

The Highland Council

Agenda Item	12
Report No	ECI/18/25

Committee: Economy and Infrastructure

Date: 29 May 2025

Report Title: UK Shared Prosperity Fund: 2022-25 Delivery Plan Update and 2025/26 Proposed Delivery Plan

Report By: Assistant Chief Executive – Place

1 Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the 2022-25 UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Delivery Plan which closed on 31 March 2025, with delivery highlights across a range of interventions progressed under the UKSPF priorities Communities & Places, Supporting Local Business, and People & Skills.
- 1.2 The report also proposes for member approval, the UKSPF 2025/26 Delivery Plan, which comprises interventions under the UKSPF priorities for delivery and positive impact across the Highland Council region.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:-
- i. **Note** the update on the 2022-25 UKSPF Delivery Plan; and
 - ii. **Approve** the 2025/26 UKSPF Delivery Plan

3 Implications

- 3.1 **Resource** – The 2022-25 Highland UKSPF allocation was £9.44m with spend allowed up to end March 2025. The near final outturn position for the 2022-25 programme is covered at Section 6 of this report.

For 2025/26, the Highland Council has received a UKSPF allocation of £3,097,358 which comprises £878,243 Capital and £2,219,116 Revenue. With 4% of the revenue budget (£123,894) required to be allocated to the management of the delivery plan, the total sum available to spend up to 31 March 2026 is £2,973,465.

- 3.2 **Legal** - The Council is the accountable body for the management of the Fund and responsible for ensuring that all funds are used solely in line with the UKSPF Prospectus and Additional Guidance issued. Funding is also subject to compliance with the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding. For instances where other external organisations are delivering activity, appropriate agreements will be entered into with each affected party.

- 3.3 **Risk (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – The risk response strategy for UKSPF Delivery Plan aims to ensure full commitment and spend across the approved interventions. The 2022-25 UKSPF Delivery Plan has been managed and governed in accordance with best practice programme and project management principles and methods. In practice, this has seen the Programme Team proactively assess all interventions on a regular basis regarding their delivery status in respect of time, cost, quality, risk and scope, and taking intervening action as required to ensure the greatest opportunity of successful delivery of the UKSPF Priorities. For the 2025/26 UKSPF Delivery Plan, the same risk management rigour will be applied aimed at achieving full spend of the UKSPF through proactive programme management processes.
- 3.4 **Health and Safety (risks arising from changes to plant, equipment, process, or people)** – There are no specific implications connected with the delivery of the UKSPF.
- 3.5 **Gaelic** - Gaelic will be included in all relevant projects and communications in line with Council policy.

4 **Impacts**

- 4.1 In Highland, all policies, strategies or service changes are subject to an integrated screening for impact for Equalities, Poverty and Human Rights, Children's Rights and Wellbeing, Climate Change, Islands and Mainland Rural Communities, and Data Protection. Where identified as required, a full impact assessment will be undertaken.
- 4.2 Considering impacts is a core part of the decision-making process and needs to inform the decision-making process. When taking any decision, Members must give due regard to the findings of any assessment.
- 4.3 **Integrated Impact Assessment - Summary**
- 4.3.1 In relation to the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund 2025/26 Delivery Plan, An Integrated Impact Assessment screening has been undertaken on 7 April 2025. The conclusions have been subject to the relevant Manager Review and Approval.
- 4.3.2 The screening process has concluded that there are anticipated positive impacts as result of the proposed 2025/26 UKSPF Delivery Plan. The circa £3m investment will provide additionality across the Region including active travel initiatives, supporting the visitor economy, and training and skills development, such as green skills and support for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions.

A headline summary is below, and Members are asked to consider the full summary in **Appendix 1** to support the decision-making process.

4.3.3

Impact Assessment Area	Conclusion of Screening
Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children and Young People – <i>Positive</i> • Older Adults - <i>Positive</i> • Disability – <i>Positive</i>
Socio-economic	<i>Positive</i>
Human Rights	<i>Positive</i>
Children’s Rights and Well-being	<i>Positive</i>
Island and Mainland Rural	<i>Positive</i>
Climate Change	<i>Positive</i>
Data Rights	<i>No impact</i>

5 2022-25 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan Progress

5.1 The 2022-25 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan is included within **Appendix 2** of this report and lists the range of interventions progressed under the UKSPF priorities Communities and Places, Supporting Local Business and People and Skills.

Whilst not exhaustive, the following sections of this report highlight some of the notable areas of delivery and impact achieved through the 2022-25 investment.

5.2 Communities and Places (C&P S1–S12)

5.2.1 Community Regeneration Fund Programme

As previously reported to this Group, Members will be aware that a number of the planned Communities and Places actions were incorporated into the Council’s 2023/24 Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) programme. The CRF team manage the UKSPF projects alongside the existing regeneration funding activity, following an agreed set of streamlined processes and ensuring a consistent approach to queries and grant drawdowns for all applicants.

Twenty-one projects received a grant award exclusively from UKSPF through the CRF strategic subgroup and are now fully completed with all grant funding paid out to the applicants:-

- The National Trust for Scotland - Glenfinnan out-of-hour visitor toilets;
- Staffin Community Trust (SCT) - Staffin Harbour Water Supply & Safety Equipment;
- Eden Court Highlands - Improving Energy Efficiency at the Highlands Main Cultural Centre;
- Broadford and Strath Community Company - Places and People;
- Kyle & Lochalsh Community Trust - Delivering top priorities in the Lochalsh Community Action Plan;
- RSPB Scotland - Community and Conservation at RSPB Corrimony Nature Reserve;
- Nairn Community Transport - Purchase of New Minibus;
- Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust (KoSDT) on behalf of SCP - Support for Community Planning;
- Culbokie Community Trust - Culbokie Village Hub Toilets and Potting Shed Phase;

- Aviemore Community Enterprise Company Ltd - The Burnside Park Refurbishment Project;
- Go Golspie Development Trust - Continuing and developing Go Golspie Community Transport;
- Skye and Lochalsh Community Care Forum - Young Carers Build Project;
- Glenurquhart Care Project - Glenurquhart Centre Facility Upgrade;
- Nairn Improvement Community Enterprise (NICE) - Nairn Area Local Place Plan Phase 2;
- The Highland Council - EV Charging in Poolewe;
- North Highland Initiative - Community Infrastructure Support Programme 2024;
- Nairn Bowling Club - Creating support mechanisms and friendships within the community;
- Dunvegan Community Trust - Dunvegan Community Park;
- The Garve & District Development Company - Connecting Communities;
- Inverness Sea Cadets - Feasibility Study for future of Inverness Sea Cadets Buildings; and
- Knocknagael - Knocknagael Green Hub

A further 25 projects received a partial award of UKSPF matched with other area funds such as Highland Coastal Communities and the Place Based Investment Programme. Although some of these projects are still ongoing, the full UKSPF grant has been paid out to applicants in line with work completed prior to the deadline of 20 March 2025.

