

## **Shared Prosperity Fund – Allocation of funding approved.**

4 With reference to the minutes of 30th January 2025 (Print 6, page 53) approving proposals to utilise the budget allocation available to Glasgow for the extension year (2025/26) of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), following confirmation of the budget from the UK Government in October 2024, Councillor Aitken, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City and City Region Economy and Just Transition, presented a report regarding the fund, advising that

- (1) the UK Government had applied a minimum allocation for capital expenditure for the current programme and Glasgow City Region had proposed that the total regional capital allocation be split proportionately across all 8 local authorities and this meant that Glasgow had a minimum of £2,761,060 to invest in capital programmes, however £150,000 of this funding had already been approved to support businesses through the Green Business Support Grant, leaving £2,611,060 available for other capital project activity;
- (2) for the 2023-25 financial years, the allocation of capital funding was managed through an open competition and given a 1 year extension, there was a significant risk that taking a similar approach would result in projects being unable to spend the allocation within the timeframe, due to the length of time to put in place a process, conclude grant agreements and undertake delivery of the projects;
- (3) following a trawl of potential projects, officers from Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability and Economic Development had identified The Lighthouse (Ward 10) and the Kelvinhall (Ward 10) as projects which met the criteria for funding from the UKSPF, could be delivered within the 2025/26 financial year and had been identified as having a major impact in attracting further private sector investment in the properties;
- (4) the Contracts and Property Committee on 6th February 2025 (Print 6, page 83) had authorised the Executive Director of Neighbourhoods, Regeneration and Sustainability to commence off-market negotiations with Sustainable Ventures (Scotland) Ltd of the Council owned Lighthouse which was a Category A listed sandstone building designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh;
- (5) it was proposed that £2m of funding from the UKSPF be used to ensure that the condition of The Lighthouse building supported the proposed transformation for Sustainable Ventures (Scotland) Ltd to make it a Net Zero Innovation Hub which would create a space for Clean Tech companies in Scotland to grow, driving economic activity and supporting talent in the Glasgow City Region;
- (6) officers had been looking at the options for the long-term future of the Charles Rennie Mackintosh exhibition at The Lighthouse and consideration was being given as to whether the exhibition could continue to be accommodated within The Lighthouse or whether it would be re-interpreted at another publicly accessible venue;
- (7) following a series of successful investments in the Kelvinhall, a substantial

portion of vacant floorspace remained available and officers from the Council and Glasgow Life had received expressions of interest from commercial operators to utilise the vacant floorspace;

- (8) the Kelvinhall was in need of investment to unlock it's potential and whilst the optimal use of the space was still to be determined, several interventions could be implemented to enhance its appeal and attract investment, regardless of its final purpose and it was proposed that the remaining balance of £611,060 of funding from the UKSPF be used for a package of internal and external measures, as detailed in the report; and
- (9) of the proposed delivery, reporting and monitoring of The Lighthouse and Kelvinhall projects.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) noted the report; and
- (b) approved £2m of funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for The Lighthouse project and £611,060 of funding for the Kelvinhall project, as detailed in the report.