

UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Update noted.

13 There was submitted and noted a report by the Director of Regional Economic Growth providing an update on Glasgow City Region (GCR) UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) activity, including the 2023/24 grant determination, ongoing UKSPF reporting, underspend proposals, GCR evaluation and Extend - Carbon Baseline Reports, advising

- (1) that GCR had submitted the UKSPF 6-monthly report and ‘credible plan’ to the UK Government (UKG) on 9th May 2023, following the approval by this Cabinet, and after a number of clarifications, the UKG had approved the report and GCR was now awaiting notification of the 2023/24 grant determination, following which the 2023/24 allocation would be distributed to Member Authorities (MAs);
- (2) that Lead Authorities had been notified by the UKG in late June 2023 that the next quarterly report would no longer be required and that the Programme Management Office (PMO) would continue to liaise with local and national UKG contacts to provide constructive feedback on the ongoing design of the UKSPF reporting process;
- (3) that furthermore, the PMO would collaborate with MAs to complete a GCR level UKSPF quarterly report for quarter 1 2023/24 activity and that this approach would be used to help MAs and their partners refine internal reporting processes, whilst also serving to provide the PMO, Finance Strategy Group and the Chief Executives’ Group with an indication of GCR UKSPF spend;
- (4) that, following the GCR UKSPF Underspend report to the Chief Executives’ Group on 8th June 2023, the Head of UKSPF had met with MA Economic Delivery Group (EDG) members to help inform and refine a proposed approach to the utilisation of GCR UKSPF underspend, and whilst MA EDG members had been broadly supportive of the allocation methodology, there was consensus that any underspend being utilised at the city region level should be managed by the PMO, rather than being offered out to wider regional partners, and that as a result, the proposed methodology would be prioritised, as detailed in the report:
- (5) that, following that approach, the PMO would work with MAs to develop a methodology for the reallocation of budget between MAs, whether this be for reprofiled or new activity (project prioritisation), and for region wide activity, the PMO would work with MA EDG members to develop a long-list of GCR projects that could be funded using GCR UKSPF underspend and delivered by 31st March 2025;
- (6) that the intention would then be to develop this long-list in parallel with the quarter 2 2023/24 reporting process, when more clarity would be available on UKSPF spend across the GCR, with an update being provided to a future

meeting of the Chief Executives' Group, and with final approval being remitted to the Chief Executives' Group and this Cabinet as appropriate;

- (7) that the UKG, through the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities had appointed 2 external contractors to undertake the evaluation of the UKSPF which would focus on the impact of the programme at an intervention and project level, as detailed in the report;
- (8) that 1 of the 12 first phase programmes within the Regional Economic Strategy related to Green Business Support across the GCR and since quarter 4 2022/23, a number of MAs had been engaging with the Extend project at the University of Strathclyde to augment the 3 strands of Green Business Support, and that the Extend project team had used its experience over the last few years to develop a bespoke Carbon Baseline report to Small and Medium-sized Enterprise (SMEs);
- (9) that following approval by the Chief Executives' Group on 27th July 2023, the GCR intended to grant fund the University of Strathclyde to provide these bespoke Carbon Baseline reports to 500 city-region SMEs over the next 18 months at a total cost of £376,000, with the proposed MA split being detailed in the report, and further noting that North Lanarkshire Council would not be included within the Extend Programme as it offered a specific grant programme for SMEs to commission their own Net-Zero consultancy support;
- (10) that over the last 18 months the Head of Shared Prosperity Fund for GCR and the PMO had provided support and guidance to MAs in the development of the content of their Investment Plans, together with the establishment of the monitoring and reporting requirements, and in addition to the MA activity included in the original GCR Investment Plan, a number of projects had now been created that were collaborative across the city region, namely, Clyde Climate Forest, Extend – Carbon Baseline Reports and Multiply; and
- (11) that, given the nature of these collaborative projects, the role of the PMO would continue to evolve and to support the delivery of these projects which had an element of regional delivery and co-ordination, and that the PMO would act as the '9th' partner in UKSPF delivery, with the scope and role of the PMO differing across the projects, as detailed in the report.