

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET15 August 2024Report by Director of EnvironmentUK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND 2022-2025 – REQUEST FOR  
APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to homologate the previous approval of three projects and seek approval for two additional projects under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) award from the UK Government for the period 2022-2025.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Cabinet is asked to:
- a) Note the underspends across the SPF interventions;
  - b) Homologate the decision to approve three new projects as outlined in this report;
  - c) Note the withdrawal of one project and approve the request for a further two new projects as outlined in the report; and
  - d) Delegate to the Director of Environment to approve any new proposal requests that can be accommodated, if any underspends or adjustments arise in the future.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The SPF supports the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives. It covers four main investment interventions: Communities and Place; Supporting Local Business; People and Skills and Multiply.

4. East Renfrewshire Council was awarded £2,722,202 for the 3-year programme from 2022-2025 for the Communities and Place, Supporting Local Businesses and People and Skills interventions with £568,227 being awarded specifically for the Multiply intervention for the same period.

5. Cabinet approved the East Renfrewshire SPF Local Investment Plan on 10 November 2022. This plan outlined a wide range of proposals covering the four interventions outlined above. The programme start was delayed due to late approval by the UK Government, but confidence remains that outcomes will be delivered as the programme progresses.

6. There is a current underspend of £160,000. This is due to a number of projects coming in under budget, allowing contingency funds to be released and other projects being scaled back or not implemented at all, where demand was insufficient.

7. In accordance with UK Government's SPF guidelines, underspends can be utilised for any activity that falls within the scope of the Communities and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills interventions.

### REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

8. New projects that were seeking support from the UKSPF programme were presented to the Leader and the Convenor in June 2024 for prior approval, to allow them to commence immediately. One of these projects, Giffnock Business Improvement District's Music Festival, has subsequently been withdrawn. This report to Cabinet will allow homologation of the decision to approve three projects in June.

9. The three projects where prior approval is to be homologated are listed below:

SPF Intervention	Applicant	Project	Costs	Outcomes
People and Skills	East Renfrewshire Council (Housing Services)	<p>Mixed Tenure Scheme - Creation of 3 work placements with training opportunities.</p> <p>Paid living wage based on 30 hours per week over 6 months</p> <p>Development of training plan which will include: working with the public; grass cutting; health and safety; emergency first aid and manual handling</p> <p>Each trainee will be guaranteed an interview with employing service subject to available vacancies and meeting minimum job requirements. They will also be allocated a Key Worker from Work EastRen to help support them into sustainable employment</p>	£37,346.30	<p>Number of people supported to gain employment</p> <p>Number of people taking part in work experience programmes</p> <p>Number of people supported to gain a qualification or complete a course</p>
People and Skills	East Renfrewshire Council (Neighbourhood Services)	<p>Creation of 3 work placements with training opportunities.</p> <p>Paid living wage based on 30 hours per week over 6 months</p> <p>Development of training plan which will include: working with the public; risk assessments; litter picking; health and safety; manual handling and safe systems of work</p> <p>Each trainee will be guaranteed an interview with employing service</p>	£37,346.30	<p>Number of people supported to gain employment</p> <p>Number of people taking part in work experience programmes</p> <p>Number of people supported to gain a qualification or complete a course</p>

		subject to available vacancies and meeting job minimum requirements. They will also be allocated a Key Worker from Work EastRen to help support them into sustainable employment		
Communities and Place	East Renfrewshire Council (Economic Development team)	Rent and utilities for Mearns Community Hub for 1 year  Hub is a well-used resource for service providers to engage with local residents and businesses	£21,839	Commercial buildings developed or improved  Number of new or improved community facilities as a result of support  Improved engagement numbers
<b>Sub-Totals</b>			<b>£96,531.60</b>	

10. The necessary event licenses have not been secured in time to hold the Giffnock Music Festival. As an alternative, the Giffnock Business Improvement District is seeking approval for a Christmas Village project as outlined below.

11. A further project, Business Gateway East Renfrewshire, Procurement Support to Local Businesses, is also put forward for approval.

<b>SPF Intervention</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Costs</b>	<b>Outcomes</b>
Communities and Place	Giffnock Business Improvement District	Giffnock Christmas Village project will promote Giffnock as a 'Christmas Village' where people can visit for various Christmas experiences. The project will include: traditional Christmas huts like those seen in German markets; a main stage showcasing a variety of music & entertainment from local community groups; kids craft zone; Santa's Grotto and an artisan food and craft market.	£20,000	Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.  Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.
Local Business	Business Gateway East Renfrewshire	Dedicated procurement support to local businesses. The aim is to emulate the success of Hub South West. The programme would run 8 workshops for Tier 1 contractors to help them bid better for public sector contracts. The project would support	£43,000	Number of businesses receiving non-financial support  Increased number of businesses engaged in new markets

		10 local businesses.		Increased share of early stage firms which generate or increase their revenue  Increased business sustainability
<b>Sub-total</b>			<b>£63,000</b>	
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£159,531.60</b>	

12. The Council's Economic Development team carried out a desktop assessment of all the bidding projects and scored them against three main groupings: fit with the SPF aims and objectives, strategic fit and deliverability. There are insufficient funds to accommodate all requests that were made. A total of five projects are put forward for support – three that have been approved by the Leader and Convenor and where their prior approval is to be homologated and the two new ones detailed above. Appendix 1 lists one reserve project and five projects that have not been recommended for approval.

