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**Report to Clackmannanshire Council**

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**Date of Meeting: 25 June 2026**

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**Subject: Local Growth Fund Investment**

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**Report by: Director of Place & Economy**

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**1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. This report provides Council with an update on the UK Government's new Local Growth Fund (LGF) which was published on the 23 March 2026. Its intention is to provide strategic and flexible investment to drive economic growth and more productive regional economies. The UK Government has awarded Forth Valley £9.8m, which comprises the Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Local Authority areas.

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Council:
- 1) Note the introduction of the Local Growth Fund (Scotland), and its focus to support regional growth and opportunities across the Forth Valley from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029;
  - 2) Consider and agree the draft Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Investment Plan;
  - 3) Note that Falkirk and Stirling Councils will also require to approve the draft Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Investment Plan;
  - 4) If Recommendation 2 is approved, and Falkirk and Stirling Councils also approve the Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Investment Plan, note that officers will submit this to the UK Government for approval;
  - 5) Note that governance arrangements for the Local Growth Fund will be brought forward to Council as part of proposals to establish a Regional Partnership in autumn 2026;
  - 6) Note that Falkirk Council will act as Accountable Body for the administration of the Fund.

## **3.0 Considerations**

### **Background**

- 3.1. At the June 2025 Spending Review, the UK Government announced it would provide targeted, long-term local funding to support regional growth and opportunities across Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
- 3.2. The Local Growth Fund (LGF) became operational on 1 April 2026 and provides three-year funding to five regions in Scotland. Funding has been allocated to Regional Partnerships to agree and deliver investment plans in the regional areas of Glasgow City; Edinburgh & South East Scotland; Tay Cities; Ayrshire; and the Forth Valley.
- 3.3. While not specifically replacing it, the LGF follows on from the previous UK Shared Prosperity Fund (2022-2026) which was delivered at a Local Authority level, rather than on a regional basis, and ended on 31 March 2026.
- 3.4. The LGF priorities specific to Scotland as well as the governance and monitoring arrangements are outlined within the 'LGF Scotland Prospectus' (the national level, three-year Investment Plan for Scotland), which was published on 23 March 2026.
- 3.5. Priorities specific to each regional area must be set out, by Regional Partnerships, in a three-year regional Investment Plan, which is required to be submitted to and signed off by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), and the Scotland Office (SO).
- 3.6. The MHCLG and the SO set a deadline of 29 May 2026 to receive the three-year regional Investment Plans from Regional Partnerships in Scotland.
- 3.7. Unlike the other four regions which have been allocated money under the LGF (Scotland), the Forth Valley does not currently possess a formal Regional Partnership structure. Work is on-going between representatives of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils to develop a draft Regional Economic Strategy and associated Regional Partnership structure for consideration. However, this activity will not be concluded in time for the LGF submission.
- 3.8. The MHCLG and the SO recognises this situation and has agreed to receive a draft Forth Valley Investment Plan by 29 May 2026, subject to approval at the meetings of Clackmannanshire Council, Falkirk Council, and Stirling Council on 25 June 2026.
- 3.9. The UK Government requires one lead Local Authority to act as "Accountable Body" on behalf of the Forth Valley partners regarding the administration and delivery of the LGF. Following discussion, it has been agreed by the Chief Executives of the three Forth Valley Local Authorities, that Falkirk Council will undertake the role of Accountable Body for the Forth Valley LGF.
- 3.10. To support the work of, and reduce the resource burden on, the Accountable Body, a proportion of the total allocated funds (suggested at 4% or £131,213 per annum) can be allocated to meet the costs of implementing the regional Investment Plan. This can also include the costs of building regional capabilities and shared services that are used to deliver the LGF programme.

Any such allocation is required to be included and agreed within the three-year Regional Investment Plan. Falkirk Council is currently working through its planned resource requirements, but is clear that this role needs fully supported to not impact on existing Council business.

3.11. Falkirk Council, as Accountable Body will require to agree a Memorandum of Understanding with the Secretary of State for the MCHLG which sets out the terms and conditions along with expectations for appropriate spend of, the £9,840,986 LGF allocation in the Forth Valley from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029.

3.12. The outline payment schedule, for the Forth Valley Local Growth Fund is as follows:

	<b>2026/27</b>	<b>2027/28</b>	<b>2028/29</b>
<b>Revenue Funding</b>	£1,114,911	£1,088,617	£775,276
<b>Capital Funding</b>	£2,550,588	£2,386,935	£1,924,660
<b>Total Funding</b>	<u>£3,665,499</u>	<u>£3,475,552</u>	<u>£2,699,935</u>

3.13. The LGF Scotland Prospectus was published on 23 March 2026 and outlines the Fund's priorities specific to Scotland.

3.14. Recognising that Scotland possesses significant economic potential, the Prospectus acknowledges that over the last decade Scotland's economy and people's living standards have underperformed compared to the UK as a whole and inequality in wealth and opportunity exists between local areas.

3.15. The LGF in Scotland, is intended to help address such inequality to help build a fairer more productive society. To do this, local leaders are empowered to maximise the opportunities of their regional strengths and address the specific barriers holding their communities back.

3.16. The LGF is designed to provide strategic, flexible investment allowing regional partners to work together and design targeted three-year Investment Plans around the following three interconnected priorities:

- enabling local growth infrastructure;
- supporting local businesses to innovate and grow, and
- delivering the skills and employment support required for the industries of the future.

3.17. The package of supporting documentation received by Officers on 23 March 2026 included a spreadsheet containing a series of outputs and outcomes for the programme aligned to the three interconnected priorities detailed above. The full list is provided as Appendix 1.

3.18. The draft Forth Valley Investment Plan (included as Appendix 2) is based on an engagement process with key internal and external partners, outlined at section 4 of this report. The Investment Plan outlines initial regional project proposals including:

### 3.18.1 Enabling Local Growth Infrastructure

- Regional Housing Enablement Fund (Capital); and
- Regional Infrastructure Enablement Fund (Capital)

### 3.18.2 Business Support

- Increasing Business Adviser Support across the Forth Valley (Revenue);
- Regional Expert Help Programme (Revenue); and
- Business Support Grants (Capital)

### 3.18.3 Skills and Employment Support

- Supporting Year 1 transition of previous UKSPF programmes and setting up new regional skills and education programme – 6 posts across Forth Valley (revenue);
- New (regional) workforce development role plus training fund for employers for staff development; and

3.19. Appendix 3 contains the financial forecast.

### **Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Decision Making**

3.20. In the absence of a formal Regional Partnership the Forth Valley local authorities require a collective decision-making structure to be established. The purpose of the decision-making structure will be to:

- monitor delivery of the LGF;
- act as a key contact for UK Government, and
- to provide decisions on behalf of the region specifically related to LGF.

3.21 It is proposed that the Chief Executive works with Chief Executives in Falkirk and Stirling Councils, as well as the main political group leaders in Clackmannanshire, to determine a Forth Valley wide decision-making structure to oversee the implementation of the LGF. Governance arrangements for the LGF will then be brought forward to Council as part of proposals to establish a Regional Partnership in Autumn 2026.

