

ITEM No ...7.....

REPORT TO: FAIR WORK, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE – 18 AUGUST 2025

REPORT ON: UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 231-2025

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the delivery of Dundee's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Investment Plan in financial year 2024-2025.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the progress on the delivery of the Dundee UKSPF Investment Plan in 2024/2025.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the agreement of this report.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Reference is made to Article II of the minute of Recess Sub-committee on 1 August 2022 (Report 196-2022) where the Executive Directors of City Development and Corporate Services were delegated authority to develop and deliver a UKSPF Investment Plan for the period December 2022 to March 2025. It was also agreed that Annual Reports outlining progress should be submitted to Committee for information.

- 4.2 In April 2024, the Fair Work, Economic Growth and Infrastructure Committee approved a report summarising the projects supported through the UKSPF during the period December 2022 to March 2024 (Article IV refers).

- 4.3 Dundee's UKSPF Investment Plan has supported a range of interventions based around three key themes: Communities and Place; Local Business Support; and People and Skills. The UKSPF allocation included revenue support for projects in these themes; ring-fenced revenue funding for the Multiply programme aimed at supporting adults in the city to improve their functional numeracy skills; and a ring-fenced percentage for capital investment.

- 4.4 Dundee's UKSPF Investment Plan comprised a mix of delivery mechanisms including in-house delivery, procurement, challenge funds and partnership approaches. Appendix 1 of this report lists the projects that were supported in 2024/2025.

- 4.5 Regular monitoring and evaluation ensured that anticipated outputs and outcomes were achieved in a compliant manner by the end of the initial phase of UKSPF in March 2025.

Challenge Funds

- 4.6 In 2024/2025 a series of challenge funds were established and publicised, inviting organisations to bid for funding to support projects across a range of interventions. This included opportunities across all the key themes and Multiply.

- 4.7 Assessment panels were established for each of the Challenge Funds, including both Council officers and at least one external expert. In 2024/2025, 45 applications were received across seven Challenge Funds. In total, 21 applications were supported.

Partnership Approaches

- 4.8 The Council also delivered a range of interventions through existing partnerships and delivery approaches. This includes:
- a **Dundee City Council Employability Team:** UKSPF has provided on-going funding to the Council's Employability Team, as part of the wider Employability Pathway, to support local people towards and into employment. In 2024/2025 the Employability Team supported 623 people and enabled 193 people to enter employment and 37 to enter education or training.
 - b **Additional Business Gateway Activity:** funding provided to Elevator enabled them to deliver additional activity, including the recruitment of two community-based outreach advisors, additional expert help and to continue to deliver Digital Boost.
 - c **Tourism Leadership Group:** supporting the marketing of the city's visitor attractions, hospitality and leisure sectors, to attract new visitors.

Capital Projects

- 4.9 UKSPF had a pre-defined element of funding that was to be spent on capital projects. In 2024-2025 this was a minimum of 17.8% of the budget. Projects supported in 2024-2025 include:
- a **University of Dundee:** as part of the development of the Life Sciences Innovation Hub, funding supported the purchase of key equipment to be used by spin-outs and new companies locating in the innovation hub, making the space more attractive to tenants.
 - b **Caird Hall and McManus Lighting:** as part of the City Centre Strategic Investment Plan approach to making the city more attractive, funding was awarded to illuminate McManus Galleries and to develop the plan for illuminating the Caird Hall.

Multiply

- 4.10 The Multiply programme involved ring-fenced funding specifically targeted at supporting those aged over 16 to gain confidence, skills and qualifications in maths. The programme was delivered by Neighbourhood Services and included a challenge fund in 2024/2025 to support sixteen third sector organisations to deliver support to their clients/local people.
- 4.11 The Multiply Challenge Funding supported projects delivered by 8 organisations on 2024/2025, including Barnardos, Kanzen Karate, Hot Chocolate Trust, Dundee International Women's Centre, HELM and Enable. Multiply supported 190 adult numeracy courses and 2410 people across the 2 financial years that it ran.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and agree with its content.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

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25 June 2025

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APPENDIX 1

INVESTMENT PLAN INTERVENTIONS AND PROJECTS SUPPORTED IN 2024/2025

In 2024/2025 Dundee's UKSPF Investment Plan focused on the following interventions under the three key themes.

