

## REPORT TO ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL – 29 SEPTEMBER 2022

### UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND GOVERNANCE

#### 1 Executive Summary/Recommendations

1.1 This report aims to consult Full Council on the governance structures for Aberdeenshire's allocation of funding from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. This is to ensure that transparent, accountable and efficient processes are established to deliver the funds, taking into account the conditions attached to the funding and in-year spend requirements. Full Council is also asked to commit funds to specific projects from the 2022/23 UK Shared Prosperity Fund allocation.

#### 1.2 Full Council is recommended to:

1.2.1 **Consider and endorse the proposed governance structure for the management and administration of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Aberdeenshire;**

1.2.2 **Establish a Local Partnership Group (LPG) with the terms of reference set out at Appendix 2 to this report;**

1.2.3 **Establish an 8 Member politically-proportionate Communities and Place Member Officer Working Group, including at least one representative of each Area, with the terms of reference set out at Appendix 3 to this report;**

1.2.4 **Establish a Business Stakeholder Group with the terms of reference set out at Appendix 4 to this report;**

1.2.5 **Delegate authority to the Head of Service – Planning and Economy to approve UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant awards from the 2022/23 allocation following consultation with Group Leaders;**

1.2.6 **Delegate authority to the Head of Service – Planning and Economy to approve UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant awards up to a value of £250k following consultation with the Local Partnership Group.**

#### 2 Decision Making Route

2.1 The UK Government published its [prospectus for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund \(UKSPF\)](#) on 13 April 2022. With a budget of £2.6b until 2025, the UKSPF will effectively replace European Structural Funds programmes which will continue to operate until 2023.

2.2 Local Authority areas have been allocated funds from the programme which will be released upon the approval of and Investment Plan by the UK Government. The allocation for Aberdeenshire is as follows:

	<b>2022/23</b> £	<b>2023/24</b> £	<b>2024/25</b> £	<b>Total</b> £
Capital	86,643	208,276	781,417	1,076,336
Revenue	746,460	1,457,930	3,584,043	5,788,433
Multiply*	433,214	499,862	499,862	1,432,938
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,266,317</b>	<b>2,166,068</b>	<b>4,865,322</b>	<b>8,297,707</b>

*\*funds ringfenced for adult numeracy provision*

2.3 On 25 August 2022, Infrastructure Services Committee agreed to:

- Consider and endorse the draft Aberdeenshire UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan set out at Appendix 1 to this report
- Delegate the power to submit the Investment Plan to the UK Government to the Head of Service – Planning and Economy
- Instruct the Director of Environment & Infrastructure to bring a report to Full Council on the governance processes for the management and administration of the funds

### 3 Discussion

3.1 In order to ensure that UKSPF monies are managed in an efficient, accountable and transparent way, it is important that clear governance processes are put in place. These need to take account of the Council's Scheme of Governance and requirements of the UK Government for the use of the funding. **Appendix 1** to this report provides an outline of the proposed governance structure.

#### 3.2 Local Partnership Group

3.2.1 As per guidance in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund prospectus, a **Local Partnership Group (LPG)** must be designated or established and act as a core component of how the fund is administered locally. Partners should be asked to provide advice on strategic fit and deliverability – taking care to avoid conflicts of interest. There is an expectation that Members of Parliament will be invited to join the LPG. It is proposed that a new LPG will be established for Aberdeenshire, with terms of reference set out at **Appendix 2** to this report.

#### 3.3 Allocation Processes

3.3.1 The Council has flexibility on how funding will be allocated (e.g. competitive grants processes, procurement/commissioning or in-house delivery) but must take account of [Cabinet Office Grants Standards](#). Programme guidance advises that competitive grants processes are the default option.

3.3.2 In line with the Investment Plan, the UKSPF allocation would be allocated to the following programmes:

- Communities and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People & Skills
- Multiply

3.3.3 Each programme would have an allocated budget, priorities and target outcomes. A Programme Framework Document would be produced for each programme and would include:

- Eligibility criteria (organisation type, location, activity etc.)
- Priorities
- Outcome indicators and targets
- Minimum/maximum grant sizes/intervention rates
- Eligible/ineligible costs
- Application/allocation processes
- Assessment/scoring criteria for bids

Programme Framework Documents would be agreed by the LPG in advance of application rounds being launched.