### **Consultation & Engagement**

3.22 The deadline for submission of the Forth Valley Regional Investment Plan was Friday 29 May 2026, which is in line with the deadline across Scotland. Guidance and background supporting material for LGF were issued to Officers in all three Forth Valley local authorities on Monday 23 March 2026.

3.23 The draft Investment Plan has been submitted as a placeholder with the UK Government, in line with the stated deadline.

3.24 There is a challenging timescale to engage upon and agree the Regional LGF Investment Plan. To meet this, Officers across all three Forth Valley Councils agreed and completed an accelerated programme of engagement with external and internal partners on proposed projects for inclusion within the draft Forth Valley Investment Plan.

- 3.25 The Clackmannanshire Business Support Partnership meeting of 25 March 2026 was refocussed to allow a platform for regional consultation with 25 external business support, tourism, skills and employability stakeholders, representing 16 organisations, via a workshop format. The session provided valuable insights and ideas for potential projects for consideration in the draft Investment Plan with attendance from 25 individuals representing 16 organisations.
- 3.26 Two further sessions for specialist Officers within Housing, Roads, Transport and Planning departments across the three Councils were also arranged. The first on 23 April 2026, allowed for information sharing to contextualise LGF for colleagues. Informal discussions followed, before a second session was hosted by Falkirk Council for discussion of project ideas on the 5 May 2026.
- 3.27 There has been ongoing engagement between Forth Valley Council Officers and representatives of MHCLG and the SO to ensure adherence to the LGF Prospectus.
- 3.28 The outcome of the consultation and engagement is the draft Investment Plan (included as Appendix 2). This is a high-level document outlining the project proposals for the Forth Valley to be supported by LGF investment.

#### **4.0 Sustainability Implications**

4.1

#### **5.0 Resource Implications**

5.1 *Financial Details*

5.2 The full financial implications of the recommendations are set out in the report. This includes a reference to full life cycle costs where appropriate. Yes

5.3 Finance have been consulted and have agreed the financial implications as set out in the report. Yes

5.4 *Staffing*

#### **6.0 Exempt Reports**

6.1 Is this report exempt? Yes  (please detail the reasons for exemption below) No

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

### (1) Our Priorities

Clackmannanshire will be attractive to businesses & people and ensure fair opportunities for all

Our families; children and young people will have the best possible start in life

Women and girls will be confident and aspirational, and achieve their full potential

Our communities will be resilient and empowered so that they can thrive and flourish

### (2) Council Policies

Complies with relevant Council Policies

## 8.0 Impact Assessments

8.1 Have you attached the combined equalities impact assessment to ensure compliance with the public sector equality duty and fairer Scotland duty? (All EFSIAs also require to be published on the Council's website)

Yes

8.2 If an impact assessment has not been undertaken you should explain why:

N/A

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 It has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

Appendix 1 – Local Growth Fund (LGF) (Scotland) Outputs and Outcomes  
Appendix 2 – Forth Valley Three Year LGF Investment Plan Narrative  
Appendix 3 – LGF Financial Forecast

## 11.0 Background Papers

11.1 Have you used other documents to compile your report? (All documents must be kept available by the author for public inspection for four years from the date of meeting at which the report is considered)


Yes  (please list the documents below) No

- Local Growth Fund (Scotland) Prospectus - Local Growth Fund (Scotland) Prospectus - GOV.UK

### Author(s)

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### Approved by

NAME	DESIGNATION	SIGNATURE
Kevin Wells	Strategic Director Economy and Place	



# Local Growth Fund (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) Output and Outcome Indicator Lists

## Introduction

As explained in the Local Growth Fund (Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (SWNI)) Technical Note, accountable fund leads are asked to collect data on relevant Local Growth Fund metrics to share progress with the UK Government against their Investment Plan. This document is the consolidated list of UK Government outputs and outcomes and definitions, which will be used by each fund lead for this purpose.

Note: there is no requirement to report against all of the output and outcome indicators listed - only those identified as relevant to the activities undertaken by each accountable fund lead. Each accountable fund lead may also identify additional and place-specific indicators, and delivery partners or applicants should refer to the relevant accountable fund lead and associated national documents for full details.

## Purpose of this document

The purpose of this document is to provide further detail on the consolidated UK Government output and outcome indicators which can be used as a measure of Local Growth Fund progress.

For each of the indicators, the following information is provided:

- The indicator code
- The indicator name
- The unit of measurement
- The definition of the indicator

**Please note:** This is a reference document only, and should not be used to share progress with your accountable fund lead or the UK Government.

## Navigation

Please use the links below to navigate to the relevant indicator lists:

[LGF SWNI Output Indicators](#)

[LGF SWNI Outcome Indicators](#)

Output Code	Output Indicator for Reporting	Unit of Measurement	Definition
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Infrastructure development</b>			
OP1	Amount of commercial space completed/improved	Square metres (m2)	<p>The total square metreage of new commercial floorspace completed or improved. Commercial space includes, but is not limited to: retail, hospitality, office and industrial space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A retail space means a fixed location for the display or retail sale of goods or services. Examples include, but are not limited to: supermarkets, shops selling clothing, electronics, furniture, books, etc.</li> <li>• A hospitality space means a space whose primary purpose is for accommodation or food service. Examples include, but are not limited to: restaurants, cafes, pubs, bars, catering, hotels, campsites and other accommodation.</li> <li>• Office space means a fixed location where the primary activities are concerned with financial services, professional services (other than health or medical services), or any other appropriate services in a commercial, business or service locality.</li> <li>• Industrial space means space used for industrial processes, storage or distribution.</li> <li>• Other commercial space means non-public or community spaces that do not fall into the categories above.</li> <li>• Completed means physical completion of the facilities and space is ready for occupancy immediately. A building should be classified as complete once it is on the non-domestic rating list.</li> <li>• Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</li> </ul>
OP2	Amount of land unlocked for development	Square metres (m2)	<p>The total area of land made available for development by project intervention. This includes remediation to bring land damaged by industrial or other development back into beneficial use, as well as clearing disused sites, and provision of enabling infrastructure such as transport links to make land investable.</p>
OP3	Number of additional premises with or covered by improved digital connectivity	Number of premises	<p>The number of additional commercial units with Broadband Access of at Least 1Gbps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial units means buildings or spaces used for business purposes, Examples include but are not limited to: offices, retail spaces, warehouses, and other non-residential sites.</li> <li>• Additional indicates that the commercial units are newly connected to broadband access during the reporting period. It does not include units that already had broadband access prior to this period.</li> <li>• Broadband is a high-speed internet connection that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access.</li> <li>• Access means the availability of broadband service to the commercial unit, meaning the infrastructure is in place and the service can be used by the business.</li> <li>• 1Gbps (Gigabit per second): A data transfer rate of at least 1 gigabit per second, which is equivalent to 1,000 megabits per second (Mbps).</li> </ul>
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Transport and mobility</b>			
OP4	Total length of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths	Length in kilometres (km)	<p>The km of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New means a cycle way or foot path has been built where it previously did not exist. Constructing cycle ways on existing roads counts as new cycle ways.</li> <li>• Improved means the capacity or quality of the cycle way or foot path (including beautification and illumination) was improved. This excludes routine maintenance of cycle ways or foot paths.</li> <li>• Completed means the cycle way or foot path is fully operational and open to the public, and all planned improvements have been fully implemented and operationalised.</li> </ul>
OP5	Number of new and/or improved public transport routes	Length in kilometres (km)	<p>Number of New Public Transport Routes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Routes: These refer to public transport routes that have been established and started operation during the reporting period. This includes bus routes, train lines, tram lines, and other forms of public transportation.</li> <li>• Improved Routes: These refer to existing public transport routes that have undergone significant enhancements during the reporting period. Improvements can include increased frequency of service or new services along existing routes, extended operating hours, upgraded vehicles, improved accessibility, or other enhancements that improve the quality and efficiency of the service.</li> <li>• Both new and improved routes can include new transport nodes, such as new bus, train, or tram stations.</li> <li>• Public Transport: This includes all forms of transportation that are available for use by the general public, typically operated on a scheduled basis and charging set fares. Examples include buses, trains, trams, subways, and ferries.</li> </ul>
OP6	Total length of new/improved road	Length in kilometres (km)	<p>The length of new or improved roads completed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New means the road has been built where it previously did not exist.</li> <li>• Improved means the capacity or quality of the road (including beautification and illumination) was improved. This excludes routine road maintenance such as resurfacing, but can include new or improved safer junctions.</li> <li>• Completed means the road is fully operational and open to the public, and all planned improvements have been fully implemented and operationalised.</li> </ul>
<b>Support for business</b>			
OP7	Number of enterprises receiving grants	Number of enterprises	<p>Number of enterprises that have received grants.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.</li> <li>• Grant means a cash payment by the project that is not repaid.</li> </ul>

