

# Integrated Impact Assessment

The purpose of Aberdeen City Council is to protect the people and the place of Aberdeen from harm, enabling them to prosper and supporting them in the event of harm happening.

The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to evidence that Aberdeen City Council are making decisions in an informed way, and that the impact of decisions made is understood and accepted. The legislation that is considered within this assessment are:

- Section 2 [Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics](#)
- Section 3 [Socio-Economic](#)
- Section 4 [Human Rights](#)
- Section 5 [Children and Young People’s Rights](#)

The term ‘policy’ is used throughout this document and applies to policies, proposals, strategies, provision, criteria, functions, practice, budget savings and activities that includes delivery of our services.

## 1. About the Policy

### 1.1 Title

UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF)

### 1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK Governments ambitious levelling up agenda, a moral, social and economic programme for the whole of government and a significant component of its support for place across the UK.

The Aberdeen City Council area received an indicative allocation of up to £7,156,832 for an initial three-year period covering 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

In 2022 Aberdeen City Council approved the UKSPF Investment Plan [UK Shared Prosperity Fund | Aberdeen City Council](#).

The March 2024 report to F&R seeks the Committee’s approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding.

- £60,000 to Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations LTD (ACVO) for Aberdeen Third Sector Hub feasibility Study;
- £99,200 to Aberdeen City Council for the Tall Ships Races Aberdeen 2025 Culture Programme 24/25;
- £26,447 to Growing2gether for the Strengthening Communities by Building Local Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience project;
- £63,000 to Look Again in partnership with Culture Aberdeen and northeast based freelancers for the Aberdeen Independents project;
- £37,000 to Soundfestival for the Soundcommunities project;
- £45,228 to St Georges Community Centre for the Saint Georges Community Centre project;
- £108,000 to the Port of Aberdeen Trust Port to support Tall Ships Community Promotion, which includes volunteer recruitment and engaging young people with sail traineeships;
- £116,777 to Avenue for Mental Health and Relationship Support for Families and Individuals in Aberdeen;

## UKSPF Local Business Support

- £562,680 to Aberdeen City Council to enable delivery of Business Start-up grants;
- £45,000 to Aberdeen City Council for the Aberdeen Renewable Energy Groups (AREG)'s Enhancing Offshore Wind Renewables through Digital Innovation project;

## UKSPF Multiply

- £827,773.44 to ABZ Works for the Core Numeracy Project;

### **1.3 Is this a new or existing policy?**

Existing Policy (Fund)

### **1.4 Is this report going to a committee?**

Yes

### **1.5 Committee name and date:**

Finances and Resources Committee – 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024

### **1.6 Report no and / or Budget proposal number and / or Business Case reference number:**

COM/24/075

## Impacts

This section demonstrates the considerations that have been made in relation to the policy - and that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted.

### 2: Equality Act 2010 - Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. This section identifies the [protected characteristics](#) that the policy potentially affects and records the impact and mitigating steps.

2.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

Protected Characteristic	What is the impact?			Neutral	Positive
	Negative				
	High	Medium	Low		
<a href="#">Age</a>					X
<a href="#">Disability</a>					X
<a href="#">Gender Reassignment</a>					X
<a href="#">Marriage and Civil Partnership</a>					X
<a href="#">Pregnancy and Maternity</a>					X
<a href="#">Race</a>					X
<a href="#">Religion or Belief</a>					X
<a href="#">Sex</a>					X
<a href="#">Sexual Orientation</a>					X

## 2.2 In what way will the policy impact people with these protected characteristics?

- Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations LTD (ACVO) Third Sector Hub feasibility Study aims to contribute to the long-term sustainability of the sector, a sector that supports groups and individuals with intersectional challenges.
- The Tall Ships Races Aberdeen will commission and provide opportunities to share works through exhibitions and performances from Aberdeen's diverse communities including outreach programmes to young people.
- Growing2gether will build positive health and wellbeing skills and life chances to young people from deprived areas by connecting them to their community as mentors to nursery children. The work experience leads to a personal development qualification and increased confidence.
- Look Again's pilot objective is to enhance accessibility to Aberdeen's distinctive cultural practices for individuals with intersectional challenge. Now having an accessible studio, those with disabilities are also able to participate.
- Soundcommunities project; will invest in both individuals and communities providing employment for, as well as developing the skills of, local people; increasing access to musical leisure provision. It will work with groups and individuals with intersectional challenges.
- St Georges Community project; will expand educational classes, fitness classes, basic life skills classes (such as money management, cooking etc), pensioner groups, advice and support, hobby classes, afterschool clubs, creches, groups for disabled and vulnerable people and a food bank. It will offer warm spaces for people, supporting those who are lonely and those struggling with energy bills. It will support groups and individuals with intersectional challenges.
- Port of Aberdeen Trust Tall Ships will include volunteer recruitment and engaging young people with sail traineeships; providing opportunities for all, including those with intersectional challenges to learn new skills and develop confidence
- Avenue for Mental Health and Relationship Support for Families and Individuals in Aberdeen core provision is therapeutic services (including Couple Counselling, Individual Counselling, Family Therapy, Young Person's Counselling and Play Therapy for younger children); Family Mediation; Child Contact Services; family support; and psycho-educational groups to increase skills and knowledge in the wider community. It supports groups and individuals with intersectional challenges.

