



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 1

23rd March 2023

**Report by Councillor Susan Aitken, Leader of the Council and
Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition**

Contact: Kevin Rush Ext: 74613

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND UPDATE

Purpose of Report:

This report recommends the approval of £6.7m of UK Shared Prosperity Fund use under the People and Skills investment priority to support the delivery of Glasgow's Employability Programme.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee:

- a) agrees to the use of £2.4m of Glasgow's allocation under the UKSPF to continue employability activity previously funded through ESF into 2023/24;
- b) endorses the proposed timeline and processes for phase 2, including the use of £4.3m of UKSPF as detailed in the report; and
- c) notes that progress updates will be provided to Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration Policy Development Committee on an annual basis.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. On 18th August 2022, City Administration Committee approved a range of projects to be delivered by the Council and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
- 1.2. This paper provides further detail on the approach to spend £6.7m of revenue funding under the People and Skills investment priority, to support the Council's Employability Pipeline over the years 2023/24 and 2024/25.
- 1.3. The approach to UKSPF People and Skills proposed in this report was considered by Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration Policy Committee on the 7th March 2023 as part of an update on employability provision. It was recommended to City Administration Committee for approval.

2. PEOPLE AND SKILLS

- 2.1. Management of activities under the People and Skills investment priority will be led by Economic Development. Funding will support a range of employability actions aimed at those furthest from the labour market or experiencing in-work poverty.
- 2.2. This will complement the Scottish Government funding the Council receives through the two principle employability funds: No One Left Behind (NOLB); and Parental Employability Support Funding (PESF).
- 2.3. It supports the Local Employability Partnership's (LEP) ambition to deliver the national No One Left Behind (NOLB) strategy and create an all age offer that is based on need with the objective of promoting participation and progression for the relevant target groups in the labour market.
- 2.4. Provision is largely based on a key-worker model. This allows for individuals with varying needs to receive tailored support on a 1-2-1 basis. This helps participants to overcome barriers, to improve life chances, and to move closer to the employment market.
- 2.5. The shared aspiration is for a transition away from discreet and separate employability programmes towards a single 'all-age' approach where provision is determined by the LEP, and where interventions target individuals who are in most need of support.
- 2.6. European Social Fund (ESF) support, which has previously provided funding for the Council's Employability Pipeline will come to an end on the 31 March 2023.
- 2.7. ESF funding for 2022/23 totalled £1.9m, with match funding being provided from a combination of NOLB, GCC and delivery agents' own resources.

3. UKSPF PEOPLE AND SKILLS PROGRAMME

3.1. UKSPF People and Skills investment is proposed through 2 phases as outlined below.

3.2. Phase 1 – Continuation of ESF Activity

3.2.1. Phase 1 will support the continuation of the employability projects that are currently funded by ESF until 31 March 2023. This will mitigate any risks associated with disruption of critical employability services. Contracts and service agreements have been extended for an additional 12 months to run for the entirety of 2023/24. £2.4m UKSPF investment will be utilised for the continuation of this activity.

3.2.2. Whilst there is no requirement for providers to match funding as part of UKSPF, it should be noted that match funding contributions will still need to be applied for the period of extension under the terms and conditions of contract.

3.3. Phase 2 – Delivery of the UKSPF Employability Programme

3.3.1. Phase 2 will support the delivery of the revised employability framework for Glasgow. £4.3m UKSPF will be combined with Scottish Government NOLB funding to address gaps in provision, which will be determined through a design process that utilises the Scottish Approach to Service Design with support from the Council's Centre for Civic Innovation.

3.3.2. The expenditure of £4.3m UKSPF in 24/25 will be dependent on agreement from the UK Government to carry forward some underspend from Year 1 and Year 2 UKSPF allocations.

3.3.3. The design process draws on integrated social and economic data sets, building on insights from front line service delivery, and analysing where activity can provide maximum impact. It will result in a framework that maps out Glasgow's employability priorities and sets out the full extent of activity that we aim to have in place from April 2024.

3.3.4. It is expected that the process for allocating funding for phase 2 spend will commence in Q2 2023/24 for new activity to be ready for delivery from 1st April 2024. It is expected that this activity will be delivered through a combination of in-house projects and contracts with external providers. The scope and detail of these opportunities will be determined as part of the service design process.

3.3.5. Contracts will be let through a formal tender process supported by the Central Procurement Unit. Recommendations will be taken to the Contracts and Property Committee for approval.

4. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

4.1. Strategic leadership and governance of the employability programme is provided by the LEP. The remit of this partnership is to ensure the co-design,

co-commissioning, and monitoring of city-wide provision. The LEP consists of key strategic employability partners and is chaired by the Council.

4.2. The approach recommended to Committee has been fully endorsed by the LEP.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Covered by agreed budgets.
<i>Legal:</i>	Legal are assisting with the procurement of upcoming and pipeline contracts, or any amendments to Service Agreements with ALEOs.
<i>Personnel:</i>	Implications associated with any increased volume of activity associated with phase 2 are being determined.
<i>Procurement:</i>	CPU are assisting with current and future pipeline procurements.

Council Strategic Plan:	Grand Challenge 1: Reduce poverty and inequality in our communities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission 3: Improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities• Mission 4: Support Glasgow to be a city that is active and culturally vibrant Grand Challenge 2: Increase opportunity and prosperity for all our citizens <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission 1: Support Glasgow residents into sustainable and fair work
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Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

<i>Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.</i>	Directly supports Outcome 1 - An increased proportion of women, black and minority ethnic people, younger people, disabled people and LGBTI+ are supported to enter employment or training.
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What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Positive impact.

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

The employability provision outlined in this report is designed to support the most socio-economically disadvantaged individuals in the city.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

Directly supports the delivery of actions 8a and 10a.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

No climate impacts.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Contribution through the development of the green skills and employment that will result from delivery of the employability pipeline.

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

No data protection impacts currently identified.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a) agrees to the use of £2.4m of Glasgow's allocation under the UKSPF to continue employability activity previously funded through ESF into 2023/24;
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