Work was undertaken to ensure that the reporting of outputs and outcomes within the end of project reports could be aligned with the wider reporting for the UKSPF, within the overall CRF monitoring and evaluation framework. As Projects which have also received area funds reach their conclusions, the full impact of the programme will be seen. The suite of funded projects has delivered against all the desired strategic interventions for the UKSPF programme, with the exception of “digital infrastructure for local communities”, where no relevant applications were received.

Overall, it is clear that the UKSPF grants provided have delivered a number of wider regeneration objectives and the funding has been vital in ensuring additional positive impacts for communities across Highland.

5.2.2 Active Travel Enhancements and Small-Scale Transport Projects (C&P S6)

Nineteen projects reported within the UKSPF Active Travel Project Plan 24/25 have been completed during the reporting period.

UKSPF has provided invaluable funding to deliver new and improved active travel infrastructure to benefit walking, wheeling or cycling in Highland. The funding has allowed many improvements to town and residential footpaths and enhanced links to public transport, local facilities, schools, shops and wider active travel routes and provided better and more inclusive travel options to more people.

Active Travel projects delivered:-

2024/25:-

- **Inverness, Hilton Estate** - sections of improved or widened footway and upgrade of junctions over 2 residential streets (approx. 1000 metres); facilities 14 junctions with 34 new drop kerb crossings and tactile paving.
- **Inverness, Raigmore Estate** - improved footway including sections of new surfacing or widening and junction improvements over 2 residential streets (approx. 750 metres); upgrade of 8 junctions and 2 path ends with 18 drop kerbs and tactile paving. Removal of pedestrian barriers, installation of bollards with signage to benefit walking, wheeling or cycling access.
- **Inverness, Raigmore Estate** - contribution towards 16 new cycle hangars (accommodating 6 bikes each) and associated groundworks. Project jointly funded by Hitrans Cycle Storage Grant and UKSPF.
- **Hi Bike Inverness and Fort William** - contribution towards additional bikes and docking stations to expand the E-bike rental scheme.
- **Highland Primary Schools** - new cycle storage shelters and concrete bases installed at 7 Primary Schools (accommodating 70 bikes) to encourage more pupils, parents and staff to choose to cycle to school to increase activity and wellbeing.
- **Aviemore, Burnside** - widening of footpath (approx. 200 metres), including resurfacing, realignment of lamp columns and improvement of a road junction with 3 new accessible drop kerbs and tactile paving.
- **Fort William, Carmichael Way** - removal of old footway and construction of new footway 'shared use' leading to Carmichael Way from the junction with the A82 (approx. 190 metres) to the Morrisons roundabout. New uncontrolled crossings installed on the footways and central reservation at the roundabout; 8 new drop kerb crossings and tactile paving to improve access.
- **Fort William, Monzie Square & Fraser Square** - footpath and pedestrian walkway improvements (approx. 80 metres), including redesign and resurfacing of Monzie and Fraser Squares to improve pedestrian/wheeled access. Regraded and newly surfaced paths on both sides of Monzie Square and 2 drop kerb crossings with tactile paving at the junction of Middle Street.
- **Dingwall, Tulloch Castle Drive / Tulloch Castle Avenue** - footway and surface improvements (approx. 300 metres) and 10 new drop kerbs and tactile paving to improve access.
- **Alness, Obsdale Road to Old Milnafua Road** - footpath widening to shared use (approx. 60 metres), 4 new bollards, 2 dropped kerbs, signage and resurfacing to improve this section of the National Cycle Network. Also, new coloured surface path at Alness Railway Station (approx. 50 metres).
- **Inverness, Balloch** - footpath upgrade with tarmac surface and widening (approx. 1280 metres), including new link paths to Culloden crossroads, 7 drop kerbs, 10 bollards, signage and surface markings.
- **Thurso, Ormlie Road** - footway and junction improvements (approx. 1040 metres), including sections of surface widening and upgrade of 18 junctions with 29 new drop kerb/tactile paving.

2023/24:-

- **Hi Bike Inverness and Fort William** - contribution towards additional bikes and docking stations to expand the E-bike rental scheme.
- **Nairn, Sundancer Path** - new footpath constructed linking the harbour and promenade path and connecting to wider Active Travel routes (approx. 250 metres); tarmac construction with cycle storage for 20 bikes. Project jointly funded by Ian Findlay Fund 'Paths for All' and UKSPF.
- **Inverness, Maxwell Park** - new foot bridge installed and improvements to the footpath surface.
- **Inverness, Harris Road - Damfield Road** - junction narrowed and re-aligned, footway extended and drop kerbs and tactile paving installed to reduce crossing and improve visibility at this busy AT junction.
- **Inverness, Northern Meeting Park and Bught Park** - cycle storage for 40 bikes.
- **Fort William, Caol Precinct and West End Car Park** - cycle storage for 20 bikes.

2022/23:-

- **Nairn, Tradespark Estate** - sections of footpath improvement works including the installation of 45 drop kerbs with tactile paving to improve access on this residential estate (approx. 850 metres) and links to a wider shared use footpath which includes connection to local facilities, schools, and the railway station.

Passenger Transport projects delivered in 2024/25:-

- **Glenelg Bus Users' Group (BUG)** - enhancement of the demand-responsive transport system.
- **Highland Council Area** - provision and installation of bus shelters.
- **Feasibility Study** - urban / peri-urban Demand-responsive Transport for Inverness and surrounding areas.

5.2.3 Development of Area Place Plans (C&P S11)

Supported through UKSPF investment, the following provides the latest position on establishing place plans across the Region:-

- Black Isle – adopted;
- Wester Ross, Strathpeffer & Lochalsh – adopted;
- Lochaber – adopted;
- Dingwall & Seaforth – adopted;
- Caithness – proposing for adoption at the April 2025 Area Committee meeting;
- Easter Ross – proposing for adoption at either the May or August 2025 Area Committee meeting;
- Sutherland – proposing for adoption at the June 2025 Area Committee meeting;
- Inverness – proposing for adoption at the May 2025 Area Committee meeting; and
- Nairn – proposing for adoption at the May 2025 Area Committee meeting.

5.3 Supporting Local Business (SLB S14–S29)

5.3.1 Development and Promotion of the Visitor Economy (SLB S14)

The allocation from UKSPF to develop and promote the visitor economy has been utilised across a number of projects, including the following:-

- **The Glencoe Three Sisters Visitor Facilities** – a partnership project with National Trust for Scotland to deliver high-quality visitor infrastructure. The first phase has focused on improved parking provision, visitor signage and waste hubs. Phase two supports the creation of fit for purpose footpaths to popular viewpoints due to be complete by April 2025.
- **Glencoe Village Car Park Project** - contribution towards technical design work to provide much needed parking in Glencoe village and significantly reduce the amount of tourist traffic in the centre of the village. This links with other funded projects creating a strategic plan to improve tourism management throughout the Glen. This phase of the project is now complete.
- **Motorhome Signage Project** - a pan-Highland project established off the back of The Highland Council's Visitor Management Planning 2022, has seen the installation of motorhome waste directional signage across Highland at community, public or privately managed sites. This project is now complete.
- **Na Trads 2024** – the UKSPF programme supported the annual bi-lingual MG ALBA Scots Traditional Music Awards held in Inverness on 30 November 2024. The event was delivered in partnership with the BBC and celebrated musicians, bands, and industry professionals who have made significant contributions to Scotland's cultural heritage. The event was attended by more than 1,000 musicians and industry supporters, with an audience into the hundreds, and watched live on BBC ALBA by thousands more.
- **Mountain Biking World Cup** - as previously advised, an allocation of up to £100,000 was approved to support costs associated with the 2024 Mountain Biking (MTB) World Cup Event in Fort William. The event, held 3-5 May 2024, marked the start of Warner Bros Discovery (WBD), a new and innovative partnership with the UCI (cycling's governing body) to host and broadcast all MTB World Series events, with the aim to elevate the sport globally, by injecting new energy and investment in the events. At Fort William this included upgrading and modernising the track, enhancing the broadcast and viewer experience, and redesigning the spectator arena at Nevis Range.

