

## **SOUTH EAST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**25 JULY 2022**

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### **SHARED PROSPERITY FUND – PRINCIPLES AND REGIONAL DELIVERY PROPOSALS**

#### **TO RECEIVE THE REPORT OF INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4**

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##### **Reason for this Report**

1. To provide an update on the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) which supports the UK Government's wider commitment to level up all parts of the UK and provides funding for local investment between 2022 and 2025.
2. To set out the detail of the key principles that have been developed, as well as proposed delivery arrangements, including the appointment of a lead body for administration and oversight of the Fund and progress with the development of one integrated South East Wales Regional Investment Plan
3. To convey the proposed set of regional strategic interventions, recommended for deployment via the Cardiff Capital Region, in order to drive co-ordinated impact around an agreed set priorities that build upon the work and impact of Cardiff Capital Region City Deal.

##### **Background**

4. Following the withdrawal of the UK from the European Union on 31 January 2020, the UK government have replaced European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).
5. The UKSPF is a key financial instrument of the UK Government Levelling Up agenda will provide £2.6 billion of support for local investment forming part of a range of complementary funding across the UK, including the Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund.
6. The Fund will support the UK Government's policy objectives to 'level up' the UK and tackle regional economic disparities across the UK in order 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.
  - Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.
7. The primary aim of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK alongside the clear need to uplift productivity and ensure benefits accrue more equally back to local places. Underpinning these overarching aims are three investment priorities:
- The **Communities and Place** investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community spaces and relationships and create the foundations for economic development at the neighbourhood-level
  - The **Supporting Local Business** investment priority will enable places to fund interventions that support local businesses to thrive, innovate and grow
  - The **People and Skills** investment priority will help reduce the barriers some people face to employment and support them to move towards employment and education. Places can also target funding into skills for local areas to support employment and local growth.
8. As part of the People and Skills priority there is a dedicated and ringfenced element of the UKSPF called **Multiply**, which seeks to improve adult numeracy skills through free personal tutoring, digital training, and flexible courses. This component of the UKSPF will be delivered through each individual LA with opportunities down the line, to consider any potential for joining up.
9. Each of these investment priorities includes a wide range of eligible interventions which provide significant opportunity to develop a flexible funding package. Full details of the Fund are set out in the [UK Shared Prosperity Fund Prospectus](#) and [Interventions List for Wales](#).
10. All areas across the UK have received a conditional allocation from the UKSPF for core SPF activity as well as the delivery of Multiply. In Wales, local government has been given responsibility for developing a Regional Investment Plan, with local delivery plans for approval by the UK government, and for subsequent management and delivery of the Fund.
11. Once plans have been approved by UK Gov, each LA needs to determine their route to market based upon the most appropriate, cost effective and compliant delivery route (taking into account subsidy control regulations). There will be local flexibility over how the Fund can be delivered - for example, competition for grant

funding, procurement, commissioning or in-house delivery. Local authorities can also determine the most appropriate scale for each intervention – for example, local or regional.

12. It is expected that broad engagement with stakeholders and partners will take place to ensure that plans are comprehensive and do not duplicate existing provision. Engagement with local Members of Parliament and Members of the Senedd is also expected, and plans will need to take into account other national policies and priorities, including those of the Welsh Government.

## Key Issues

### Delivery of UKSPF in South East Wales – Lead Body

13. The first requirement of the UKSPF proposals is to appoint a lead authority to enter into a single funding agreement with the UK government for the full South East Wales SPF allocation of £278.5M and will be accountable for all aspects of monitoring and claiming the allocation. On account of previous extensive experience with European Structural Funds and as the lead body to provide transactional services into the CJC, the CCRC 10 Chief Executives which constitute the Programme Board, recommend Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council (RCTCBC) to perform this role. There will be a requirement for Service Level Agreements and back-to-back agreements between RCTCBC as the lead body and the nine other South East local authorities to pass on accountability and the terms and conditions of the funding.
14. The lead authority will have overall accountability for the funding and how the fund operates. Responsibility for particular interventions can be delegated to a specific local authority and it is intended that a significant element of funding will be delivered at the local level in order to target support to communities, places and businesses in most need.
15. Each local authority can use 4% of the fund for management and administration. It is anticipated that Rhondda Cynon Taf will be allocated a top slice of each local authority's 4% to fund a central lead team for the region and to hold budgets to cover costs relating to the whole fund. Such costs may include external legal support in developing SLAs, any external evaluations required, and any other additional support to set up systems and processes for collating data and financial information to fulfil UK Government reporting requirements.

