration costs to the Council. This allows us to meet the relevant reporting and monitoring requirements. The remaining funding available for projects would therefore be £1,548,558.
- 6.2 This report seeks approval for 13 projects recommended by the Strategic Projects and Funding Group with proposed funding allocations set against each project. Those projects marked with an asterisk are subject to analysis of the outcomes from Years 1-3 programme. The total value of funding requested is £1,271,755, of which £474,600 is Capital, and £732,632 is Revenue as summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: projects recommended for approval by the Strategic Projects and Funding Group

Project	Capital	Revenue	Total
Management and Administration 4% fee	0	64,523	64,523
Projects Allocated in Years 1-3 Programme but Unable to Deliver by 31 March 2025			
Arbroath Community Centre Roof	275,000	0	275,000
Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens	49,600	0	49,600
Continuation of Projects Funded Under Years 1-3 Programme			
Inglis Memorial Hall Stage 2 Feasibility Study	0	10,000	10,000

Youth Work 1:1 Support	0	47,062	47,062
Community Asset Capital Grant Fund	150,000	75,000	225,000
No One Left Behind (20-24)	0	60,000	60,000
D&AC Angus Business Skills Fund*	0	100,000	100,000
D&AC Multiply Maths Support*	0	53,360	53,360
Business Gateway Additional Support	0	85,000	85,000
Angus Business Grants	0	250,000	250,000
Third Sector Challenge Fund Pilot Extension*	0	20,210	20,210
<b>New Projects</b>			
West Links Beach Huts Operational Feasibility	0	12,000	12,000
Motorhomes Stopover Sites Operational Feasibility	0	20,000	20,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>474,600</b>	<b>797,155</b>	<b>1,271,755</b>

- 6.3 Should Elected Members be minded to approve the above projects, the funding remaining to allocate to other projects will be £341,326.
- 6.4 Members will note that the amount of capital requested exceeds the capital amount allocated to Angus by £17,618. As with the previous programme, revenue budget may be moved into capital, therefore reducing the revenue budget. Table 2 below provides a breakdown of how this would be calculated.

Table 2: 2025-26 Budget

	<b>CAPITAL</b>	<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Angus Allocation	457,382	1,155,699	1,613,081
Total Requested in this report	474,600	732,632	1,271,755
Balance if agreed	(17,218)	358,544	341,325
Balance with Adjustments	0	341,326	341,326

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications for the Council as UKSPF funding will provide both capital and revenue support for delivery of projects. There are financial risks for the Council if funding is awarded and works commissioned are, for whatever reason, not completed by the 31 March 2026 deadline for spending the UKSPF funding. Officers will monitor progress closely and have projects ready to draw down should there be any delays.
- 7.2 There are however indirect resource implications to undertake the required administration, reporting and delivery of the funding as well as support the delivery of projects and this is met through the 4% management and administration element of the fund.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 8.1 Where the Council is providing grant funding or facilitating provision by partners there is a risk of a lag or change in actual expenditure matching the funding profile. The Council does not have full control on delivery in these circumstances which can lead to slippage in spending timelines.
- 8.2 The Business Gateway Additional Support is managed through a joint contract with Dundee City Council and Perth and Kinross Council. This includes provision for a community outreach worker. Should this project not go ahead then there may be resultant impact on that resource which would be managed directly by Business Gateway.
- 8.3 Year 4 of the programme started on 1 April 2025 and will end on 31 March 2026. This one-year programme must be carefully planned, managed, and closely monitored to ensure all project activity and spend is completed by the end of the programme.

- 8.4 The Development Officer (UKSPF) and Service Leader for Planning and Sustainable Growth will be responsible for oversight of the UKSPF programme and will work closely with project leads to support them to deliver within the fund timescales.

## **9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

## **10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY**

- 10.1 A screening assessment has been undertaken and a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required for the following reason(s): - The report sets out a high level overview of the allocation of funding against interventions and does not provide sufficient detail on projects. The projects within this report do not propose any significant alterations to the buildings and therefore no impact on people. Any assessment will therefore be undertaken in the context of individual projects as they are identified.

