

# Report



## Cabinet

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### Part 1

**Date:** 10 May 2023

**Subject:** UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Local Investment Programme Update

**Purpose** To detail progress on the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UK SPF) relating to the eligible spend in the 2022/2023 financial year, and approve the programme for Year 2 and 3

**Author** Regeneration and Place Manager

**Ward** All

**Summary** The Shared Prosperity Fund is the programme introduced by the UK Government to replace previous regional funding received from the European Union. It is a tripartite fund focused on three core priorities – Community and Place, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills. There is also an allied and separate allocation to support adult numeracy called 'Multiply'.

The quantum of investment Newport will receive is significant. The core allocation is £27m with an additional £5.4m to invest via Multiply. The 10 Local Authorities in the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) have a combined conditional allocation of £230,432,573 and £48,100,003 for Multiply. The allocation for the whole of the Cardiff Capital Region is administered on behalf of the UK Government by Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council (the Lead Authority), with all funding claimed down quarterly in arrears.

Following public consultation, local priorities for investment in Newport between the three priority themes have been identified. The Multiply allocation is fixed and therefore did not form part of the consultation.

There have been significant mobilisation delays created by UK Government over the last 12 months, but the Lead Authority have now achieved a formal agreement with the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities regarding the Cardiff Regional Investment Plan. Importantly the Lead Authority have reached an agreement regarding reporting, compliance, and programme governance expectations with UK Government. This milestone is felt sufficient to recommend that Cabinet endorse the following proposals.

### Proposal

1. To endorse the delivery to date in year 1 of SPF solely relating to 2022/2023,
2. To approve the proposed administration and governance arrangements.
3. To endorse the proposed Newport Local Investment Plan comprising a comprehensive range of SPF-funded projects for years 2 and 3. Noting expected outputs and outcomes for the City and authorising the Head of Regeneration and

Economic Development and Head of Finance to claim relevant funding from the Lead Authority.

4. To delegate authority to the internal SPF Board, chaired by the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Strategic Investment, to agree specific projects under each of the three SPF priorities and Multiply and to recalibrate and realign as necessary in order to achieve outputs and outcomes against SPF interventions.
5. Delegate authority to the Head of Law and Standards to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to enable third party suppliers/providers to be appointed for internal and externally commissioned projects, and to provide grants to third party applicants
6. Authorise the SPF Board to operate within the suggested financial framework in order to manage the financial risk associated with the SPF programme.

**Action by** Head of Regeneration and Economic Development

**Timetable** Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Chief Executive
- Head of Law and Standards
- Head of Finance
- Head of People, Policy and Transformation
- Head of Environment and Public Protection
- Head of Housing and Communities

**Signed**

## Background

This report updates the previous Cabinet report of 13 July 2022 which provided the rationale and background of SPF and also endorsed the submission of the Regional Investment Plan.

The SPF is a central pillar of the UK Government's ambitious Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than competitive bidding.

The SPF supports the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK by delivering on each of the levelling up objectives. Local projects need to be in alignment with the 3 priorities, 11 missions and span the range of interventions in the SPF prospectus. The primary goal of the SPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. It is intended to:

- 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, and
- Empower local leaders and communities.

Within the context of the Fund's aims, each authority has the flexibility to invest across a range of activities that represent the right solutions to improve local pride in place, increase life chances, help spread and create opportunity, and a sense of community and belonging.

A public consultation exercise was conducted to inform the Newport local investment plan and ensure that priorities align with those of our residents and stakeholders. The results of this exercise are reflected in the proposed Newport Investment Plan.

In the interim, finding agreement between Lead Authorities and the UK Government around the administration of funding has proven a challenge across the UK. The Cardiff Capital Region and its 10 member authorities has the largest regional allocation of SPF by some margin but despite the complexities involved, the Regional Investment Plan was developed at pace, and submitted as required to UK Government in August 2022.

As a result, local authorities across the region, and beyond, have taken individual perspectives on the risk of spending their SPF allocation. Newport City Council took a cautious approach, given the high degree of financial risk attached to such a large allocation of funds. Without the certainty of allocation or approval of the Regional Investment Plan, the delivery and mobilisation of projects and fund administration was paused. Therefore, proceeding with SPF delivery was only possible once the Regional Investment Plan was formally agreed upon between UK Government and the Lead Authority on behalf of the region. This was achieved in early February 2023 and formal permission to proceed with SPF delivery has therefore been significantly delayed.