### South East Wales Allocations

16. The UKSPF 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 a competition. The table below details the allocation per Authority for the Cardiff Capital Region.

Local Authority	Core UKSPF	Multiply	Administration Fee's (4%)	Total (- admin fee)
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	£23,301,572	£4,863,920	£1,126,620	£27,038,872
<b>Bridgend</b>	£19,116,296	£3,990,295	£924,264	£22,182,327
<b>Caerphilly</b>	£28,272,298	£5,901,499	£1,366,952	£32,806,845

Local Authority	Core UKSPF	Multiply	Administration Fee's (4%)	Total (- admin fee)
Cardiff	£34,587,594	£7,219,740	£1,672,293	£40,135,041
Merthyr Tydfil	£22,698,977	£4,738,136	£1,097,485	£26,339,628
Monmouthshire	£5,919,533	£1,235,631	£286,207	£6,868,957
Newport	£27,177,563	£5,672,986	£1,314,022	£31,536,527
RCT CBC	£37,320,994	£7,790,305	£1,804,452	£43,306,847
Torfaen	£20,431,241	£4,264,774	£987,841	£23,708,174
VOG	£11,606,505	£2,422,717	£561,169	£13,468,053
<b>Total</b>	<b>£230,432,573</b>	<b>£48,100,003</b>	<b>£11,141,305</b>	<b>£267,391,271</b>

Please note, 4% of the allocation will be ringfenced for administration of the fund.

17. The funding has been broken down to yearly allocations; 12% in year 1 (22/23), 24% in year 2 (23/24) and 64% in year 3 (24/25). UK Gov have suggested that any funding not utilised in each year will not be carried forward.

### Regional delivery dimension

18. In recognising the need for the Investment Plan to work in the new multi-level governance environment and deliver on issues of improved regional productivity, there is growing acceptance of the need to deliver certain programmes at a sub-national level. This builds upon the work to date of CCRC – particularly in relation to priority sectors and clusters and intervening in the market and with other investors and funders to attract more R&D investment into the region. A notional allocation of 1.43% (excluding MULTIPLY) of the total allocation set out in para 13 above, is recommended. This is proposed to kick in from year 2 of the investment plan (2023-25) and equates to around £3.3M of funds to support cluster growth activity; development and roll-out of the Assured Skills Academies concept and strategic development of regional tourism and place focussed proposals.
19. This is an important starter for ten and sets out that whilst all SPF funds will be expended locally, the recognition that for certain types of activity, join-ed up regional scale activity provides the best opportunity to uplift regional productivity. It should also be noted that in allocating £3.3M for these activities, there is proposed additional co-investment to sit alongside this via the CCRC Wider Investment Fund. This is important given it aligns with existing activities and priorities and will show immediate investment leverage to UKG. Confirmation of this match funding will be subject to Regional Cabinet approval in September 2022.
20. The idea is that establishing a small but focussed regional programme of activity, is that it is capable of growth over time and in particular leveraging in wider UKG funds for Research and Innovation – for which billions of pounds of new investment is available through Innovation Launchpads, Accelerators and investment such as the Innovation Infrastructure Fund. In addition, the programmes seek to:
- Introduce companies in the clusters and supply chains to innovation and productivity indicatives – growing capability and leadership skills as well as pragmatic issues around energy security

