

Integrated Impact Assessment

The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to evidence that Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legislative duties by assessing the potential impacts of its policies and decisions on different groups of people and the environment. The legislation considered within this assessment is:

- Section 2 [Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics](#)
- Section 3 [Socio-Economic](#)
- Section 4 [Consumer Duty](#)
- Section 5 [Human Rights](#)
- Section 6 [Children and Young People's Rights](#)
- Section 7 [Environmental impacts](#)

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 government's Autumn Budget announced a further £900 million of funding for local investment by March 2026. All areas of the UK are receiving a further allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This will help places take advantage of the Fund's flexibility and plan now for delivery from April 2025. The Aberdeen City Council area received an allocation of £2,346,857 for a one year extension period.

The May 2025 report seeks the committee's approval for the proposed allocation of grant funding for:

UKSPF Communities and Place

1. An allocation to Aberdeen Inspired of up to £39,000 for the Aberdeen City Centre Property and Retail Strategy.
2. An allocation to Aberdeen Deeside Rotary Trust of up to £13,000.00 for the All ability Wheelchair Swing Project.
3. An allocation to Aberdeen Performing Arts of up to £48,895.00 for the Building Management System Upgrade – HMT Project.
4. An allocation to Aberdeen Science Centre of up to £73,198.00 for the Community Engagement and Accessibility project.
5. An allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £40,330.00 for the Increasing Opportunities for Young People project.
6. An allocation to Alcohol and Drugs Action of up to £19,801.41 for the Family Harm An education/Recovery Support.

7. An allocation to Aberdeen City Council of up to £173,140.00 for the Bucksburn Swimming Pool project.
8. An allocation to Befriend a Child of up to £19,152.50 for the Family Support Project.
9. An allocation to Belmont Community Cinema of up to £100,000.00 for the Improving the Entrance project.
10. An allocation to Citymoves Dance Agency of up to £47,089.00 for the United Aberdeen Dance project.
11. An allocation to Denburn Residents and Tenants Association of £10,000.00 for the Upper Denburn Gardens project.
12. An allocation to East Grampian Coastal Partnership of up to £9,450.00 for the Aberdeen City Coastal Path Study.
13. An allocation to Grampian Cardiac Rehabilitation Association of up to £15,000.00 for the Service development – specialist exercise service for people with cardiac and chronic health conditions in Aberdeen City project.
14. An allocation to Grampian Women's Aid of up to £45,469.70 for the GWA Women's Support Services.
15. An allocation to Growing2gether of up to £28,865.00 for the Strengthening Communities by Building Local Skills, Wellbeing and Resilience project.
16. An allocation to Instant Neighbour of up to £10,000.00 for the UpcycleInc Project.
17. An allocation to Kingswells Community Centre of up to £876.99 for the Youth Club Equipment.
18. An allocation to Sound Scotland of up to £24,000.00 for the Soundcommunities year 2 project.
19. An allocation to Station House Media Unit of up to £110,000.00 for the Extension to Station House Project.
20. An allocation to Techfest of up to £10,000.00 for the TechFests Blueprint Challenge: A Future Highstreet.
21. An allocation to The Kings Community Foundation of up to £50,000.00 for the Bridge Centre Retrofit.
22. An allocation to Visit Aberdeenshire of up to £23,932.00 for the Cruise Volunteer Programme.
23. An allocation to Visit Aberdeenshire of up to £50,000 for the Northern Nights Campaign.

Local Business Support

1. An allocation to Aberdeen City Council/SCARF of up to £258,603 for the the Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme.

1.3 Is this a strategic programme/proposal/decision?

Yes

1.4 Is this a new or existing policy?

Existing Policy (Fund)

1.5 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes

1.6 Committee name and date:

Finance and resources Committee – 07th May 2025

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

CR&E/25/100

1.8 Function and Cluster:

City Regeneration and Environment – City Development & Regeneration

Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a legal requirement as a public sector organisation to assess the impact of its work on equality groups and assess against human rights, children's rights and our socio-economic duty. This is our Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The PSED has three key parts:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or any other prohibited conduct.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations by tackling prejudice, promoting understanding.