3.3.4 An open challenge fund process, where any eligible organisation can bid for grants, would be used for funds under the Supporting Local Business, People and Skills, and Multiply themes. The following process would be used for application rounds:



3.3.5 For the Communities and Place theme (excluding the ‘measures to tackle the cost of living’ intervention), Area Managers would put forward their priority projects for consideration by a Communities and Place Member Officer Working Group. The Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group (TPIG) of the Community Planning Partnership would put forward proposals for use of funds from the ‘measures to tackle the cost of living’ intervention. Each Area and the TPIG would have flexibility in how they generate and prioritise project proposals to be put forward to the Communities and Place Member Officer Working Group (MOWG) for consideration and prioritisation. The Communities and Place MOWG would make recommendations to the Local Partnership Group on priority projects for UKSPF grants.

3.3.6 In order to minimise the risk of duplication or overlap between UKSPF interventions and other funds/activities, it is proposed to involve partnerships and stakeholders in the panel assessment process as follows:

- Communities and Place – Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Group
- Supporting Local Business – Business Stakeholder Group
- People & Skills – Employment Connect
- Multiply – Aberdeenshire Learning Communities Partnership

The role of partnerships and stakeholders would be to assess, score and prioritise projects, making recommendations to the Local Partnership Group on priority projects for UKSPF grants.

**Appendices 3-7** provide an overview of the membership and terms of reference of assessment partnerships/panels.

3.3.7 Recommendations for the award of funding from the partnerships above £250k would be reported to Full Council for consideration and approval. It is proposed that an officer delegation be agreed to authorise the Head of Service, Planning and Economy, to approve grant awards up to £250k.

### 3.4 Programme Scrutiny and Oversight

3.4.1 The LPG would be tasked with the overall monitoring and evaluation of the Aberdeenshire UKSPF Investment Plan. Any strategic management decisions which require political approval (e.g. amendments to targets, allocations etc.) would be reported to Full Council.

3.5 It will take time to establish the above processes and given the need for in-year spend, an alternative approach is required to allocate the first year of funding. The 2022/23 core allocation is £833,103, of which a minimum of £86,643 must be capital spend. An additional £433,214 of Multiply funding is also available for 2022/23.

3.6 Consultation and engagement with Council Areas and Services has identified a number of potential projects for 2022/23. Further work is required to develop these projects and link them to the priorities and outcomes of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It is proposed that a delegation be granted to the Head of Service – Planning and Economy to approve 2022/23 allocations following consultation with Group Leaders.

## 4 Council Priorities, Implications and Risk

4.1 The UKSPF will support all of the Council's priorities:

Pillar	Priority
Our People	Education Health & Wellbeing
Our Environment	Infrastructure Resilient Communities
Our Economy	Economy & Enterprise Estate Modernisation

Underpinning the Priorities are a number of key principles. They are: right people, right places, right time; responsible finances; climate and sustainability; Community Planning Partnership Local Outcome Improvement Plans; human rights and public protection; tackling poverty and inequalities; digital infrastructure and economy.

4.2 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendations are agreed.

Subject	Yes	No	N/A
Financial	X		
Staffing	X		
Equalities and Fairer Duty Scotland		X	
Children and Young People's Rights and Wellbeing		X	
Climate Change and Sustainability		X	
Health and Wellbeing		X	
Town Centre First		X	

4.3 The financial implications are that the Council would be responsible for the effective administration and management of approximately £8.3m of funding from the UK Government over a three-year period. These could be disbursed through a mixture of grants, procurement and in-house provision in line with the Council's Financial Regulations.

4.4 The staffing implications are that additional staff resources would need to be put in place to manage the programmes, including the operation of challenge fund rounds and overall project monitoring and evaluation. 4% of the allocation may be used to fund staff costs, with the intention to use this to put in place 2 FTE staff – an Investments and Projects Executive and an Investments and Projects Officer.