- Attract further businesses to the region that are innovative and aligned with priority clusters to grow the high value jobs base and increase regional productivity and competitiveness
- Increase the number of knowledge-based businesses in the region that create high wage jobs that are key to growing and spreading prosperity
- Establish a series of assured academies across the region supported by FE and clusters in the region, supporting social mobility and ‘widening access’ and contributing to the employer-led skills landscape. This will help promote better economic inclusion by focussing on the needs of SMEs and micro-businesses and root this provision in local place and context
- Grows an integrated approach to the tourism offer – aimed at deriving higher levels of economic impact, developing supply chains and inter-dependencies across the region
- Encourages new innovation in relation to food and travel tech and creates value in relation to export capacity and ensuring CCR is able to play a more active role with Department for International Trade and Trade and Invest Wales

### **Governance of regional delivery**

21. Whilst there is a requirement for these principles and process to be understood and considered by the SEW CJC, the CJC is not currently operational in view of the outstanding technical and financial issues that need resolution and clear effective dates. Therefore, whilst the CJC can approve the regional investment plan for submission to UKG on 1 Aug – any spend or funds that goes through it – will be highly likely to incur VAT. As a result, as an interim measure, the CJC intends to appoint CCRCDC as its lead body for the purposes of deployment of CCR SPF spend and the SPF spend will be allocated to CCRCDC via RCT (as the SPF lead applicant) for this purpose. Additionally, any match funding to complement the SPF allocation from CCRCDC funds, will need to be approved by Regional Cabinet.
22. Financial support is available to support initial preparatory work to establish the comprehensive framework for new delivery and governance arrangements for the region and to underpin effective delivery and oversight of the Regional Investment Plan. As lead body, RCTCBC is eligible to access £40,000 for this initial preparatory work. New guidance is being published with UKG ongoing in respect to such issues and all amounts required will be in line with the published guidelines and will be further reported on, alongside the final version of the Regional Investment Plan at the next meeting of the CJC in the autumn of 2022.
23. Finally, it is important to emphasise that there is a great deal of flexibility in how the path to successful delivery of UKSPF is developed. There is an opportunity to shape a programme that has strong regional intent, local delivery credentials, a commitment to levelling-up within and across the region and the ability to be a lever for wider investment and potential. Changes and adaptation will be managed as a collective and there will be scope to adjust and show agility as the region and its local areas, makes progress and demonstrates that more can be achieved by working in partnership.

### **Legal Implications**

24. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

## **Financial Implications**

25. There are no direct additional financial implications arising as a result of this report which provides an update with regard to the regional delivery proposals for the UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund for South East Wales.
26. The report sets out the funding allocation for the region and seeks to agree the appointment of a lead delivery body in this regard.
27. The report also references a potential allocation for match funding from CCRCDC as additional co-investment via the CCRCDC Wider Investment Fund. Confirmation of this match funding will be reported and subject to Regional Cabinet approval in September 2022.

## **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

28. In developing the Plan and in considering its endorsement regard should be had, amongst other matters, to:
  - (a) the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and the Welsh Language Standards;
  - (b) Public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination, (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are a. Age; b. Gender reassignment; c. Sex; d. Race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality; e. Disability; f. Pregnancy and maternity; g. Marriage and civil partnership; h. Sexual orientation; i. Religion or belief – including lack of belief.
  - (c) the Well Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act places a 'well-being duty' on public bodies aimed at achieving 7 national well-being goals for Wales - a Wales that is prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, has cohesive communities, a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and is globally responsible. In discharging their respective duties under the Act, each public body listed in the Act (which includes the Councils comprising the CCRCDC) must set and published wellbeing objectives. These objectives will show how each public body will work to achieve the vision for Wales set out in the national wellbeing goals. When exercising its functions, the CJC Cabinet should consider how the proposed decision will contribute towards meeting the wellbeing objectives set by each Council and in so doing achieve the national wellbeing goals. The wellbeing duty also requires the Councils to act in accordance with a 'sustainable development principle'. This principle requires the Councils to act in a way which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Put simply, this means that SEW CJC must take account of the impact of their

decisions on people living their lives in Wales in the future. In doing so, CJC Cabinet must:

- look to the long term.
- focus on prevention by understanding the root causes of problems.
- deliver an integrated approach to achieving the 7 national well-being goals.
- work in collaboration with others to find shared sustainable solutions.
- involve people from all sections of the community in the decisions which affect them.

