

Date: 17 November 2022

Councillor Thomas
Leader
Cardiff Council
County Hall
Cardiff
CF10 4UW



County Hall
Cardiff,
CF10 4UW
Tel: (029) 2087 2087

Neuadd y Sir
Caerdydd,
CF10 4UW
Ffôn: (029) 2087 2088

Public Letter

Dear Councillor Thomas,

SHARED PROSPERITY FUND (SPF)

Members have asked that I pass on their thanks to you, Paul Orders, Louise Bassett, Jon Day and Natalie Southgate for attending the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee on 16 November 2022, for pre-decision scrutiny of the report to Cabinet titled Shared Prosperity Fund Update.

Having explored the suggested spend profile, programme, year one delivery and governance arrangements, Members are content with the recommendations to Cabinet. Members note that Shared Prosperity Funding (SPF) is only one part of the equation for tackling poverty and inequality in Cardiff and are pleased that it is being aligned to other work that the Council and partners are undertaking.

In terms of the various elements explored at the meeting, Members note:

Programme

- Youth Council involved in shaping the draft programme
- Equality Impact Assessments and Child Rights Assessments will be used as part of process for selecting future projects
- There will be communication and engagement with community organisations and stakeholders to shape Year 2 & Year 3 plans
- Members will be able to input local considerations, which can be used to shape future proposals
- Members will be engaged with and consulted about proposed projects in their ward
- Majority of funding is in Year 3, so there is time to design and plan for this.

Year one delivery plan

- Projects need to be able to hit the ground running and achieve in-year spend – therefore, using Council to deliver a lot of Year 1 projects
- Recognise need for flex and in-year movement to ensure spend all monies drawn down
- Conversations are taking place regarding ability to ‘carry over’ monies, as not had monies when expected in October; official line to date has been that not able to carry over monies.

Governance

- There will be a Service Level Agreement and Memorandum of Undertaking between Cardiff Council and the lead authority, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council.

Start-ups

- Year 1 grant for existing early-stage businesses rather than new start-ups
- Not able to use SPF monies for loans for start-ups
- Regional conversations underway re Year 2 and Year 3 spend – focusing on need to replace lost EU structural funds in this area.

15-minute city

- The lens of tackling material poverty and inequality in Cardiff will be used to target populations without access to public transport or alternative modes of transport
- It is acknowledged that improved walking routes are important to enable safe access to facilities within local communities. However, given limited funding, there is a need to scrupulously prioritise schemes.

Transport

- SPF is part of the answer to improving road congestion but the main thrust for tackling this is implementing the Council’s Transport Strategy, which aims to boost modal shift, accessibility and usage of public transport. Conversations are ongoing with Welsh Government regarding funding for this. Further decisions are required on various elements of implementing the Strategy and these will come forward at appropriate junctures.

City centre cleanliness and public realm

- SPF will be used to boost capacity to be able to manage the space, follow up with, for example, utility companies to put right pavements following their work, and capital monies to improve spaces.

Young people

- Need to look at totality of spend across SPF programme. This was shaped by consultation with the Youth Council and focuses spend on areas identified as important to young people, such as safety and cleanliness in city centre. Also, there are projects to boost job creation, which will help young people looking for employment in Cardiff. In addition, there are lines specifically focused on young people, such as pre and post 16 support, Child Friendly City, and Cardiff Commitment.

Race Equality Task Force

- Several proposed SPF projects address issues identified by the Race Equality Task Force, including Into Work projects and Communities projects, but there is a need to ensure the Race Equality Task Force recommendations are embedded across all proposed projects in the SPF.

Critically, Members note we are waiting to hear whether the Regional Investment Plan, submitted in August 2022, is agreed by UK Government and for the amount of SPF monies to be confirmed. Members note the SPF programme is a live and evolving programme and Members were pleased to hear you note the centrality of scrutiny to the process going forward; I am sure this is an area we will look at as part of future work programmes.

This letter does not require a response.

Yours sincerely,



COUNCILLOR PETER WONG
CHAIR, ECONOMY & CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

cc Members of the Economy & Culture Scrutiny Committee
Group Leaders - Cllr Robson, Cllr Taylor
David Hugh Thomas – Chair, Governance & Audit Committee
Paul Orders Louise Bassett Jon Day Natalie Southgate
Rhian Jones Cabinet Support Office
Chris Pyke Tim Gordon Jeremy Rhys