
Report To:	Environment and Regeneration	Date:	15 May 2025
Report By:	Director, Environment and Regeneration	Report No:	ENV024/25/SJ/NM
Contact Officer:	Neale McIlvanney	Contact No:	01475 712402
Subject:	UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF)		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☐ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to note the outturn at March 2025 of Inverclyde projects funded by SPF during the period 2022 – 2025.
- 1.3 The report also seeks approval to deliver projects during 2025-26 funded by Inverclyde's SPF 2025-26 allocation of £1,550,389.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (a) Notes the financial position of SPF projects delivered during 2022 – 2025 (Appendix 1) and the underspend of £277,291 for Multiply projects.
 - (b) Approve projects for delivery during the year April 2025 – March 2026 (Appendix 2).

Stuart W Jamieson
Director, Environment & Regeneration

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

3.1 SPF 2022 - 2025

- 3.2 For 2022 – 2025, as part of the Glasgow City Region Investment Plan, Inverclyde Council had a 3-year UKSPF allocation of £3,528,501 for local delivery.
- 3.3 In April 2023, Committee approved 17 Core SPF projects across the 3 Investment Priorities of 'Communities & Place', 'Local Business' and 'People & Skills', as well as 6 Multiply projects, providing full allocation commitment.
- 3.4 The outturn of each project is shown at Appendix 1, with three 3 Multiply projects having a combined underspend of £277,291.
- 3.5 Whilst efforts were made to look at routes to engage partners, including the 3rd sector, the available timescale prevented one project from taking place, however provision delivered by CLD in some way addressed the outcomes of that project. For the second project, Enable Scotland were able to provide a limited number of places to those working in the health and social care sector, and the third project was delivered by West College Scotland but at a reduced level.
- 3.6 Whilst it is disappointing Multiply funding was not able to be fully utilised, this was in part due to internal resource being reprioritised to support the delivery of other multiply and employability programmes, which would have suffered without support. Options were reviewed to deploy the underspend to other SPF provision, but this was not permissible within the governments redefined criteria for 2024-25.
- 3.7 As there is no ability to carry forward underspend into 2025-2026, it will be off set against this year's SPF allocation.

3.8 SPF 2025 - 2026

- 3.9 UK Government confirmed a 1-year SPF extension to the Glasgow City Region Investment Plan, to enable delivery of projects during 2025 – 2026.
- 3.10 Inverclyde's allocation is £1,550,389, with a requirement that at least 23.3% is allocated to capital projects, however a higher percentage can be attributed if required.
- 3.11 For this delivery period, there is no ring fencing for Multiply provision.
- 3.12 Managing Authorities can continue existing projects and/or deliver new projects, against 3 Investment Priorities of Communities & Place, Business Support, and People & Skills, with further detail set out in Appendix 2.

4.0 PROPOSALS

4.1 2025/26 Allocation

- 4.2 Delivery of projects must take place between April 2025 – March 2026. UK Government has stated there will be no ability to extend beyond this period.
- 4.3 Below provides the suggested split of projects across the 3 Priorities, and Appendix 2 provides the suggested projects for each.

Investment Priority	2025-26 Allocation
Communities & Place	£775,195
Business Support	£330,000
People & Skills	£445,194
Total	£1,550,389

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

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

SUBJECT	YES	NO
Financial	X	
Legal/Risk		X
Human Resources		X
Strategic (Partnership Plan/Council Plan)	X	
Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & 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

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

None.

5.4 Human Resources

None.

5.5 Strategic

The proposal supports the Partnership Plan and the Economic Growth Plan through support of local employment and business sustainability/growth.

5.6 Equalities, Fairer Scotland Duty & Children/Young People

(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.

(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.

(c) 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.

5.7 Environmental/Sustainability

Summarise any environmental / climate change impacts, positive or negative, which relate to this report.

None.

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.

5.8 Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	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.