#### **DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

13. At the meeting of 10 November 2022, Cabinet approved delegated authority to the Director of Environment to make adjustments to proposals already approved, depending upon the detailed costs of projects being confirmed. Further underspends in the SPF programme are expected and ordinarily any new proposals will need to factor in Cabinet approval, recruitment and/or procurement processes, which could delay any project start date and spend. Given that we are nearing the end of the programme, we are seeking delegated authority to the Director of Environment to approve new proposals arising before the end of the programme.

#### **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

14. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Project development and implementation of SPF at a local level will be funded via existing resources.

15. The Council must comply with the objectives of the SPF, as set out in the UK guidelines.

#### **CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

16. Consultation has taken place with colleagues in the Environment Department, Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office and SPF colleagues. All are supportive of these projects.

#### **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS**

17. There are no staffing, property, legal, IT, Subsidy Control, equalities, sustainability and climate change implications associated with this report. East Renfrewshire Council traineeship posts will require a recruitment process and an appropriate supervision structure and training plan will also be put in place. These will be managed by existing resources.

## CONCLUSIONS

18. The SPF programme continues to provide an excellent opportunity to deliver further investment to key areas of East Renfrewshire and will be a catalyst for regeneration until 2025.

19. These projects will support further employability pathways for local residents, support place-based projects to create a coherent approach to building resilient communities, address inequalities, provide improved footfall to our town centres and neighbourhoods, and support local businesses access upcoming procurement opportunities.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

20. The Cabinet is asked to:

- a) Note the underspends across the SPF interventions;
- b) Homologate the decision to approve three new projects as outlined in this report;
- c) Note the withdrawal of one project and approve the request for a further two new projects as outlined in the report; and
- d) Delegate to the Director of Environment to approve any new proposal requests that can be accommodated, if any underspends or adjustments arise in the future.

Director of Environment

Further information can be obtained from Michaela Sullivan, Head of Place, 0141 577 3116  
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July 2024

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## Appendix 1

SPF Intervention	Applicant	Project	Costs	Recommendation	Comments
Communities and Place	East Renfrewshire Council (City Deal & Infrastructure team)	<p>Celebration and official opening of the Aurs Road City Deal project with an inclusive community fun run/wheel</p> <p>Bring communities, funding partners and local groups together in a fun way to celebrate the opening of Aurs Road and showcase the transformed road and new active travel promenade</p> <p>One day, temporary road closure of Aurs Road</p> <p>Further funding to be provided by Sustrans to promote walking and cycling opportunities created by the improved route.</p>	£40,000	<p>Funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area.</p> <p>Funding for the development and promotion (both trade and consumer) of the visitor economy, such as local attractions, trails, tours and tourism products more generally.</p>	Reserve List
Communities & Place	Include Me 2	To support the development of our activities, marketing and events - family fun day at Cowan Park, alongside a wider initiative to draw more marketing and media attention to activities, services and events within the authority.	£30,000	Not recommended for approval	<p>Insufficient funds to accommodate</p> <p>Other national funds may be able to support</p>
People & Skills	QTS Rail Skills Academy	Rail Skills Academy has been developed to help to combat the skills shortage and lack of diversity in the rail industry.	£40,392	Not recommended for approval	<p>Insufficient funds to accommodate</p> <p>Other employability funds may be able to support</p>
Communities	Barrhead BID	2m high branded base for Twinkly Pro Tree that was	£9,000	Not recommended	Insufficient funds to

& Place		previously funded UKSPF.		for approval	accommodate Other national funds may be able to support
Communities & Place	Barrhead BID	Expansion of Barrhead Heritage Trail. Relaunch the Heritage trail with a QR code based enhancements. Initially we are going to provide QR codes in shop windows for people to scan with their phones and this will link to an image of the shop as it looked in a historical photo.	£35,000	Not recommended for approval	Insufficient funds to accommodate Other national funds may be able to support
Communities and Place	Economic Development, East Renfrewshire Council	Training course for local retail businesses – Visual Merchandising training course to support 20 local businesses and provide direct advice on the appearance of the shops, layout, window, point of sale etc. Town centre improvement initiative to add additional value to the shop front improvement scheme.	£10,000	Not recommended for approval	Insufficient funds to accommodate Would look to develop further once shop front improvement schemes have been completed in 2025.
<b>Totals</b>			<b>£164,392</b>		