



Glasgow City Council

Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration  
City Policy Committee

Item 4

24th January 2023

Report by Executive Director of Regional Economic Growth

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### UK Shared Prosperity Fund Update

#### Purpose of Report:

To update committee on the development of previously approved UK Shared Prosperity Fund programmes, under the Communities and Place and Supporting Local Business themes.

These programmes are; Communities Mobilisation Programme, Digital Development Grant, Green Economy Support Programme: Programme and Project Development Fund, and the Start Up Grant.

#### Recommendations:

It is recommended that committee

- i. Considers the content of the report,
- ii. Notes that progress updates will be brought back to committee on an annual basis.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

#### PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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## 1 Communities & Place

1.1 On 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022, City Administration Committee approved a range of projects which would be delivered by the Council and funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

1.2 Under the Communities & Place theme, the Communities Mobilisation Programme was approved.

1.3 This programme will encourage communities to take part in the transition to a green economy. This will be delivered through a £100,000 small grants programme to support arts and cultural activities in local communities.

1.4 The Council will work with Glasgow Life to develop, administer and deliver the programme. Grants of up to £10,000 will be available for organisations to build capacity of communities in the city to take part in, and facilitate, the transition towards a green economy. The grants will also explore the potential for citizens to adopt and participate in new economic models in order to aid the transition and demonstrate how arts and cultural activity can be a vehicle for the Just Transition.

## 2 Supporting Local Business

2.1 The following activities were amongst those approved by City Administration Committee on 18 August 2022 under the Supporting Local Business theme:

- A **Digital Development Grant** – building on the council's experience of delivering the Scottish Government's Digital Boost programme,
- A Green Economy Support Programme: **Programme and Project Development Fund**,
- A business **Start Up Grant**, extending the current offer available in the city.

2.2 **Digital Development Grant:** The existing Digital Boost programme allows businesses to engage with digital consultancy support, and access a programme of online advice, support and guidance, to develop their digital presence. This programme has proven to be an effective tool for supporting business growth, however, there have been a number of issues including a finite funding allocation from the Scottish Government, and the lack of follow-on support.

2.3 This proposal will utilise UK SPF funding to allow more businesses to access Stage 1 of the Digital Boost programme, as experience has demonstrated that the programme is regularly over subscribed.

- 2.4 Currently, Digital Boost provides funding for up to three days expert support, to a maximum value of £1,425. Once this has been used, further support requires to be paid for at the recipient's expense. As many of the organisations accessing this support are fledgling enterprises, this cost is often prohibitive. Therefore, the Digital Tech Support Grant would allow businesses to build on the initial support provided via Digital Boost and access further specialist guidance.
- 2.5 If approved by City Administration Committee on 9 February 2023, this grant would be operational in April 2023.
- 2.6 **Green Economy Programme and Project Development Fund:** £300,000 of UKSPF will be used to support the development of projects within the city's Climate Investment Pipeline, including projects within the Greenprint for Investment.
- 2.7 This work will identify projects which offer biggest potential to reduce emissions, as well as generate revenue streams or savings, to leverage private investment, and to generate wider economic, social or environmental benefits. Where appropriate external support will be procured. A strong focus will be on supporting projects which are unable to access other development funding support from the public sector, such as SFT or Scottish Government.
- 2.8 **Start Up Grants:** The Council currently delivers a successful Business Start Up service which includes a start up grant to individuals living in and looking to establish a business in the Glasgow City Council boundary.
- 2.9 There is a strong track record of supporting the creation of new businesses, however more can be done to increase the number of start ups, as well as improve business survival rates. The programme will support the Council's ambitions to grow social enterprises and support vulnerable groups, including those living in the most deprived communities, the under/unemployed, women led businesses, lone parents, minority ethnic communities and those suffering from ill health.
- 2.10 This project will align with separate work underway through The Harvard Bloomberg Innovation Track which is exploring the start up challenges faced by these groups and communities.
- 2.11 This proposal will expand the current business Start Up Grant offer, to support more prestart businesses to commence trading earlier than would otherwise be possible. In addition, this grant will provide a strong foundation to commence trading and improve their future sustainability. The current £250 offer would be retained, with a further tier of £750 and an upper tier of £1500

also available, to reflect the higher start up costs in specific sectors and/or commercial premises, and for organisations with ambitions to take on employees.

2.12 If approved by City Administration Committee on 9 February 2023, this grant would be operational in April 2023.

## 2 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	The UKSPF represents additional resource to deliver on the Council's economic strategy and related policies
<i>Legal:</i>	There will be formal agreement between the UK Government and the Glasgow City Region upon approval of the Investment Plan
<i>Personnel:</i>	The input by the Council into the preparation of the Investment Plan will be carried out by existing staff. Individual UFSPF activity steams may require some recruitment
<i>Procurement:</i>	Some interventions using UKSPF may be procured. In such cases compliance with the Public Contracts (Scotland) Regulations 2015 will be required.

**Council Strategic Plan:** Specify which Grand Challenge (s) and Mission (s) the proposal supports. Where appropriate the relevant Commitment can also be listed.

### Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

*Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify.*

Yes, specifically: Tackling Poverty]; Reducing Health Inequality; and Empowering Communities

*What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?*

Positive

*Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-*

*economic disadvantage.*

### **Climate Impacts:**

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

Yes. The actions related to the green economy have been designed to support the implementation of the Glasgow Green Deal – a dedicated action in the climate plan. Many of these actions are enabling in nature – in that they will not directly deliver emissions reductions or improve resilience, but will develop the plans, projects and programmes that will, in partnership with the private sector and communities. The programme will also contribute to a Just Transition, by targeting those businesses and communities most impacted by the energy and cost of living crisis, as well as by focusing on those businesses least able to adapt, and by supporting reskilling and upskilling for those furthest from the labour market

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

Reduction in CO2 emissions through for example increased energy efficiency of Glasgow businesses. Increased resilience of SMEs and communities to flooding and heatwaves.

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

Yes.

### **Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:**

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report  
Y/N

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

## **3 Recommendations**

It is recommended that committee

- i. Considers the content of the report,

- ii. Notes that progress updates will be brought back to committee on an annual basis.