Communities and Place

- S1: Place based investments, regeneration with a focus on city centre improvements (Capital)
- S5: Support for arts, cultural, heritage and creative activities (Revenue)
- S7: Campaigns to encourage visiting and exploring the local area (Revenue)
- S11: Relevant feasibility studies – development of the visitor economy (Revenue)

Local Business Support

- S15: SME Development Grants and Support (Revenue)
- S16: R&S grants supporting innovative products and services (Revenue)
- S18: Investing in enterprise infrastructure and innovation services (Capital)
- S19: Strengthening the local entrepreneurial ecosystem (Revenue)
- S20: Expert business advice and support programmes (Revenue)
- S22: Growing the local social economy (Revenue)
- S24: Export grants to support businesses to grow overseas trading (Revenue)

People & Skills

- S31: Employment support for economically inactive people (Revenue)
- S36: Support to fund local skills needs – intermediate and higher level digital skills (Revenue)
- S37: Green skills courses
- S42: Multiply

The table below provides an overview of the projects that were supported by UKSPF in 2024-2025. With capital projects highlighted in grey.

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Caird Hall and McManus Lighting – External	S1	To illuminate McManus Galleries and to develop the Caird Hall lighting project, making the city centre more attractive.	DCC	£213,000	Direct Award

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
City Centre Lighting Strategy	S1	To identify future projects that support the City Centre Strategic Investment Plan aim of making the city centre more attractive.	DCC	£86,050	Direct Award
Albert Street Rain Garden	S1	Creating decorative fencing to ensure that the rain garden in Albert Street is well maintained.	DCC	£18,637	Direct Award
McManus CCTV	S1	Supporting installation of new CCTV cameras in McManus, ensuring it maintains its ability to attract exhibitions.	LACD	£22,500	Direct Award
Caird Hall – Catering Facilities	S1	Purchasing a new, moveable catering station for the Caird Hall, making the spaces more usable and the facilities more attractive.	LACD	£10,000	Direct Award
Lochee High Street	S1	Upgrading two retail units on Lochee High Street to make them more lettable.	DCC	£24,983	Direct Award
Redbrick Creative	S1	Supporting the regeneration of elements of the former ironworks occupied by 71 Brewing. The plans include to create an arts/music venue, creative workspaces, outdoor markets etc. Funding was use to develop the exterior space.	Redbrick Creative	£44,000	Challenge Fund
Art Night Dundee	S5	Launch of ArtNight Dundee with a one-off creative event on Dundee Law.	Art Night Dundee	£13,000	Challenge Fund
Sweet Venues @ The Keiller Centre	S5	Delivery of a “fringe style” performing arts studio space to enable visitors to experience the best in small scale theatre, music, spoken word, comedy etc. Piloting new products, allowing artists to test new shows.	Sweet Productions	£25,963	Challenge Fund

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Whale Road Exhibition	S5	Enabling Discovery Point to install Scotland's Whale Road Exhibition, to increase the number of visitors to Discovery Point, running from September 2024 to August 2025.	DIHT	£19,308	Challenge Fund
HMS Unicorn 200 Years	S5	To support the Unicorn Preservation Society's programme of events to celebrate the bicentenary of HMS Unicorn in 2024.	Unicorn Preservation	£8,757	Challenge Fund

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Dundee Design Festival	S5	To support the delivery of Dundee Design Festival 2024 at MSIP from 23-29 September – exhibition, events and activities which attracted over 10,000 visitors, 59% from outwith Dundee.	UNESCO City of Design	£19,000	Challenge Fund
Regional Travel Trade	S7	Working with regional partners to support the development of the visitor economy – encouraging travel trade businesses to develop packages for exploring the region.	Perth & Kinross Council	£10,000	Direct Award
Marketing Dundee	S7	Marketing the city and its attractions – Destination Marketing Officer and social media/ web development officer, marketing campaigns focused on visitors from London, SE England and the north of England and targeting visitors with specific interests (cultural, foodie, adventure) from Scotland. Developing new content/film for use.	Tourism Leadership Group	£89,420	Direct Award
Unicorn Business Case	S11	To support the on-going development of Project Safe Haven, the £27m project to secure the future of HMS Unicorn and to build a new visitor attraction in the city. Engaging consultants to finalise the Business Case.	Unicorn Preservation	£25,000	Challenge Fund

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Unicorn Conservation Plan	S11	As above: but to complete the technical studies required to confirm the preservation pathway for the ship, informing capital works scheduled from 2026 onwards.	Unicorn Preservation	£19,684	Challenge Fund
V&A Dundee New Gallery	S11	To undertake consultancy work to develop visitor data analysis that supports the redevelopment of the Scottish Design Galleries.	V&A Dundee	£2,850	Challenge Fund
DCA Redevelopment Plans	S11	To support the redevelopment plans of the DCA, moving to the RIBA Stage 2+	DCA	£20,345	Challenge Fund
Caird Hall Study	S11	Commissioning consultants to develop a strategy for the future of the Caird Hall – looking at new ways of engaging audiences and events.	LACD	£10,000	Challenge Fund