Output Code	Output Indicator for Reporting	Unit of Measurement	Definition
OP8	Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises having received financial support other than grants. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.</li> <li>Non-grant financial support means loans, risk finance, financial investment from the project that is repayable or confers equity in the enterprise.</li> </ul>
OP9	Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises that have received non-financial support with the intention of improving performance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity</li> <li>Non-financial support means business advice, guidance, mentoring and training. This must involve some form of direct interaction with members of the enterprises, in other words it cannot be broadcasted advice.</li> <li>Improved performance means reductions in costs or increases in turnover/profit.</li> <li>Support may be ongoing.</li> </ul>
OP10	Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready	Number of individuals	Number of entrepreneurs having been assisted to be enterprise ready. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entrepreneurs mean individuals aged 16 and over currently in employment, unemployed or economically inactive with an interest in exploring creating their own business.</li> <li>Assistance means business advice, guidance, mentoring and training. This must involve some form of direct interaction with members of the entrepreneurs, in other words it cannot be broadcasted advice.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills and employment support for growth - Skills and education</b>			
OP11	Number of people supported to participate in education	Number of people	People who have received support to engage in education (lifelong learning, formal education) or training activities (off-the-job/in-the-job training, vocational training, etc.).  Education or training is a structured and agreed programme of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lifelong learning</li> <li>Formal education</li> <li>Educational and/or vocational training activities (this may include on the job and/or off the job vocational training or a combination of the approaches listed).</li> </ul> Statutory education is not supportable. Mandatory training (e.g. job-search related / CV writing) and other non-vocational / non-educational support such as confidence building, life-skills and personal effectiveness support also cannot be considered as education or vocational training in this context (even though such activities may, of course, be useful and important support measures).
OP12	Number of people receiving support to gain employment	Number of people	Number of people not in employment supported to improve their skills, confidence, qualifications or to address other barriers to them gaining employment. People may be economically inactive, unemployed or meet neither of these standard definitions.  People in employment are people aged 16 and over who do one hour or more of paid work per week, or are temporarily away from work (e.g. because are temporarily sick or on holiday or taking maternity, paternity or adoption leave).
OP13	Number of courses developed in collaboration with employers	Number of courses	The number of courses developed in collaboration with employers. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employers mean any business, organisation, governmental department or non-profit organisation that can employ an individual.</li> <li>Courses include but are not limited to lifelong learning; formal education; educational and/or vocational training activities.</li> </ul>

Outcome Code	Outcome Indicator for Reporting	Unit of Measurement	Definition
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Infrastructure development</b>			
OC1	Number of vacant units filled	Number of units	The number of residential or commercial units filled in the current reporting period as a result of support e.g. in the April to September reporting period report the number of units filled between 1 April and 30 September. A unit may be counted again if it is filled, becomes vacant, and is filled again in another reporting period.
OC2	Number of new or improved residential units	Number of units	Number of New and Improved Residential Units <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Residential Units means buildings or spaces used for living purposes, such as houses, flats, and other dwellings, that have been newly constructed and became available for occupancy during the reporting period.</li> <li>• Improved Residential Units means existing residential units that have undergone significant enhancements during the reporting period. Improvements can include structural renovations, energy efficiency upgrades, accessibility modifications, or other substantial upgrades that improve the quality and liveability of the units.</li> <li>• Residential Units means buildings or spaces used for living purposes, such as houses, flats and other dwellings.</li> </ul>
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Transport and mobility</b>			
OC3	Increased use of cycleways or foot paths	Number of additional users	The increase in number of cyclists or pedestrians over a set period of time (e.g. weekly flow) along the specified length of cycleway or foot path that has been created or improved. Reporting will also facilitate the option to report a decrease metric.
OC4	Number of additional public transport trips on new/improved routes	Number of additional trips	The number of additional public transport trips on new/improved routes in the current reporting period e.g. in the April to September reporting period report the number of additional trips between 1 April and 30 September. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Routes: These refer to public transport routes that have been established and started operation during the reporting period. This includes bus routes, train lines, tram lines, and other forms of public transportation.</li> <li>• Improved Routes: These refer to existing public transport routes that have undergone significant enhancements during the reporting period. Improvements can include increased frequency of service or new services along existing routes, extended operating hours, upgraded vehicles, improved accessibility, or other enhancements that improve the quality and efficiency of the service.</li> <li>• Both new and improved routes can include new transport nodes, such as new bus, train, or tram stations.</li> <li>• Public Transport: This includes all forms of transportation that are available for use by the general public, typically operated on a scheduled basis and charging set fares. Examples include buses, trains, trams, subways, and ferries.</li> </ul>
<b>Support for business</b>			
<b>Support for business - business support and local investment funds</b>			
OC5	Number of full-time (FTE) equivalent permanent jobs created / Jobs created as a result of support	Number of jobs / Number of Full time equivalent (FTE)	The number of new, permanent, paid, full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created following support. This includes both part-time and full-time jobs, which should be recorded relative to full-time equivalent (FTE), for example reporting 0.5 for a job at half of the standard full-time hours. FTE should be based on the standard full-time hours of the employer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New means it should not have existed with that employer before the intervention.</li> <li>• Created jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g. construction).</li> <li>• Permanent means it should have an intended life expectancy of at least 12 months from the point at which it is created.</li> <li>• Only count each individual FTE or job once through the lifetime of a project (i.e. it should not be counted every year)</li> <li>• FTE is a measure of an employees scheduled hours in relation to an employers hours for a full time workweek</li> </ul>
OC6	Number of new enterprises created as a result of support	Number of enterprises	A new enterprise is one which has been registered at Companies House or HMRC as a result of the support provided. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.</li> </ul>
OC7	Number of enterprises introducing new or improved products or services	Number of enterprises	The number of enterprises introducing a new product or service. Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity. A product or service is new if the enterprise has not previously made this product or service available to the market before. Support must be for an enterprise to introduce one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Product - when it is either at pre-launch or launched to the market</li> <li>• Service - when it has been introduced to the market</li> </ul>
OC8	Number of enterprises with improved productivity	Number of enterprises	Number of enterprises with improved productivity within six months. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.</li> <li>• Productivity refers to the gross value added per hour worked or gross value added per worker.</li> </ul>

