



## 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Members of the Environment, Development and Infrastructure Committee consider the content of this update.

## 3.0 DETAILS

### Background

- 3.1 The overarching aim of the UKSPF is to build pride in place and increase life chances across the UK. This encompasses four levelling up objectives and three investment priorities.

The levelling up objectives are:

Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging;  
Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest;  
Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost; and  
Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.

The three investment priorities are:

Communities and place;  
Supporting local business; and  
People and skills (which includes a ring-fenced allocation for the Multiply programme.)

- 3.2 A detailed summary of the Argyll and Bute allocation is outlined in **Table 1** overleaf complete with the proposed 4% administration fee for overall fund delivery, minimum capital spend per year and the percentages of the allocation by year with the largest allocation for core UKSPF in 2024-25. As noted, due to the delay in the approval of plans across the UK, all unspent allocations for 2022/23 can now be accrued into 2023/24.

<b>Table 1: Argyll and Bute UKSPF Allocation</b>				
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>Total allocation</b>

residents through this UKSPF allocation will help to level up opportunities and growth across with whole of Argyll and Bute.

## 5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Policy - this project aligns with the proposals set the UKSPF [full prospectus](#)
- 5.2 Financial - Argyll and Bute Council has been given an allocation of just under £4.5m from the UKSPF to be spent by the end of March 2025. This is accompanied by £20k of capacity funding to assist in the development and preparation of the investment plan and the ability to use up to 4% of the allocation per annum to fund administration support for the overall delivery of the Argyll and Bute UKSPF Investment Plan.
- 5.3 Legal - all appropriate legal implications will be taken into consideration.
- 5.4 HR - given the revenue nature of this fund, staffing requirements have been built in to deliver the predefined interventions, outputs and outcomes. A staff resource within Economic Growth has been secured and filled (through a competitive interview process) to assist in the administration, monitoring and evaluation the overall delivery of the Argyll and Bute UKSPF Investment Plan.
- 5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty - the Fairer Scotland Duty, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, came into force in April 2018. The duty places a legal responsibility on particular public bodies in Scotland, such as Argyll and Bute Council, to pay due regard to (actively consider) how they can reduce inequalities of outcome, caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making strategic decisions and how this has been implemented.
  - 5.5.1 Equalities - all activities will comply with all Equal Opportunities/Fairer Scotland Duty policies and obligations.
  - 5.5.2 Socio-economic Duty - all activities will be designed to address socio-economic duty.
  - 5.5.3 Islands - interventions under the UKSPF will be delivered across the Argyll and Bute area, including island communities.
- 5.6 Climate Change . there are a number of net zero and climate resilience interventions across all the UKSPF investment priorities.
- 5.7 Risk . if Argyll and Bute UKSPF Investment Plan monies are unable to be spent in full, the money may need to be returned. Key discussions will be undertaken

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