### UKSPF Local Business Support

- Business Start-up grants; The grant funding will remove barriers to increased economic activity, providing all citizens with the financial means to enable them to progress their business idea, establish a start-up and grow their business more quickly than would otherwise be achieved.
- Enhancing Offshore Wind Renewables through Digital Innovation project will build on the pivotal role of digital technology expertise and capabilities in renewable energy, emphasising local content knowledge and the thriving supply chain in the region- ultimately securing and creating green jobs for the future.

### UKSPF Multiply

- Core Numeracy Project- supporting adults, some with intersectional challenges to gain qualifications that will lead to positive destinations.

## 2.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

### What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

In assessing the impact of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund careful consideration was given to historical data and outcomes from previous projects. Reviewing the successes and challenges of past initiatives has provided valuable insights into the most effective ways to enhance accessibility and support these groups. For example, data from retrofitting public buildings for better wheelchair access in public spaces have shown tangible improvements in user satisfaction and increased usage relating to footfall in specific areas. These outcomes justify a continued and focused investment in accessibility, as they directly correlate with a higher quality of life for affected individuals. This retrospective analysis ensures that the fund's allocations are not only evidence-based but are also aligned with proven strategies that promote inclusivity and equal opportunity for all citizens.

### What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?

Reports from organisations previously funded have informed the current assessment of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund's impact. These organisations have submitted project evaluations and maintained an open line of communication, enabling us to monitor the effectiveness of the funding and the achievement of key milestones. This engagement, coupled with strategic discussions with officers and partner organisations, has ensured that lessons from past projects are integrated into future planning, directing funds towards initiatives with a proven track record of enhancing accessibility and supporting those with specific needs.

### What consultation and engagement and has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy (e.g. citizens, community groups, or other people/groups)?

Funded organisations gather first-hand accounts, which have been vital in understanding real life experiences.

## 2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

### What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?

There are no negative impacts identified.

<b>With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?</b>	High	N/A
	Medium	N/A
	Low	N/A
	Negative Impact Removed	N/A

### 3: Socio-Economic Impacts

This section is used to consider the impact of the policy on people who might be **unemployed, single parents**, people with lower **education** or **literacy**, **looked after children**, those with **protected characteristics** as examples.

Use this guide to understand more on socio-economic inequalities: [The Fairer Scotland Duty: Guidance for Public Bodies \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

#### 3.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

Group	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Low income / income poverty – those who cannot afford regular bills, food, clothing payments.					P
Low and/or no wealth – those who can meet basic living costs but have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future					P
Material deprivation – those who cannot access basic goods and services, unable to repair/replace broken electrical goods, heat their homes or access to leisure or hobbies					P
Area deprivation – consider where people live and where they work (accessibility and cost of transport)					P
Socio-economic background – social class, parents' education, employment, income.					P

#### 3.2 In what way will the policy impact people in these groups?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund could have positive effects on the identified groups for the following reasons:

**Low income / income poverty:** The funding is allocated to training and upskilling programmes to enhance employability, thereby helping individuals secure better-paying jobs. Additionally, it may subsidise essential services or provide direct grants to alleviate the cost of living, enabling those affected to afford regular bills, food, and clothing.

**Low and/or no wealth:** By funding financial literacy and planning workshops, the fund could equip individuals with the knowledge to manage their finances effectively, helping them to transition from living month by month and being able to save for the future. It may also create opportunities for low-cost investment in community projects that offer returns and help build wealth over time.

**Material deprivation:** Investment in local infrastructure and services can improve access to essential goods and reduce costs. For instance, funding community centre's or cooperatives can provide economies of scale for purchasing goods or services, making them more affordable and accessible. This can help individuals repair or replace household items and participate in leisure activities that were previously unaffordable.