4.5 The screening section as part of Stage One of the Integrated Impact Assessment process has not identified the requirement for any further detailed assessments to be undertaken. A full Integrated Impact Assessment has already been carried out on the Aberdeenshire UKSPF Investment Plan.

4.6 The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Corporate Level](#):

- ACORP001 – Budget Pressures
- ACORP002 - Working with other organisations (e.g. supply chains, outsourcing and partnership working)

These can be mitigated through introducing effective and efficient governance systems to administer the funds and ensure that spend deadlines are met.

The following Risks have been identified as relevant to this matter on a [Strategic Level](#):

- BSSR002 - Communities are confident, resilient and inclusive. Individuals feel secure and in control of their circumstances.
- BSSR003 - We live within our means and use public money to maximise outcomes for our communities
- BSSR004 - Our assets, property and land are managed to the best financial effect, supporting delivery of our priorities and service ambitions in the medium to long term
- ISR001 - Aberdeenshire is a location of choice that has a diverse economic base of innovative companies with a skilled workforce and return to full employment
- ISR002 - The gap between economic, environmental and social outcomes in Banff, Macduff, Fraserburgh and Peterhead and the Aberdeenshire average is closed and other towns at risk have avoided becoming regeneration priorities
- ISR003 - Supporting Aberdeenshire businesses through pandemic, EU Exit and energy transition
- ISR005 - Open spaces that encourage active, healthy lifestyles
- ISR007 - Safeguard the built and natural environment
- ISR008 - Placemaking to meet the current and future needs of communities and supporting communities to help themselves, enabling community wealth building that supports local economic opportunities
- ISR009 - A road and street-lighting network which keeps people safe, encourages active lifestyles and increases active travel opportunities

UKSPF resources can be utilised to support projects which mitigate the above risks.

## **5 Scheme of Governance**

- 5.1 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report and their comments are incorporated within the report and are satisfied that the report complies with the [Scheme of Governance](#) and relevant legislation.
- 5.2 Full Council is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of General Provisions 10 of the [List of Committee Powers in Part 2A](#) of the Scheme of Governance as Full Council may, notwithstanding the delegation of any matter to a Committee or Officer, deal with any questions not previously determined in terms of that delegation. .

### **Alan Wood, Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services**

Report prepared by Martin Brebner, Team Manager – Economic Strategy & Policy  
24 August 2022

### **List of Appendices –**

- Appendix 1 – Proposed Governance Structure
- Appendix 2 – Local Partnership Group
- Appendix 3 – Communities and Place Member Officer Working Group
- Appendix 4 – Business Stakeholder Group
- Appendix 5 - Employment Connect
- Appendix 6 - Aberdeenshire Learning Communities Partnership
- Appendix 7 – Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Group
- Appendix 8 – Integrated Impact Assessment

**PROPOSED GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

**APPENDIX 1**



## APPENDIX 2

### **Terms of Reference – Local Partnership Group**

#### **1 Purpose**

The Local Partnership Group shall oversee delivery of the Aberdeenshire Investment Plan and associated funding allocation from the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

#### **2 Remit**

The Partnership shall have the following remit:

- To establish programmes to deliver the priorities of the Aberdeenshire UKSPF Investment Plan
- To assess and prioritise projects and activities submitted for consideration by designated assessment panels/partnerships
- To monitor and evaluate delivery of the Aberdeenshire Investment Plan
- To make recommendations to Full Council on project/bid selection and the Investment Plan itself

#### **3 Reporting**

The Partnership will make recommendations and provide updates on its work to Full Council following appropriate consultation.

#### **4 Membership**

The Partnership shall be comprised of:

(i) All Aberdeenshire Council Elected Members

(ii) All Members of Parliament with constituencies wholly or partly in Aberdeenshire

(iii) The Chair (or their substitute) of each of the designated UKSPF assessment panels/partnerships:

- Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Group
- Aberdeenshire Learning Communities Partnership
- Employment Connect
- Business Stakeholder Group

(iii) The Director of Environment and Infrastructure Services, the Director of Business Services, the Director of Education and Children's Services, the Head of Planning and Economy and the Area Managers (or their substitutes). Additional officers from across different services may attend meetings of the Group dependent on the agenda.

