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| Report To: | Environment & Regeneration | Date: | 25 August 2022 |
| Report By: | Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration | Report No: | E+R/22/08/02/SJ/JH |
| Contact Officer: | Jennifer Horn | Contact No: | 01475 715573 |
| Subject: | UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund: Inverclyde Proposals and Glasgow City Region Investment Plan | | |

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 For Decision For Information/Noting

1.2 This report is to provide an update to Committee on Inverclyde Council and Glasgow City Region's progress with the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). The report also seeks approval for the project proposals for Inverclyde and for Glasgow City Region to submit the Investment Plan based on these proposals.

1.3 Following engagement on a metropolitan region basis, the Regeneration Service has worked with internal and external stakeholders to make recommendation for inclusion proposals to progress within the investment plan, projects for core SPF and for Multiply, which along with admin costs, allocates the full SPF budget of £3,563,931.

1.4 The Regeneration Service has worked with the Glasgow City Region to prepare the investment plan, required to access our allocated funding, which reflects the investment themes and project proposals within this report. Following the extension of original SPF deadline, the Glasgow City Region will submit the Regional Investment Plan by the 1st of September.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Environment & Regeneration Committee delegate to the Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration the final preparation of the Investment Plan and submission of the Investment Plan to the UK Government.

Stuart W Jamieson
Interim Director, Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a £2.6bn fund for local investment, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation of funding. This fund is a central pillar to the UK Government's Levelling Up agenda and will replace European Structural Funds which will operate until December 2023. Inverclyde has benefitted from a range of European Structural Fund programmes which have focussed on people and place.
- 3.2 The UKSPF will support the UK government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK b delivery on each of the levelling up objectives of :-
- Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging
 - Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest
 - Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost
 - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.
- 3.3 As Inverclyde is part of the Glasgow City Region, the Glasgow City Region will be the lead strategic geography. Our allocation will be paid to us via the City Region.
- 3.4 Inverclyde Council is the local lead authority and our investment plan aims to allocate funding across the 3 themes set out by the UK Government.
- 3.5 At the June Environment and Regeneration Committee it was reported that Inverclyde has a total allocation of £3,563,961 (Core SPF £2,948,498 and Multiply £615,463) and that Inverclyde Council would work with the Glasgow City Region to prepare a region Shared Prosperity Investment Plan. It is important for Members to recognise that there is no flexibility to vire money between financial years or between the Core programme allocation and Multiply. It is also important to note that the guidance from the initial prospectus has developed through engagement with UK Government officials and our participation within the metropolitan city region, and that the multiply funds are to be developed for numeracy only skills.
- 3.6 In order to access the allocated funding lead authorities must complete an investment plan setting out how they intend to use and delivery the funding. As previously agreed, and as preferred by the UK Government, Inverclyde Council has worked with the Glasgow City Region to prepare Shared Prosperity Investment Plan. The investment plan is a high level plan outlining the strategic priorities of the Glasgow City Region, incorporating the priorities of Inverclyde Council.
- 3.7 Officers from the Regeneration Service have worked extensively with colleagues across the metropolitan city region to develop proposals which have "common" elements within each Member Authorities proposals within the City wide investment plan.
- 3.8 The Regeneration Service held a series of workshops with both internal and external partners, including our MP and MSP, across the 8th and 10th of June 2022.
- 3.9 The Regeneration Service carried out a call for project ideas with internal and external stakeholders.
- 3.10 The Investment Plan sets out indicative interventions based on the information thematic areas of SPF, the strategic needs of Inverclyde and the proposals put forward through the call for projects.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 The UKSPF Prospectus outlines three thematic priorities and the adult numeracy intervention MULTIPLY. To address these priorities the GCR UKSPF Investment Plan is using the established framework of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES) grand challenges of: creating an inclusive economy, enhancing productivity and addressing the climate emergency.

4.2 Inverclyde's proposals reflect the RES grand challenges and the strategic needs identified in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan such as; working with the community to achieve the best for the community, realising opportunities to boost the local economy by growing the business base and tackle inequalities by improving employment opportunities by boosting skills and reduce barriers to employment and increase opportunities for residents to achieve well paid jobs.

4.3 Inverclyde Council has been developing activity under these priorities and a summary is noted below:

Communities and Place

- Town Centre Action Plans which provide a health check of the viability, vitality and vibrancy of the town centres and funding to make improvements.
- Improvements to the environment of public parks e.g lighting, public realm work.
- Improvements of community facilities and community growing initiatives which will promote wellbeing and foster sense of pride and belonging.

Local Business

- Expert and grant support to businesses on themes such as net zero, business growth, networking, new starts and business skills
- Growing the social economy through support for social enterprise start-ups and support existing social enterprises to grow capacity and resilience.