This following five sections in the Integrated Impact Assessment demonstrate that these considerations that have been made in the policy, that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted, and what mitigating steps can be taken to reduce any negative impact of the policy.

2: Equality Act 2010 - Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. This section identifies what impact the policy may have on people with [protected characteristics](#).

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

Protected Characteristic	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 Communities and Place projects do not directly target protected characteristics, however, supports community groups where services provided offer support to all those who are in need. Equality and diversity policies are reviewed during the application process to ensure all organisations supported through UKSPF communities and place do not discriminate based on any of the protected characteristics.

Positive outcomes for the disability protected characteristic will arise from the support to the All-ability wheelchair project, installing a wheelchair accessible swing in a city centre park.

Positive outcomes will also arise for the Age protected characteristic through the support of the befriend a child project, which aim to support children to have positive destinations.

The proposed UKSPF Local Business Support project also doesn't directly target protected characteristics. However, by providing new business development opportunities accessible to all, it contributes 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 Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme is designed for small and medium-sized enterprises, sole traders and 3rd sector organisations to co-finance energy and carbon-saving upgrades and support their efforts to achieve Net Zero targets. By supporting energy efficiency projects, this scheme helps to reduce energy consumption, directly lowering carbon emissions. The program would also address ongoing cost-of-living and energy price crises. A non-repayable grant of up to £10,000 will cover up to 50% of the project's total cost. This financial support is crucial for small organisations that might otherwise lack the resources to make significant energy efficiency upgrades.

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 lessons learned and outcomes from previous projects. Reviewing the successes and challenges of past projects has provided valuable insights into the most effective ways to enhance accessibility and support these groups. This 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 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 has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy?
Funded organisations gather first-hand accounts, which have been vital in understanding real life experiences. Potential applicants to the fund were offered a one-to-one support with members of the external funding team to discuss potential projects, eligibility and application process.

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?		
N/A		
With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?	High	N/A
	Medium	N/A
	Low	N/A
		N/A
	Negative Impact Removed	N/A

3: Socio-Economic Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a duty to reduce the inequalities of outcome that can arise from socio-economic disadvantage. This section is used to consider what impact the policy may have on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage – and how any inequalities of outcome arising from the policy can be reduced.

Use this guide to understand more on socio-economic inequalities: [The Fairer Scotland Duty: Guidance for Public Bodies \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty/guidance-for-public-bodies/pages/1-introduction.aspx)

3.1 What impact could this policy have on people who experience the following aspects of socio-economic disadvantage?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Low income – those who have insufficient earnings to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, or utilities.			X
Low/ no wealth – those who have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future.			X
Material deprivation – those who cannot afford or access goods or services that are considered essential or desirable for a decent quality of life, such as food, clothing, heating, transport, internet, cultural, recreational and social activities.		X	
Area deprivation – those who live in an area with poor living conditions, such as higher levels of crime, pollution, noise, congestion, or lack of infrastructure, amenities, or green spaces.			X
Socio-economic background – social class, parents’ education, employment, income.			X

3.2 In what way will the policy impact people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

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 support essential services to alleviate the cost of living, enabling those affected to afford regular bills, food, and clothing.

The Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme funding provides financial support to SMEs, sole traders and 3rd sector organisations, which might otherwise struggle to afford energy efficiency improvements. These upgrades help businesses reduce their energy consumption, leading to lower operational costs. This financial relief can be particularly beneficial for small enterprises and economically disadvantaged areas, improving their sustainability and economic resilience.

Low and/or no wealth: Reduced energy costs can improve the overall financial stability of SMEs. This can allow them to invest in other important areas such as employee wages, training, and business development. Ultimately, this can help in reducing local socio-economic inequalities. The scheme is designed to assist SMEs in becoming more resilient to energy price fluctuations and supply disruptions, which is especially beneficial for businesses in economically disadvantaged areas that may be more vulnerable to such challenges. Enhanced resilience contributes to the long-term viability and growth of these businesses.