## **5 Meetings**

The Partnership will meet as frequently as required to meet the demands of its remit. Meetings will be scheduled to take place remotely, unless otherwise determined by the Partnership. The Partnership will appoint a Chair at its first meeting.

## **6 Review**

The Partnership will report to Full Council once the UKSPF Investment Plan has been delivered, at which point the Partnership will be dis-established. Full Council may review the remit and operation of the Partnership at any time.

## APPENDIX 3

### Terms of Reference – Communities & Place Member Officer Working Group

#### **1 Purpose**

The Communities and Place Member Officer Working Group shall consider and prioritise applications for funding from the Communities and Place core budget allocation of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

#### **2 Remit**

The Group shall have the following remit:

- To assess and prioritise projects and activities submitted for consideration by the Tacking Poverty and Inequalities Group and Administrative Areas
- To make recommendations to the Local Partnership Group on project/bid selection

#### **3 Reporting**

The Group will make recommendations and provide updates on its work to the Local Partnership Group following appropriate consultation.

#### **4 Membership**

The Group shall be comprised of:

(i) 8 Elected Members comprising of the following political proportionality:

5 Administration, 3 Opposition Coalition, including at least one representative from each Area.

(ii) The Head of Planning and Economy and the Area Managers (or their substitutes). Additional officers from across different services may attend meetings of the Group dependent on the agenda.

#### **5 Meetings**

The Group will meet as frequently as required to meet the demands of its remit. Meetings will be scheduled to take place remotely, unless otherwise determined by the Partnership. The Group will appoint a Chair at its first meeting.

#### **6 Review**

The Group will report to Full Council once the UKSPF Investment Plan has been delivered, at which point the Group will be dis-established. Full Council may review the remit and operation of the Group at any time.

## APPENDIX 4

### **Terms of Reference – Business Stakeholder Group**

#### **1 Purpose**

The Business Stakeholder Group shall consider and prioritise applications for funding from the Supporting Local Business core budget allocation of the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

#### **2 Remit**

The Group shall have the following remit:

- To assess and prioritise grant applications for projects and activities seeking funding from the Supporting Local Business theme of the Aberdeenshire UKSPF allocation
- To make recommendations to the Local Partnership Group on project/bid selection

#### **3 Reporting**

The Group will make recommendations and provide updates on its work to the Local Partnership Group following appropriate consultation.

#### **4 Membership**

The Group shall be comprised of:

- (i) The Chair, Vice Chair and Opposition Spokesperson of Infrastructure Services Committee
- (ii) The Head of Planning and Economy, the Service Manager – Economic Development, the Team Manager – Business and Industry, the Business Gateway Manager and the Community Economic Development Co-ordinator (or their substitutes). Additional officers from across different services may attend meetings of the Group dependent on the agenda.
- (iii) Federation of Small Businesses, Aberdeen and Grampian Chamber of Commerce, Scottish Enterprise, Opportunity North East, representatives of principle town Business Associations/Business Improvement Districts and Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action.

#### **5 Meetings**

The Group will meet as frequently as required to meet the demands of its remit. Meetings will be scheduled to take place remotely, unless otherwise determined by the Partnership. The Group will appoint a Chair at its first meeting.

## **6 Review**

The Group will report to Full Council once the UKSPF Investment Plan has been delivered, at which point the Group will be dis-established. Full Council may review the remit and operation of the Group at any time.

## APPENDIX 5

### EMPLOYMENT CONNECT

Local Employability Partnerships operate across Scotland, following a [Local Employability Partnership Framework](#) developed to provide some consensus around structure and remit of employability partnerships, whilst allowing flexibility reflective of local circumstances. The framework has been developed following joint discussions with Scottish Local Authorities Economic Development and the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations and aims to provide a starting point in developing enhanced local partnership working for both strategic and delivery partners. The framework has also been adopted for use in delivering elements of the Young Person's Guarantee.

Employment Connect is the Local Employability Partnership for Aberdeenshire.