Appendix 1 - UKSPF 2022-25 Final Outturn

Investment Priority – Communities & Place – 6 Projects

Organisation, Project Name	Project Description	Allocation	Spend	Outcome
Inverclyde Council CLD and Environmental Services. ‘Public Lighting’	In response to Inverclyde Women’s Safety Survey, this pilot project aims to improve lighting in public parks.	£150,000	£150,000	Battery Park works complete with lighting operational.
Inverclyde Council Regeneration Service ‘Town Centre Action Plans’	Consultants to be appointed to create Town Centre Action Plans for Greenock, Gourock and Port Glasgow, with residents, businesses and Town Centre Regeneration Forums views being sought.	£90,000	£90,000	Following public consultations, each town has a published Town Centre Action Plan which sets out short, medium and long term actions which can be delivered over a 10 year timeline, when funding allows, to improve the vibrancy of the town centres.
Inverclyde Council Regeneration Service ‘Town Centre Improvements - From Action Plans’	Town Centres and surrounds to benefit from physical works that will make a positive improvement for residents and businesses.	£190,000	£190,000	SPF was used to partly off-set the reduction of Placed Based funding. Capital works were undertaken in each town including Albert Road environmental improvements, Greenock Waterfront and within premises on John Wood Street, Port Glasgow.
Inverclyde Council Road and Environmental Services ‘Port Glasgow Shipbuilders Environmental Improvements’	To improve the visitor experience to the Shipbuilders statue through environmental improvements to Coronation Park.	£150,000	£150,000	Works were undertaken to install lighting, refurbish the fountain and plant/landscape around the sculpture and surrounding area.
Parklea Branching Out ‘Parklea Community Hub and Gardens’	Support creation of a flexible community-based hub and resource, impacting on the most vulnerable members of our community, by providing inclusive community spaces and building community capacity opportunities.	£80,000	£80,000	Main site works and soft landscaping have been completed, providing enhanced accessibility to the HUB and gardens, improving the surrounding landscape and providing paved pathways to the site, car park and wider Parklea area.
Inverclyde Council CLD and local Food Growing Network ‘Invergrow’	This project will support the development of Inverclyde wide	£170,952	£170,952	The project enabled provision of a dedicated resource to engage with existing growing spaces and provided development support to the

	community gardening and food growing in public spaces, to impact on climate change and help alleviate food insecurity and food waste while improving mental health wellbeing.			Inverclyde Community Food Network, including identification of future objectives. A key aspect of the project was the collaborative working with a wide range of local organisations including The Shed, Auchmountain Resource Centre, Broomhill Hub, Branchton Community Centre, Belville Gardens, Wellington Allotment Gardens Association, Blooming Inverkip (Inverclyde Academy & Inverkip Primary), Parklea Branching Out, RIG Arts, Wellington Park Bowling Club and Riverclyde Homes.
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Investment Priority - Local Business – 6 Projects

Organisation, Project Name	Project Description	Allocation	Spend	Outcome
CVS Inverclyde 'Inverclyde Community Enterprise Programme'	The project will work with local social enterprises offering tailored support, including building capacity through a bespoke programme providing the tools to develop and grow their enterprise by tendering for contracts and generating income from charitable sources.	£120,000	£120,000	The Enterprising Project in Communities (EPIC) team worked with 25 individuals and organisations providing training programmes and individual support to help them develop the skills and knowledge to make their social enterprise aspirations a reality. A 'Social Enterprise Showcase' event provided the platform for local and national organisations to share good practice
Inverclyde Council Business Development 'Net Zero How Do I go About It?'	The project will work with businesses to do an audit/online survey to assess the energy efficiency and sustainability of the business and their premises.	£126,500	£126,500	The programme enabled 29 businesses to be supported with energy audit information and/or grant support to improve their energy efficiency.
Inverclyde Council Business Development 'Improving Your Business'	To enhance the skills and knowledge of business owners in Inverclyde which will enable them to operate from a more competitive position.	£155,000	£155,000	Provided resilience support to 62 SME West Blackhall Street traders.

Inverclyde Council Business Development ‘Business Networking’	To provide a forum for local business owners to regularly meet to learn about a topic of interest from a presenter, share ideas and explore opportunities to work together.	£22,400	£22,400	Inverclyde Women in Business Network was established, with a schedule of events every 6 – 8 weeks, and has been viewed as a welcome addition to the business networking opportunities available in the area.
Inverclyde Council Business Development ‘Supporting Growth and New Start Growth’	Providing grants and expert support to new start businesses or supporting growth of existing business.	£115,000	£115,000	A range of business grants were made available which added value to the Council’s core business grants programme. Support for digital activities, including marketing, was particularly well received. A total of 80 businesses received grant support.
Inverclyde Council Business Development ‘Business Accelerator Programme’	Through procurement of expert support, this project will develop a programme of training to assist businesses to support their sustainability and diversify the business base of Inverclyde.	£208,855	£208,855	Contractors delivered 4 expert support programmes to 49 local businesses. Two of the programmes were focussed on independent retailers and independent hospitality businesses, with the remaining two open to any sector. The 6 week programmes also included 1-1 advice as well as grant support.