5.3.2 Business Support Grants (SLB S15-S27)

The Highland Council Business Gateway service in Highland supports sole traders, micro and small businesses through the local adviser network and covers the Highland area, from Caithness to Lochaber.

The service also provides online webinars, website toolkits, podcasts and more in-depth adviser support. Business Gateway Highland also delivers the Business start-up and growth grants for the UKSPF programme, with 476 eligible businesses approved for the start-up grant totalling £476k and 89 business supported with a growth grant totalling £676k.

The number of start-up grant applications have continued to be high. Growth grant business applications were paused in January 2025, as the funding limit for the programme had been reached, with final applications now been processed.

Grant aid for Digital and Energy Efficiency improvements for small and micro businesses (up to 50 employees) proved extremely successful with almost 200 grants awarded and projects completed.

5.4 People & Skills (P&S S31–S37)

5.4.1 As previously reported, the Budget is being utilised towards a new delivery model which provides support for unemployed or economically inactive people of working age who need between 6 to 12 months support to progress into employment.

The target group for this programme are Highland residents who have at least one of the following characteristics:-

- Disability (as defined in the Equality Act 2010);
- Long-Term health condition; or
- Long-term unemployed (over 12 months)

An essential element of the programme is not only to support the individual to progress towards and into employment, though also to support the individual to sustain the employment.

The two providers - Enable Scotland (Caithness, Sutherland, Lochaber, Skye & Lochalsh and Wester Ross) and Triage Centrum (Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey and East Ross) have continued to progress well in seeking referrals, with 284 clients registered to date and receiving support. Although we would not expect to see immediate job outcomes for this group with longer term support needs, to date 99 of these clients have progressed into employment at this stage, including 2 into self-employment. The performance to date matches the performance of the previous National Programme, Fair Start Scotland which worked with a similar client group.

The providers have been asked to continue to register and support new clients up to the end of September 2025. Learning from this 'test and learn' challenge fund is being used to develop the Highland Employability Partnership's future commissioning which is currently being developed and hopefully in place by October 2025.

5.4.2 A Challenge Fund was released for Area and Green Skills training and facilities inviting Highland businesses in consortia to apply for funding to support the costs of green skills training for their workforce. Four consortia business grants were awarded with projects now completed and positive feedback has been received from attendees and employers.

Over the duration of the projects, in summary **229** individuals have been supported to gain a qualification or complete a course and **45** individuals have received support to gain a vocational licence. The following headlines key achievements for the reporting period:-

- **Green Engineers for the Future, UHI North, West & Hebrides** – development of skills and facility for advanced practical skills for renewable sector (e.g. wind turbines and solar panels) so as to take advantage of opportunities emerging in the maintenance requirements of facilities. The Green Engineering Maintenance Workspace in Thurso opened in June 2024, with the launch event attended by the Council Leader. Sixty-five participants completed the training split over three cohorts and included a mix of those in employment and students moving into employment in the next 6-12 months. This has been key to embedding the skills and ethos of green engineering maintenance in the future workforce.
- **For Peat's Sake** – consortia of businesses, Nature Scot and UHI Northwest Highland and Hebrides College to take advantage of opportunities presented from peatland restoration. Following significant development work, the one-week peatland restoration introduction course was successfully delivered at Forsinard RSPB Centre week in September 2024 to 11 participants. In December 2024, the learning from this UKSPF project resulted in the delivery of a further two-day Introduction to Peatland Restoration course at Forsinard Field Centre for 10 additional people.
- **Access to Engineering, Nigg Skills Academy** – open to all, however predominantly directed at those unemployed or school leavers who would like to gain knowledge of the wider energy industries and what opportunities might lie ahead. Two cohorts of trainees completed the 8-week course in January and May 2024 with 32 out of 35 attendees going into full time work, 10 of these starting an engineering apprenticeship with local companies. A second Access to Engineering 2 course focusing on Fabrication and Welding was completed by 10 students in December 2024 over 16 weeks, with higher level of skills providing an SVQ (Scottish Vocational Qualification) level 2 in Performing Engineering Operations) and finishing with a Lloyds Register 4 F welding Certification. On completion, 7 students were offered work as apprentices with a local specialist welding company.
- **Highland Green Skills, UHI Inverness** – new renewables training facility delivering accredited courses in installing technologies to support low carbon heat and improve energy efficiency. The Renewable Energy Training Hub has been significantly refurbished to include 5 new heat pumps from 3 different suppliers. The facility was formally opened in November 2024, attended by a Council representative and to date 73 student apprentices and 35 commercial participants have completed heat pump training at the Hub.

5.4.3 Castle Training Programme

With support from the UKSPF, work is now underway in partnership with officers of The Highland Council, Developing the Young Workforce, UHI, and training providers, to develop employability pathways for those who are leaving school or who would like to return to work to consider a career or role as part of the new Castle Experience team.

The process began with Insight Days within the schools in the Inner Moray Firth area between December 2024 and February 2025. Over 500 students were given a workshop on the Inverness Castle Experience, highlighting the work experience and job opportunities that will be available at the Castle.

Invites have now gone out for students to apply for a work experience opportunity in May/June this year. The work experience week will include an introduction to Marketing, two days on-site, a training opportunity (e.g. world host or similar) and a HR session on reflection, forming a CV and interview training. The young people will work towards a work placement SCQF 5 Unit.

This will then be adapted to target people that are currently unemployed to demonstrate to them the opportunities and the flexible working programme to encourage and inspire them to apply for work within the Inverness Castle Experience.

The project has allowed initial research into apprenticeships with the aspiration to develop a program of apprenticeship opportunities at the Castle in 2026. The initial research has highlighted the benefits of the programme, and we will continue to plan for this after opening of the visitor attraction.

The aim of the project is to encourage people to work locally and demonstrate the various, flexible career pathway opportunities that the project will bring to the area. The project seeks to build on this each year to grow the opportunities and be an exemplar to other employers for the benefit of investing the time to market opportunity to local audiences, with the model to be used by other partners and future employers. The model developed will be part of the Tourism Pathway in the Workforce for the Future Delivery Plan.

- Career/Jobs Fairs to date – 4000+ people attended the Career and Job fairs (to date)
- School Insight days to date – 500+ students have received the insight day presentation

The project will continue to attend all Career/Job fair opportunities that become available now that the recruitment for the Castle has commenced. As the work experience offering expands, we will continue to engage with the schools regularly to keep all the students informed of the opportunities and continue to prioritise demonstrating all the various career pathways.