People and Skills

- A range of employability proposals such as key worker support and barrier removal to support those who are economically inactive into employment.
- Supporting young people into employment through volunteering opportunities and support for those with additional support needs transitioning from secondary school education into positive destinations.
- Programme of skills pathways to equip people with skills required for growth industries.

Multiply

- Numeracy courses and training to support adults improve numeracy skills for work, everyday numeracy skills of money management, cooking and supporting children.
- Supporting care leavers and prison leavers through bespoke programmes which increase confidence in numeracy.

4.4 Following the development work undertaken, the table below provides an indication of the Inverclyde UKSPF budget, split by thematic priority:

| Thematic Priority | Percentage split across Inverclyde |
|---------------------------|---|
| Communities & Place | 29% |
| Supporting Local Business | 22% |
| People and Skills | 50% |

4.5 The table below provides an indicative summary of some of the main outputs from the UKG investment in the Inverclyde via UKSPF:

| Communities & Place | Output |
|--|---------------|
| Amount of rehabilitated land | 200 m2 |
| Amount of public realm created or improved | 200 m2 |
| Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken | 3 |
| Number of facilities supported/created | 4 |
| Number of people attending training sessions | 35 |
| Number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed | 50 |
| | |
| Supporting Local Business | |
| Number of business receiving grants | 48 |
| Number of businesses receiving expert business advice | 80 |
| Number of social economy, co-operatives and social enterprises receiving support | 28 |
| Number of people attending training sessions | 200 |
| | |
| People & Skills | |
| Employment support for economically inactive people | 102 |
| Support for education and skills targeting vulnerable young people | 60 |
| Number of people supported to engage in life skills | 250 |
| Number of volunteering opportunities supported | 90 |
| Number of people supported to participate in education | 75 |

Investment Plan

- 4.6 It was previously reported that the Investment Plan was due to be submitted by the 1 August 2022 but the Glasgow City Region had sought and extension to this timescale to accommodate the committee cycles and approval processes of the member authorities. The UK Government confirmed the extension allowing submissions up to the 1 September 2022.
- 4.7 The Glasgow City Region has consulted with stakeholders through the regions portfolio groups which include many regional and national organisations e.g. Employability Portfolio – DWP, Skills – higher and further education, Enterprise – Scottish Enterprise.
- 4.8 As well as engaging with the portfolio groups the Glasgow City Region has engaged with MPs and MSPs for the region.
- 4.9 Inverclyde Council has also engaged with local stakeholders through information sessions, call for projects and the Local Employability Partnership. We have also engaged with our MP and MSP.
- 4.10 The Glasgow City Region will present a paper for sign off of the Investment Plan, which will include the proposals above, to the Glasgow City Region Cabinet on the 30 Aug 2022 and following approval will submit to the UK Government by the 1 September 2022. Inverclyde have contributed to the regional investment plan with local information which supports our proposals.
- 4.11 The UK Government has indicated that the decision on the submission will be made by autumn but no date has been given yet. The payment of the first year's allocation will be made following sign off of the plan, and then each subsequent year's funding will be paid at the start of the financial year.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

| SUBJECT | YES | NO | N/A |
|--|-----|----|-----|
| Financial | x | | |
| Legal/Risk | x | | |
| Human Resources | x | | |
| Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan) | x | | |
| Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty | | x | |
| Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing | | x | |
| Environmental & Sustainability | | x | |
| Data Protection | | x | |

5.2 Finance

One off Costs

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | Budget Years | Proposed Spend this Report | Virement From | Other Comments |
|--------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------------------|---------------|---|
| Regeneration | Shared Prosperity Fund | 22/23 to 24/25 | ££3,563,931 | | Year 1 allocation will be awarded once the investment plan is signed off. Year 2 and year 3 allocation will be awarded at the start of the financial year. |

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

| Cost Centre | Budget Heading | With Effect from | Annual Net Impact | Virement From (If Applicable) | Other Comments |
|-------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|
| N/A | | | | | |

5.3 Legal/Risk

The Regeneration Service will work with Legal to create grant agreements for partners who are leading projects.

5.4 Human Resources

Funding has been allocated for administration of the fund which the Regeneration Service intends to use by allocating against 1.3 FTE.

5.5 Strategic

The investment plan and proposals reflect the aims and objectives of the LOIP.

5.6 Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) process with the following outcome:

| | |
|---|---|
| | YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required. |
| X | NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement. |

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

| | |
|---|--|
| | YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed. |
| X | NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant. |

5.7 Children and Young People

Has a Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

| | |
|---|---|
| | YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required. |
| X | NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children's rights. |

5.8 Environmental/Sustainability

Has a Strategic Environmental Assessment been carried out?

| | |
|--|--|
| | YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required. |
|--|--|

| |
|---|
| X |
|---|

NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

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|--|
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|--|

YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

| |
|---|
| X |
|---|

NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 None.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