Area deprivation: The fund can be used to improve community centres in deprived areas, 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: The implementation of energy-saving projects creates and sustains jobs in the green economy, such as the installation of renewable energy systems and maintenance of energy-efficient equipment. These job opportunities can be particularly important in areas with high unemployment and limited economic opportunities. Prioritising local contractors and service providers for the installation and maintenance of energy

projects helps to stimulate the local economy and provides employment opportunities within the community. The Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme application process is meant to be inclusive, catering to a wide range of enterprises and making sure that those in disadvantaged areas or sectors are not left out. By simplifying the application process and offering support through SCARF, the scheme ensures that businesses with limited administrative resources can apply.

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?

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 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 has been undertaken with people who may be 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 can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

There are no negative impacts identified.

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

No – negative impact remains	N/A
Yes – negative impact reduced	N/A
Yes - negative impact removed	N/A

4: Consumer Impacts

The Consumer Scotland Act 2020 places a Consumer Duty on the public sector to put consumer interests at the heart of strategic decision-making, emphasising the need for accessible and affordable public services, especially during times of financial pressure. This person-centred approach is intended to result in better quality services and outcomes for the public as consumers of public services across Scotland.

This section of the IIA is used to consider the impact of the policy on consumers of any services that the policy is intended to change.

Use this guide to understand more on the consumer duty: [how-to-meet-the-consumer-duty-guidance-for-public-authorities.pdf](#)

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

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Individuals			X
Small businesses			X

4.2 In what way will the policy impact people in these consumer groups?

UKSPF Local Business Support

- The Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme supports small organisations and sole traders by helping them adopt energy efficiency improvements and transition toward net-zero emissions. The scheme aligns with consumer protection and fairness principles; grants are equally accessible for all eligible parties. The programme prevents smaller enterprises and sole traders from being left behind in the transition to sustainable energy.

4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?		
There are no negative impacts identified.		
If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?	No – negative impact remains	N/A
	Yes – negative impact reduced	N/A
	Yes - negative impact removed	N/A

5: 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](#).

5.1 What impact could this policy have on Human Rights?

Human Rights Article	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Article 2: Right to life		X	
Article 4: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour		X	
Article 5: Right to liberty and security		X	
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		X	
Article 7: No punishment without law		X	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence		X	
Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
Article 10: Freedom of expression		X	
Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association		X	
Article 12: Right to marry and start a family		X	
Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms		X	
Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property		X	
Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education		X	
Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections		X	

5.2 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.

5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?		
There are no negative impacts identified.		
If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?	No – negative impact remains	N/A
	Yes – negative impact reduced	N/A
	Yes - negative impact removed	N/A

6: 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 18-26 years old.

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

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

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
PROVISION			
Article 2: non-discrimination		X	
Article 3: best interests of the child provision and protection			X
Article 5: parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities			X
Article 16: right to privacy		X	
Article 17: access to information from the media		X	
Article 18: parental responsibilities and state assistance		X	
Article 22: refugee children		X	
Article 23: children with a disability			X
Article 24: health and health services		X	
Article 26: social security		X	
Article 27: adequate standard of living			X
Article 28: right to education		X	
Article 29: goals of education		X	
Article 30: children from minority or indigenous groups		X	
Article 31: leisure, play and culture			X
Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration		X	
Article 40: juvenile justice		X	
PROTECTION			
Article 6: life, survival and development		X	
Article 7: birth registration, name, nationality, care		X	
Article 8: protection and preservation of identity		X	
Article 9: Separation from parents		X	
Article 10: family reunification protection		X	
Article 11: abduction and non-return of children		X	
Article 15: freedom of association		X	
Article 19: protection from violence, abuse and neglect		X	
Article 20: children unable to live with their family		X	
Article 21: adoption		X	
Article 25: review of treatment in care		X	
Article 33: drug abuse		X	
Article 34: sexual exploitation		X	
Article 35: abduction, sale and trafficking		X	
Article 36: other forms of exploitation		X	
Article 37: inhumane treatment and detention		X	
Article 38: war and armed conflicts			
Article 32: child labour		X	

PARTICIPATION			
Article 12: respect for the views of the child		X	
Article 13: freedom of expression		X	
Article 14: freedom of thought, belief and religion		X	
Article 42: knowledge of rights		X	

6.2 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.