The total £33m funding allocation for Newport is broken down into a yearly allocation; 12% in Year 1 (22/23), 24% in Year 2 (23/24) and 64% in Year 3 (24/25). The authority, therefore, finds itself in the challenging scenario of establishing systems, capacity building and delivering more than a third of the SPF activity in the 2023/2024 financial year due to the roll over of unspent funding from Year 1.

## Credible Plan

The Council is working alongside regional partners and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to identify mitigations that enable the UK Government to defray the maximum possible support to eligible projects from the near total loss of delivery in Year 1 of the programme, and agree on the steps to reconfigure Local Investment Plans to ensure local areas do not lose investment due to the overall delay in proceeding.

This has taken the form of the UK Government recently agreeing to allow Year 1 funding allocations to be 'rolled over' into Year 2. To ensure this is undertaken in an accountable manner UK Government requires the production of, at pace, a regional change management proposal known as a 'credible plan'. This will be submitted by the Lead Authority to UK Government but in essence, seeks assurance of prudent financial and risk management at the project level. It also requires confirmation that mechanisms are in place, or are planned for, to mitigate risk relating to the future project pipeline and capacity to deliver. This report has informed Newport City Council's element of the credible plan and essentially does the following.

- 1. Provides credibility to the agreed local interventions in year 1** – Reporting arrangements agreed between the Lead Authority and UK Government place a requirement for all funds to be paid in arrears subject to evidence of spend. In order to provide confidence to the Lead Authority and UK Government on the soundness of our Local Investment Plan, it was necessary that the authority demonstrates eligible project activity proceeding in the 2022/2023 financial year, which the authority achieved as per Table 1, below.
- 2. Mitigates pressure on accelerated delivery programme** – the significant delay in finalising and approving the Regional Investment Plan by UK Government has lost the authority some eleven months of Year 1. To mitigate the situation UK Government has agreed with the Lead Authority that funds will not be forfeited and spend can be rolled forward into the 23/24 financial year. This has yet to be agreed upon in writing by UK Government. It is also yet to be confirmed if a deferment from year two into year three will be permitted, and at the time of writing, any funding not utilised is at risk of being lost. In terms of mitigating the risks at an operational level, a significant amount of work has been undertaken with project leads to review costs, timescales and outcomes/outputs within the new timeframe. Procedures, processes and governance structures are being put in place to ensure a swift start once Cabinet approval is received.
- 3. Facilitates the drawdown of funds against achieved outcomes and outputs** – Allied to point two, the Regional Investment Plan has agreed to the interventions which align with our proposed delivery projects (and their associated outcomes and outputs). Projects align with public priorities as evidenced through the consultation undertaken in November 2022. Due to the circumstances surrounding Year 1 we are acutely aware of the need to move our programme forward, ensuring that Newport does not miss out on funding for the delivery of projects. The UK Government's credible plan process is designed to facilitate this but it requires timely input. For Newport, this is best achieved by Cabinet agreeing to an approach where the SPF-funded projects can reprofile and initiate activity to develop sufficient detail to inform the regional credible plan. This achieves two things: we maintain crucial alignment with the revised Regional Investment Plan, and secondly it maintains our ability to drawdown our allocated funding held by the Lead Authority.

## SPF Programme Management Team

SPF carries significant allowance for administration, with 4% of the total fund given over to cover the cost of administering the scheme. Due to the predicted level of activity in the core team, 40% of this allocation will be retained by the Lead Authority. Newport is receiving the remaining 60% of the overall 4% admin fee. The admin fee accrued is likely to be significant, and sufficient to resource a dedicated team to support programme management and

monitoring. Without this additional resource, there is little realistic chance of delivering an accelerated programme of investment for the city with a high risk again of funding being lost.

## **Internal Governance Supporting Delivery**

A Shared Prosperity Fund oversight Board and delivery group structure has been set up with the Board represented by senior officers including legal and finance officers. The purpose of the Board is to oversee the management and performance of the Local Investment Plan and the delivery of projects which span multiple service areas and external providers. The role of the SPF Board is to:

- Secure agreement for revisions and new proposals from the Lead Body ensuring alignment and strategic fit with the local delivery plan.
- Making funding approvals and managing the programme within budget, reprioritising resources as and when required and ensuring financial risks are identified and managed.
- Management of relevant strategic level local partnership and stakeholders
- Ensuring co-ordination with complementary funds and activities
- Consideration of 'strategic fit' with other local and national policies and priorities
- Supporting Council engagement relating to SPF with local MPs
- Supporting regional collaboration and delivery
- Monitor project performance management, record keeping and compliance against Investment Plan priorities and metrics
- Scrutinise projects to maintain effective governance and oversight, particularly in respect of additionality and subsidy control.