5.5 Multiply being a sub-set of People and Skills (People & Skills (M S42–S51))

5.5.1 The “Multiply” interventions delivered support to those over 16, helping improve their functional numeracy skills through free personal tutoring and digital training. The Multiply programme had contracts with 12 providers across Highland to deliver a range of initiatives.

These providers support a range of individuals, including young people who are at risk of being left behind as a result of their personal challenges, those with disabilities and those facing poverty, homelessness and long-term unemployment.

Courses delivered included those designed to increase confidence in numbers, encourage people to upskill to access jobs/careers and use numeracy to manage money. There was also targeted support to prisoners or those recently released and their families to enhance numeracy skills and give the best chance for community re-integration.

As part of The Highland Council's proactive approach to achieving positive outcomes in this area, Highland Multiply projects were offered a 2-month extension to February 2025 which enabled continued delivery. Multiply provider reporting indicates that the outputs delivered significantly exceed the original targets, and these outputs are summarised as follows:-

- 881 adult numeracy courses were run in Highland through Multiply;
- 4964 individuals participated in Multiply funded courses;
- 1207 individuals achieved a qualification; and
- 171 individuals were referred from partners onto upskill courses

To continue the legacy of Multiply, UHI North, West and Hebrides launched a free online resource to help people build confidence with their numeracy skills which the Highland Council actively promoted internally and via social media. The '[Multiply Highland](#)' online resource is a series of short interactive modules based on real-life numeracy scenario challenges, such as adding up a bill or reading a pay slip. They are aimed at adults looking to develop number confidence for work, career progression, budgeting, or everyday life.

6 Budget Management

6.1 The 2022-25 Highland UKSPF budget was £9.44m, and this comprised £7.81m allocated for Communities and Places, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills priorities, and £1.63m ring fenced to Multiply (adult numeracy training) with spend allowed up to end March 2025.

6.2 Detail of the 2022-25 budget position is included in this report at **Appendix 3**.

In summary from the £7.81m allocated for Communities and Places, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills priorities, the year-end outturn is projected to see the budget fully spent.

For Multiply (adult numeracy training), from the £1.63m ring fenced budget, the year-end outturn is projected to see a £328k underspend.

Notwithstanding the positive impact Multiply has delivered across the Region, as previously reported to members Multiply spend has been a particular challenge for the Council and across other local authorities due to various factors such as:-

- the delayed funding confirmation and consequent start to Year 1 of the programme;
- the change to eligibility from 18+ to 16+ reflecting the Scottish statutory school leaving age only coming through for the final year of the programme, and so limiting reach in years one and two; and
- the ring-fenced nature of the funding, with no ability to flex budget across other UKSPF priorities in the event of forecast underspend

7 2025/26 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan

7.1 Background & Context

7.1.1 The Highland Council were notified on 13 December 2024 of a UKSPF allocation for 2025/26 of £3,097,358 which comprises £878,243 Capital and £2,219,116 Revenue, with 4% of the revenue budget (£124k) required to be allocated to the management of the delivery plan.

The capital allocation is set as a minimum amount, with no maximum limit set for the amount of revenue that could be changed to capital as required.

7.1.2 The key requirement for the 2025/26 allocation is that spend is made within the financial year. It is therefore critical that projects selected ensure that outcome.

UKSPF can be used to part fund projects to complete delivery in 2025/26, and also where such projects may not complete by 31 March 2026, albeit the UKSPF allocation must be fully spent by 31 March 2026 with evidence of match funding required for submission to UK Government.

7.1.3 Whilst 2022-25 allocations are separate from 2025/26, this transitional year should be treated as a continuation of the Fund, with the aim being to provide a smooth transition from the existing UKSPF programme to a new future funding framework in line with the prevailing UK Government guidance, with key points from this as follows:-

- funding to be used to support projects from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026;
- the current UKSPF investment priorities of Communities & Place, Supporting Local Business, and People & Skills remain;
- there is no requirement for an even allocation of funds across the 3 investment priorities;
- the 2025/26 Delivery Plan is not required to be submitted to UK Government for consideration, with the Plan and distribution of funds across projects to be reported through the regular UK Government returns;
- projects will report on the delivery of outputs and outcomes, from which there is a defined list from UK Government;
- Capital allocation is set as a minimum amount, and no maximum limit is set for the amount of revenue that could be changed to capital as required;
- funds can be used to continue support for existing projects, deliver the same types of activity, different types of activity, or a combination of these; and
- Multiply will not continue in 2025/26 as a specific ringfenced programme.

7.1.4 The UK Government has set out a plan for change with five UK-wide themes which map to the 3 UKSPF investment priorities as follows, and all proposed projects were assessed to ensure alignment with relevant priorities:-

PRIORITY - COMMUNITIES and PLACE

1. **Healthy, Safe and Inclusive Communities** – includes improving health and wellbeing, reducing crime and the fear of crime, bringing communities together and tackling homelessness.
2. **Thriving Places** – includes development of the visitor economy, and high streets and town centre improvements.

PRIORITY - SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

3. **Supporting Local Business** - includes advice and support to business, enterprise culture and start-up support, as well as business sites and premises.

PRIORITY - PEOPLE and SKILLS

4. **Employability** - includes supporting people, including those who are economically inactive, to progress towards and into sustained employment and support for young people who are at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment, or Training (NEET).
5. **Skills** – includes essential skills (e.g. numeracy, literacy, English for Speakers of Other Languages, and digital) and employment related skills.

7.2 Highland UKSPF 2025/26 Delivery Plan Development Process

7.2.1 To ensure optimal use is made of the 2025/26 allocation, the approach taken has been to build on the 2022-25 UKSPF Delivery Plan with a mix of new and extended current initiatives based on an assessment of delivery to date and impacts, lessons learned, and prevailing economic development priorities.

7.2.2 The following sets out the process applied for the development of the UKSPF 2025/26 Delivery Plan:-

1. **Identification of opportunities**
Combination of engagement with teams across the Clusters to identify opportunities for investment aligned with UKSPF priorities, and a consideration of 2022-25 UKSPF projects where there was the potential and justification to extend.
2. **Project proposals**
Project proposals were submitted by Lead Officers and collated with key information including project summary, funding requested, and the UKSPF aligned outputs and outcomes to be delivered.
3. **Long list project review**
A long list of proposed projects was produced.
4. **Project assessment and scoring**
The IHCRD/UKSPF Programme Manager and the UKSPF Project Manager assessed and scored all the proposed projects against the following weighted criteria, enabling the projects to be ranked, and so providing the ability to allocate the 2025/26 UKSPF in line with total sums available to Highland.

