



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Councillor Shona Morrison
President
COSLA

All correspondence c/o
Finance and Public
Administration Committee Clerks
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The Scottish Parliament
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By email:

7 December 2022

Dear Councillor Morrison

In November 2021 COSLA wrote to the Committee regarding the experiences of Local Authorities seeking funding under the Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund and on discussions about the then forthcoming UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The Committee used COSLA's response along with those of individual local authorities and SLAED to inform [our evidence session with the Rt Hon. Michael Gove MP](#), Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in February 2022.

We are now exploring Committee meeting dates with the Secretary of State for a follow up evidence session to be held in early 2023 and again would welcome COSLA's views to inform that evidence session.

We are keen to learn more about local authorities' experiences and views on these funds and, in particular:

Levelling Up Funding

- the approach taken in relation to identifying areas of greater need or priority in round two;
- how successful Scottish local authorities have been in securing round two Levelling Up Funding and how the process for bidding for Levelling Up Funding in round two compares with round one (where relevant)
- the extent to which any funding for successful bids in round one has been released, to what timescales and how confident local authorities are that the projects which have secured funding to date will be achieved within the agreed timescales

- the process for project evaluation, monitoring and subsequent reporting to the UK Government
- what COSLA consider should happen after the 2024-25 deadline for the current Levelling Up Fund.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

- the approach of using lead local authorities to secure funding, the appropriateness of the three key investment priorities the UKSPF will support, and the timescale over which it currently operates (2022-2025)
- the process of agreeing and submitting investment plans and the extent to which any funding has been released
- the appropriateness of and flexibility provided by the UKSPF Interventions, Objectives, Outcomes and Outputs relevant for Scotland
- the adequacy of the administrative expenditure provisions

Multiply

- the approach to measuring progress through the Multiply success measures
- the flexibility of the funding given it is to supplement existing adult numeracy provision

Community Renewal Fund

- the outcomes from any pilots or programmes supported by Community Renewal Funding
- the evaluation of any projects or programmes including any work with the What Works Centre for local economic growth.

More generally we would welcome any views on the extent to which the UK Government's policy approach provided through the Levelling Up Fund, UKSPF and Multiply complements the Scottish Government's priorities and policy approach including the national outcomes in the National Performance Framework.

We would welcome a response from you by no later than **Friday 10 February 2023**. Please do not hesitate to contact Jane Williams, Senior Assistant Clerk to the Committee, should you have any queries or wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee