



**Glasgow City Council**  
**City Administration Committee**

**Item 3**

13th October 2022

**Report by 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 ON COMMUNITIES AND  
PLACE CHALLENGE FUND AND GREEN BUSINESS SUPPORT**

**Purpose of Report:**

To recommend the establishment of a Communities and Place Challenge Fund using £6.0m of Glasgow's allocation under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund; to outline the proposed timescale and processes to be used to identify suitable projects for approval at a future meeting of the committee and to seek approval for the use of £689,000 to deliver Green Business Grant and wrap around support.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Committee:

- a) Agrees to the setting up of a Glasgow Communities and Place Challenge Fund using £6.0m of Glasgow's allocation under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- b) Agrees the use of £689,000 of funding to deliver the Green Business Grant and wrap around support; and
- c) Endorses the proposed timeline and processes for the funds as detailed in the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2022, the Committee agreed the Glasgow element of the Glasgow City Region Investment Plan under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). The fund will run for the three financial years from 2022/23 to 2024/25.
- 1.2 The fund has three investment priorities: Communities and Place, Employment and Skills and Supporting Local Businesses. The Committee agreed to allocate some £6.0m of UKSPF under the **Communities and Place** investment priority to a challenge fund primarily aimed at community and third sector organisations in the city. The fund would complement the support available through the Glasgow Communities Fund and also reflect the council's experience with the UK Community Renewal Fund.
- 1.3 In parallel, Economic Development has been developing a programme of Green Business Support as part of the Glasgow Green Deal, and the Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm City, Policy committee approved the approach at its meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022, and referred the report to CAC for approval of the £689,000 of expenditure. The intention is to deliver this activity under the **Supporting local Business** investment priority of UKSPF.
- 1.4 This report outlines the approach to both of the early planned activities.

## 2. GLASGOW UKSPF COMMUNITIES AND PLACE FUND

- 2.1 Following officer discussions in taking forward the concept of this fund it is proposed that the Glasgow UKSPF Communities and Place fund have the following key operational features:
  - It will be an exclusively revenue based fund;
  - The minimum project size will be £200,000;
  - It will operate for the 2 years between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 and 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025; and
  - Unlike the Glasgow Communities Fund, there will be no pre-determined allocations by sector within the city.
- 2.2 The minimum project size has been set in order to ensure that the monitoring and compliance requirements are proportionate both for the successful applicants and for the council in terms of its reporting responsibilities to the UK Government.

2.3 In terms of the strategic drivers for the fund, these were identified in the previous report to committee as being:

- The draft Glasgow Economic Strategy;
- The Glasgow Climate Plan and Adaptation Plan
- The Glasgow Green Deal;
- The Digital Glasgow Strategy;
- The Glasgow Poverty Leadership Panel Strategy;
- The Glasgow Food Growing Strategy; and
- The Glasgow Community Learning and Development Strategy.

2.4 In addition it is also recommended that applications should be required to demonstrate fit with the priorities identified in the Glasgow Strategic Plan for 2022-27.

### **3. UK GOVERNMENT REQUIREMENTS**

3.1 The UKSPF prospectus sets out a number of requirements that will need to be reflected in the design and operation of the fund.

3.2 All activities and associated expenditure supported by the fund have to be allocated to a specific intervention as listed in the formal UKSPF documentation. Supported projects have to report through the council to the UK Government on the applicable intervention specific outputs and outcomes.

3.3 The attached annex gives details of the 2 UKSPF interventions that have been identified as relevant to the Glasgow Communities and Place Fund. It should be noted that proposals for a complementary Glasgow Communities and Place capital fund will be brought to a future meeting of the Committee,

3.4 In terms of reporting requirements, the Council, through the Glasgow City Region, will be required to report on a quarterly basis on actual and forecast expenditure on all supported activities and provide more detailed information, including data on outputs and outcomes, on a six monthly basis. These requirements will be passed down to successful projects.

### **4. TIMETABLE, PROCESS AND GOVERNANCE**

4.1 The proposed timetable for the fund is as set out below:

31<sup>st</sup> October 2022:

Fund launched -application portal opens

9 <sup>th</sup> December 2022	Closing date for applications – portal closes
December 2022/January 2023	Assessment of applications
February 2023	Approval of recommendations by committee
April 2023 onwards	Approved projects commence delivery
31 <sup>st</sup> March 2025	Deadline for projects to complete.

4.2 In common with the Glasgow Communities Fund, it is intended that an online application portal will be set up which will be accessible through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund landing page on the council web site. Stakeholder events will be arranged during the applications period.

4.3 Following initial assessment and technical and eligibility checks by the Grants and Initiatives Team, applications will be considered by a panel of strategic lead officers from relevant service areas within the council family.

4.4 The criteria by which these applications will be assessed will reflect the experience gained with the UK Community Renewal Fund. These would be:

- Need for project;
- Strategic fit;
- Relevance to UKSPF objectives, outputs and outcomes;
- Contribution to net zero/climate change;
- Contribution to equalities;
- Innovation in service delivery;
- Ability to deliver outputs and outcomes within the fund's timescale;
- Risk management; and
- Value for money

4.5 As with all other UKSPF supported activities within the city, progress with the delivery of the fund will be regularly scrutinised by the council's UK Funds Governance Group.