Criteria	Considerations	Weighting (out of 100)
Deliverability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project readiness and deliverability within the required timescale • Likelihood of UKSPF spend by 31 March 2026, including where part of a larger Match Funding package • Extent to which risks have been considered and mitigated • Extent to which all requirements are in place, e.g. consents, permissions, match funding, recruitment, and procurement 	45
Impact and alignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact that will be achieved in line with the aims of UKSPF • Scale / geographical reach of the Outputs and Outcomes to be delivered • Extent of economic / community development to be delivered by the project in relation to the level of funding requested • Longer term benefit and legacy 	30
Additionality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which the project would proceed without UKSPF and whether there are other potential funding sources 	10
Continuity dependency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which there is a potential dependency on continuation of funding from the 22-25 UKSPF Delivery Plan into 2025/26, in particular where staff are fully funded through UKSPF 	5
Financial leverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which UKSPF helps to leverage other funding 	5
Sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent to which there is a clear exit strategy so that impact/benefit can be delivered without future grant dependency 	5

7.2.3 The proposed 2025/26 Delivery Plan was put to the Senior Leadership Group for their visibility and consideration, with formal approval recommended to 29 May 2025 Economy and Infrastructure Committee.

7.2.4 In line with the governance arrangements for the 2022-25 Delivery Plan, progress of the 2025/26 plan will be reported to the City Region Deal Monitoring Group and the Economy and Infrastructure Committee.

7.3 Highland UKSPF 2025/26 Delivery Plan Overview

7.3.1 The 2025/26 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan is included at **Appendix 4** of this report and lists the interventions under the UKSPF priorities Communities and Places, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills.

7.3.2 The Highland Council will receive a UKSPF allocation for 2025/26 of £3,097,358 which comprises £878,243 Capital and £2,219,116 Revenue, with 4% of the revenue budget (£123,894) required to be allocated to the management of the delivery plan.

The total sum available to spend up to 31 March 2026 is £2,973,465 with a maximum Revenue spend of £2,095,222 though as referred to earlier in the report there is no upper limit to the amount of the allocated Revenue that can be converted to Capital.

In proposing the projects listed at **Appendix 4**, this is based on the order of scoring (highest to lowest) with the cumulative UKSPF funds requested taken up to the limit of the total sum available.

7.3.3 Allocated sums against the proposed projects are summarised in the following table, broken down by UKSPF Priority (Communities and Places, Supporting Local Business, and People and Skills), and reflecting the capital / revenue split:-

UKSPF Priority	Capital £	Revenue £	Total £
Communities and Places	1,550,000	142,000	1,692,000
Supporting Local Business		400,000	400,000
People and Skills	160,800	720,000	880,800
Total	1,710,800	1,262,000	2,972,800

7.3.4 A further consideration is the strategic alignment of proposed investments with the Council's Delivery Plan. From the proposed UKSPF Delivery Plan at **Appendix 4**, the following table summarises the allocated sums where a link has been made to the Council's Delivery Plan in the respective proposals:-

Council Delivery Plan Portfolio	Allocated Sum £
Workforce for the Future	655,000
Reconfiguring our Asset Base	602,000
Income Generation	550,000
Net Zero, Energy Investment and Innovation	435,000
Not Applicable	730,800
Total	2,972,800

7.3.5 The proposed 2025/26 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan at **Appendix 4** comprises a range of projects geared to delivering positive impacts across the Highland Region, building on the successes of the 2022-25 Delivery Plan and introducing new interventions, all aimed at maximising the return on the 2025/26 investment.

Designation: Assistant Chief Executive - Place

Date: 29 April 2025

Authors: Matt Bailey, Programme Manager - IHCRD/UKSPF
Fiona Hepburn, Project Manager - UKSPF

Background Papers: None

Appendices: Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment Summary
Appendix 2 – 2022-25 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan
Appendix 3 – 2022-25 Highland UKSPF Budget Monitoring
Appendix 4 – 2025/26 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan

Appendix 1 – Integrated Impact Assessment Summary

Following on from the 2022-25 UK Shared Prosperity Fund Delivery Plan, the Highland Council has received a 2025/26 allocation of £3,097,358 which comprises £878,243 Capital and £2,219,116 Revenue.

The 2025/26 Delivery Plan comprises a range of projects geared to delivering positive impacts across the Highland Region, building on the successes of the 2022-25 Plan and intruding new interventions across the Priorities of Communities & Places, Supporting Local Business, and People & Skills.

Equality - positive

Age - there are no anticipated negative impacts.

Disability – it is anticipated that the delivery plan will have a positive impact such as through a project that will deliver specialist employment support for people with disabilities and long-term health conditions.

Gender – there are no anticipated negative impacts.

Socio-Economic – positive

The UKSPF 25/26 delivery plan is an investment programme that provides additionality to the Highland Region, such as support for Active Travel, local economies, visitor management, training and skills development.

Human Rights - positive

The proposal is anticipated to have a positive impact on human rights through the range of interventions within the plan such as Active Travel, training, skills development, and employment support.

Children’s Rights and Wellbeing - positive

The proposed plan is anticipated to have a positive impact such as through a project that will deliver intensive support to improve outcomes for young people.

Island and Rural - positive

The proposal should have a positive impact upon rural communities such as through projects that will improve Active Travel provision and visitor management.

Data Rights – no impact

There are no anticipated negative impacts.

Climate Change - positive

The proposal should have a positive impact such as through projects that will improve Active Travel provision.

Appendix 2 - 2022-25 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan

The following table sets out the UKSPF interventions against the respective priorities:-

1 - Communities & Places				
Intervention	Summary/ approach	Budget Allocation		Actions
C&P S1: Place Based Investments, regeneration, and town centre improvements	Funds used to support place-based projects. UKSPF will sit alongside and be managed together with other area-based funds to support projects identified in Area Place Plans.	2022- 23	£83,057 (100% capital)	<p><u>22/23</u> In accord with Feb 2023 report the allocation is being utilised alongside current Community Regeneration Fund programme to fill project funding gaps.</p> <p><u>23/24 & 24/25</u> As above, budget has been incorporated into 23/24 and 24/25 Community Regeneration Fund programme.</p> <p>Challenge Fund was launched in December 23, informed by Area Place Plans and was fully allocated in March 24 giving applicants a year to deliver their projects.</p>
		2023- 24	£125,000 (£75k capital, £50k revenue)	
		2024- 25	£600,000 (£450K capital, £150k revenue)	

C&P S2: Support and improvement of community assets and infrastructure projects	Funds used to support place-based projects. UKSPF will sit alongside and be managed together with other area-based funds to support projects identified in Area Place Plans.	2022 - 23	zero	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> As above, budget has been incorporated into 23/24 and 24/25 Community Regeneration Fund programme. The Challenge fund was fully allocated in March 24 as highlighted in S1 above.
		2023 - 24	£125,000 (100% capital)	
		2024 - 25	£356,442 (100% capital)	
C&P S6: Active travel enhancements and small-scale transport projects	Masterplans / Audits produced for 10 settlements across Highland with wide range of active travel and sustainable transport projects identified. Funds used to support delivery of these.	2022- 23	£83,058 (100% capital)	<u>22/23</u> Work completed on Nairn Active Travel project. <u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Active Travel enhancements across Highland (Section 5.2.2) Funding also provided to expand Community Transport schemes and support school cycle storage.
		2023- 24	£247,230 (£110k capital, £137,230 revenue)	
		2024- 25	£530,000 (£290k capital, £240k revenue)	
C&P S8: Impactful volunteering and/or social projects	Funds used to encourage place-based initiatives to encourage and support volunteering measures.	2022- 23	zero	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Small value funds considered alongside C&P S9 and S10 below and supportive of community regeneration interventions (S1). Sums incorporated into 23/24 and 24/25 Community Regeneration Fund programme, with the Challenge fund complete as highlighted in S1 above.
		2023- 24	£20,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024- 25	£25,000 (100% revenue)	