## **11. CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND WELLBEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 11.1 A Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been carried out within the EIA.

## **12. CONSULTATION**

- 12.1 The Director of Finance, the Acting Director of Legal, Governance and Change and the Strategic Policy and Funding Group have been consulted on the contents of this report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are: (list them below)

[Policy And Resources Committee – 21 June 2022](#)  
[Report No.151/22 UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Angus Investment Plan](#)

[Policy And Resources Committee – 6 June 2023](#)  
[Report No. 165/23 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update](#)

[Communities Committee – 26 September 2023](#)  
[Report No. 262/23 2023/24 Place-Based Investment Programme](#)

[Policy And Resources Committee – 24 October 2023](#)  
[Report No. 289/23 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update](#)

[Policy And Resources Committee – 3 September 2024](#)  
[Report No. 249/24 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update And Communities & Place Priority Funding Allocation](#)

Grant Sub Committee Of The Policy And Resources Committee – 13 March 2025  
Report No.98/25 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update And Remaining Funding Allocation (EXEMPT)

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List of Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Summary detail of 2025-26 Projects requesting Elected Member approval

**SUMMARY DETAIL OF 2025-26 PROJECTS REQUESTING ELECTED MEMBER APPROVAL****Angus Council Management and Administration 4% Fee, £64,523**

Each lead local authority may use up to 4% of their allocation by default to undertake necessary Fund administration.

**Arbroath Community Centre Roof, £275,000 (Capital)**

Proposal to recoat the roof of the Arbroath Community Centre, Category C Listed Building and former Drill Hall, in Marketgate, Arbroath. The proposed protective industrial roof coating will treat and repair metal roof sheets that have experienced corrosion and damage from weathering. The existing roof is no longer wind and watertight and the building is experiencing moisture ingress and damage as a result. There were previous funding allocations to this project from Place Based Investment Fund of £243,000 (Report No 262/23) along with agreement by the Policy & Resources Committee in September 2024 (Report No 249/24) to allocate £180,000 from the 2024/25 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) towards works to make the building wind and watertight for any potential group interested in operating out of the property. Expenditure to date is an estimated £10,000 utilising some of the 2024/25 UKSPF. The remainder of these fundings are no longer available in 2025-26, and there is no council funding available towards this project. To date works have included appointing an agent, who has procured a drone survey and received works quotations in February 2025. Some 20+ neighbour agreements are required to access all parts of the roof, with access/scaffolding being a substantial portion of the project costs.

Mission: Take Back Our Streets

Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities

Sub Theme: Inclusive: Bringing Communities Together, Tackling Homelessness

**Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens £49,600 (Capital)**

Kirriemuir Gateway to the Glens was one of the buildings handed back by Angus Alive in 2023. Following the completion of the feasibility study in January 2024 work has been ongoing with the Kirriemuir Regeneration Group to take over the running of the building. Funding for urgent works to the building were agreed at Policy and Resources Committee in September 2024 (Report 249/25) to support the future lease of the building to the group. Preparatory works to confirm and specify the agreed scope of these works as well as undertake the necessary tender exercise to secure a contractor have unfortunately taken longer than programmed and therefore works were unable to commence and be undertaken in time to meet the 31 March 2025 timescale of Years 1 to 3 of the UKSPF programme.

Mission: Take Back Our Streets

Theme: Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities

Sub Theme: Inclusive: Bringing Communities Together, Tackling Homelessness

**Inglis Memorial Hall Stage 2 Feasibility Study, £10,000 (Revenue)**

Angus Alive handed back the Inglis Memorial Hall in 2023 and work has been ongoing to engage the community in a joint agreement to continue to run the building. Following engagement with the community of Edzell, there is community interest in continuing to provide a service from the building. Work has paused, while legal examination has been ongoing on the Trust Deeds, once this is completed discussions will continue to constitute and develop a board. Once this is in place, monies will be required for the group to carry out a business plan to develop a sustainable project for the group. The funding will allow the group to commission a consultant to carry out a business plan to allow the group to understand the model for operating the building, ensuring it is sustainable.