Regular reporting will be provided to the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Strategic Investment and Executive Board alongside an annual update report to Cabinet. Three delivery groups, supported by SPF delivery staff, will comprise of project leads and will be focused on maintaining project momentum and achieving delivery results outlined in the Local Investment Plan.

## **Newport Local Investment Plan (including Financial Summary (Capital and Revenue))**

SPF is primarily a mechanism to support revenue activities and there is an overall limit on capital and revenue expenditure at an intervention level, which the Lead Authority report on to UK Government. The maximum capital allocation across the programme is 44%, at the time of writing the programme is in a positive position at less than 40%.

In relation to mobilising delivery, projects span multiple service areas and external delivery partners. All project leads have been engaged by the SPF Board and have been asked to review and recalibrate their delivery plans to ensure outcomes and outputs are realistic and deliverable. UK Government require all SPF delivery, monitoring and evaluation to have concluded by March 2025. All project leads are clear that financial planning, delivery, monitoring and evaluation need to be completed within the current lifetime of SPF.

Where there are unavoidable revenue implications post March 2025 (as indicated in the Local Investment Plan in Appendix 1, projects are explicitly required to address this as there can be no assumption that revenue budget will be available in 2024/25. There are a number of ways in which revenue costs post 2024/25 can be mitigated, this includes fixed term appointments to new posts. However this will be a matter for the relevant service area to address.

### **1. Year 1 Project Expenditure**

Officers have worked to identify areas of eligible spend in 22/23 that align with the aspirations of the Regional Investment Plan, local SPF priorities, corporate priorities aligned to the Corporate

Plan and the results of the consultation carried out in November 2022. There are five projects identified:

1. Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal – pre-construction feasibility and enabling works
2. Tredegar Park – feasibility works
3. Transporter Bridge – capital contribution towards the repair of the Transporter Bridge and construction of a new Visitor Centre
4. Leisure and Wellbeing Provision – maintenance of a City Centre Health and Wellbeing offer (The Station) whilst the Newport Centre is closed, and the new leisure facility is being constructed
5. Business Development – utilising funding towards the costs incurred in supporting new and existing businesses through Covid recovery.

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of spending in Year 1 and has formed the basis for the first claim from the Lead Authority.

**Table 1: SPF Year 1**

	<b>Year 1 (22/23)</b> <b>£</b>	<b>Notes</b> <b>including budgets heads affected</b>
Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal	£62,058	Revenue
		Capital
Tredegar Park	£48,067	Revenue
		Capital
Transporter Bridge Contribution	£200,000	Capital
City Centre Leisure and Wellbeing	£206,303	Revenue
Business Development	£177,986	Revenue
		Capital
Programme Management		Revenue
<b>22/23 TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>£495,194</b>	
<b>22/23 TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>£200,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£694,414</b>	
<b>NET IMPACT ON NCC BUDGET</b>	<b>0</b>	

## **2. Year 2 and 3 Forecast and Additional Projects**

The 'Newport Local Investment Plan 23-25' is attached as Appendix 1 and provides the programme level update for Years 2 and 3 of the programme. The Investment Plan is shown by theme, intervention ('W Code') and project. As directed by UK Government, unspent allocations from 2022/23 (Year 1) have been carried into 2023/24 (Year 2). Funds are not permitted to be moved into Year 3 at the current time. Projects will be delivered across a number of council services with the relevant Head of Service involved with project management. The UK Government prospectus also encourages collaboration with external partners for local and regional projects. The Local Investment Plan includes projects which will be delivered by external partners and also an allocation to Torfaen CBC in respect of regional employability commissioning. Cardiff Capital Region have also been allocated funding from the overall regional allocation in order to deliver the following projects on a regional scale.

- Cluster development - business Innovation, R&D Growth and the introduction of skills academies
- Tourism - promoting and encouraging more visitors to the region

### 3. Outcomes and Intended Impact

The Newport Local Investment Plan currently contains 47 projects across the three thematic investment priorities (excluding Multiply) and will deliver significant impacts and benefits for local communities, residents and businesses

Table 2 provides selected headline interventions and indicative outcomes across the investment priorities.