C&P S9: Investment in capacity building and resilience for local groups	Funds used to encourage place-based initiatives to promote energy efficiency etc measures.	2022 - 23	zero	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Small value funds considered alongside C&P S8 above and S10 below and supportive of community regeneration interventions (S1). Sums incorporated into 23/24 and 24/25 Community Regeneration Fund programme, with the Challenge fund complete as highlighted in S1 above.
		2023 - 24	£20,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£20,000 (100% revenue)	
C&P S10: Community measures to reduce the cost of living	Funds used to encourage place-based initiatives to promote energy efficiency etc measures.	2022 - 23	zero	<u>22/23</u> None <u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Small value funds considered alongside C&P S8 and S9 above and supportive of community regeneration interventions (S1). Sums incorporated into 23/24 and 24/25 Community Regeneration Fund programme. Challenge fund complete as highlighted in S1 above.
		2023 - 24	£20,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£25,000 (100% revenue)	
C&P S11: Relevant feasibility studies	Development of Area Place Plans to set out the vision, ambition and priorities for people and place in a particular area. Will assist with the identification of priority projects and ensure community-based funds are utilised to best use when developing/ delivering projects.	2022 - 23	£150,000 (100% revenue)	<u>22/23</u> Committed to Area Place Plan development across Highland including Fort William Town Centre Masterplan and Skye and Raasay Futures Plan. <u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Balance of funding redirected to most viable interventions across the Delivery Plan Priorities.
		2023 - 24	£18,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	zero	

C&P S12: Digital infrastructure for local community facilities	Funds used to encourage place-based initiatives to put in place/improve digital infrastructure in community assets.	2022 - 23	zero	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Small value for specified purpose considered alongside other Community Regeneration Fund project funding S1 & S2. As no applications were received under this intervention, the balance was redirected to other Community Regeneration Fund interventions.
		2023 - 24	£25,000 (100% capital)	
		2024 - 25	£50,000 (100% capital)	

2 – Supporting Local Business				
Intervention	Summary/ approach	Budgetary & Outcomes		
SLB S14: Development and promotion of the visitor economy	Agreement secured from UK Govt to enable support for major international events to be included in this Intervention as well as support for investment in tourism infrastructure.	2022 - 23	£232,000 (£100k capital, £132k revenue)	<u>22/23</u> Agreed contribution towards the UCI Mountain Bike World Championships in August 23.
		2023 - 24	£50,000 (100% capital)	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Linked to priority projects identified in Council's approved Strategic Tourism Infrastructure Development Plan.
		2024 - 25	£250,000 (£100k capital, £150k revenue)	16 th of November 23 Economy and Infrastructure Committee approved support of up to £100k towards the 2024 Fort William Mountain Bike World Cup Event.
				24/25 plans delivered with Tourism Team to provide community-based infrastructure and service improvements pan Highland (Section 5.3.1) Na Trads annual bi-lingual MG ALBA Scots Traditional Music Awards supported November 2024.
SLB S15 SME development grants and support	A suite of start-up and growth grants linked to expert advice.	2022 – 23	Nil	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Extension of the start-up and growth business grants that up until end 2022/23 funded via Council's Economic Prosperity Fund. Strong interest and use of funds being experienced.
		2023 - 24	£206,730 (£25k capital, £181,730 revenue)	Linked to SLB S20 – expert start-up and growth specialist advisory support.

		2024 - 25	£711,443 (£211k capital, £500,433 revenue)	
SLB S18: Investing in enterprise infrastructure, site development projects	Support business infrastructure / business units.	2022 – 23	Nil	<u>24/25</u> Suitable investment opportunity identified at Ross House, Dingwall to reconfigure the building in line with anticipated local business needs. UKSPF funded works to date.
		2023 - 24	Nil	
		2024 - 25	£200,000 (100% capital)	
SLB S19: Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems	Bring private, third and public sector organisations active in the Highlands supporting businesses together to determine whether opportunities exist to align and co-ordinate effort.	2022 - 23	zero	<u>22/23, 23/24 & 24/25</u> Funds redirected for utilisation within Start Up, Growth & Digital Grants (SLB S15, S20 and S29.)
		2023 - 24	zero	
		2024 - 25	zero	
SLB S20: Expert business advice and support programmes, local and regional	Provide access to specialist advisors to provide additional targeted support – linked and aligned with business development grant support.	2022 - 23	£91,115 (100% revenue)	<u>22/23, 23/24 & 24/25</u> Budget allocation is being used to fund expert start-up and growth specialist advisers and support staff.
		2023 - 24	£175,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£150,000 (£100% revenue)	
		2022 - 23	£5,500	<u>22/23, 23/24, 24/25</u>

SLB S27: Support relevant feasibility studies	Targeted research initiatives will be undertaken to provide robust intelligence as required.		(100% revenue)	Small funds to allow Council and partners to undertake business related feasibility studies. Remaining balance redirected to SLB S15 Business Start Up and Growth Grants to optimise the impact and benefits being derived from this initiative.
		2023 - 24	zero	
		2024 - 25	zero	
SLB S29: Business support aligned with local, regional, and Scottish policy	Support for businesses and organisations to target net-zero, decarbonisation, transition, including digital investment.	2022 - 23	Nil	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Development of method and support to complement implementation in working with Climate Challenge teams, Business Energy Scotland/ Energy Savings Trust by adding value to over-subscribed advisory services supporting business to transition to net-zero. Launch of two projects providing Grant aid for Digital and Energy Efficiency improvements for small and micro businesses (up to 50 employees) has proven extremely successful with almost 200 applications received and most projects now complete.
		2023 - 24	£220,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£395,000 (100% revenue)	

3 - People & Skills Intervention	Summary/ approach	Budgetary & Outcomes		<u>22/23</u> Spend linked to the existing work programme of the Council's Employment team and working in partnership with Highland Employability Partnership (HEP) – as approved by Committee in August 22. <u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Activity and spend linked to the Annual Employment Delivery Plan (presented/ approved by Committee and HEP in May 23) – thereby ensuring that UKSPF aligns with and adds value to other funds secured via Scottish Government. The main aim is to strengthen and support specialist employability services within Highlands.
P&S S31: Employment support for economically inactive people	Intensive and wrap around personalised support to move people closer to mainstream employability support and into employment.	2022 - 23	£66,115 (100% revenue)	
		2023 - 24	£350,000 (£50k capital, £300k revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£636,278 (100k capital, £536k revenue)	
P&S S32: Courses including basic skills for those not economically inactive	Courses/skills provision that is otherwise not available to individuals.	2022 - 23	Nil	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Activity and spend is linked to the Annual Employment Delivery Plan in line with Economy and Infrastructure Committee approval in May 23, thereby ensuring that UKSPF aligns with and adds value to other funds secured via Scottish Government.
		2023 - 24	£50,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£100,000 (100% revenue)	