Outcome Code	Outcome Indicator for Reporting	Unit of Measurement	Definition
OC9	Number of enterprises engaged in new markets	Number of enterprises	<p>Number of enterprises engaged in new markets following support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enterprise means a sole trader, micro business, small and medium-sized enterprise, or large business. It also includes social enterprises where these engage in economic activity.</li> <li>Engaged means they have launched a product or service into a new domestic or overseas market, or have undertaken research or attended conferences or events to prepare a launch into a new market.</li> <li>New market refers to a market the business has not previously engaged with, whether regional, national, or international.</li> </ul>
<b>Support for business - Research &amp; development</b>			
OC10	Number of new to market products	Number of products	<p>A product is new to the market if there is no other product available on a market that offers the same functionality, or the design or technology that the new product uses is fundamentally different from the design or technology of already existing products. Products can be tangible or intangible (incl. services and processes).</p> <p>Support must be for a business to introduce one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Product - when it is either at pre-launch or launched to the market</li> <li>Service - when it has been introduced to the market</li> </ul>
OC11	Number of organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity following support	Number of organisations	<p>This focuses on collaborations which are about transferring good ideas, research results and skills between the knowledge base and businesses to enable innovative new products and services to be developed and includes but is not exclusively limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research collaborations.</li> <li>Free dissemination of research.</li> <li>Joint and long-term development of new business or services.</li> <li>Formation of joint ventures and spin-out companies.</li> </ul>
<b>Skills and employment support for growth - Skills and education</b>			
OC12	Number of people gaining a qualification	Number of people	Number of people who have received support to gain a qualification
OC13	Number of people in employment, including self-employment, following support	Number of people	<p>The number of people who were previously unemployed or economically inactive, who have received support, and who have been in employment, including self-employment, for at least a 2 week of a four week period following that support. This includes those moving into the "Working with requirements" or the "Working enough i.e. no working requirements" regimes on Universal Credit system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unemployed individuals, as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are those: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without a job, have been actively seeking work in the past four weeks, and are available to start in the next two weeks.</li> <li>Out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.</li> <li>Economically inactive people are those not in work and not actively seeking work.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

To secure the release of your LGF allocation for Year 1 (FY 2026/27), you are required to submit your 3-Year Investment Plan to the UK Government (Scotland Office and MHCLG) by **29th May 2026**.

Your Investment Plan submission should at minimum consist of a response to the Narrative Commission, the 3-Year Financial Forecast Spreadsheet, 3-year Outputs and Outcomes Indicators Forecast, and Indicative Year 1 Project-Level Information.

Scotland Office is available to support you throughout this development phase. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding the Prospectus or this commission.

Scotland Office and MHCLG will together review your Investment Plan, prior to the release of Year 1 funding this summer.

**LGF Regional Investment Plan - summary for communications purposes (up to 100 words)**

Forth Valley aims to create Scotland's most inclusive, productive and sustainable economy. The area boasts a strategic location, diverse growth sectors and major investment programmes, but faces challenges including low productivity, inequality and industrial transition. The LGF will support a phased shift from local to regional delivery through the development of anchor activities.

From Year 1 - joint planning around growth infrastructure enablement with a focus upon Housing, Active Travel, Business Grants and Commercial property facilitates a regional focus for delivery and benefit realisation through years 2 and 3 and beyond. Year 1 will also see a regional alignment of skills and employability, business support, and Community Wealth Building to drive inclusive growth, improve connectivity and deliver long-term economic transformation.

**Summary of economic priorities for the region - including key strengths/opportunities, challenges, and alignment to LGF objectives, UK Industrial Strategy, and relevant SG policies such as NSET, (up to c. 500 words)**

The Forth Valley Local Authorities are in the process of drafting a Regional Economic Strategy that will set out an ambition for the region to become Scotland's most inclusive, productive, and sustainable economy. This ambition is underpinned by strong collaboration between Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling and a clear alignment with national economic priorities.

Forth Valley has significant existing strengths, including its central location, strong transport networks, and the presence of nationally significant and diverse business base spanning sectors such as advanced manufacturing, life sciences, digital and creative industries, food and drink, tourism, and logistics, which have strong growth potential.

Major investment programmes, including the Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth Deal, the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal and the Forth Green Freeport, create a substantial pipeline for inward investment, job creation, and economic transformation.

The region also benefits from a strong innovation and skills ecosystem which is overseen by a Forth Valley Regional Skills Partnership which involves Skills Development Scotland, the University of Stirling, Forth Valley College, all Forth Valley local authorities, the third sector, Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce, Developing the Young Workforce, and the Scottish Funding Council. Collectively, the partnership works towards a [Forth Valley Regional Skills Action Plan](#) which supports the transition of key sectors towards higher-value and lower-carbon activities. The region's natural, cultural and heritage assets further strengthen its visitor economy, which continues to grow and diversify.

Despite these strengths, Forth Valley has a series of structural challenges. These include relatively low productivity, weaker innovation and export performance, and the need to transition from carbon-intensive industries. The future of traditional manufacturing, particularly at Grangemouth, requires large-scale investment, technological change, and workforce reskilling. Connectivity, housing, and transport gaps, especially within rural areas, alongside digital exclusion and labour market pressures, present additional barriers to inclusive growth. Persistent inequalities between communities further reinforce the need for targeted intervention.

Through the Local Growth Fund there is an opportunity to address these challenges through a Community Wealth Building approach, which seeks to ensure that economic benefits are retained and shared locally through measures such as fair work, progressive procurement, local supply chains and increased local ownership, which can create a more inclusive and resilient regional economy. This approach will focus the attention of all LGF funded activity upon the objective of improving real disposal household income for Forth Valley residents, particularly in the areas of greatest identified need.

These priorities align closely with wider UK and Scottish policy frameworks. The shared regional emphasis upon place-based investment, infrastructure and partnership working will present agglomeration benefits, address skills gaps and encourage greater investment to support the objective of stimulating economic growth in the Forth Valley.