6.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

There are no negative impacts identified.

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

No – negative impact remains

N/A

Yes – negative impact reduced

N/A

Yes - negative impact removed

N/A

7: Environmental Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a duty to meet its legal environmental responsibilities by working towards Net Zero emissions, adapting to climate change, and acting in a way it considers most sustainable. We must also fulfil the [biodiversity duty](#) and [sustainable procurement duty](#).

This section in the Integrated Impact Assessment demonstrates that these considerations that have been made in the policy, that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted, and what mitigating steps can be taken to reduce any negative impact of the policy.

Use this guide to understand more on the legal climate change duty: [Climate change - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and find out more about how Aberdeen is adapting to Climate Change: [Aberdeen Adapts | Aberdeen City Council](#)

7.1 What is the impact of this policy on any of the below climate, environmental and waste considerations?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Council or City-wide carbon emissions			X
Active and sustainable travel			X
Facilities for local living		X	
Resilience and adaptability to flooding and weather events		X	
Biodiversity improvement and wildlife/habitat connectivity		X	
Water consumption and drainage		X	
Pollution (air, water, noise, light and land contamination)		X	
Impact on resource use and waste		X	
Sustainable procurement of goods and services		X	

7.2 In what way will the policy impact the environment?

UKSPF Community & Place impact on the environment will depend on the specific design and implementation of funded projects.

- Investments in green spaces, parks and community gardens enhance local biodiversity and provide recreational areas for residents.
- Funding projects like the Aberdeen Coastal Path Study will promote active travel encouraging people to walk or bike.
- Support for initiatives that improve energy efficacy in public buildings and community facilities, such as The Kings Community Foundation, will contribute to lower energy consumption and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

UKSPF Local Business Support

- the Aberdeen Energy Efficiency Programme is focused on small and medium-sized enterprises to assist with their energy and carbon-saving upgrades and support their efforts to achieve Net Zero targets. By supporting energy efficiency projects, this scheme helps to reduce energy consumption, directly lowering carbon emissions. This includes upgrading energy-efficient equipment, installing insulation, and adopting renewable energy sources.

7.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

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

UKSPF 2025-26 features key missions which aim to meet the sub theme 'Make Britain a Clean Energy Superpower' This was taken into consideration when assessing applications submitted to ensure environmental impacts were positive.

Two of the interventions supported through UKSPF feature support for decarbonisation and climate change resilience. When decision making it was prioritised that projects selected aligned with all interventions, ensuring there was a strong focus on environmental impacts.

Aberdeen City Councils travel policy was considered to ensure all projects thought about how and where they travel to deliver the project. This makes sure all travel included in the projects has minimal effects of the environment.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with local groups, partner organisations, experts etc? Where required, identify any other environmental assessments that have been completed.

N/A

7.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

N/A

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

No – negative impact remains

N/A

Yes – negative impact reduced

N/A

Yes - negative impact removed

N/A

8: 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.

Does the policy relate to the Council's [Equality Outcomes](#)? If yes, how.

UKSPF aims to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation by promoting inclusive community projects and ensuring access to resources. The fund supports initiatives that advance quality of opportunity for all community members including those with protected characteristics.

Overall summary of changes made to the policy 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 how the impact of policy will be monitored.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is subject to ongoing monitoring and is scheduled to conclude in March 2026. 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.

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	Charlotte Farquhar/Agata Kowal
Date	04 th April 2025
Chief Officer	Julie Wood
Date	06 th May 2025