P&S S35: Employability Programmes and advice – No One Left behind agenda etc	Activity which aligns with and adds value to other activity supported via Scot Govt. No One Left Behind programme.	2022 - 23	Nil	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Activity and spend linked to the Annual Employment Delivery Plan in line with Economy and Infrastructure Committee approval in May 23, thereby ensuring that UKSPF aligns with and adds value to other funds secured via Scottish Government.
		2023 - 24	Nil	
		2024 - 25	£100,000 (100% revenue)	
P&S S36 Local areas to fund local skills needs	Agreement secured from UK Govt to enable support for Science Skills Academy to be included in this Intervention. Support for technical and vocational qualifications and courses that not available via mainstream funding.	2022 - 23	£200,000 (100% revenue)	<u>22/23</u> Utilised funds as contribution towards the one-year extension of Science Skills Academy.
		2023 - 24	£182,230 (£50k capital, £132k revenue)	<u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Challenge Fund issued for Green/ area skills for S36 and S37. Contracts agreed for four projects. Further support provided where applicable to enhance/ add value to existing training delivery.
		2024 - 25	£650,000 (£600k revenue, £50k capital)	Funds used towards Inverness Castle specialist visitor attraction training (Section 6.4.3).
				The 16/11/23 Economy and Infrastructure Committee approved £148.3k allocation to the Science Skills Academy for spend during the first quarter of the 24/25 fiscal year. In line with the 15/02/24 E&I Cttee approval for the reallocation of funds to approved activities within each of the UKSPF priorities, and to enable ongoing delivery of the Academy in the current academic year, an additional £177k allocation was made.

P&S S37: Green Skills courses	Support for courses to secure skilled workforce to support Just Transition to a net zero economy and climate resilience.	2022 - 23	£50,000 (100% revenue)	<u>22/23</u> Established and launched a skills training and facilities scheme for Highland businesses. Close alignment with P&S S36. <u>23/24 & 24/25</u> Continuation and expansion of delivery in 24/25.
		2023 - 24	£50,000 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£170,164 (100% revenue)	

3a - Multiply Sub theme of People & Skills				
Intervention	Summary/ approach	Budgetary & Outcomes		
M S42: Courses designed to increase confidence in numbers	Whole population opportunities to reach out, identify and aid participate in numeracy skills courses.	2022 - 23	£211,063 (100% revenue)	<u>22/23, 23/24, 24/25</u> A standalone programme has been developed to deliver the Multiply Programme. In 22/24 the main spend was contracted with 12 local organisations following a Challenge Fund across the thematics of Multiply. Successful providers supported with additional funding and new providers identified to support M S44. Providers offered short extension to continue delivery. (Section 6.5.1)
		2023 - 24	£243,535 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£243,535 (100% revenue)	
M S43: Courses for parents wanting to increase numeracy skills	Encourage parental and family numeracy skills to aid educational support and fiscal management.	2022 - 23	£141,038 (100% revenue)	As above
		2023 - 24	£162,736 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£162,736 (100% revenue)	
M S44: Courses for prisoners, those recently released or on temporary licence	Targeted activity to ensure wider programmes reach this client cohort	2022 - 23	£14,301 (100% revenue)	As above
		2023 - 24	£16,501 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£16,501 (100% revenue)	

M S45: Courses aimed at encouraging people to upskill to access jobs/careers	Targeted activity linking numeracy programme to specific job opportunities and to those in employment, who need upskilling to progress.	2022 - 23	£28,109 (100% revenue)	As above
		2023 - 24	£32,433 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£32,433 (100% revenue)	
M S47: Innovative programmes delivered with employers	Targeted activity, working with partners and employers to identify, engage and support staff with improved numeracy skills linked to workplace.	2022 - 23	£42,410 (100% revenue)	As above
		2023 - 24	£48,935 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£48,935 (100% revenue)	
M S49: Courses designed to help people use numeracy to manage money	Targeted support to assist people manage debt. Close links to be developed with Advisory Services.	2022 - 23	£28,109 (100% revenue)	As above
		2023 - 24	£32,433 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£32,434 (100% revenue)	

M S51: Provision developed in partnership with community organisations	Targeted support to encourage community organisations to establish local and innovative approaches to reach out, engage and support those with least numeracy skills.	2022 - 23	£28,109 (100% revenue)	As above
		2023 - 24	£32,433 (100% revenue)	
		2024 - 25	£32,434 (100% revenue)	

Appendix 3 - 2022-25 Highland UKSPF Budget Monitoring

The following table sets out the UKSPF budget Monitoring position at the end of Quarter 4 2024/25:

	2022 / 2023 Allocated Funds	2022 / 2023 Final Spend as at 31/3/23	2022 / 2023 Funds Cfwd	2023 / 2024 Allocated Funds	2023 / 2024 Total Available Funds (D+E)	2023 / 2024 Final Spend as at 31/3/24	2023 / 2024 Projected Funds Cfwd	2024 / 2025 Allocated Funds	2024 / 2025 Total Available Funds (H+I)	2024 / 2025 Actual Spend as at 30/06/2025	2024 / 2025 Projected Funds Remaining
Community & Places Revenue Summary	£144,000.00	£8,750.00	£135,250.00	£229,941.00	£365,191.00	£93,566.76	£271,624.24	£489,600.00	£761,224.24	£556,832.97	£204,391.27
Community & Places Capital Summary	£159,470.40	£88,800.00	£70,670.40	£377,000.00	£447,670.40	£149,575.40	£298,095.00	£1,100,584.32	£1,398,679.32	£2,008,648.22	-£609,968.90
Total C&P Revenue & Capital	£303,470.40	£97,550.00	£205,920.40	£606,941.00	£812,861.40	£243,142.16	£569,719.24	£1,590,184.32	£2,159,903.56	£2,565,481.19	-£405,577.63
Supporting Local Businesses Revenue Summary	£207,470.00	£114,041.16	£93,428.84	£814,292.80	£907,721.64	£895,590.43	£12,131.21	£1,099,625.28	£1,111,756.49	£817,615.55	£294,140.94
Supporting Local Businesses Capital Summary	£96,000.00	£0.00	£96,000.00	£72,000.00	£168,000.00	£174,428.00	-£6,428.00	£490,560.00	£484,132.00	£922,313.62	-£438,181.62
Total SLB Revenue & Capital	£303,470.00	£114,041.16	£189,428.84	£886,292.80	£1,075,721.64	£1,070,018.43	£5,703.21	£1,590,185.28	£1,595,888.49	£1,739,929.17	-£144,040.68
People & Skills Revenue Summary	£303,470.40	£0.00	£303,470.40	£187,888.80	£491,359.20	£369,203.38	£122,155.82	£1,446,184.44	£1,568,340.26	£1,082,493.82	£485,846.44
People & Skills Capital Summary	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£139,700.00	£139,700.00	£91,700.00	£48,000.00	£144,000.00	£192,000.00	£62,982.01	£129,017.99
Total P&S Revenue & Capital	£303,470.40	£0.00	£303,470.40	£327,588.80	£631,059.20	£460,903.38	£170,155.82	£1,590,184.44	£1,760,340.26	£1,145,475.83	£614,864.43
Multiply-Interventions Revenue Summary	£493,138.19	£0.00	£493,138.19	£569,007.41	£1,062,145.60	£598,040.58	£464,105.02	£569,007.40	£1,033,112.42	£705,122.27	£327,990.15
Management Fee	£57,686.28	£58,459.36	-£773.08	£98,618.64	£97,845.56	£98,822.05	-£976.49	£221,515.68	£220,539.19	£220,539.19	£0.00
Less 4% Management Fee for Multiply	£1,461,235.27	£270,050.52	£1,191,184.75	£2,488,448.65	£3,679,633.40	£2,470,926.60	£1,208,706.80	£5,561,077.12	£6,769,783.92	£6,376,547.65	£393,236.27
											-£65,246.12
											£327,990.15
	Budget	Spend 2022/24	Spend 2024/25	Underspend							
Total Budget for C&P, SLB & P&S	£7,814,361.92	£2,142,936.54	£5,671,425.38	£0.00							
Total Budget for Multiply	£1,631,153.00	£598,040.58	£705,122.27	£327,990.15							
	£9,445,514.92	£2,740,977.12	£6,376,547.65	£327,990.15							