Investment Priority	Aim	Intervention outcomes	Individual Interventions*
Communities and Place	Enabling the investment to restore community spaces and relationships creating the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place	Organisations receiving grants and funding support	506
		Trees planted	750
		Support for institutional events: across tourism, culture, heritage	7
		Number of cultural entrepreneurs and volunteers assisted	161
		Feasibility studies	3
		Improved engagement in arts and culture	90
		Jobs created in arts, culture or heritage	66
Supporting Local Businesses	Enabling places to fund support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow.	Jobs safeguarded	361
		New businesses created	50
		Number of businesses receiving non-financial support (e.g. business resilience support)	400
		Number of grants to business	80
		Number of people reached	200
Skills and Employment	Addressing barriers to employment, supporting residents to move towards employment and education. This can include upskilling to support local growth	Number of economically inactive or socially excluded supported	300
		People supported with access to basic skills	200
		Number of people supported with access to mental and physical health support leading to employment	100
		People supported with job searches and to gain employment	950
		People supported to sustain employment	100
		Number of people supported with life skills	200
		People supported to participate in education	100
People supported gaining a qualification, licenses and skills following support.	1180		
Multiply	UK Government adult numeracy training	19+ numeracy training for those without GCSE (C+) in maths.	900

\*Interventions are measured against a series of UK Government set outcomes and outputs.

#### 4. Summary of Investment

At a thematic level, Table 3 indicates where the local investment plan makes investments to achieve the interventions outlined in Table 2. Greater detail regarding specific projects within the investment priorities can be found in the Local Investment Plan attached as Appendix 1.

**Table 3 – A summary of funding by priority**

Investment Priority	22/23	23/24	24/25	Total
Communities and Place	£517,208	£5,208,868	£8,083,916	£13,809,992
Supporting Local Business	£177,986	£1,039,552	£1,126,949	£2,344,487
People and Skills		£4,013,625	£6,124,845	£10,138,470
Multiply		£3,546,277	£1,899,791	£5,446,068
<b>Total</b>	<b>£695,194</b>	<b>£13,808,322</b>	<b>£17,235,501</b>	<b>£31,739,017</b>

#### Risks

Table 4 outlines programme-level risks, their impact, and mitigation at the time of writing. Individual projects are assessed by the SPF Board in relation to risk.

**Table 4: Risk matrix**

Risk	Impact of Risk if it occurs* (H/M/L)	Probability of risk occurring (H/M/L)	What is the Council doing or what has it done to avoid the risk or reduce its effect	Who is responsible for dealing with the risk?
Regional Investment Plan does not reflect Newport's priorities over the programme's lifetime.	L	L	Newport has undertaken public consultation to ensure interventions responded to local needs and opportunities. There is a current call for projects via established networks to ensure a viable pipeline of projects that can delivery at pace SPF activity across a wide remit of interventions.	Head of R&ED
Newport fails to deliver local projects and loses funding.	M	M	Projects have been developed across the council with several service areas and external partners in a manner which should allow them to scale at pace ensuring resilience and deliverability. All projects are in a process of refining and reprofiling to ensure outcomes and outputs are achieved against allocated funding. However the fact remains that Year 1	Head of R&ED/ Heads of Service as Project Leads



			<p>funding has been rolled into Year 2 and adds additional pressure to the programme.</p> <p>In relation to unallocated funds, the SPF Board has the core responsibility and systems in place to support project leads to address underspend. It is also developing programme resilience through exploring at pace the development of additional projects that will provide alternative or additional outputs and outcomes.</p>	
The slow commitment of funds by projects.	M	M	<p>With the creation of core staff adding capacity to the SPF programme management, the SPF Board has high confidence in a system that mirrors a PMO approach of project-level monitoring to track and support individual project teams to maintain their agreed delivery timeline. However the fact remains that Year 1 funding has been rolled into Year 2 and adds additional pressure to the programme.</p> <p>Although unlikely, should projects become untenable funding will be reallocated within the intervention or theme.</p>	Head of R&ED
UK Government change in approach regarding the provision of admin funding, removing the fixed allocation and reverting to percentage of project spend.	L	L	<p>A prudent approach has been taken and there would be sufficient, guaranteed, funding to cover the costs of the team in this scenario.</p>	Head of R&ED

## **Links to Council Policies and Priorities**

This funding would reflect the priorities of the Corporate Plan, Local Well-being Plan and Economic Growth Strategy.

## **Council Commitments and Priorities**

This proposal supports the primary objective of the Corporate Plan 2022 -2027 in working to deliver an 'Ambitious, Fairer, Greener Newport for everyone.'