**Mission** - to provide a range of employment services and opportunities for people living throughout Aberdeenshire to ensure they can enter, sustain and progress in the labour market.

**Vision** - to provide a joined up approach to providing a range of employment services and opportunities for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups and individuals living in both urban and rural areas. To enable individuals to enter, sustain and progress in the labour market.

#### **Membership:**

- Aberdeenshire Council – Employment Support Team, Tackling Poverty & Inequalities, Economic Development; Gypsy/Traveller Liaison Social Work, Developing the Young Workforce, Refugee resettlement, Community Learning & Development
- Aberdeen Foyer
- Apex Scotland
- Department for Work and Pensions
- Enable
- Fly Cup
- Health & Social Care Partnership
- Lead Scotland
- NHS Grampian
- Prince's Trust
- SHMU
- Skills Development Scotland
- Tre Life
- Volunteering Matters

## APPENDIX 6

### **ABERDEENSHIRE LEARNING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP (ALCP)**

The purpose of the ALCP is to improve learning and development opportunities in our communities.

The Partnership will provide leadership to foster cooperation across a range of partners involved in the delivery of learning opportunities across Aberdeenshire and will provide guidance and support to ensure the effective delivery of the [Community Learning and Development Plan](#).

The Partnership will act on behalf of the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Board and will provide direction to the Local Learning Partnerships and celebrate the engagement and impact on our learners.

#### **Membership:**

- Aberdeenshire Council – CLD, Area Manager representative
- Aberdeen Foyer
- Aberdeen University
- Aberdeenshire Alcohol & Drugs & Group (ADP)
- Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action
- Federation of Rural Partnerships
- GIRFEC
- HMP Grampian
- Linking Education and Disability (Lead Scotland)
- NHS / Health and Social Care Partnership
- North East Scotland College
- Skills Development Scotland
- Workers' Educational Association (WEA)

## APPENDIX 7

### TACKLING POVERTY & INEQUALITIES GROUP

The Tackling Poverty & Inequalities group was set up by the Community Planning Partnership to coordinate strategic development across partners.

#### The group's priorities are:

- Reducing the number of children / people living in poverty;
- Preventing children / people falling into poverty;
- Enabling children to live poverty free in adult life; and
- Improve the wellbeing of people living in poverty.

#### Partners are working together:

- To improve food security which means better access to healthy and nutritious food across Aberdeenshire
- To improve lives of those living and working in Aberdeenshire by ensuring access to the services and support they need
- To work as equal partners by listening, learning and acting on what people say
- To take a Rights based approach to our work, through projects identified and co-developed with our communities

### TP&I Reporting Structure

The partnership groups that feed into the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Group consist of delivery partners across Aberdeenshire. The groups have their own development plans which are reflected within the Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Priorities. All of the partnership groups, including TP&I annually reflect, evaluate and agree priorities.



**Membership:**

- Aberdeenshire Council (Area representative, Tackling Poverty & Inequalities, Community Planning, Housing, Live Life Aberdeenshire, Planning & Economy)
- Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action
- Skills Development Scotland
- Police Scotland
- Social Security Scotland

# Aberdeenshire Council

## Integrated Impact Assessment

### UK Shared Prosperity Fund Investment Plan

Assessment ID	IIA-000796
Lead Author	Martin Brebner
Additional Authors	Flick Millar, Jamie Wilkinson
Service Reviewers	Gary Hughes
Subject Matter Experts	Suzanne Rhind, Susan Forbes, Claudia Cowie, Kakuen Mo
Approved By	Paul Macari
Approved On	Tuesday August 09, 2022
Publication Date	Tuesday August 09, 2022

# 1. Overview

This document has been generated from information entered into the Integrated Impact Assessment system.

A three-year investment plan for Aberdeenshire's allocation of funds from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The plan is a high-level document which identifies overarching themes for the fund, with more detailed assessments of impacts to be undertaken as part of the design of programmes and assessments of individual projects which would receive funding at a later date.