## **5. GREEN BUSINESS SUPPORT**

5.1 As agreed by Neighbourhoods Committee, the Green Business Support programme will consist of two strands:

- A green business grant for up to 50 SMEs - targeted at activities which address both the cost of living and climate crises, for example, energy efficiency, renewables, active travel and waste management; and
- Enhanced advice and support for at least 250 businesses – to assist SMEs with the transition to net-zero carbon and climate resilience. This will align with existing national programmes of support, tailoring them to Glasgow businesses to help build awareness and understanding of actions needed, increase speed of access to funding, and to innovate in areas where support is not currently provided, but where there is an emerging need.

5.2 In addition, a programme of CPD (Continuous Professional Development) will be rolled out to staff within the Business Growth function of Economic Development, accredited by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment, to strengthen their ability to engage and support businesses.

5.3 A breakdown of the costs is provided below:

Item	Amount
Green Business Grant	£500,000
Business Advice and Support	£175,000
Staff Training	£14,000
Total	£689,000

5.4 This programme of activity will be match-funded at an intervention rate of 50%. The Green Business Grant will be capped at £20,000, 50% from SPF and 50% privately matched. The Business Advice and Support will be funded 50% from UKSPF and 50% from core Economic Development budget, with capacity building activity 100% funded through the Green Economy Unit.

5.5 More detail on the elements of the programme can be found in the paper to Neighbourhoods, Housing and Public Realm City Policy Committee on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

## 6 Policy and Resource Implications

### Resource Implications:

- Financial:* The fund represents additional resource to deliver on the Council’s economic strategy and related policies
- Legal:* There will be a formal agreement between the council and successful projects.
- Personnel:* Additional staff capacity will be required to manage and monitor the fund – 4% of the

council's UKSPF allocation can be allocated for such purposes. The Green business support programme will be managed within existing resources.

*Procurement:*

Guidance by the UK Government published on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022 gives information on applicable processes and thresholds to be applied in respect of UKSPF supported activities.

### **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 – all applications will be assessed for their impact on equalities.

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

The fund has been developed as part of the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda, specifically to Mission 8 as set out in the UK Government's Levelling Up White Paper.

### **Climate Impacts:**

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

Applications received under the fund will be assessed for their contribution to emissions reduction and the reduction of climate risks. The Green business support programme will directly support emissions reductions and adaptation of SMEs. Further climate plan specific proposals for support under the UKSPF will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.;

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

Positive in terms of promoting fairer, more net zero carbon and climate resilient communities and SMEs.

*Will the proposal contribute to*

Yes

*Glasgow's net zero  
carbon target?*

**Privacy and Data  
Protection Impacts:**

Data protection provisions will be included in the formal agreements with successful projects

**7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a) Agrees to the setting up of a Glasgow Communities and Place Challenge Fund using £6.0m of Glasgow's allocation under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund;
- b) Agrees the use of £689,000 of funding to deliver the Green Business Grant and wrap around support; and
- c) Endorses the proposed timeline and processes for the funds as detailed in the report.

## GLASGOW UKSPF COMMUNITIES AND PLACE FUND – UK GOVERNMENT INTERVENTIONS

Intervention	Sample Activities	Outputs	Outcomes
<p>S5: Support for sport, arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, projects and facilities and institutions.</p>	<p>Funding for cultural, heritage and art &amp; craft events</p> <p>Funding for maker spaces</p> <p>Funding for local art galleries/museums/libraries for exhibitions</p> <p>Support for displays for artists to showcase work</p> <p>Locally-led music and theatre performances, tours, author events and film screenings</p> <p>Funding for cultural, heritage and creative events</p> <p>Support for outreach/engagement/participatory programmes as part of wider local arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities</p>	<p>Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be business ready</p> <p>Number of organisations receiving grants</p> <p>Number of local events or activities supported</p> <p>Number of volunteering opportunities supported</p>	<p>Jobs created</p> <p>Jobs safeguarded</p> <p>Increased footfall</p> <p>Increased visitor numbers</p> <p>Improved engagement numbers</p> <p>Improved perception of facility following support</p> <p>Number of community-led arts, cultural, heritage and creative programmes as a result of support</p> <p>Improved perception of events</p>



	<p>Support for the establishment/development of cultural/heritage collaborative networks to share knowledge locally</p> <p>Funding for maker spaces</p>		
<p>S8: Funding for impactful volunteering and/or social action projects to develop social and human capital in local places</p>	<p>Funding for local volunteering groups, such as youth charities, carers' groups or refugee support groups</p> <p>Support for people to develop volunteering and/or social action projects locally</p>	<p>Number of organisations receiving grants</p> <p>Number of local events or activities supported</p> <p>Number of volunteering opportunities supported</p>	<p>Improved engagement numbers</p> <p>Volunteering numbers as a result of support</p>