The focus on innovation, clean growth and high-value sectors reflects the UK Industrial Strategy, while the structure of the Forth Valley's priorities aligns directly with Scotland's National Strategy for Economic Transformation, particularly its focus on people, place, and productivity. Community Wealth Building also reflects Scotland's legislative direction through the Community Wealth Building Act.

Overall, Forth Valley is a region of national significance, with the assets, partnerships and strategic focus required to deliver long-term inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

**Descriptive summary of what LGF will be used for in the region. This should explain any transition from locally delivered activity in year 1, to regionally delivered activities in year 2 and 3. (up to c.750 words)**

To support the development of Forth Valley's LGF Investment Plan, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils held 3 consultation events with national and local business support organisations and intermediaries, the third sector, skills and education providers as well as each local authority's employability services, the Department for Work and Pensions, Business Improvement Districts, as well as each local authority's roads, active travel, public transport and housing departments. Through the consultation events, feedback was sought on which outputs and outcomes should be prioritised, how spend should be apportioned and what initiatives, projects, or programmes could use LGF funding. As a result of this approach, a range of high-level priorities were identified.

The Local Growth Fund (LGF) in Forth Valley will be used to support a phased transition from predominantly locally delivered economic interventions towards a more coordinated, regionally delivered model that supplements any existing employability, business support and capital project programmes. This approach reflects both the need to maintain continuity of essential services in the short term and the opportunity to scale impact through regional collaboration over the medium term.

**Year 1: Transition and Continuity**

In Year 1, LGF will help to sustain and stabilise existing locally delivered interventions while laying the groundwork for future regional integration. Year 1 projects have, however, been selected due to their potential alignment with delivering LGF objectives.

Historically, programmes supported through the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and subsequently UK Shared Prosperity Fund, have underpinned a range of employability, skills and advice services across the three local authority areas. These have included targeted employability pathways, money and debt advice services, and support for individuals facing barriers to work. LGF will be used to supplement and extend these activities locally, ensuring that provision is not lost during the transition period but which will also support a targeted approach to addressing skills, education and employability barriers to assist with improving real disposable household income.

At the same time, partners will seek to better reflect employer demand, particularly in key sectors such as advanced manufacturing, tourism, life sciences and digital. This work will include mapping provision, aligning delivery models, and co-designing services with employers to support a shift towards demand-led skills development, thereby supporting our local business base address skills shortages which will help to kick start the regional economy.

In addition, LGF capital funding will be used to support businesses and social enterprises to grow through grant funding targeted at business expansion, job creation as well as improving productivity and innovation. Support will also be

established to supplement existing Business Gateway and Expert Help services, as well as sector-specific support, which will provide in-kind and specialist expert advice to support companies to grow across a range of topics such as marketing, HR, exporting, business/trade development, digitisation/IT, raising finance, and business strategy.

LGF capital funding will also support preparatory work for housing enablement to undertake early-stage work to bring vacant or stalled housing sites back into productive use within the 3-year fund programme. This will support improved access to local affordable homes. The three local authority housing services have identified initial priority sites for this purpose that will be taken forward subject to approval of the Investment Plan.

Further project feasibility work will also be progressed to identify priority interventions with a focus upon active travel improvements to address provision or constraints related to access to employment and other public services. Again, the three local authorities have identified initial priority routes that will connect the three areas, create regional-scale impact and build upon previous investment through the Stirling and Clackmannanshire City Region Deal and the Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth Deal, and other investment programmes.

Further, issues have been identified with respect to the supply of commercial property in the region and capital funding is intended to be used to establish a fund to support opportunities where they are identified by the three local authorities.

### **Years 2 and 3: Regionalisation and Scale**

From Year 2 onwards, the focus will shift towards regional delivery, reflecting the growing maturity in delivery of LGF and the need to maximise impact through scale, coordination and strategic alignment. A key priority will be the implementation of a regional employability and skills programme, building on the development work undertaken in Year 1. This programme will be explicitly aligned to employer needs and sectoral priorities, ensuring that skills provision supports growth sectors and the transition to net zero. The regional approach will enable more consistent delivery, better progression pathways, and improved outcomes for individuals and businesses.

Similarly, Expert Help and sector-specific business support services will transition to a regional model, enabling a more coherent and visible offer across Forth Valley. This will allow for prioritisation of support towards key sectors and growth opportunities, while also improving efficiency and reducing duplication. Workforce development will be embedded within this regional offer to support both business growth and Fair Work objectives.

Capital and place-based interventions will increasingly align with regional priorities. Housing enablement activity will similarly benefit from regional coordination, helping unlock strategic sites and support inclusive growth across the region.

Investment in transport, active travel and public transport will also take on a more regional dimension, informed by shared priorities around connectivity, access to

employment, and the transition to net zero. This aligns with the regions emphasis on improving both internal and external connectivity as a driver of productivity and inclusion.

### Overall Approach

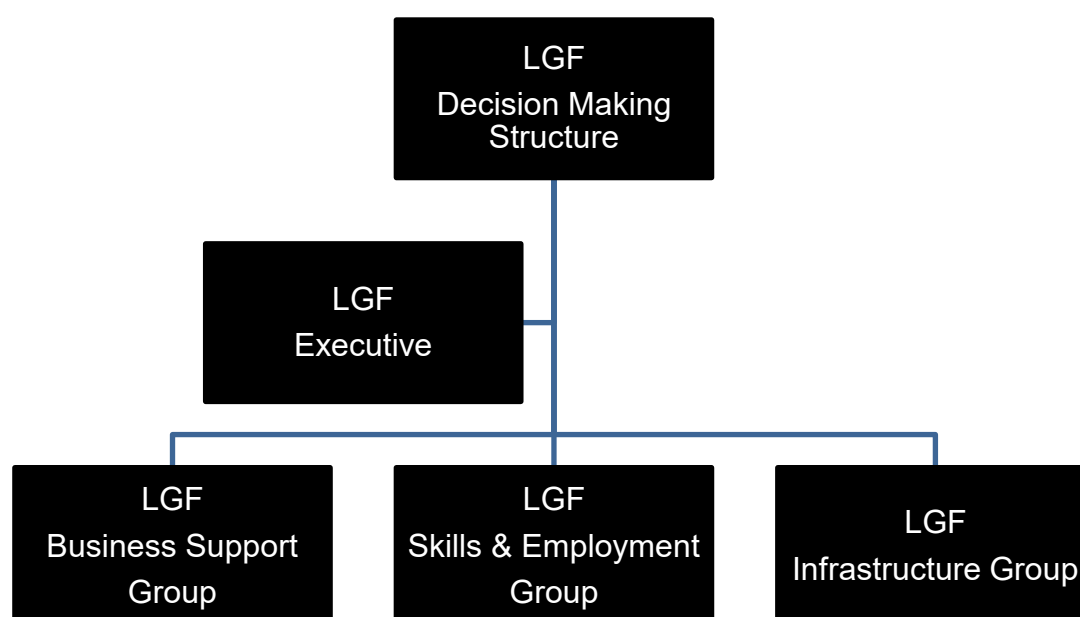
Across the three years, LGF will act as a catalyst for shifting from fragmented local delivery to a more strategic, regionally coordinated model. Year 1 ensures continuity and builds the foundation, while Years 2 and 3 focus on integration, scale and alignment with economic priorities. This phased approach supports both immediate needs and long-term transformation, ensuring that investment delivers sustainable, inclusive and productivity-enhancing growth across Forth Valley.