**Area deprivation:** The fund can be used to improve public transportation and infrastructure in deprived areas, reducing travel costs and increasing accessibility to employment opportunities. This can have a knock-on effect of attracting businesses to these areas, creating jobs, and stimulating economic growth, which benefits the local residents.

**Socio-economic background:** Programmes supported by the fund can be designed to offer targeted educational opportunities, apprenticeships, and mentorships for those from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds. This can help level the playing field by providing the skills and networks needed to secure higher-income roles, irrespective of one's social class, parents' education, or employment background.

Overall, the positive impacts hinge on the fund's ability to address the root causes of socio-economic disparities through well-designed and effectively implemented programmes that offer sustainable support and opportunities for growth and development.

### 3.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

#### What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

In assessing the UK Shared Prosperity Fund's impact, data from past funded projects, UKSPF guidelines, socio-economic research, and stakeholder feedback have been reviewed. This data underscores the fund's potential to positively influence low-income groups, wealth creation, and area deprivation through targeted interventions.

#### What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?

Consultation and engagement with officers and partner organisations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund have been comprehensive, involving in-depth dialogue with those involved in project delivery and implementation. These discussions have provided valuable insights, allowing for a deep understanding of the needs and challenges within the communities served.

#### What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy? citizens, community groups, or other people/groups impacted by this policy?

To align the UK Shared Prosperity Fund with its intended goals, ongoing consultation is conducted with funded organisations so as to gather valuable insights into the experiences and perspectives of those that are impacted by the approved projects.

### 3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

#### What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?

There are no negative impacts identified.

<b>With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?</b>	High	N/A
	Medium	N/A
	Low	N/A
	Negative Impact Removed	N/A

## 4: Human Rights Impacts

The Human Rights Act 1998 sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to. It incorporates the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic British law. The Human Rights Act came into force in the UK in October 2000

The Act sets out our human rights in a series of 'Articles'. Each Article deals with a different right.

Use this guide to understand more about [Human Rights](#).

### 4.1 What impact could this policy have on Human Rights?

Human Rights Article	Negative	Neutral	Positive
<b>Article 6:</b> <a href="#">Right to a fair trial</a>		N	
<b>Article 7:</b> <a href="#">No punishment without law</a>		N	
<b>Article 8:</b> <a href="#">Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence</a>		N	
<b>Article 9:</b> <a href="#">Freedom of thought, belief and religion</a>		N	
<b>Article 10:</b> <a href="#">Freedom of expression</a>		N	

<b>Article 11:</b> <a href="#">Freedom of assembly and association</a>		N	
<b>Article 12:</b> <a href="#">Right to marry and start a family</a>		N	
<b>Article 14:</b> <a href="#">Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms</a>		N	
<b>Article 1 of Protocol 1:</b> <a href="#">Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property</a>		N	
<b>Article 2 of Protocol 1:</b> <a href="#">Right to education</a>		N	
<b>Article 3 of Protocol 1:</b> <a href="#">Right to participate in free elections</a>		N	

4.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is primarily focused on economic development and reducing inequalities between communities rather than directly impacting human rights.

4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

**What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?**

There are no negative impacts identified.

<b>If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?</b>	<b>No – negative impact remains</b>	N/A
	<b>Yes – negative impact reduced</b>	N/A
	<b>Yes - negative impact removed</b>	N/A

## 5: Children and Young People’s Rights Impacts

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 25 years old).

The Conventions are also known as the “General Principles” and they help to interpret all the other articles and play a fundamental role in realising all the rights in the Convention for all children. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (Article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (Article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (Article 6)
4. Right to be heard (Article 12)

You can [read the full UN Convention \(pdf\)](#), or [just a summary \(pdf\)](#), to find out more about the rights that are included.

