



Glasgow City Region Cabinet

Report by: Kevin Rush, Director of Regional Economic Growth

Contact: Mike McNally
michael.mcnally@glasgow.gov.uk

UK Shared Prosperity Fund End of Year Report and Forecast Expenditure

Purpose of Report:

The report summarises the Glasgow City Region's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) activity to the end of the financial year 2024/2025, the end of the current funding period. In addition, it also provides the details of the planned expenditure for 2025/2026 – the extension year for UKSPF.

Recommendations:

The GCR Cabinet is asked to:

- a) note the Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund end of year report
- b) note the planned expenditure profile for the year 2025/2026 and;
- c) approve the end of year report and planned expenditure profile for submission to the UK Government.

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The report summarises the Glasgow City Region's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) activity to the end of the financial year 2024/2025, the end of the current funding period. In addition, it also provides the details of the planned expenditure for 2025/2026 – the extension year for UKSPF.

2 Background

- 2.1 Glasgow City Region (GCR) Programme Management Office (PMO), on behalf of the eight Member Authorities (MAs) and PMO delivery, is required to provide the UK Government with 6-monthly progress reports on UKSPF spend and activity.
- 2.2 As the Cabinet will be aware, in the UKG Autumn Budget Statement, 30 October 2024, the Chancellor announced a 1-year extension to the UKSPF Programme for financial year 2025/2026.

3 GCR UKSPF Final Programme spend 2022 - 2025

- 3.1 This 6-monthly report provides a summary of the UKSPF expenditure to the end of the financial year 2024 / 2025 and cumulatively to the end of the initial 3-year funding programme 2022 – 2025. This covers activity across the eight Member Authorities and the GCR delivery. The summary is noted in Table 1.

	Spend to 31 March '25	Allocation	Underspend	% of spend
EDC	£3,430,085	£3,495,853	-£65,768*	98%
ERC	£3,194,684	£3,254,078	-£59,393	98%
GCC	£26,891,483	£26,815,094	£76,389**	100%
IC	£3,251,210	£3,528,501	-£277,291	92%
NLC	£13,831,647	£13,788,052	£43,595****	100%
RC	£5,906,052	£6,205,605	-£299,552	95%
SLC	£12,115,041	£12,101,369	£13,672***	100%
WDC	£3,862,455	£3,864,075	-£1,619	99%
GCR PMO	£710,295	£821,639	-£111,344	86%
GCR Total	£73,192,956	£73,874,267	-£681,311	99%

Table 1. GCR UKSPF Expenditure Summary 2022-2025

* Once GCR Extend Underspend of £6,437 re-allocated EDC underspend is £72,205

** Once GCR Extend of £76,390 re-allocated GCC have no overspend

*** Once GCR Extend of £9,012 re-allocated SLC overspend is £4,660, this overspend will be offset by underspend in other MAs

****Multiply underspend from another MA will be utilised to offset the Multiply overspend in NLC

- 3.2 As noted in Table 1, the overall UKSPF spend across GCR MAs and PMO delivery achieved 99% of the available budget at £73,192,956.
- 3.3 As per the additional notes in relation to Table 1, the GCR ExtendPlus, SME Carbon Baseline Report Programme, had an overall underspend of £91,839. This underspend was re-allocated to East Dunbartonshire, Glasgow and South Lanarkshire Councils, on the basis of the percentage of the total budget they each committed to the programme and the number of businesses referred.
- 3.4 Of the total GCR UKSPF underspend, £630,079 of this comes specifically from the Multiply intervention. Given the original GCR UKSPF Multiply allocation was in excess of £12m for the three years of the programme this is unsurprising. CEG will remember the level of investment by UKG into the Multiply intervention into adult numeracy was queried by GCR at the time of the programme development. UKG advised there was limited opportunity to vire budget from Multiply into other intervention, with only Multiply underspend in 2023/2024 being able to be reallocated into the People & Skills theme, this was authorised due to the delay in programme commencement.

4 Evaluation

- 4.1 A number of evaluations into UKSPF are either being undertaken, or have been completed across various levels;
- GCR has been selected by UK Government as one of 36 localities across the UK (of which 4 are in Scotland), to be the subject of a Place Based evaluation by IPSOS Mori. The GCR PMO and all MAs are participating in the evaluation. Given the extension to the UKSPF programme by 12 months, the timeline for the Place Based evaluation has now been pushed out until autumn 2025
 - An evaluation of the GCR wide impact (minus NLC) of the ExtendPlus carbon baseline reporting programme is being undertaken by the GCR Intelligence Hub. It is currently being finalised and is scheduled to be complete by the end of May 2025
 - The Regional Marketing of Multiply, 2% of the Multiply budget across years 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 was allocated to the regional marketing of the programme

Regional Marketing of Multiply

- 4.2 The Regional approach to the marketing of Multiply presented an opportunity over a one-year period to test the value and effectiveness of a collective approach to marketing a cross-Regional initiative. The model adopted was for the PMO to lead, working closely within a group of communications and marketing representatives from the eight MAs. Decisions and spend was agreed collectively, and governance was in place from the GCR Comms and Marketing Group and a senior officer thematic group. The campaign objective was to raise general awareness, as opposed to the generation of direct take-up of courses. It was understood that historically numeracy provision take-up (similar to literacy) is very much a hard sell.
- 4.3 The evaluation identified the group worked well together and there was a recognised benefit in the shared expertise and ideas, which extended to the operational delivery groups as well. The smaller councils also felt the pooled budget provided 'a bigger bang for their buck' to promote the intervention.