### Summary of delivery model including how projects will be selected and approach to procurement (up to c.500 words)

As Forth Valley does not currently have a regional partnership or regional programme management office it is proposed a new regional structure for the Local Growth Fund will need to be implemented. The structure outlined in Table 1 provides for political decision making that would involve representation of elected members from all three local authorities as a minimum. While this structure will require to be developed over the summer and then approved by the three local authorities no earlier than September 2026, it is expected that this structure will also include representation from local business support agencies, further and higher education establishments, local business representation, health and the third sector.

An LGF Executive Group would see project proposals reviewed by senior staff and would also encompass representation from all three local authorities. Building upon best practice developed through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a series of topic groups would be set up to progress the details around each high-level theme in LGF:

**Table 1: Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Delivery Structure**



In terms of procurement, as Falkirk Council is the Lead Local Authority (LLA) for Forth Valley, all commissions will follow Falkirk Council's established public procurement processes unless Falkirk Council chose to delegate the procurement of any deliverables to other Forth Valley partners or providers. In this case, Falkirk Council as the LLA, will ensure that any procurement undertaken by a Contracting Authority using LGF funds complies with public procurement rules.

As part of administering the LGF, ongoing monitoring and evaluation would be undertaken of any commissions and any sub-contracting would require providers to adopt a similar process to public procurement to ensure best value is adhered to.

Given there is no regional structure or resource allocation at this time, Falkirk Council as LLA will require appropriate resource in place to deliver the LLA role and manage the additional regional engagement.

Falkirk Council has, in consultation with colleagues at Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils, considered the resource implications of Falkirk Council assuming the LLA role. It is recognised that alongside other regional and large-scale investment programmes, Council services are under increasing pressure which carries the risk of impacting upon Falkirk Council delivery. The mitigation for this is to ensure the following annual resources are established from the LGF allocation:

- Programme Manager (suggested J Grade) - £65,000
- Finance Support Role (suggested J Grade) – £65,000
- Monitoring & Evaluation Costs - £14,000
- Audit Costs – £20,000
- Legal Costs –£20,000
- Total = £184,000

The above figures are an estimate only at this stage as the final requirements are being refined by officers.

Given the year 1 commencement and recruitment lead-in times, the year 1 admin resource is estimated to be £112,000. Given a perceived reduction in legal cost requirements by year 3, the admin cost for year 3 is estimated to be £164,000.

It is noted that the total admin cost projected is 4.67%, and slightly above the recommended level of 4%. However, given the position of Forth Valley with no existing regional structure nor staffing resource to manage LGF, consideration is requested to be given to this request.

**Explanation of if/how LGF will be used to support the development of regional capabilities/capacity - such as shared services, regional intelligence hubs etc. including how these will be sustainable beyond the end of the LGF (up to c. 500 words)**

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025 the Scottish Government announced that funding would be provided to regional economic partnerships in order to build capacity for regional working. With agreement from all local authorities within Forth Valley,

Stirling Council agreed to operate as the accountable body and was successful in obtaining £50,000 of funding. Funding was awarded to explore opportunities for greater regional working or to set up or formalise regional governance structures. This could include, but is not limited to, dedicated staff resource, taking forward in-depth consultation and outreach, and relevant consultancy costs. This funding cannot be used to fund existing work, unless it shows clear additionality (e.g. expanding the scope or remit of the work).

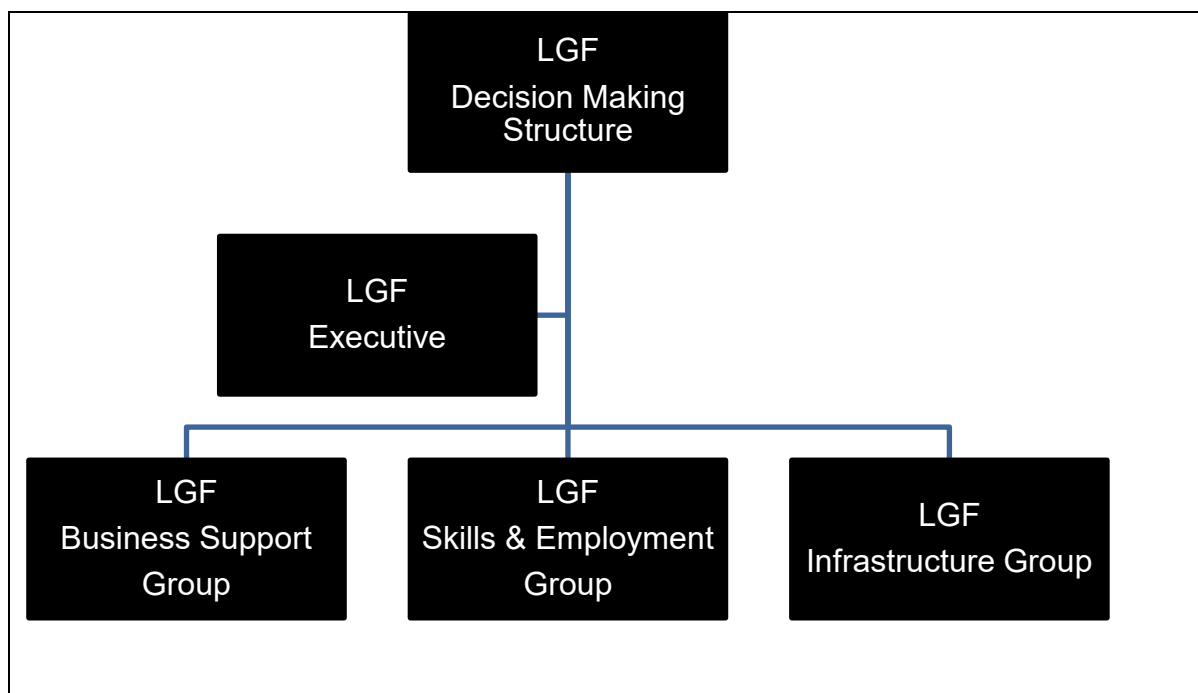
With this funding secured, it is proposed to prioritise this to develop more formalised regional governance structures as well as other associated costs. This will ensure more of Forth Valley's Local Growth Fund allocation is available to deliver on interventions.

In addition, a Shared Services programme between Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils has already secured £2m of grant funding from the Scottish Government's Invest to Save Fund to support the cost of developing collaborative opportunities. As Economic Development is a service that is earmarked within tranche 1 of the Transformation Through Collaboration project, it is important any opportunities for regional development are explored in conjunction with this programme so services and structures are complimentary.