29. The SEW CJC must be satisfied that the proposed decision accords with the principles above. To assist CJC Cabinet to consider the duties under the Act in respect of the decision sought, an assessment has been undertaken, which is attached at Appendix 1.

### **Equality Act 2010**

30. In considering this matter, regard should be had, amongst other matters, to the Councils' duties under the Equality Act 2010. Pursuant to these legal duties the CJC Cabinet must in making decisions have due regard to the need to (1) eliminate unlawful discrimination (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) foster good relations on the basis of protected characteristics. Protected characteristics are:

- age;
- gender reassignment;
- sex;
- race – including ethnic or national origin, colour or nationality;
- disability;
- pregnancy and maternity;
- marriage and civil partnership;
- sexual orientation;
- religion or belief – including lack of belief.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

31. It is recommended that the SEW CJC:

- (1) notes and endorses the key principles and provisions set out in the report;
- (2) approves the appointment of RCTCBC as the lead authority for UKSPF in the SE Wales region for the period 2022 to 2025;
- (3) endorses the proposed regional delivery dimension, proposed budget allocation of £3.3M (2023 onwards) for Clusters and Regional Tourism projects and supports the proposal for match funding which will require a decision of the CCR City Deal Regional Cabinet;
- (4) approves to appoint CCR City Deal as the lead body for deployment of CCR SPF funds;
- (5) agrees to receive the final version of the SPF Regional Investment Plan at its meeting in Autumn 2022 along with an update on the budget requirements for early administration and establishment of core lead body processes.

**Kellie Beirne**  
**Interim Chief Executive**  
**South East Wales CJC**  
**25 July 2022**

### **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Well-being of Future Generations Assessment



# Future Generations Assessment Evaluation

(includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments)

<p><b>Name of the Officer completing the evaluation:</b></p> <p>Kellie Beirne</p> <p><b>Phone no:</b> 07826 919286  <b>E-mail:</b> kellie.beirne@cardiff.gov.uk</p>	<p><b>Please give a brief description of the aims of the proposal</b></p> <p>The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government’s 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 a competition (CCR allocation for Regional Activity is £3.3m from 2023-2025)</p>
<p><b>Proposal:</b> Shared Prosperity Fund investment</p>	<p><b>Date Future Generations Evaluation form completed:</b> 25 July 2022</p>





**1. Does your proposal deliver any of the well-being goals below?** Please explain the impact (positive and negative) you expect, together with suggestions of how to mitigate negative impacts or better contribute to the goal.


Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
<p><b>A prosperous Wales</b> Efficient use of resources, skilled, educated people, generates wealth, provides jobs</p>	<p>With affluence and deprivation often coexisting, the UKSPF provides investment and empowerment to local communities through a long-term funding stream which will allow local areas to unleash their unique potential. Bespoke interventions can be created for communities, including new and innovative combinations of activity and funding. The main delivery Pillars of UKSPF are</p> <p><b>Communities and Place; People and Skills; Supporting Local Business</b></p>	<p>Maximising potential for added value Maximising collaboration opportunities Maximising funding opportunities</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> Maintain and enhance biodiversity and ecosystems that support resilience and</p>	<p>The Communities and Place SPF investment priority will enable places to invest to restore their community and green spaces and create relationships and to enhance</p>	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
can adapt to change (e.g. climate change)	the foundations for social and economic development at the neighbourhood-level. The intention of this is to strengthen the social fabric of communities, supporting in building pride in place	
<b>A healthier Wales</b> People's physical and mental wellbeing is maximized and health impacts are understood	The Communities and Place SPF investment priority will enable places to create the foundations for improved health and wellbeing. The intention of this is to strengthen the social and economic fabric of communities and build pride in place	
<b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Communities are attractive, viable, safe and well connected	All funded projects, will look to generate wealth, provide jobs and training by efficiently using funding from the programmes. In addition, improvement to transport and green infrastructure will improve accessibility to those in more deprived areas, connecting people more effectively to facilities and jobs.	
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b> Taking account of impact on global well-being when considering local social, economic and environmental wellbeing	All projects will seek to improve the economic, social and cultural well-being of the community. Regional investment through Cluster activities will enhance SE Wales reputation on a global level	
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</b> Culture, heritage and Welsh language are promoted and protected. People are encouraged to do sport, art and recreation	Where relevant, all investment will look to promote Culture and Heritage and promote the Arts. The projects will align with the actions in the Five Year Welsh Language Strategy, working in partnership with Welsh medium local organisations for support and delivery where needed, especially though working alongside the Regions Priority clusters	
<b>A more equal Wales</b> People can fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances	All investments funded through the programme will seek to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging</li> <li>• Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where</li> </ul>	