- 4.4 While it was not possible to measure a subjective level of awareness raised, Regional marketing activities drove over 50,000 visits to the dedicated Multiply website. The range of activities carried out was extensive (including radio, media, film, podcasts, social / digital media and posters on buses and at transport hubs Region-wide) and went beyond core communication and marketing activities. A dedicated Regional Multiply resource drove extensive campaign support from key stakeholder organisations such as the NHS, Fire and Rescue and housing associations - working across multi-council areas which brought further scale to our reach and messaging. GCR also hosted an end of programme event for delivery partners and an online survey for people attending courses to collate learning, this has been shared with MAs.
- 4.5 Clearly our residents, communities and businesses do not operate within the confines of their local council area. With this and the above in mind, there may be merit in considering a similar approach for the marketing of programmes, projects or initiatives which are running across the whole Region for wider reach and penetration of a target audience, efficiencies of scale and consistency for end users – where there would be benefits in adopting consistent messaging/design and potentially a shared centralised information source and call to action for residents / businesses.
- 4.6 A detailed Evaluation Report has been developed on the exercise and shared with MAs.

5 UKSPF Extension – 2025/26 Forecast Expenditure

- 5.1 As noted in section 2.2, the UKG announced a 12-month extension to the current UKSPF programme Autumn Budget Statement (30 October 2024). As with the original 2022 – 2025 programme, Lead Authorities must submit an Expenditure Profile for the duration of the funding.
- 5.2 It should be noted there are a number of differences between the UKSPF Extension and the original funded programme. The original programme comprised three 'thematic priorities'; Communities and Place, People and Skills, Supporting Local Business and the specific adult numeracy programme 'Multiply', with 51 interventions detailed below these headings, for activity to be defined against. Lead Authorities then had to submit a full Investment Plan to UKG for approval, in advance of any grant being passed down. For the UKSPF Extension, the three priorities remain, with five Themes beneath and 12 sub-themes for activity to be captured – as noted in the diagram below:



Diagram – UKSPF Extension Priorities

- 5.3 While there is no requirement to complete a full UKSPF Investment Plan for the extension year, UKG require a forecast of projects broken down by theme and subtheme. Table 2 shows the collated budget forecast for the 8 MAs broken down by theme and capital/revenue split. As with the initial 3-year programme MAs can claim up to 4% of the allocation for Management and Administration.

Theme	Capital Forecast	Revenue Forecast	Total
Communities and Place: Healthy Safe and Inclusive Communities	£2,288,043	£3,984,187	£6,272,230
Communities and Place: Thriving Place	£4,436,950	£1,016,000	£5,452,950
Support for Local Business	£631,787	£4,841,137	£5,472,924
People and Skills: Employability	£0	£8,974,701	£8,974,701
People and Skills: Skills	£0	£2,135,356	£2,135,356
Management & Admin	£0	£1,114,804	£1,114,804
Total	£7,356,780	£22,066,185	£29,422,965

Table 2: Forecast spend for GCR 2025/2026

6 Future of the UKSPF Programme

- 6.1 UK Government have confirmed there will be no clarity on the future of UKSPF until the UKG Spending Review in June 2025. Of more concern with this timescale will be the level of detail provided at this point. There is no clarity as to whether it be a general commitment to funding, or more detail on the parameters of the programme. If it is

the later, this could have significant operational implications for delivery from April 2026.

6.2 Representation has been made to the Scottish Government's Regional Partnership Network (RPN), in relation to the role of SG in any future funded programme. SG have proposed a number of principles:

- **Funding design** – The programme should be co-designed by the UK Government and the three devolved governments.
- **Additionality** – Programme funding should not result in reduced allocation elsewhere in the Scottish budget. Any new programme should match allocations received under European Structural and Investment Fund.
- **Duration** – The programme should be multi-year. Care should also be given to avoid peaks and troughs in productivity where programmes are commenced and closed down as each multi-year fund comes to an end.
- **Funding delivery** – All funding should flow through the Scottish Government to Scottish recipients to make use of existing systems for distribution, reporting and evaluation.
- **Monitoring and evaluation** – Processes for assessing outcomes of any successor programme should be proportionate and designed with input from delivery partners.

6.3 Issues have been raised particularly in relation to **Funding Delivery** and how SG can add value to the process through this approach.

7 Recommendation

7.1 The GCR Cabinet is asked to:

- a) note the Glasgow City Region UK Shared Prosperity Fund end of year report
- b) note the planned expenditure profile for the year 2025/2026 and;
- c) approve the end of year report and planned expenditure profile for submission to the UK Government.