Investment Priority – People and Skills – 5 Projects

Organisation, Project Name	Project Description	Allocation	Spend	Outcome
Inverclyde Council MCMC and CVS Inverclyde ‘Youth Volunteering Programme’	The project aims to deliver positive destinations for inactive young people across Inverclyde. It will focus on increasing and enhancing volunteering opportunities, making this a valuable way for young people to gain skills and experience in a supported environment.	£121,486	£121,486	The project developed young people’s skills and experiences by supporting them to take up local volunteering opportunities. It created a volunteering mentoring service and developed a youth champion programme, and certification via the national Saltire Awards was available. 120 young people benefitted from the programme.

Parklea Branching Out 'Parklea Community Option'	<p>This programme will enhance services by enabling provision of a more diverse programme of personal development and skills development opportunities for young people with autism and/or additional support needs, to enable access to further education, training and employability options.</p>	<p>£90,000</p>	<p>£90,000</p>	<p>Working in partnership with West College Scotland, Inverclyde Council CLD and Morton in the Community, the programme provided accredited training in horticulture, gardening, landscaping, and maintenance skills for 85 people with autism and/or additional support needs. In addition, participants were supported to achieve first aid certification, customer service awards, food safety certification and SQA personal development awards, alongside improving communication and teamwork abilities and essential life skills, such as independent travel and budgeting. Branches café provided further opportunities for participants to take part in 'plants to plates' activities, and the Independent Travel programme was able to be expanded, providing 50 young people with skills to travel independently.</p> <p>81 young people have benefitted from the programme and over 95% have sustained positive destinations including school, further education, volunteering and employment including landscaping, joinery, retail and administration positions.</p>
Inverclyde Council MCMC 'Steps 2 Progression'	<p>This is a focussed Youth project which will target 125 young people aged 16 - 19 years who are economically inactive and looking to move into a positive destination. The project will add to the training and life skills provision in the area, and will provide aftercare support to help sustain outcomes.</p>	<p>£350,000</p>	<p>£350,000</p>	<p>The project provided accredited programmes in Customer Service and Employability Award to 130 young people through contracted services with Street League. It also provided one-to-one support for 100 young people leaving school without a positive destination. The formation of the Youth Hub, based in SDS Greenock office, brought together relevant agencies to provide a weekly drop-in service for young people looking for support to move into training, further education, volunteering or employment.</p>

Inverclyde Council Employability & Skills 'Progress to Employment'	Progress to employment will support economically inactive people to move closer to employment by providing end-to-end support including key worker support, action planning, pre-vocational and vocational skills training.	£483,283	£483,283	Provision of an all-age, bespoke employability service, available to any local resident who needed help and support to gain the confidence, pre-vocational and vocational skills to move closer to/into employment. Delivered via Council employability key workers and complimentary contracted provision, including Inverclyde Community Development Trust, Stepwell Consultancy, Financial Fitness and Enable Scotland. The service supported 750 clients, with qualifications gained by 56%, and employment outcomes of 38%.
Inverclyde Council Employability & Skills 'New Opportunities'	The project aims to provide barrier removal activity, pre-vocational training and vocational training to those furthest from the labour market, through provision of person-centred services which will move clients closer to, or into employment.	£199,092	£199,092	The project supported 120 clients with multiple/complex barriers to employment, to overcome those barriers and gain confidence and skills to make employment a consideration. Work experience programmes, alongside mental health support, financial awareness and skills attainment were provided through Council employability staff in conjunction with employability contractors, including ICDT, Stepwell, Financial Fitness and Enable Scotland. 60% of clients achieved certification/qualification attainment.

Investment Priority – Multiply – 6 Projects

Organisation, Project Name, SPF Intervention	Project Description	Allocation	Spend	Outcome
Inverclyde Council CLD 'Prison leavers maths and numeracy'	Group courses aimed at prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary licence.	£39,064	£39,064	Delivered in partnership with Fife College, prisoners, those recently released from prison or on temporary license were given 1-1 learning in basic numeracy skills.