Well Being Goal	Does the proposal contribute to this goal? Describe the positive and negative impacts.	What actions have been/will be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
	they are weakest • Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost • Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency	

**2. How has your proposal embedded and prioritized the sustainable governance principles in its development?**

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p>Balancing short term need with long term and planning for the future</p> <p>Long Term</p>	<p>It is expected that as the SPF projects are developed providers will address the well-being of current and future generations. The UKSPF programme will fund projects initially up to 2025 that will have a lasting impact</p>	.
 <p>Working together with other partners to deliver objectives</p> <p>Collaboration</p>	<p>Regional Investments have been developed and supported by the 10 LA across SE Wales, so are heavily reliant on all partners working together to ensure full coverage and maximum delivery.</p>	
 <p>Involving those with an interest and seeking their views</p> <p>Involvement</p>	<p>All investments funded through the programme seek to restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost along with empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency</p>	
 <p>Putting resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse</p> <p>Prevention</p>	<p>the 3 pillars of activity <b>Communities and Place; People and Skills; Supporting Local Business</b> are all focused on investing resources into the right activities that meet local needs, which should hopefully reverse activity getting worse</p>	

Sustainable Development Principle	Does your proposal demonstrate you have met this principle? If yes, describe how. If not explain why.	Are there any additional actions to be taken to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
 <p data-bbox="248 288 506 419">Considering impact on all wellbeing goals together and on other bodies</p>	This will be undertaken on a case-by-case basis through the new assessment process.	

**3. Are your proposals going to affect any people or groups of people with protected characteristics?** Please explain the impact, the evidence you have used and any action you are taking below.

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Age	As with all those categories below – the impacts will relate to specific delivery that underpins the execution and operation of this Plan	None arising at this time.	
Disability	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people regardless of ability / disability / long term conditions	As above	
Gender reassignment	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people regardless of protected characteristics	As above	
Marriage or civil partnership	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people who are Married or in a Civil Partnership.	As above	
Pregnancy or maternity	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people, all pregnant women and those on maternity		
Race	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit everybody regardless of race		

Protected Characteristics	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on the protected characteristic	What has been/will be done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Religion or Belief	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit everybody regardless of region or religious belief		
Sex	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people regardless of gender.		
Sexual Orientation	Positive – the SPF allocation will allow projects to progress that benefit people regardless of their sexual orientation		
Welsh Language	SPF should have the capacity to have a positive effect. The use of the Welsh language will be promoted and organisations who benefit from funding will be expected to comply with the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the Council's Welsh Language Standards		

#### 4. Safeguarding & Corporate Parenting. Are your proposals going to affect either of these responsibilities?

	Describe any positive impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	Describe any negative impacts your proposal has on safeguarding and corporate parenting	What will you do/ have you done to mitigate any negative impacts or better contribute to positive impacts?
Safeguarding	Not directly relevant –however, building the future economy should have a profoundly positive impact on ability to safeguard the future of our residents		
Corporate Parenting	Not directly relevant – however building strength in the economy should create opportunities for all of the young people entrusted in our care		

**5. What evidence and data has informed the development of your proposal?**

- [UK Shared Prosperity Fund: prospectus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

**6. SUMMARY: As a result of completing this form, what are the main positive and negative impacts of your proposal, how have they informed/changed the development of the proposal so far and what will you be doing in future?**

As above, the main implications will be in the delivery of this work.

**7. MONITORING: The impacts of this proposal will need to be monitored and reviewed. Please specify the date at which you will evaluate the impact, and where you will report the results of the review.**

The impacts of this proposal will be evaluated on:

At the appropriate date