Appendix 4 – 2025/26 Highland UKSPF Delivery Plan

Project title	Description	UKSPF Funds proposed	UKSPF Investment Priority	THC Delivery Plan Portfolio	THC Area	Capital	Revenue
Storr Phase 2	The project aims to build on the success of the initial development, adding new amenities and services to meet the growing demand. Scope includes additional retail space and opportunities to provide wedding packages at the extended Storr Centre.	£550,000	Community & Places	Income Generation	Skye & Raasay	£550,000	
Active Travel Infrastructure Projects	To improve walking and wheeling access through or to community facilities. Work includes footpath widening and resurfacing and a Highland wide Feasibility Study to identify potential sites for future development of Mobility Hubs and where active/ sustainable travel can improve travel options/ experience.	£435,000	Community & Places	Net zero, energy investment and Innovation	Highland wide	£410,000	£25,000
Events industry challenge fund	To operate an Events Challenge Fund to assist the development of Highland events, and to support the future sustainability and growth of events within Highland. This will be targeted at encouraging new or enhanced events during the shoulder and off seasons (September through to March) and promotion of the Gaelic language and / or Highland culture.	£75,000	Community & Places		Highland wide		£75,000
Aviemore Park & Ride	To undertake concept/feasibility design for a transport hub on land south of Aviemore either side of the current A9/B9152 junction. To look at potential layout and capacity for parking and park and ride infrastructure with potential for vehicle charging etc, likely on a phased basis from starting operation to a maximum capacity.	£12,000	Community & Places	Reconfiguring our asset base	Badenoch and Strathspey		£12,000

Project title	Description	UKSPF Funds proposed	UKSPF Investment Priority	THC Delivery Plan Portfolio	THC Area	Capital	Revenue
Ardvreck Castle	To enhance parking provision at Ardvreck Castle, which includes creating new parking for cars, motorhomes and coaches. The project will extend the existing car park to accommodate around 25 spaces for cars and motorhomes. Several laybys would be formalised and signed and include a dedicated coach only parking area. Path, interpretation & waste improvements are also being considered.	£55,000	Community & Places	Reconfiguring our asset base	North, West and Central Sutherland	£55,000	
Glencoe Village car park	To create a new permanent car park for visitors to the village, providing an improvement to traffic and parking issues.	£95,000	Community & Places	Reconfiguring our asset base	Fort William and Ardnamurchan	£95,000	
Whaligoe Steps car park	To create a new standalone car park to cope with increased tourism traffic pressures and turn the existing car park to resident only parking. The work also includes a review of the site entrance for a potential new access road to divert traffic away from the existing residential houses.	£90,000	Community & Places	Reconfiguring our asset base	Wick and East Caithness	£90,000	
Gaelic conference	1 day conference to evidence the cultural value and impact of Gaelic's economic potential in Business and Employability across The Highlands. The conference is expected to host approx. 100 delegates and stakeholders.	£30,000	Community & Places		Highland wide		£30,000
Inverness campus	To create an artificial sports pitch at Inverness Campus. The site is prepared green field with excellent infrastructure nearby, facilitating a straightforward path to development once planning is secured.	£350,000	Community & Places	Reconfiguring our asset base	Inverness	£350,000	

Project title	Description	UKSPF Funds proposed	UKSPF Investment Priority	THC Delivery Plan Portfolio	THC Area	Capital	Revenue
Business Start-up grants	To provide business start-up grants through Business Gateway. This includes advice and potential financial support to start a new business.	£400,000	Supporting Local Business		Highland wide		£400,000
Specialist Employment Support for People with Disabilities & Long-Term Health conditions	Funding will be invested into a Test and Learn Challenge Fund which supports people with disabilities, long term health conditions and people who are long term unemployed to progress towards and into employment.	£250,000	People & Skills	Workforce for the future	Highland wide		£250,000
Intensive support to improve outcomes for young people	The Project aims to improve attendance and attainment and grow sustained positive destinations. The scope of the project is to design and deliver a mix of targeted and person-centred intensive interventions where required for P7 to S6 school pupils and post-school young people 16-19 years old. Costs are for 9 HC7 FTE Learning Development Workers.	£355,000	People & Skills	Workforce for the future	Inverness		£355,000
Highland Employer Charter digital platform	The Council's Delivery Plan commits the Council to introducing an Employer Charter to help employers grow and succeed through improved employment standards. There is a high dependency between this and many of the other Workforce for the Future portfolio programmes and projects.	£50,000	People & Skills	Workforce for the future	Highland wide		£50,000

Project title	Description	UKSPF Funds proposed	UKSPF Investment Priority	THC Delivery Plan Portfolio	THC Area	Capital	Revenue
UHI - Solar PV and battery storage	To complete the new Renewable Energy Training Hub and increase training provision to include solar PV and battery storage.	£16,800	People & Skills	Net zero, energy investment and Innovation	Inverness	£16,800	
UHI - Enhancing Sustainable Fabrication and Welding Training with Augmented and Virtual Reality,	To enhance fabrication and welding training and scale up delivery using augmented and virtual reality (AR / VR) technology, whilst limiting environmental impact. Costs are for AR welding simulation equipment and training for up to 10 stations.	£144,000	People & Skills	Net zero, energy investment and Innovation	Inverness	£144,000	
UHI - Green Skills Training Fund	To provide training in green skills across a range of disciplines and with a range of certified and accredited training and CPD. Will also support green skills training to be delivered in the new Sustainable Construction Centre that UHI Inverness will open in 2025.	£65,000	People & Skills	Net zero, energy investment and Innovation	Inverness		£65,000
	Totals	£2,972,800				£1,710,800	£1,262,000