**Summary of regional governance model / approach to decision making for LGF. (up to c. 500 words)**

As Forth Valley does not currently have a regional partnership or regional programme management office a new regional structure for the Local Growth Fund will need to be implemented. The structure outlined in Table 1 provides for political decision making that would involve representation of elected members from all three local authorities as a minimum. An LGF Executive Group would see project proposals reviewed by senior staff and would also encompass representation from all three local authorities. Building upon best practice developed through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, a series of topic groups would be set up to progress the details around each high level theme in LGF:

**Table 1: Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Delivery Structure**



**Summary of approach to regional engagement - including details of what forums/groups are convened, membership, frequency etc. as well as how MPs/MSPs are engaged. (up to 500 words)**

The Forth Valley has a strong range of forums/groups to support businesses, skills and employability providers, business intermediaries and public sector partners keep abreast of the latest developments and encourage joint working and collaboration. Some of the key forums/groups which cover the whole Forth Valley region are outlined below.

**Forth Valley Regional Anchor Board** is a strategic cross-sector partnership designed to improve regional health, wealth, and wellbeing. Chaired by NHS Forth Valley, it unites local authorities, universities, colleges, and the third sector to drive economic regeneration and community wealth building.

**Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce** is a business membership organisation covering Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire, the Chamber's role is to work with businesses, from start-ups to scale-ups, to grow and prosper.

**Business Improvement Districts (BIDs).** Forth Valley currently has 4 operational BIDs, with at least one located in each of the three local authority areas.

**MP/MSP Engagement** – MPs and MSPs are routinely updated on developments within each local authority area.

**The Transformation Through Collaboration Project** is an initiative by Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils to explore service collaboration. Backed by £2 million from the Scottish Government's Invest to Save fund, this joint initiative is designed to strengthen local service delivery, transform operations, and achieve financial sustainability.

**Forth Valley Regional Skills Partnership** is spearheaded by Skills Development Scotland alongside local authorities, Forth Valley College, and the University of Stirling to drive regional economic growth. It aligns education, upskilling, and reskilling initiatives to meet the demands of local employers and support major growth and just transition projects.

**Explanation of approach to fulfilling legal duties outlined in the prospectus and technical guidance.**

Falkirk Council will be the Lead Local Authority with legal responsibility for the management and reporting of the LGF for the region. These responsibilities will be formalised by an MoU between the UK Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and Falkirk Council.

Falkirk Council will also establish an SLA or MOU with key LGF delivery partners (Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils in particular) setting out the key roles, responsibilities, governance, financial and information-sharing protocols with respect to delivery of the LGF.

Falkirk Council has experience in delivering a wide range of strategic funding that involves legal duties as outlined in the Local Growth Fund prospectus, such as equalities, environment, accessibility and transparency, as well as compliance such as subsidy control and managing public money.

The approach to identifying project selection and contracting has been outlined within the Investment Plan and will involve a collaborative approach with other Forth Valley delivery partners.

Falkirk Council will establish processes to enable the recovery of funding where beneficiaries do not comply with fund parameters, UK law or any local requirements.

While Falkirk Council has existing resources, processes and policies to manage investment programmes, to fulfil the legal duties placed upon the LLA with respect to LGF, legal advisers will be appointed to advise the LLA on the LGF process and work involved.

**Summary of Regional Partnership approach to monitoring and evaluation activity (up to c.500 words)**

As LLA, Falkirk Council will seek to carry out or commission an evaluation of any significant projects to demonstrate the effectiveness or delivery of the interventions pursued and help contribute towards accountability and provide learning on what worked in terms of delivery.

An allowance has been made within the admin allocation for monitoring and evaluation which is expected, at minimum, to provide a baseline position with respect to Forth Valley-wide real disposable household income, and associated indicators as well economic indicators. This will help partners to track impact of LGF interventions.

The proposed Programme Manager will coordinate the regular monitoring and evaluation activity required for the identified output and outcome indicators.

In addition to formal bi-annual reporting, the UKG (Scotland Office (SO) and MHCLG) will setup quarterly official-level check-ins meetings with Falkirk Council and other Forth Valley partners, as required, to discuss delivery progress, issues and any in-year Investment Plan changes.

#### **Summary of risks and mitigations for the delivery of LGF in the region**

- **No existing Forth Valley Governance Structure** – As part of the Investment Plan, Table 1 outlines a proposed structure that can be set up to facilitate LGF decision making and minimising the delivery impacts of LGF on any one Forth Valley partner.
- **Insufficient staff capacity** - There is a risk that the requirements of the Lead Local Authority role place an unacceptable burden upon existing staff capacity, which results in a negative impact upon Falkirk Council delivery. The mitigation for this is to ensure the maximum admin allocation is made, within the Investment Plan, to support the duties of Falkirk Council as Accountable Body. In addition, consideration is also given to what existing resources can be applied to manage the scheme and deliver approved LGF projects across the three Forth Valley Local Authorities.
- **Failure to deliver on needs and aspirations** - There is a risk that the Local Growth Fund does not represent or deliver on the needs and aspirations of the communities outlined in the Local Growth Fund Prospectus. This will be mitigated by ensuring effective oversight and monitoring of delivery.
- **Inability to support all the activities proposed** - Forth Valley partners will put in place a robust assessment process for projects and the LGF delivery structure facilitates a transparent mechanism and oversight should change control be necessary.

To secure the release of your LGF allocation for Year 1 (FY 2026/27), you are required to submit your 3-Year Investment Plan to the UK Government (Scotland Office and MHCLG) by **29th May 2026**.

Your Investment Plan submission should at minimum consist of a response to the Narrative Commission, the 3-Year Financial Forecast Spreadsheet, 3-year Outputs and Outcomes Indicators Forecast, and Indicative Year 1 Project-Level Information.

Scotland Office is available to support you throughout this development phase. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions regarding the Prospectus or this commission.

Scotland Office and MHCLG will together review your Investment Plan, prior to the release of Year 1 funding this summer.

**Local Growth Fund Financial Forecast Table**

Region: Forth Valley

Version: 2

Financial Year	Revenue or Capital	Theme	Lead Local Authority forecast	Total	
2026-27	Revenue	Enabling Infrastructure	0	0	
	Capital	Enabling Infrastructure	2,300,588	2,300,588	
	Revenue	Support for Business	590,000	590,000	
	Capital	Support for Business	250,000	250,000	
	Revenue	Skills & Employment	412,911	412,911	
	Capital	Skills & Employment	0	0	
	Revenue	Administration (inc. regional capabilit	112,000	112,000	
	Capital	Administration (inc. regional capabilit	0	0	
	Total Revenue			1,114,911	1,114,911
	Total Capital			2,550,588	2,550,588
2027-28	Revenue	Enabling Infrastructure	0	0	
	Capital	Enabling Infrastructure	1,676,935	1,676,935	
	Revenue	Support for Business	477,000	477,000	
	Capital	Support for Business	710,000	710,000	
	Revenue	Skills & Employment	427,617	427,617	
	Capital	Skills & Employment	0	0	
	Revenue	Administration (inc. regional capabilit	184,000	184,000	
	Capital	Administration (inc. regional capabilit	0	0	
	Total Revenue			1,088,617	1,088,617
	Total Capital			2,386,935	2,386,935
2028-29	Revenue	Enabling Infrastructure	0	0	
	Capital	Enabling Infrastructure	1,214,660	1,214,660	
	Revenue	Support for Business	350,000	350,000	
	Capital	Support for Business	710,000	710,000	
	Revenue	Skills & Employment	261,276	261,276	
	Capital	Skills & Employment	0	0	
	Revenue	Administration (inc. regional capabilit	164,000	164,000	
	Capital	Administration (inc. regional capabilit	0	0	
	Total Revenue			775,276	775,276
	Total Capital			1,924,660	1,924,660
All Years	Total Revenue			2,978,804	2,978,804
	Total Capital			6,862,183	6,862,183

**As far as possible, please provide forecast outcomes and outputs for your 3-year LGF Investment Plans.**

Formal outputs and outcomes reporting will be captured as part of bi-annual reporting set out in the prospectus.