Mission: Kickstart Economic Growth

Theme: Thriving Places

Sub Theme: Development of the Visitor Economy

**Youth Work 1:1 Support, £47,062 (Revenue)**

Since coming out of covid restrictions, combined with the ongoing challenges related to the cost of living and recent flooding which has displaced many families. There has been a noticeable rise in disengagement from school and learning, increased substance use and growing concerns about mental health, as reflected in feedback from young people themselves. We have during this time also seen an increase in numbers of young people leaving school without a positive destination. Prevention is key to ensuring that young are moving into positive destinations, are engaging positively in their community and numbers engaging in risky behaviours is reduced. 1:1 has been piloted in some schools in Angus in the last 12 months. The project looks to continue this work, providing young people with support to

increase their motivation to learn and achieve, improved H&W all of which results in an increase in employability skills and positive destinations.

Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity

Theme: Employability

Sub Themes: Supporting people to progress towards and into employment or Further Education;  
Support for young people who are or at risk of being Not in Education, Employment or Training

### **Community Asset Capital Grant Fund, £200,000 (Capital), £75,000 (Revenue)**

Work has been ongoing to develop and build capacity of the Community groups and organisations in Angus through the Community Development Programme of Support over the last two years, this has identified a number of Community Led projects which is seeking funding. In place of the paused Place Based Investment Fund last year, the UKSPF fund provided essential capital to community groups and organisations to develop their community assets. The Scottish Government have announced that a final year of the Place Based Investment Fund will continue this year, however allocations may be significantly lower. It is proposed that a bid is made to the UKSPF for a mix of revenue to deliver a pot for feasibility and capital funding which can complement the Place Based Investment Funding. This will be branded as per two years ago – the Angus Place Prosperity Fund. The same criteria approved last year will be used for this fund.

Mission: Kickstart Economic Growth

Theme: Thriving Places

Sub Theme: High Streets and Town Centre's Improvements

### **No one Left Behind RESTART, £120,000 (Revenue)**

The RESTART employability programme is aimed at individuals aged 20-24 who are experiencing long-term unemployment (more than 6 months) and who face additional barriers to employment. Since the Covid pandemic it has become increasingly common for young adults experiencing social isolation following the move to online learning during secondary or further education. Additionally, those young people were unable to access the same opportunities to gain work experience that they ordinarily may have accessed pre-covid. There has also been a notable increase in young adults with neurodiverse conditions, experiencing poor mental health or feeling unequipped to navigate the world of work. UKSPF funding will allow us to continue with the delivery of the RESTART employability programme which provides intermediate labour market opportunities including wraparound key worker support to individuals aged 20-24 who have been unemployed for at least 6 months and are not in education or training. It is hoped that by participating in the programme individuals will gain invaluable work experience, get into the routine of being in work, gain new skills, undertake training and feel equipped to move into sustained employment.

Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity

Theme: Employability

Sub Theme: Supporting people to progress towards and into employment

### **Dundee & Angus College Angus Business Skills Fund, £100,000 (Revenue)**

The Flexible Workforce Development Fund (FWDF), launched by the Scottish Government in 2017, provided fully funded training through local colleges to upskill and retrain employees, addressing skills shortages and boosting productivity. FWDF grants for business training were removed by Scottish Government in April 2024, despite ongoing demand for training support to boost businesses. Dundee and Angus College played a key role, collaborating with local businesses to develop industry-specific training. Since October 2024 £270 000 UKSPF funding has been invested in addressing skills training needs and workforce development requirements in Angus, delivered by Dundee and Angus College. This project proposes to build on the success of the current Angus Business Skills Fund to continue to support workforce development in the region. The project is a strategic initiative designed to drive local economic growth by supporting Angus-based businesses in upskilling their workforce. It is designed to empower businesses in the Angus region to invest in high-quality training and development programmes.

