

ITEM No ...2.....

REPORT TO: RECESS SUB COMMITTEE - 1 AUGUST 2022

REPORT ON: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND AND MULTIPLY FUND - PROPOSED DELIVERY APPROACH

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 196-2022

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of the investment plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), the UK Government's replacement for EU Structural Funds. This includes Multiply, a new programme focused on adult numeracy. The report outlines proposals for the development of the required Investment Plan for Dundee including new governance and delivery models. Given the timescales set out by UK Government, the report seeks approval to delegate authority to the Executive Directors of Corporate Services and City Development to complete and submit the Plan by the required deadline and to make amendments as required in response to feedback to UK Government. A summarised version of the report can be found at Appendix 1.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:
- a notes the requirement for the preparation of an Investment Plan for UKSPF for Dundee and approves the priority interventions identified in conjunction with partners and stakeholders as set out in Appendix 1;
 - b delegates authority to the Executive Directors of Corporate Services and City Development to progress the development, submission and implementation of the Investment Plan in discussion with UK Government and other city stakeholders; and
 - c remits the Executive Directors of Corporate Services and City Development to submit an Annual Report on progress of delivery of the Investment Plan to City Development Committee.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications for Dundee City Council. The conditional allocation of funding from UKSPF to Dundee is £5.609M over financial years 2022/2023 to 2024/2025 to be allocated to interventions. This includes a total of £968,616 ring-fenced for the Multiply, adult numeracy programme.
- 3.2 Several priority areas of activity across the city are supported by existing EU funding. These dependencies include; up to £650,000 p a of European Social Fund that supports Dundee's Employability Pathway Programme and approximately £100,000 p a of spend supporting the delivery of additional local services through Business Gateway Tayside. Both areas of delivery are prioritised by the future UKSPF and there is a risk to current service providers (including Dundee City Council) and the deliverability of key outcomes if investment doesn't continue in these areas. The Investment Plan will ring-fence funding for the on-going delivery of both Employability Pathway and Local Business Support.
- 3.3 The level of funding during the current three-year allocation period is relatively modest in relation to previous ESF/ERDF allocations and when broken down by year and the required capital spend and the Multiply allocation are taken into consideration the overall level of funding

is not significant, particularly given the breadth of potential interventions identified by the UK Government. The highest level of funding (2024/25) is £2.6M for the city.

- 3.4 The UK Government has allocated 4% of the total budget to support administrative/running costs of the programme which equates to £224,360 and is flexible across the 3 years of the programme.
- 3.5 Funding for each year has to be spent within the financial year it is allocated and the UK Government is likely to ask for any underspend to be returned at the end of each financial year. However, if a Lead Authority can demonstrate a deliverable plan for any underspend there may be the potential to carry it forward.
- 3.6 The Lead Authority can spend at risk with immediate effect, but this would need to be considered carefully and assessed on an individual project/intervention basis.

Year	Dundee CORE UKSPF Allocation	Dundee Multiply Allocation	Capital Minimum of CORE UKSPF	TOTAL UKSPF Allocation	UKSPF After 4% Fee
2022/2023	£563,149	£292,838	£58,568 (10.4%)	£855,987	
2023/2024	£1,126,298	£337,889	£140,787 (12.5%)	£1,464,197	
2024/2025	£2,950,901	£337,889	£528,211 (17.9%)	£3,288,800	
Total	£4,640,348	£968,616	£727,566	£5,608,984	£5,384,625

4 DRAFT INVESTMENT PLAN AND PROPOSED INTERVENTIONS

- 4.1 The UK Government launched its planned replacement for EU funding, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund on the 13 April 2022. This is an allocation-based fund with every local authority in the UK receiving a proportion of the £2.6 billion available until March 2025. To unlock the funding Lead Authorities must submit an Investment Plan to the UK Government by 1 August 2022. The plan must identify local challenges and opportunities across the three themes of UKSPF and Multiply as well as identify which interventions the allocation will be used to address.
- 4.2 Officers from Dundee City Council and stakeholders engaged during the development phase have identified a range of proposed interventions to be included in the Plan, across the three key themes – Communities & Place; Local Business Support and People & Skills, alongside key priorities for adult numeracy through the Multiply Programme. The interventions chosen focus on those that address key opportunities and challenges across the city, whilst delivering on the economic and social ambitions of the city, including Community Wealth Building.
- 4.3 Multiply – the Multiply programme is a ring-fenced funding stream with a focus on supporting adult numeracy, supporting people across the UK to improve their functional numeracy skills. The key interventions focus on support for individuals, support for key groups and the potential to build numeracy into existing vocational training courses or training for employees. This is being led by colleagues in Neighbourhood Services
- 4.4 The next Steps in the development of investment plan are:
- submit the Investment Plan to the UKSPF;
 - negotiate with UK Government on next steps;