To achieve this goal, Newport City Council has four well-being objectives that are the focus over the next five years and create the foundations for our longer-term vision for Newport over the next 20 years:

1. Economy, education and skills Newport is a thriving and growing city that offers excellent education and aspires to provide opportunities for all.
2. Environment and infrastructure A city that seeks to protect and enhance our environment whilst reducing our carbon footprint and preparing for a sustainable and digital future.
3. Quality social care and community services Newport is a supportive city where communities and care are at the heart of what we do.
4. An inclusive, fair and sustainable council Newport City Council is an inclusive organisation that places social value, fairness and sustainability at its core.

## **Options Available and considered**

- 1) Agree to:
  - a) To endorse the delivery to date in year 1 of SPF solely relating to 2022/2023,
  - b) To approve the proposed administration and governance arrangements.
  - c) To endorse the proposed Newport Local Investment Plan comprising a comprehensive range of SPF-funded projects for years 2 and 3. Noting expected outputs and outcomes for the City and authorising the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development and Head of Finance to claim relevant funding from the Lead Authority.
  - d) To delegate authority to the internal SPF Board, chaired by the Head of Regeneration and Economic Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth and Strategic Investment, to agree specific projects under each of the three SPF priorities and Multiply and to recalibrate and realign as necessary in order to achieve outputs and outcomes against SPF interventions.
  - e) Delegate authority to the Head of Law and Standards to prepare, complete and execute the required legal documentation to enable third party suppliers/providers to be appointed for internal and externally commissioned projects, and to provide grants to third party applicants
  - f) Authorise the SPF Board to operate within the suggested financial framework in order to manage the financial risk associated with the SPF programme.
- 2) Do not agree and halt delivery of the Newport Local Investment Plan.

## Preferred Option and Why

- (1) Endorse the spend profiled to existing activity for year 1 and the Newport Local Investment Plan for years 2 and 3, and agreeing proposed governance and administration proposals as set out. Newport has been allocated significant UK Government funding to boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards, spread opportunities and improve public services, restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, and empower local leaders and communities. This is a time limited programme where project leads and external partners (where appropriate) will need to deliver at pace.

## Comments of Chief Financial Officer

The Shared Prosperity Fund is a significant fully grant-funded investment programme for both Newport and the wider region. By virtue of the scale of sums involved, it will be challenging to ensure full expenditure is achieved within the remaining two years of the programme. Therefore, robust governance and management arrangements will be required to avoid foregoing the funding that has been made available. Part of these arrangements will involve accurate forecasting and monitoring of budgets and, where necessary, timely reprofiling of funds to ensure the pace of delivery can be maintained and expenditure maximised. In addition, for capital schemes in particular, realistic cost estimates will need to be produced and appropriate levels of contingency included, in light of the current environment of high construction inflation and the rising cost of certain materials.

The risk of not being permitted to carry forward unspent funds from Year 2 to Year 3, as per the current UK Government advice, adds to the need for effective programme management, to ensure spend is incurred in line with the current profile. In light of this risk, projects should only be commenced where there is confidence that the spend will be incurred within the relevant year, as any delays could result in the Council having to fund the completion of the scheme from within its own, already constrained, resources, should UK Government not be able to accommodate the financial impact of any delays.

Although the programme is fully grant funded, the report references the fact that any longer term revenue funding requirements, particularly those that result from the large capital schemes included within the investment plan, will need to be addressed by services prior to the 2025/26 financial year. The report is not explicit regarding the scale of potential longer-term revenue implications, but does confirm that they are inevitable and therefore unavoidable for a number of projects and this, plus the risk it introduces for the decisions recommended here, is brought to the Cabinet's attention. Appendix 1 does list the projects that may give rise to ongoing revenue budget consequences.

Taking into account the challenging medium term financial outlook facing the Council, this presents a risk that further pressure could be added once the SPF grant funding comes to an end, but this is not quantified/estimated. Cabinet needs to be cognisant of this risk when considering approval of the programme and proposed schemes contained within it. In light of this, the Head of Finance would recommend that Cabinet consider, and implement:

- delaying the commencement of any individual projects until the longer term revenue consequences are quantified and funded, if acceptable, from a recurring funding source.
- Developing and setting an overall financial framework for the SPF programme to operate within dealing with issues such as (i) managing ongoing reliance on funding from external groups post 2025 (ii) managing expectations for ongoing unavoidable MTFP financial impacts balanced with continuation of initiatives etc.