During screening 8 of 10 questions indicated that detailed assessments were required, the screening questions and their answers are listed in the next section. This led to 4 out of 5 detailed impact assessments being completed. The assessments required are:

- Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty
- Health Inequalities
- Sustainability and Climate Change
- Town Centres First

In total there are 13 positive impacts as part of this activity. There are 0 negative impacts, all impacts have been mitigated.

A detailed action plan with 1 points has been provided.

This assessment has been approved by paul.macari2@aberdeenshire.gov.uk.

The remainder of this document sets out the details of all completed impact assessments.

## 2. Screening

Could your activity / proposal / policy cause an impact in one (or more) of the identified town centres?	Yes
Would this activity / proposal / policy have consequences for the health and wellbeing of the population in the affected communities?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect greenhouse gas emissions (CO2e) in the Council or community and / or the procurement, use or disposal of physical resources?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the resilience to extreme weather events and/or a changing climate of Aberdeenshire Council or community?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have the potential to affect the environment, wildlife or biodiversity?	Yes
Does the activity / proposal / policy have an impact on people and / or groups with protected characteristics?	Yes
Is this activity / proposal / policy of strategic importance for the council?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy reduce inequality of outcome?	Yes
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's rights?	No
Does this activity / proposal / policy have an impact on children / young people's wellbeing?	No

## 3. Impact Assessments

Children's Rights and Wellbeing	Not Required
Climate Change and Sustainability	No Negative Impacts Identified
Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty	No Negative Impacts Identified
Health Inequalities	No Negative Impacts Identified
Town Centre's First	No Negative Impacts Identified

## 4. Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty Impact Assessment

### 4.1. Protected Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Age (Younger)		Yes		
Age (Older)		Yes		
Disability		Yes		
Race		Yes		
Religion or Belief		Yes		
Sex		Yes		
Pregnancy and Maternity		Yes		
Sexual Orientation		Yes		
Gender Reassignment		Yes		
Marriage or Civil Partnership		Yes		

### 4.2. Socio-economic Groups

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Low income	Yes			
Low wealth	Yes			
Material deprivation	Yes			
Area deprivation	Yes			
Socioeconomic background		Yes		

### 4.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Area deprivation	The investment plan will provide additional resources to address area deprivation, particularly regarding geographical access to services and facilities.
Low income	The investment plan will provide additional resources to enhance financial advice services for low-income households and individuals.
Low wealth	The investment plan will provide additional resources to enhance financial advice services for low-wealth households and individuals.
Material deprivation	The investment plan will provide additional resources to enhance financial advice services for households and individuals facing material deprivation.

### 4.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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APPENDIX 8

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation	<p>The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020 provides insight into challenges faced by particular communities. Aberdeenshire has nine data zones within the 20% most deprived in Scotland, representing 0.6% of the national share. All nine of these zones can be found in the towns of Fraserburgh and Peterhead. This highlights that there are pockets of deprivation within Aberdeenshire, particularly in larger towns.</p> <p>Several indicators are amalgamated to create the SIMD, with further analysis of these highlighting particular challenges for communities in Aberdeenshire. The access to services indicator considers drive/public transport time to key facilities and access to superfast broadband. 44% of datazones in Aberdeenshire fall within the 20% most deprived in Scotland for access to services and 33% within the 10% most deprived. This highlights that access to services and facilities is a key local challenge for many communities within Aberdeenshire.</p>	In addition to pockets of deprivation in particular communities in Aberdeenshire, there is a broader issue of deprivation related to geographical access to facilities and services.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Community Planning Partnership	<p>Information from the Department for Work and Pensions suggests that there has been a notable increase in Aberdeenshire of children living in absolute low-income families, from 9.7% in 2014/15 to 11.4% in 2019/20. A similar trend can be observed in relative low-income households, with an increase from 9.6% in 2014/15 to 13.3% in 2019/20. Cost of living increases are likely to increase the number of households in poverty. Addressing poverty has therefore been identified as a key local challenge.</p> <p>Reducing Poverty is one of the key priorities in Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership's (CPP's) Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The Partnership's Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group has identified the following themes as key components of addressing poverty:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Insecurity</li> <li>• Fuel Poverty &amp; Housing</li> <li>• Transport/active travel</li> <li>• Digital Inclusion</li> <li>• Financial Inclusion</li> <li>• Mental Health &amp; Wellbeing</li> <li>• Employability</li> <li>• Children &amp; Young People</li> </ul>	Addressing poverty and inequalities is a growing and complex issue which links into a wide range of services.