- agree the delivery arrangements and procurement model for the interventions going forward; and
- undertake preparation work for the UKSPF going live in October, following final UK Government approval of the Dundee City Council Investment Plan.

5 GOVERNANCE

5.1 During the delivery phase of UKSPF (2022/2025) the governance model will include:

- a Executive Directors of Corporate Services and City Development will act as sponsors for the UKSPF Investment Plan;
- b utilising the 4% allocation of funding available to support delivery to ensure that the City Council has the skills, resources and capacity to deliver the programme effectively and compliantly.
- c The Corporate External Funding Team will oversee the day-to-day management and monitoring of the programme, working with colleagues engaged in delivery of activity across the Council and Corporate Finance; and
- d Executive Directors of Corporate Services and City Development will provide an annual report to City Development Committee and the Dundee Partnership following the end of each financial year.

6 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. There are no major issues.
- 6.2 An Integrated Impact Assessment will be undertaken during the Investment Plan development process.

7 CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 The Council Leadership Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 7.2 The approach to developing the Investment Plan outlines the steps to be taken to ensure that the relevant objectives of the stakeholder engagement outlined in the UK Government's prospectus. This will include engagement with both internal council officers and colleagues from key stakeholders across the city (as relevant to each of the themes). Partner local authorities are being consulted in establishing the regional approach.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.

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APPENDIX 1

UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND BACKGROUND

1 OVERVIEW OF PREVIOUS STRUCTURAL FUND PROGRAMMES

1.1 EU Structural Funds

The European Structural Funds have been a mainstay of the EU's regional policy focus on economic development for over 30 years. The aim of the funds in delivering economic development opportunities is to address regional disparity between and within countries of the EU. The purpose of the Structural Funds were to invest in projects that supported job creation and a sustainable and healthy European economy and environment. In a similar vein, the new UKSPF as a key driver of the Government's Levelling Up Agenda, is to address regional disparity across the UK.

1.2 EU Structural Funds in Dundee

Dundee City Council (and indeed other organisations in Dundee) have benefited from significant investment through the Structural Funds since the mid-1980s. This has in the past included both capital and revenue investment in infrastructure and regeneration along with business support programmes, employability and skills.

1.3 Previous Delivery Mechanism

During the 2014-2020 programme, the EU Structural Funds were managed by devolved administrations/regional partnerships in the UK, with the Scottish Government having control of the programme. It was delivered in a number of ways:

- direct allocations made to local authorities to key programmes;
- delivery of a range of national programmes through organisations such as Scottish Enterprise; and
- a range of challenge funds focused on specific topics delivered by key partners, such as the Low Carbon Travel & Transport Programme, the Low Carbon Infrastructure Transition Programme, the Smart Cities Programme and the Green Infrastructure Programme, to which local authorities and other organisations could bid.

1.4 Funding in the 2014 - 2020 Programme

Dundee City Council received a direct allocation of EU Structural Funds (ESIF) in the 2014-2020 programme to support the city's Employability Pathway and enhanced business support services delivered through the Business Gateway, alongside securing funding from a range of challenge funds. The latter have enabled the development of an active travel hub at Waterfront Place; investment in smart cities innovation such as smart parking; and the development of an integrated low-carbon heating system in the Regional Performance Centre for Sport.

During the 2014-2020 Structural Funds programme Dundee City Council secured over £13.5M of funding. The level of EU Structural Funds to the city was much higher, with allocations of ESIF going directly to Scottish Enterprise to support local companies and from the Scottish Funding Council to organisations such as Further Education colleges to support skills development, reskilling, and upskilling. This raised the level of funding during the 2014-2020 programme in the city to over £18.5M.