For example, such a framework would initially require all project managers to review the financial implications of their projects, in conjunction with their Finance Business Partners, and report to the board with details of the ongoing revenue costs beyond March 2025. As part of this, any mitigating actions should be identified so that the board can understand the potential net impact upon the Council's revenue budget. Once the board have reviewed the position of each project, any with unavoidable and unfunded revenue implications would need to be reported to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for

oversight of SPF to seek agreement for those ongoing costs to be added, as a pre-commitment, to the Council's MTFP. Only once this agreement is in place, would there be authority for a scheme to commence.

This allows the flexibility the SPF Board is seeking to deliver at pace but ensures a degree of control to manage the risk here where the costs are not quantified in this report.

The report also outlines the administration allowance that will be provided alongside the core grant. It is proposed that this allocation is used to fund the creation of a central SPF team that will undertake programme management and performance monitoring. In addition, this central team will be responsible for the majority of financial monitoring and administration, including compilation of grant claims and returns to the Lead Authority. As outlined in the report, the amount of funding to be received is likely to be a product of the level of spend incurred. Therefore, it is essential that the pace of expenditure is sufficient to generate the funding required to cover the cost of the support team, otherwise it will be necessary for the host service area to take mitigating action in order to cover any unfunded costs from within its existing revenue budget.

### **Comments of Monitoring Officer**

The proposed action is in accordance with the Council's legal powers under the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, to apply for and provide financial assistance for the purposes of economic regeneration and well-being, and also to enter into collaborative arrangements with other local authorities to facilitate this. This is in accordance with the UK Government's advice on the Shared Prosperity Fund, which requires a co-ordinated regional approach to bidding for funding, based on an overarching investment plan and a lead authority. The Lead Authority has entered into a grant funding agreement with UK SPF on behalf of all the local authorities and will be responsible for receiving and managing the funding. It has been necessary for the Council to enter into a Service Level Agreement along with the other Cardiff Capital Region Authorities authorising RCT to carry out this role on their behalf and also to indemnify RCT against any liabilities arising from any failure or default by individual authorities in relation to the grant funding conditions and the delivery of local projects, in accordance with local investment plans. This is a standard agreement for this type of lead authority arrangement. Cabinet is being asked to endorse year 1 spending allocated to existing projects and approve the Regional Investment Plan for years 2 and 3, alongside governance arrangements to enable minor adjustments to spending where necessary to enable projects and programmes to be delivered. Any contracts arising from allocation of SPF funding, such as with third party suppliers, or grant allocations to third parties, will need to take account of relevant procurement and subsidy control legislation and will therefore require legal and finance involvement to ensure that relevant legislation is complied with.

### **Comments of Head of People, Policy and Transformation**

The HR implications are set out in the report with the creation of additional posts to support delivery. As outlined, the Shared Prosperity Fund is a significant investment programme for both Newport and the wider region. The grant funded proposals support the objectives set out in the Council's Corporate Plan and Well-being plan commitments and have the potential to have a positive impact on the City.

### **Scrutiny Committees**

None.

### **Fairness and Equality Impact Assessment:**

- **Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act**
- **Equality Act 2010**
- **Socio-economic Duty**
- **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011**

The council has a number of legislative responsibilities to assess the impact of any strategic decision, proposal or policy on people that may experience disadvantage or inequality.

- Stakeholder engagement has taken place and will periodically take place at the project level as part of delivery management. The overarching regional investment plan provides a framework of interventions and reporting for the Council. Stakeholder engagement is critical as we recognise the need to understand what projects and priorities are important to our residents and communities. To date, they have been supportive of the aims and objectives.
- There will be a positive impact in respect of both age and disability in particular as the SPF enables us to improve facilities and environments for all in society.
- SPF is expected to have a catalytic effect, leading to further investment and delivery of projects and funding which supports our communities and place, our businesses and provide people with access to the right skills and qualifications to enable them to prosper.

The proposal supports the sustainable development principle and 5 ways of working set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) through engagement with residents and stakeholders on their priorities for the funding. The final delivery plan will seek to work together with all groups to deliver projects and investments which encourage longer-term resilience within communities and businesses,

## Consultation

None.

## Appendix 1 – Newport Local Investment Plan



Appendix 1 -  
Newport Investment

## Background Papers

Cabinet Report 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022



Shared Prosperity  
Fund Cabinet Report

FEIA April 2023



Fairness and  
Equality Impact Assessment

**Dated: 3 May 2023**