



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 Government ambitious levelling up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It will provide £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025. The UK Government published the UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus on 13 April 2022 alongside indicative funding allocations for each Local Authority within the United Kingdom. The Aberdeen City Council area received an indicative allocation of up to £7,156,831 for an initial three-year period covering 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25. This is made up of £1,235,919 for "Multiply" and £5,920,913 for the core UK Shared Prosperity Fund. In 2022 Aberdeen City Council approved the UKSPF Investment Plan [UK Shared Prosperity Fund | Aberdeen City Council](#).

The February 2025 report to F&R seeks the Committee's approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding for:

UKSPF Local Business Support

- Up to £115,000 to Aberdeen City Council for the Freebie Fortnight;
- Up to £10,000 to support the development of online resources and marketing of the Love Local Card.
- Up to £10,700 for the development of the travel trade tours offered by the Countryside Rangers Service.

1.3 Is this a new or existing policy?

Existing Policy (Fund)

Prior Integrated Impact Assessment for grant allocation [UK Shared Prosperity Fund UKSPF - IIA - 2024.pdf](#)
[\(aberdeencity.gov.uk\)](#)

1.4 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes

1.5 Committee name and date:

Finances and Resources Committee – 12th February 2025

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

CR&E/25/027

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?				
	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Age					X
Disability					X
Gender Reassignment				X	
Marriage and Civil Partnership				X	
Pregnancy and Maternity				X	
Race				X	
Religion or Belief				X	
Sex				X	
Sexual Orientation				X	

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

The proposed UKSPF Local Business Support projects don't directly target any protected characteristics, however by providing new business development opportunities accessible to all, they contribute positively to the broader inclusivity and support of individuals from protected characteristic groups. This approach ensures that everyone, regardless of their background, benefits from the economic growth and opportunities.

- The Freebie Fortnight project is designed to be inclusive and accessible to all, regardless of protected characteristics. By providing free offerings through local businesses, the initiative encourages increased footfall and engagement in the city centre, benefiting a diverse audience. The project fosters a more vibrant and welcoming city centre environment, which is accessible by everyone. Efforts will be made to promote the initiative broadly through various channels to ensure all communities are aware of and can benefit from it.
- The development of online resources and marketing of the Love Local Card - by promoting local businesses through the Love Local gift card, the project supports an inclusive economy where individuals from all backgrounds can shop locally in contribute to community growth.

- The development of the travel trade tours offered by the Countryside Rangers Service – educational opportunities to people of all ages, a variety of tours cater to different interests and abilities, making the activities more inclusive.

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?

The impact of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was carefully assessed, taking into account lessons learned 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. The applications received in this round have a strong focus on business support and boosting local economy. This approach ensures that the fund's allocations are not only evidence-based but also aligned with proven strategies that promote inclusivity and equal opportunity for all citizens.

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

The impact of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is being assessed using reports from previously funded organisations. They have submitted project evaluations and kept communication open, allowing us to monitor funding effectiveness and the achievement of key milestones. Through strategic discussions with officers and partner organisations, lessons from past projects are being integrated into future planning. This ensures that the funds are directed towards initiatives with a proven track record of enhancing accessibility and supporting 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.

With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?

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				N	
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: By offering free goods or services, the Freebie Fortnight project provides economic relief to individuals who may otherwise not be able to afford such items.

The development of the travel trade tours offered by the Countryside Rangers Service could help those on low income to participate and benefit from the educational and recreational opportunities. By involving local volunteers, the proposal could contribute to creating opportunities for learning new skills and gaining experience, that could be beneficial for future employment,

Low and/or no wealth: Encouraging participation in the city centre helps foster a sense of belonging and accessibility for individuals who may lack disposable income.

By facilitating easy access to local products and services through a unified gift card, the initiative ensures that local spending is reinvested into the community fostering economic stability and resilience.

Socio-economic background: The Freebie Fortnight aims to increase city centre activity through economic resilience initiatives. The goal is to ensure that the benefits of this increased city centre activity are spread widely, leading to a reduction in socio-economic disparities and promoting a fairer, more inclusive Aberdeen.

Supporting local businesses through the gift card programme promotes community-driven growth and strengthens the local economy, benefiting a wide range of social economic groups.

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?

We have carefully reviewed data from past funded projects, UKSPF guidelines, socio-economic research, and stakeholder feedback to assess the impact of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This data highlights the fund's potential to have a positive influence on low-income groups, wealth creation, and area deprivation through targeted interventions.

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

The consultation and engagement process with officers and partner organisations for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been extensive. It involved in-depth dialogues with those responsible for project delivery and implementation. These discussions have provided valuable insights, enabling a deep understanding of the needs and challenges within the communities being served.

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

To ensure the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is in line with its goals, we conduct ongoing monitoring with funded organisations to gather insights into the experiences and perspectives of those affected 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.

With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?	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
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		N	
Article 7: No punishment without law		N	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence		N	
Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion		N	
Article 10: Freedom of expression		N	
Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association		N	
Article 12: Right to marry and start a family		N	
Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms		N	
Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property		N	
Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education		N	
Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections		N	

4.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund primarily focuses 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.

If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains

N/A

Yes – negative impact reduced

N/A

Yes - negative impact removed

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

Article 30: children from minority or indigenous groups		N	
Article 31: leisure, play and culture			P
Article 32: child labour		N	
Article 33: drug abuse		N	
Article 34: sexual exploitation		N	
Article 35: abduction, sale and trafficking		N	
Article 36: other forms of exploitation		N	
Article 37: inhumane treatment and detention		N	
Article 38: war and armed conflicts		N	
Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration		N	
Article 40: juvenile justice		N	
Article 41: respect for higher national standards		N	
Article 42: knowledge of rights		N	
Optional 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.

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. By promoting energy efficiency and reducing carbon emissions, the scheme contributes to cleaner air and a healthier environment, crucial for the health and development of children.

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. Also, healthier environment resulting from reduced emissions can enhance outdoor spaces and recreational areas, making them safer and more enjoyable for children.

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.

If mitigations are in place, does this remove the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains

N/A

Yes – negative impact reduced

N/A

6: Sign Off

Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?

All positive impacts have been included and elaborated on above.

Overall summary of changes made as a result of impact assessment.

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.

Outline of how impact of policy will be monitored.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund will be continuously monitored and is set to end in March 2025. The UK Government to determine future funding allocations. Furthermore, thorough evaluations of all projects funded under UKSPF will be carried out to assess their success and impact, influencing decisions about future investments.

If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.

No negative impacts have been identified.

Assessment Author	Agata Kowal – External Funding and Policy Officer
Date	04/02/2025
Chief Officer	Julie Wood
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