Whilst ERDF for business support stopped in March 2020, the core local government settlement figure for Business Gateway has remained largely static since 2008 and there is a need, therefore for additional resources to support businesses as we recover from the pandemic and seek to grow our business base and support job creation.

1.5 Employability Pathway Programme Support

The city's Employability Pathway programme will be in receipt of EU funding (ESF) until June 2023. There are several jobs that are part-funded by the ESF programme within the City Council and across partner organisations in the city. These are currently dependent on ESF for 45% of their costs.

In 2022/2023 the Employability Pathway programme has received a significant amount of funding from sources such as the existing ESF programme and the Scottish Government, this investment and carry forward from 2021/22 will see over £3.9M invested in employability services in 2022/2023 (the majority being in the Young People's Guarantee (£2.5M) and is therefore likely to need limited, if any, support from the UKSPF in Year 1. However, it will require investment from July 2023. Funding should be ring-fenced in the final two years of the UKSPF programme.

The allocation that we have received from UKSPF will cover all existing dependency costs but there will be an opportunity to reassess future delivery models and realign budgets, as part of a targeted effort to improve our outcomes for the c11,000 people without work in the city that could be helped to become economically active.

2 **UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND**

2.1 UKSPF forms part of the UK Government's Levelling-Up Agenda and has an overarching aim of building pride in place and increasing life chances across the UK. The Government published a prospectus which outlines the themes and a menu of interventions to choose from, enabling local authorities to identify and choose the interventions that address key challenges in their area and deliver strategic outcomes.

2.2 The UKSPF cannot be used to replace pre-existing budget for activities, but to add value to the actions being prioritised by the Council and is a mixture of both revenue and capital (with a minimum % of the budget to be allocated to capital spend each year - going from 10.4% in Y1 to 12.5% in Y2 and 17.9% in Y3).

2.3 **Core UKSPF Funding:** the UKSPF focuses on strategic interventions across three key themes:

- People and Skills;
- Local Business Support; and
- Communities and Place.

2.4 **Multiply:** as part of the UKSPF, the UK Government has committed/ring-fenced an element of each local area's funding to a new programme called Multiply - focusing on the development of bespoke programmes to support adult numeracy. This element of the funding is 100% revenue funding.

2.5 Important Dates

The timescales for delivery of an Investment Plan are challenging with the key dates and milestones below:

- fund launch: 13 April 2022;
- Investment Plan submissions: Midday - 1 August 2022;
- first payments expected to lead local authorities: from October 2022;
- funding period: April 2022 to March 2025;

- projects can be funded from 1 April 2022 at local authority risk

3 DELIVERING UKSPF IN DUNDEE INCLUDING THE INVESTMENT PLAN

3.1 Role of the Lead Authority

Dundee City Council will be the accountable body for the management and delivery of the fund and will lead on development of the Local Investment Plan and delivery and administration of the fund thereafter. This will include designing project selection and contracting processes (projects can be delivered in house, be procured, or commissioned alongside a range of challenge/competitive funds); assess and approve applications; process payments to providers and financial reports to the UK Government; and undertake day-to-day monitoring of projects, delivery of outputs and outcomes and report on activity to UK Government.

3.2 Developing a Local Investment Plan

The current allocation of funding to Dundee City Council is conditional on the submission of a Local Investment Plan by the 1 August 2022 and its subsequent approval. The Corporate External Funding Team are leading on the development of the Investment Plan, working with colleagues from Neighbourhood Services who are developing the Multiply elements of the Investment Plan.

- 3.3 The Investment Plan will outline the local context in which the UKSPF will be delivering, through the three identified investment priorities (and Multiply). The Government has indicated that each place will have the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions for that area, based on a list of identified interventions. The plan will focus on the selection of measurable outputs, outcomes and interventions, prioritising those interventions that are clearly linked to local challenges and opportunities and likely to have the maximum economic impact at a local level.

- 3.4 The UK Government Prospectus states that local partnerships are a core part of taking forward the Investment Plan. Dundee City Council has used existing membership of the Dundee Partnership to form the stakeholder/local partnership consultees. Officers in City Development have been engaging with Council Departments and partners across the city to discuss the challenges and opportunities that the city faces and the way UKSPF can be utilised to address them.

- 3.5 There is also a requirement to engage local MPs and MSPs in the process. Local MPs and MSPs have now been briefed as to the proposed approach and content of the Investment Plan. Further engagement with MPs / MSPs will take place prior to the submission of the Investment Plan.