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Consultation	Engage Aberdeenshire Surveys	A lack of funding for community organisations, services and facilities was highlighted in a number of survey responses. These included both physical facilities and activities. Ability to access facilities, activities and employment opportunities is hindered by a lack of availability of affordable and frequent transport options. The high cost of living, particularly related to energy is a particular concern at present.	Access to facilities and services, whether due to the fact that they don't exist; people can't get to them; or people can't afford them is an important issue for communities.

## 4.5. Information Gaps

Lived experience

## 4.6. Engagement with affected groups

Opportunities for engagement have been constrained by time limitations (c.3 month window from programme launch to deadline). However, online surveys have been carried out using the Engage Aberdeenshire platform.

## 4.7. Ensuring engagement with protected groups

An open consultation has been undertaken to date. More detailed and focussed consultation will be undertaken on the design of programmes which will sit underneath the investment plan.

## 4.8. Evidence of engagement

A report on the results of the surveys has been produced and will form part of the Committee report related to this investment plan. Further work is to be undertaken (e.g. lived experience) on the details/priorities of specific programmes which sit underneath the investment plan.

## 4.9. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The investment plan will unlock additional resources which can be used to support services and facilities which benefit all groups.

## 4.10. Improving Relations

Further consultation and engagement in the design of programmes and development of specific projects.

## 4.11. Opportunities of Equality

Programmes/projects can be supported with the specific purpose of advancing equality of

opportunity.

## 5. Health Inequalities Impact Assessment

### 5.1. Health Behaviours

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Healthy eating		Yes		
Exercise and physical activity	Yes			
Substance use – tobacco		Yes		
Substance use – alcohol		Yes		
Substance use – drugs		Yes		
Mental health	Yes			

### 5.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Exercise and physical activity	The investment plan will provide the opportunity to implement projects which create active travel, outdoor spaces and sports/leisure facilities.
Mental health	The investment plan will provide an opportunity to support projects which improve access to support services (e.g. financial advice, employability); employment opportunities and facilities (e.g. leisure, recreation, sports).

### 5.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Community Planning Partnership	<p>A Local Outcome Improvement Plan priority identified by the CPP is Connected and Cohesive Communities, with Locality Plans being established for the towns of Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Banff and Macduff . In addition to access to services and tackling poverty, Locality Plans identify a range of key local challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aesthetic look of towns</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviour</li> <li>• Social isolation</li> <li>• Availability of outdoor and green spaces</li> <li>• Drug &amp; alcohol consumption and their consequences</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• The digital divide and broadband access</li> </ul>	<p>Improving mental health is a key local priority and is linked to a wide range of themes such as access to facilities including outdoor/green spaces and social connectivity.</p>

## 5.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The investment plan will unlock additional resources which can be used to support services and facilities which have positive impacts on health inequalities.

## 6. Sustainability and Climate Change Impact Assessment

### 6.1. Emissions and Resources

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Consumption of energy		Yes		
Energy efficiency		Yes		
Energy source		Yes		
Low carbon transition		Yes		
Consumption of physical resources		Yes		
Waste and circularity		Yes		
Circular economy transition		Yes		
Economic and social transition	Yes			

### 6.2. Biodiversity and Resilience

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Quality of environment	Yes			
Quantity of environment		Yes		
Wildlife and biodiversity		Yes		
Infrastructure resilience		Yes		
Council resilience		Yes		
Community resilience		Yes		
Adaptation		Yes		

### 6.3. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Quality of environment	The investment plan would provide an opportunity to invest in green and open spaces in communities.
Economic and social transition	The investment plan would include support for local businesses and addressing skills shortages. This would complement and align with support offered through the Just Transition fund.