Inverclyde Council CLD 'Partnership Maths and Numeracy'	Development and delivery of bespoke programmes to tie in with CLD Partnership services including those on the employability pipeline.	£76,099	£76,099	Local services took part in the programme, enabling service users to be supported through small group learning and 1-1 sessions as required. Participating services were:- Oor Club; Women's Aid; DWP; Jericho House; Inverclyde Faith & Throughcare; Parklea Branching Out; Morton in the Community. Two learners took part in a podcast for Sunny Govan radio covering the themes of helping with children's homework and financial learning.
Inverclyde Council CLD '1:1 Maths and Numeracy Support and Volunteer Training'	New intensive and flexible courses targeted at people without Level 5 maths in Scotland, leading to an equivalent qualification.	£146,745	£146,745	The project supported 45 learners through 1:1 intensive support across a range of numerical areas and tailored to individual need. It improved participants knowledge, skills and understanding of numeracy and developed confidence to use those skills in their everyday contexts.
Inverclyde Council, Regeneration 'Everyday maths'	Everyday numeracy, adult learning programmes based around everyday numeracy relating to shopping, cooking, and supporting children with homework. The courses will support people to upskill their numeracy skills, build confidence and potentially work towards a formal qualification in the future.	£151,203	£0	Due to competing priorities, insufficient capacity was available to secure appropriate delivery mechanisms within available timescales. However, CLD's provision in some way addresses the outcomes originally identified for this project. <u>Underspend £151,203</u>
Inverclyde Council, Employability & Skills 'Workplace Maths and Numeracy Programmes and Staff Training'	Workplace numeracy working alongside employers such as social care staff, health staff, local call centres. Programme delivery will be shaped by the partnership between employer and employability services to ensure maximum uptake of programme.	£76,941	£17,396	Enable Scotland provided numeracy upskilling for 16 people working in the Health and Social Care sector. The programme provided numeracy learning, with additional digital and financial literacy skills, and was delivered via group sessions and additional 1-1 support as required. <u>Underspend £59,545</u>

<p>West College Scotland 'Multiply – WCS' <i>New and flexible courses targeted at those without Level 5 maths, leading to an equivalent qualification</i></p>	<p>Additional college programmes to support community members without formal qualification to level 5 maths to achieve an outcome.</p>	<p>£79,000</p>	<p>£12,457</p>	<p>As many of the college courses had numeracy core skills embedded within the curriculum, the uptake of stand alone provision was not as per anticipated numbers. However, 60 clients took part in the numeracy provision, which would not have been possible without SPF funding.</p> <p><u>Underspend £66,543</u></p>
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Appendix 2 – UKSPF 2025-26 – Suggested Projects

Investment Priority – Communities & Place – 3 Projects - £775,195

Organisation & Project Name	Project Description	Allocation
Inverclyde Council 'Town Centre Improvements'	To support capital works within Greenock, Port Glasgow and Gourock town centres, including support to progress actions identified in their Town Centre Action Plans.	£695,195
Inverclyde Council 'Invergrow'	To continue the previously supported project, to ensure the sustainability of the community growers and the Inverclyde Community Food Network and explore opportunities to expand the available space for food growing by local residents and businesses.	£40,000
Parklea Branching Out 'Parklea HUB and Gardens'	To continue the previously supported project, to develop the work undertaken to make the facility and the surrounding area more accessible to the most vulnerable members of the community, providing safe and inclusive spaces to learn, socialise, network and thrive.	£40,000

Investment Priority - Local Business – 3 Projects - £330,000

Organisation & Project Name	Project Description	Allocation
CVS Inverclyde 'Inverclyde Community Enterprise Programme'	To build sustainability to the work previously delivered with local social enterprises and support them to review their income generation sources and partnership/collaborative working options.	£50,000
Inverclyde Council 'Inverclyde in Business'	Provision of business advice, support and grants to new and existing SME businesses to help them start-up, grow, remain resilient and share experiences through networking. Grant support will include equipment, digital skills, marketing and training.	£230,000
Inverclyde Council 'Town Centre Vibrancy'	To provide grant support to town centre SME businesses.	£50,000

Investment Priority – People and Skills – 4 Projects - £445,194

Organisation & Project Name	Project Description	Allocation
CVS Inverclyde 'Youth Volunteering Programme'	To continue, and build upon, this programme being an appropriate route for school leavers and inactive young people to gain work and life skills through good quality volunteering opportunities.	£60,000
Parklea Branching Out 'Life & Work Skills'	To continue, and build upon, the employability services delivered by BPO to people with autism and/or additional support needs, to enable access to training, further education and employment.	£65,194
Inverclyde Council & Street League 'Steps 2 Progression'	Provision of a focussed employability programme for young people aged 16 - 19 years who are looking to move into a positive destination of employment, training, further education or volunteering. The project adds to the training and life skills provision in the area and will provide aftercare support to help sustain outcomes.	£120,000
Inverclyde Council & Contracted Provision 'Progress to Employment'	Progress to employment will support people to move closer to employment by providing end-to-end support including key worker support, action planning, pre-vocational and vocational skills training. It will target those with barriers to employment and will link with other services to provide a holistic approach to barrier removal.	£200,000