- 3.6 Regional approaches to key priorities may also be supported by UKSPF. Officers are working with other local authorities to develop shared narrative for inclusion in the respective plans and identify potential activity where regional delivery may be an option.

4 IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIC INTERVENTIONS

- 4.1 The Prospectus for UKSPF outlines over 50 potential interventions ranging from support for employability and skills, growing the visitor economy, to supporting innovation and growth in priority business sectors.

- 4.2 Lead Authorities are able to create a flexible and localised plan that delivers interventions based on challenges and opportunities and is particular to the needs of their area.

- 4.3 The challenge is that the level of funding available means sharp focus on key areas of activity that support our strategic ambitions otherwise meaningful change for the city as a whole will not be delivered. In considering which interventions to focus investment on, and through consultation, it was agreed that projects should deliver on the objectives of key local strategies,

focus on the economic impact but also looking at those which might support the role of Community Wealth Building.

4.4 **Alignment to key local strategies:** given the above, when assessing the priorities for investment any interventions need to be carefully aligned with the city's key economic challenges and opportunities, taking cognisance of the Regional Economic Strategy and the existing and emerging City Plan. The UKSPF has the potential to support the following objectives:

- create a strong and sustainable city economy, providing jobs for all citizens, retaining graduates and attracting new talent;
- offer real choice and opportunity for citizens in a city that has tackled the root causes of social and economic exclusion; and
- be a vibrant and attractive city with an excellent quality of life where people chose to live, learn and visit.

4.5 **Economic Impact:** it is recommended that the assessment criteria consider projects which have the potential to deliver the greatest economic impact and return on investment, deliver added value, have the potential to support Community Wealth Building and can leverage match funding to augment the UKSPF. Funding should be used for project implementation as opposed to covering costs of project development.

4.6 In selecting potential interventions for inclusion in the Plan, consideration of the following is required:

- a **Enabling Maximum Flexibility:** the list of over 40 core UKSPF Interventions cover a wide spectrum of potential activities; some have a broad focus while others are narrower and are limited to a single activity. Interventions will therefore be identified that allow for a broad set of activities to come forward to ensure maximum flexibility is built into the programme from the start. This will enable UKSPF to adapt to changing circumstances and flex to meet new needs
- b **Capital Spend:** the Plan needs to include interventions that will allow for capital spend, as there is a minimum requirement in each financial year that must be spent on capital. More can be spent on capital activities, but the minimum requirements must also be met.
- c **Addressing existing dependencies:** as outlined above there is a need to ensure continuity of service for employability providers and customers and to provide increased support for the provision of business support.
- d **De-risking annualised funding:** funding will be allocated on an annual basis and as of yet there is no guarantee that lead authorities will be able to carry-forward any underspend. There is a need therefore, particularly in Y1 to ensure that any projects can deliver before the end of March 2023. Consideration has been given to identifying activities that can commence and spend this year, without prejudicing the take-up of grant in future years.

5 INVESTMENT PLAN

5.1 The UK Government have provided access to an online template to be completed by all Lead Authorities. This template acts as the investment plan and includes a number of key sections:

- local challenges and opportunities;
- interventions chosen and their proposed outcomes;
- approach to delivery and governance; and
- capacity and capability.

5.2 **Local Challenges and Opportunities:** The Investment Plan provides each Lead Authority with the opportunity to outline key challenges and opportunities faced by the area for each of the 3 core themes and Multiply.

In developing this section for Dundee, analysis has been undertaken of a wide range of strategic documents, data and shared local knowledge/experience and a range of challenges and opportunities have been identified, that has supported decision-making in terms of interventions, outcomes and outputs to be included in the Investment Plan.