### 6.4. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	International Energy Agency and Scottish Government	<p>One of the main challenges for the oil and gas industry is Just Transition to Net Zero, with an International Energy Agency report highlighting that the industry faces "... increasing demands to clarify the implications of energy transitions for their operations and business models, and to explain the contributions that they can make to reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement." In order to capitalise on and retain oil and gas skills and expertise in the local area, the Scottish Government has identified a need to prioritise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skills training and education that helps to secure good, high value jobs in green industries like low-carbon manufacturing, renewables, and tech;</li> <li>• Job security for those in industries that will play the biggest part in the transition – at every level – from those working in petrol stations to those on oil platforms.</li> </ul>	A just transition towards renewable energy is a clear policy driver with potential to maintain high value jobs locally.
External Consultation	Engage Aberdeenshire	<p>Survey respondents highlighted the costs of adapting to and existential threat caused by climate change as challenges. Emergency resilience was also highlighted as a concern.</p>	There is growing concern over the costs and challenges of climate change and their impact on communities.

## 6.5. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The investment plan will unlock additional resources which can be used to support businesses and address skills shortages to take advantage of just transition opportunities. It will also provide capital funding to enhance green space.

## 7. Town Centre's First Impact Assessment

### 7.1. Local Factors

Indicator	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Unknown
Town centre assets	Yes			
Footfall	Yes			
Changes to road layouts		Yes		
Parking		Yes		
Infrastructure changes		Yes		
Aesthetics of the town centre	Yes			
Tourism		Yes		
Public safety		Yes		
Town centre business	Yes			
Cultural heritage and identity	Yes			
Social and cultural aspects		Yes		

### 7.2. Positive Impacts

Impact Area	Impact
Aesthetics of the town centre	The investment plan would provide opportunities to support projects to improve the aesthetics of town centres, including derelict buildings and open spaces.
Cultural heritage and identity	The investment plan will provide opportunities to invest in projects linked to the the cultural heritage and identify of towns, including the provision of cultural facilities.
Footfall	The improvements to town centres supported by the investment plan are likely to increase footfall.
Town centre assets	The investment plan will provide an opportunity to invest in town centre assets, including derelict buildings and public realm.
Town centre business	In addition to physical investment in town centres, the investment plan would also provide opportunities to support town centre businesses through the provision of enhanced support services and grants.

### 7.3. Evidence

Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
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Type	Source	It says?	It Means?
External Data	Community Planning Partnership	<p>The Local Outcome Improvement Plan identifies Connected and Cohesive Communities as a priority, with Locality Plans being established for the towns of Peterhead, Fraserburgh, Banff and Macduff . In addition to access to services and tackling poverty, Locality Plans identify a range of key local challenges including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The aesthetic look of towns</li> <li>• Antisocial behaviour</li> <li>• Social isolation</li> <li>• Availability of outdoor and green spaces</li> <li>• Drug &amp; alcohol consumption and their consequences</li> <li>• Mental health</li> <li>• The digital divide and broadband access</li> </ul>	Town centre aesthetics and availability of green and outdoor spaces are key local priorities.
External Consultation	Engage Aberdeenshire	Respondents cited empty buildings in town centres; business rates; availability of commercial property; and the capacity of businesses to adapt to changing customer expectations as key challenges.	A number of factors interplay in the viability of town centres and the businesses which operate within them. A range of investments in both physical infrastructure and support services may be required.

## 7.4. Overall Outcome

No Negative Impacts Identified.

The investment plan will unlock additional resources which can be used to support services and facilities which directly invest in town centres and provide support to businesses.

## 8. Action Plan

Planned Action	Details
Monitoring and evaluation of the investment plan, including it's impact on equalities, sustainability and town centres.	<p><b>Lead Officer</b> Martin Brebner</p> <p><b>Repeating Activity</b> Yes</p> <p><b>Frequency</b> Annual</p> <p><b>Duration</b> 3 years</p> <p><b>Expected Outcome</b> Refining of programme priorities to meet local needs using additional evidence and data captured throughout the delivery period.</p> <p><b>Resource Implications</b> Additional staff resources required - to be covered by administration budget for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p>