Mission: Kickstart Economic Growth

Theme: Skills

Sub Themes: Essential skills (including numeracy, literacy, ESOL and digital); Employment related skills

### **Dundee & Angus College Multiply Homework Clubs, £53,360 (Revenue)**

Dundee and Angus College is the largest provider of maths and numeracy education and training in the region and is well placed to meet the outputs and outcomes required for the UKSPF People and User indicator. The delivery plans for continuing Multiply align well with the Adult Learning Strategy for Scotland 2022-2027, promoting accessibility, inclusivity, collaboration and skills development to

improve the life chances of adult learners across Angus. Dundee and Angus College is an Angus Community Planning Partner and is committed to improving outcomes and life chances for the people of Angus. The Multiply delivery plan will support the vision of making Angus a great place to live, work and visit. Funding would allow for:

- Continuation of Parent and Child (Secondary age) Maths homework clubs run at school locations throughout Angus;
- Continuation of 8 online skillsboost courses (20 hour in length) to allow adults to learn at a time and a place that suits their need fully supported by a tutor where required;
- Continuation of SCQF rated level 5 online course as an alternative to SQA National 5 Maths;
- Development and creation of 3 further online courses (20 hour) for Maths for Construction, Numbers for the Hair and Beauty Industry, and Budgeting, Household Bills and Financial Health, and
- Delivery of Maths Anxiety Courses – supporting your child to be more confident with numbers, facing up to fear and anxiety with positive mindsets.

Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity

Theme: Skills

Sub Theme: Essential skills (including numeracy, literacy, ESOL and digital)

### **Business Gateway Additional Support, £85,000 (Revenue)**

Continuation of Tayside UKSPF Funded project from 2022-25 programme. Funding for costs of:

- UKSPF Community Business Adviser - Provision of a Community Business Adviser based at the Business Gateway Arbroath Office with outreach days, to enhance the engagement within communities which might not always engage with the business support landscape. The Advisor will meet clients and give support and advice to those interested in starting a business, new and existing businesses and those businesses looking to grow and take their business to the next level.
- UKSPF Expert Help – providing the opportunity for us to support companies within the local regions who might not fit one of the CORE Business Gateway service categories but who could benefit from receiving specialist support by an expert. NB – The Angus Outreach Community Business Adviser works 4 days per week therefore additional Expert Help is available in Angus.
- UKSPF Masterclasses – covering a variety of predominantly growth-related subjects. These could for example include such subjects as Finance for Growth, Strategy for Growth or Marketing for Growth among others.
- Digital Support - In 2023, the Scottish Government took the decision to stop funding for Digital Boost across Scotland. This was not only a huge surprise but a disappointment for our clients as it was such a well-used service within the Tayside region. The Tayside Councils have agreed each to provide £10,000 towards digital support within the region and we will primarily focus this funding on 1-2-1 support, with a small number of workshops or coaching sessions within each region to be agreed with the Contract Manager.

Mission: Kickstart Economic Growth

Theme: Support for Business

Sub Themes: Advice and support to business; Enterprise culture and start up support

### **Angus Business Grants, £250,000 (Revenue)**

We would like to launch a new Business Grant for Angus Businesses in 2025-26. Following on from the success of the 2024-25 SME Start and Grow Grant we propose to deliver a scheme of financial assistance in the form of a match funded grant aimed at kickstarting economic growth and supporting Angus businesses who can demonstrate ambitions to innovate and/or diversify to achieve business growth. Grant sizes will be larger than the previous programme, a minimum of £10,000 and maximum of up to £50,000, with a requirement of match funding provided by the business. The aim of the grant is to kickstart economic growth, encourage businesses to think more strategically and support Angus businesses who can demonstrate ambitions to innovate and/or diversify to achieve business growth. With this grant will encourage:

- Entrepreneurship
- Innovation
- Exploration of new markets
- Internationalisation
- Introduction of new technologies, and
- Green economy growth



The grant will be targeted at Small to Medium Enterprise (SME's) with less than 250 employees, and priority will be given to businesses in the following key Angus sectors: Manufacturing and Engineering; Agri; Clean Growth; Renewables; Tourism and Golf.