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
SME Development Grants	S15	Providing small grants of up to £3,000 to SMEs in the city to enable them to develop new products, purchase new equipment, market to new customers etc.	DCC	£110,991	42 business grants
Dundee Market Development Grant	S15	Providing small grants of up to £1,500 to enable local SMEs to attend trade fairs to develop new international markets.	DCC	£3,860	5 business grants
Business Growth & Innovation Grants	S15	Larger grants for businesses with agreed growth plans to support job creation/business growth.	DCC	£131,043	4 business grants
SME Skills	S15	Funding to enable Dundee & Angus College to support local SMEs to access training required to upskill staff – 32 business received upwards of £5,000 of tailored training for 416 staff.	D&A College	£183,366	Challenge Fund
Proof of Concept Fund	S16	Supporting the development of new spin-out companies from the School of Life Science.	University of Dundee	£100,000	Challenge Fund

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Business Gateway Additional Support	S16	Provision of two community based business development officers, additional expert help and the delivery of the Digital Boost programme.	Elevator	£137,600	Procurement
Life Sciences Innovation Hub Equipment	S18	Supporting the development of the Life Sciences Innovation Hub. Funding supported the purchase of key equipment to be used by spin-outs and new companies locating in the innovation hub, making the space more attractive to tenants.	University of Dundee	£500,000	Challenge Fund
Digital Capacity Building for SMEs	S20	Elevator ran an 8-week programme for nine local SMEs – addressing issues such as digital skills, building an online presence, website development and e-commerce.	Elevator	£15,421	Challenge Fund
Challenge Catalyst - Socially Responsible Businesses	S20	To support socially responsible businesses to develop business plans/new delivery models – customised consulting, engagement with finance opportunities etc. Eight ventures were supported.	Challenges Catalyst	£45,996	Challenge Fund
Export Support for Businesses	S20	D&A Chamber of Commerce delivered a programme of support for local businesses wishing to develop new export markets.	D&A Chamber of Commerce	£24,372	Challenge Fund

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Consultancy Services for Community Wealth Building & Generative Businesses	S22	Recruitment of consultants to undertake consultancy work to support the Council take forward Community Wealth Building, identifying existing inclusive ownership businesses and gaps in support.	CWB Consultancy	£28,704	Procurement
Dundee Employability Partnership	S31	Supporting Dundee's Employability Pathway, to support local people towards and into employment, including supporting 693 people and 193 people into employment.	DCC/Employability Partners	£764,000	Direct Award

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Additional ESOL Delivery	S31	Providing additional English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) support to refugees and others in the city.	DCC	£51,000	Direct Award
SVQ Level 8 Coding	S36	Code Division delivered an 18-week programme to local learners, delivering SVQ Level 7 or 8 in Data Science. 12 people attended the programme with 11 achieving awards.	Code Division	£63,000	Challenge Fund
Dundee Games Academy	S36	Dundee & Angus College delivered their Games Academy, running 4x1 week taster courses for 29 people, some went on to participate in the 4 week programme. 24 people completed the 2x12 week programme.	D&A College	£115,000	Challenge Fund
Alternative route to Higher Maths	S36	Developing an online curriculum to support people to access Higher Maths equivalents that let them access degree programmes in Computer Science.	University of Dundee	£14,782	Challenge Fund
Green Skills for SMEs – EV Vehicle Maintenance	S37	Delivering training for employees of small to medium size enterprises in green skills across the electric vehicle and hydrogen vehicle sector. A total of 270 people received training.	D&A College	£104,000	Challenge Fund
Reach Project – Numeracy	S42	26 people participated in a range of programmes to support everyday numeracy skills with 20 of the participants receiving maths qualification up to Level 2.	Barnardos	£24,800	Challenge Fund
Numbers in Everyday Life	S42	Supported 25 people to increase confidence with everyday numeracy. 10 receiving qualifications up to Level 2.	DIWC	£12,686	Challenge Fund
HELM Multiply	S42	28 young people participated in the numeracy programme, completing an average of 40 hours of learning each.	HELM	£24,741	Challenge Fund
Multiply Dundee	S42	25 people participated in the numeracy programme, 20 achieving Level 5 qualifications in maths.	Enable	£24,999	Challenge Fund

Project	Intervention	Project Description	Delivery Partner	Grant	Approach
Multiply	S42	25 people participated in the numeracy programme, 20 achieving Level 2 qualifications in maths.	Kanzen Karate	£10,000	Challenge Fund
Multiply	S42	60 young people participated in 18 Multiply courses run by Hot Chocolate.	Hot Chocolate Trust	£10,000	Challenge Fund
Multiply	S42	15 young people participated in the programme, gaining numeracy skills and confidence.	Front Lounge Ltd	£14,500	Challenge Fund
Multiply	S42	Developing numeracy actions to be embedded in their core curriculum.	D&A College	£100,000	Procurement

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