### 5.1 What impact could this policy have on the rights of Children and Young People?

UNCRC and Optional Protocols	Negative	Neutral	Positive
<b>Article 1:</b> definition of the child		N	
<b>Article 2:</b> non-discrimination			P
<b>Article 3:</b> best interests of the child		N	
<b>Article 4:</b> implementation of the convention		N	
<b>Article 5:</b> parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities			P
<b>Article 6:</b> life, survival and development			P
<b>Article 7:</b> birth registration, name, nationality, care		N	
<b>Article 8:</b> protection and preservation of identity		N	
<b>Article 9:</b> separation from parents		N	
<b>Article 10:</b> family reunification		N	
<b>Article 11:</b> abduction and non-return of children		N	
<b>Article 12:</b> respect for the views of the child			P
<b>Article 13:</b> freedom of expression			P
<b>Article 14:</b> freedom of thought, belief and religion		N	
<b>Article 15:</b> freedom of association		N	
<b>Article 16:</b> right to privacy		N	
<b>Article 17:</b> access to information from the media		N	
<b>Article 18:</b> parental responsibilities and state assistance		N	
<b>Article 19:</b> protection from violence, abuse and neglect		N	
<b>Article 20:</b> children unable to live with their family		N	
<b>Article 21:</b> adoption		N	
<b>Article 22:</b> refugee children			P
<b>Article 23:</b> children with a disability			P
<b>Article 24:</b> health and health services			P
<b>Article 25:</b> review of treatment in care		N	
<b>Article 26:</b> social security		N	
<b>Article 27:</b> adequate standard of living		N	
<b>Article 28:</b> right to education		N	
<b>Article 29:</b> goals of education		N	
<b>Article 30:</b> children from minority or indigenous groups			P



<b>Article 31:</b> leisure, play and culture			P
<b>Article 32:</b> child labour		N	
<b>Article 33:</b> drug abuse		N	
<b>Article 34:</b> sexual exploitation		N	
<b>Article 35:</b> abduction, sale and trafficking		N	
<b>Article 36:</b> other forms of exploitation		N	
<b>Article 37:</b> inhumane treatment and detention		N	
<b>Article 38:</b> war and armed conflicts		N	
<b>Article 39:</b> recovery from trauma and reintegration		N	
<b>Article 40:</b> juvenile justice		N	
<b>Article 41:</b> respect for higher national standards		N	
<b>Article 42:</b> knowledge of rights		N	
<b>Optional</b> Protocol on a Communications Procedure		N/A	

## 5.2 In what way will the policy impact the rights of Children and Young People?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund could impact the rights of children and young people as follows:

**Non-discrimination (Article 2):** By promoting equal opportunities and reducing socio-economic disparities, UKSPF can help ensure that all children and young people have fair access to resources and services, regardless of their background.

**Parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities (Article 5):** Investments in educational and supportive services can empower parents and guardians to provide better guidance, while also respecting the growing competencies of young people.

**Life, survival and development (Article 6):** By improving socio-economic conditions, UKSPF could contribute to environments that support the health, security, and development of young individuals.

**Refugee children (Article 22):** If the fund allocates resources for initiatives that support integration and assistance for refugee families, it could positively impact the rights and welfare of refugee children.

**Children with a disability (Article 23):** By ensuring that funded projects are inclusive and accessible, the policy can support the development and participation of children with disabilities in society.

**Health and health services (Article 24):** Funding community health initiatives can improve access to care and preventative services, benefiting the physical and mental health of children and young people.

**Children from minority or indigenous groups:** By targeting funds to reduce inequalities, UKSPF can support initiatives that address the specific needs of children from these groups, promoting their rights and cultural inclusion.

**Leisure, play, and culture (Article 31):** Encouraging projects that create safe spaces for leisure and cultural activities can help fulfil children's rights to rest, leisure, and participation in cultural life.

UKSPF's impact on these rights will depend on the specific design and implementation of funded projects, ensuring they are child-centric and inclusive in nature.

## 5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

### What mitigations are there against any negative impacts (if applicable)?

There are no negative impacts identified.

<b>If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?</b>	<b>No – negative impact remains</b>	N/A
	<b>Yes – negative impact reduced</b>	N/A
	<b>Yes - negative impact removed</b>	N/A

## 6: Sign Off

<b>Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?</b>
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All positive impacts have been included and elaborated on above.

<b>Overall summary of changes made as a result of impact assessment.</b>
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No changes have been made to the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as a result of the impact assessment. The current strategies and allocations remain as originally outlined, with the fund's implementation continuing as planned.

<b>Outline of how impact of policy will be monitored.</b>
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The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is subject to ongoing monitoring and is scheduled to conclude in March 2025. Future funding allocations will be determined by the UK government. Additionally, comprehensive evaluations of all projects funded under UKSPF will be conducted to assess their success and inform decisions regarding subsequent investments.

<b>If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.</b>
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No negative impacts have been identified.

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<b>Date</b>	07/02/2024
<b>Chief Officer</b>	Julie Wood
<b>Date</b>	19/02/24