Examples of the challenges include:

Theme	Challenge
People & Skills	Unemployment levels in Dundee significantly higher than Scottish average (6.6%).
	Greater percentage of employees in Dundee are in lower level occupations than the Scottish average 31.5% v 26.2%.
	Annual Participation Rate (the percentage of 16–19 year olds in learning, training or work) of 88.7% for Dundee was the lowest of all 32 local authority areas and well below the Scottish average of 91.8.
	Scottish Government's Adult Numeracy Strategy 2022-27 shows that 56% of adults in Scotland have low numeracy skills, which equates to 1.9 million working age adults.
Communities & Place	Impact of Covid-19 on tourism sector and its effect on the local economy – visitor numbers down UK wide between 58%-82% in 2020 compared to 2019. Impacting significantly on the local economy.
	Vacancy rates in city centres is high – in Dundee pre-pandemic it was 13.0%, compared to a Scottish average of 11.5% - COVID has led to yet more immediate vacancies and longer-term structural change in our high streets.
Local Business Support	In 2019, the Total Rate of early-stage Entrepreneurial Activity (TEA) for Scotland was 7.3% compared to 10.5% in England and 12.4% in Ireland. Scotland needs 60,000 businesses if it is to match the rate in England.
	Scotland needs 70,000 more businesses, 7,000 more exporters and 100 more high growth businesses to match the economic profile of the best UK regions.
	Higher inflation is impacting business profitability and consumer sentiment. Potential to limit economic growth over the mid-term
	Fewer start-ups in Dundee are surviving to 5 years.

Examples of the opportunities include:

Theme	Opportunities
People & Skills	The proportion of Economically Inactive people in Dundee who want to work is higher than in the rest of Scotland (20.4% compared to 17.6% in Scotland 4.7k want a job).
	Build upon the Established success of Employability Pathway - 77% Entered a Positive Destination.
	Growth in key sectors such as digital, life sciences and low carbon/sustainable technologies, creating skilled, career opportunities for city residents and the potential to support training to enable people to access the opportunity.
	Access to providers in the local area and to national organisations looking to deliver locally or indeed using online approaches to skilling and upskilling – Dundee & Angus College, University of Dundee, Abertay University, Third Sector training providers – potential to create new courses, micro-credentials etc. to meet local needs.
Communities & Place	Supports the priority across the city to deliver Community Wealth Building opportunities.
	In tourism terms there is differing recovery between museums and galleries and rural/coastal attractions with the latter recovering faster. Dundee is a strong place to take advantage of both.
	The development of a new City Centre Strategic Investment Plan will highlight a range of opportunities to create a city centre for the 21 st century.
	There are opportunities to add value to existing facilities in the city e.g. visitor attractions, hospitality and to create unique experiences to attract visitors – based on sectors such as hospitality, outdoor/adventure tourism and creative tourism.
Local Business Support	Local business growth can also have positive impacts on the local supply chain.
	Build on the strengths in existing sectors in terms of networking and delivery e.g., life sciences, digital/tech, low carbon.
	Opportunity to build on successful models trialled in the city such as accelerator programmes; innovation challenges; trade development grants.
	Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation has the ambition to "create a culture in which entrepreneurship is encouraged, supported and celebrated, and where Scotland is recognised as one of the best countries in the world to start and grow business."

- 5.3 **Proposed Interventions:** having undertaken an assessment of local need and indeed local opportunities; the economic impact of proposed interventions and their potential to achieve core strategic outcomes, the Dundee Investment Plan has identified a range of interventions and their associated outcomes and outputs to which it will allocate funding.

Note that this funding is flexible and that in discussion with the UK Government Lead Authorities will be able to move budget between interventions as new challenges, opportunities or project ideas emerge across the three years of the programme.

Communities & Place

- S1: place based investments for regeneration and town centre improvements;
- S5: support for sport, arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities, projects and facilities and institutions;
- S7: funding for the development and promotion of wider campaigns which encourage people to visit and explore the local area;
- S11: funding to support relevant feasibility studies; and
- S12: investment and support for digital infrastructure for local community facilities

Supporting Local Business

- S15: SME development grants and support, aligned with local and regional sectoral priorities and growth potential
- S16: research and development grants supporting the development of innovative products and services;
- S17: funding for the development and support of appropriate innovation and enterprise infrastructure at the local level;
- S18: investing in enterprise infrastructure and employment/innovation site development projects.
- S19: strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks
- S20: support for expert business advice and support programmes at the local and regional level;
- S22: support for growing the local social economy, including community businesses, cooperatives and social enterprises;
- S24: export Grants to support businesses to grow their overseas trading; and
- S29: support for new and existing businesses and start-ups aligned with local, regional and Scottish policy.