Mission: Kickstart Economic Growth

Theme: Support for Business

Sub Theme: Advice and support to business

### **Third Sector Challenge Fund Pilot Extension, £20,210 (Revenue)**

Continuation of UKSPF Funded project from 2022-25 programme. Third Sector organisations across Angus were invited to submit applications to deliver projects aligned with the UKSPF People and Skills Priority Objectives and UKSPF Interventions S31 - Supporting economically inactive people to overcome barriers to work by providing cohesive, locally tailored support including access to basic skills, and S32 - Supporting People further from the Labour Market through access to basic skills. 3 projects received funding for pilot projects for 6-months to complement existing provision and add additionality to support for people in the 16+ and 24+ age group as follows:

- Murton Trust, Adult Volunteering and Employability Project – Providing long-term volunteering and work experience days, 4 days per week, and a series of engaging sessions to encourage people aged 24+ to start their journey to overcome barriers to work and consider volunteering to reconnect and begin the personal development needed to look for work. Applications and referrals for adult placements have been supported by Angus Council, Remploy, Real life Options, Volunteer Scotland, Third Sector Interface Locality Workers, Social Work, Criminal Justice, HearMe, Mental Health Nurses and self-referrals.
- NEWSolutions, Next Steps Programme – Providing group support sessions to improve the mental health & wellbeing of adults aged 24+ in Angus, specifically those who are experiencing problems with their mental health that are creating barriers to seeking employment. During the pilot participants have reported that they enjoyed connecting with others facing barriers to employment, and they are using the skills they have learned daily, and that they are experiencing reduced feelings of anxiety and increased confidence.
- DD8 Music, Beyond the Barrier – A programme of creative and vocational training to build practical skills and foster personal development, confidence, and community engagement. Support for economically inactive individuals (ages 16+), equipping them with creative, technical, and employment readiness skills. The project blends hands-on creative workshops (such as music production, event planning, digital marketing, and photography) with structured employability support where appropriate (CV writing, job applications, and interview preparation).

We are seeking further funding in 2025-26 to extend 2 of these pilots, Murton Trust and NEWSolutions by an initial 6-months, with a possible future request for further extension to the end of March 2026 (pending reporting on success of projects). These projects have experienced great interest, need and demand from their pilot projects and are in a strong position to use that experience to continue to deliver, using their learning from the previous 6-months to build upon and strengthen their programmes.

Mission: Break Down Barriers to Opportunity

Theme: Employability

Sub Theme: Supporting people to progress towards and into employment or Further Education

### **West Links Beach Huts Feasibility Study £10,000 (Revenue)**

There is a current proposal to look at the introduction of beach huts at the West Links in Arbroath. The proposal is provide funding for external support to investigate the operational elements of providing beach huts, focussing on the proposal allocation policy, rental income, maintenance costs.

Mission: Kickstart Economic Growth

Theme: Thriving Places.

Sub Themes: Development of the Visitor Economy; High Streets and Town Centres Improvements.

### **Motorhomes Stopover Sites Feasibility Study £20,000 (Revenue)**

The visitor economy is extremely important to Angus and recent years have seen a significant increase in motorhomes both to Angus and elsewhere. Previous funding has supported the private sector to investigate the potential for Aires sites and this funding proposal seeks to secure external support to explore the practical elements of the provision of Aires sites on Angus Council owned land as well as the steps needed to formalise arrangements with the current stopover at Inchcape (adjacent to Gayfield stadium) in Arbroath which sees significant volumes of motorhomes during the summer months. Due to the number of motorhomes this cannot be considered as a Aires site therefore more formal provisions

will be required. This study will therefore look at the steps needed, relevant legislative requirements, infrastructure and feasibility of making this a formal stopover site.

Mission: Kickstart Economic Growth

Theme: Thriving Places.

Sub Themes: Development of the Visitor Economy; High Streets and Town Centres Improvements.