People and Skills

- S31: employment support for economically inactive people;
- S32: courses including basic skills and life skills and career skills provision for people who are not economically inactive and who are unable to access other training or wrap around support;
- S35: support for employability programmes and advice, places should have regard for the No One Left Behind agenda, the Young Person's Guarantee, Fair Start Scotland and Scottish Employability Pathway;

- S36: support for local areas to fund local skills needs - including digital and green skills; and
- S39: support for education and skills targeting vulnerable young people leaving school.

Multiply

The Multiply programme is a ring-fenced funding stream with a focus on supporting adult numeracy, supporting people across the UK to improve their functional numeracy skills. The key interventions focus on support for individuals, support for key groups and the potential to build numeracy into existing vocational training courses or training for employees. This is being led by colleagues in Neighbourhood Services. Proposed interventions include:

- S42: courses designed to increase confidence with numbers for those needing the first steps towards formal qualifications;
- S43: courses for parents wanting to increase their numeracy skills in order to help their children, and help with their own progression;
- S45: courses aimed at people who can't apply for certain jobs because of lack of numeracy skills and/or to encourage people to upskill in order to access a certain job/career;
- S46: additional relevant maths modules embedded into other vocational courses;
- S47: innovative programmes delivered together with employers – including courses designed to cover specific numeracy skills required in the workplace;
- S48: new intensive and flexible courses targeted at people without Level 5 maths in Scotland, leading to an equivalent qualification (for more information on equivalent qualifications, please see Qualifications can cross boundaries (sqa.org.uk); and
- S51: activities, courses or provision developed in partnership with community organisations and other partners aimed at engaging the hardest to reach learners – for example, those not in the labour market or other groups identified locally as in need.

5.4 **Approach to Delivery and Governance:** this section includes insight into stakeholder engagement undertaken in the development of the Investment Plan, the proposed structure of the team supporting the delivery of the Plan and the governance structures to support that delivery.

5.5 **Stakeholder Engagement:** a key element of the Investment Plan development has been engaging with local and regional stakeholders. This has enabled plans to be shared, interventions to be chosen and ideas to be discussed. Officers from Dundee City Council have engaged with key Dundee stakeholders including: academic partners, third sector groupings, networking organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce, employability providers; regional partners and national organisations such as the Federation of Small Businesses and Scottish Enterprise.

Political engagement has also formed part of the process – local elected members, Members of the Scottish Parliament and Members of Parliament.

5.6 **Governance Structure:** the investment plan and the Council's approach to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be sponsored and championed by the Executive Directors of Corporate Services and City Development. The Executive Directors will ensure that there is appropriate oversight of the delivery of the plan at the officer level and this will be managed through existing officer level management structures.

Core officers from the Corporate External Funding Team (and the UKSPF team to be recruited

– 2xFTE) will support the on-going delivery, compliance, monitoring, reporting and claims processes for the Plan.

An UKSPF Local Partnership Group (as required by the UK Government) will be established that will meet quarterly to provide oversight into existing proposals and support the Plan's on-going development and implementation.

This group will consist of core officers from the City Council and colleagues, as appropriate, from core stakeholder agencies within the Dundee Partnership. The Advisory Group will:

- support the Lead Authority in the development of an appropriate pipeline of proposals; assessment of bids and monitoring performance against targets;
- approve material changes to the Investment Plan;
- report to UK Government as required – quarterly updates and formal six-monthly reports; and
- ensure Dundee City Council, as Lead Authority, meets the UK Government requirement to work in partnership in the development and delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Annual reports will be made to the Dundee Partnership and the City Council outlining progress and the outcomes of the Plan.

As many of the approaches to delivery will be competitive in nature, Assessment Panels will be established to prepare the specific fund, score the submissions and award funds to the successful projects. The panels will consist of Council officers and at least one external partner.

5.7 Capability and Capacity

The UK Government has provided a level of support (4% of the overall budget) to ensure that Lead Authorities have the capacity to develop and deliver the range of projects and programmes included in their Investment Plan.

Dundee City Council will utilise this funding to recruit 2x FTE posts that will work directly on the development, delivery and reporting of the UKSPF – a Development/Delivery Officer and a Compliance/Reporting Officer. This core team will work directly with the Corporate External Funding Team who will also be engaged (not full-time) in the development and delivery of the programme.

To deliver the investment plan effectively Dundee City Council will use existing expertise within Finance, Legal and Procurement as required.