Output	Output Indicator for	Unit of	3-Year Forecast	Definition
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Infrastructure development</b>				
OP1	Amount of commercial space completed/improved	Square metres (m2)	NA	The total square metreage of new commercial floorspace completed or improved. Commercial space includes, but is not limited to: retail, hospitality, office and industrial space. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A retail space means a fixed location for the display or retail sale of goods or services. Examples include, but are not limited to: supermarkets, shops selling clothing, electronics, furniture, books, etc.</li> <li>• A hospitality space means a space whose primary purpose is for accommodation or food service. Examples include, but are not limited to: restaurants, cafes, pubs, bars, catering, hotels, campsites and other accommodation.</li> <li>• Office space means a fixed location where the primary activities are concerned with financial services, professional services (other than health or medical services), or any other appropriate services in a commercial, business or service locality.</li> <li>• Industrial space means space used for industrial processes, storage or distribution.</li> <li>• Other commercial space means non-public or community spaces that do not fall into the categories above.</li> <li>• Completed means physical completion of the facilities and space is ready for occupancy immediately. A building should be classified as complete once it is on the non-domestic rating list.</li> <li>• Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities.</li> </ul>
OP2	Amount of land unlocked for development	Square metres (m2)	19,100	The total area of land made available for development by project intervention. This includes remediation to bring land damaged by industrial
OP3	Number of additional premises with or	Number of premises	NA	The number of additional commercial units with Broadband Access of at Least 1Gbps
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Transport and mobility</b>				
OP4	Total length of new or improved cycle ways	Length in kilometres	9 km	The km of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths completed.
OP5	Number of new and/or improved public	Length in kilometres	NA	Number of New Public Transport Routes
OP6	Total length of new/improved road	Length in kilometres	NA	The length of new or improved roads completed.
<b>Support for business</b>				
OP7	Number of enterprises receiving grants	Number of enterprises	94	Number of enterprises that have received grants.
OP8	Number of enterprises receiving financial	Number of enterprises	NA	Number of enterprises having received financial support other than grants.
OP9	Number of enterprises receiving non-	Number of enterprises	370	Number of enterprises that have received non-financial support with the intention of improving performance.
OP10	Number of potential entrepreneurs	Number of individuals	NA	Number of entrepreneurs having been assisted to be enterprise ready.
<b>Skills and employment support for growth - Skills and education</b>				
OP11	Number of people supported to participate	Number of people	170	People who have received support to engage in education (lifelong learning, formal education) or training activities (off-the-job/in-the-job
OP12	Number of people receiving support to	Number of people	380	Number of people not in employment supported to improve their skills, confidence, qualifications or to address other barriers to them gaining
OP13	Number of courses developed in	Number of courses	35	The number of courses developed in collaboration with employers.

Outcome	Outcome Indicator for	Unit of	3-Year Forecast	Definition
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Infrastructure development</b>				
OC1	Number of vacant units filled	Number of units	NA	The number of residential or commercial units filled in the current reporting period as a result of support e.g. in the April to September
OC2	Number of new or improved residential	Number of units	38	Number of New and Improved Residential Units
<b>Enabling local growth infrastructure - Transport and mobility</b>				
OC3	Increased use of cycleways or foot paths	Number of additional	90	The increase in number of cyclists or pedestrians over a set period of time (e.g. weekly flow) along the specified length of cycleway or foot path
OC4	Number of additional public transport trips	Number of additional	NA	The number of additional public transport trips on new/improved routes in the current reporting period e.g. in the April to September
<b>Support for business</b>				
<b>Support for business - business support and local investment funds</b>				
OC5	Number of full-time (FTE) equivalent	Number of jobs /	275	The number of new, permanent, paid, full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created following support. This includes both part-time and full-time jobs,
OC6	Number of new enterprises created as a	Number of enterprises	NA	A new enterprise is one which has been registered at Companies House or HMRC as a result of the support provided.
OC7	Number of enterprises introducing new or	Number of enterprises	20	The number of enterprises introducing a new product or service.
OC8	Number of enterprises with improved	Number of enterprises	250	Number of enterprises with improved productivity within six months.
OC9	Number of enterprises engaged in new	Number of enterprises	5	Number of enterprises engaged in new markets following support.
<b>0</b>				
OC10	Number of new to market products	Number of products	2	A product is new to the market if there is no other product available on a market that offers the same functionality, or the design or technology
OC11	Number of organisations engaged in	Number of	NA	This focuses on collaborations which are about transferring good ideas, research results and skills between the knowledge base and businesses
<b>Skills and employment support for growth - Skills and education</b>				
OC12	Number of people gaining a qualification	Number of people	160	Number of people who have received support to gain a qualification
OC13	Number of people in employment,	Number of people	140	The number of people who were previously unemployed or economically inactive, who have received support, and who have been in

**Please provide any forecast project level information for Year 1 of the LGF, where this available. This is to support our assessment of**

*Formal project level reporting will be captured as part of bi-annual reporting set out in the prospectus.*

Project Name	LGF Theme	Project Description (Max 10 words)	LGF Budget (£)	Total Budget (£)
Forth Valley Business Advice	Support for Business	Increasing business advice capacity to support regional collaboration and priorities.	190,000	1,190,000
Forth Valley Expert Help Programme	Support for Business	Specialist support for growth businesses in target regional sectors.	400,000	400,000
Forth Valley Business & Social Enterprise Grant Scheme	Support for Business	Grand funding to support expansion, job-creation, improving productivity and innovation.	250,000	250,000
Forth Valley Regional Skills Programme	Skills & Employment	Transition of existing UKSPF programmes, and establishment of new regional skills and education programme.	330,000	330,000
Forth Valley Workforce Development Programme	Skills & Employment	Targeted support to assist businesses with identified workforce development needs.	82,911	82,911
Forth Valley Housing Enablement Fund	Enabling Infrastructure	Bringing vacant or stalled housing sites back into productive use	1,610,726	1,610,726
Forth Valley Infrastructure Enablement Fund	Enabling Infrastructure	Funding for commercial property & transport improvement projects on a regional-scale	689,862	689,862
LLA Administration Resource	Administration (inc. regional capability)	Resource costs to support regional collaboration and LLA role.	112,000	112,000



## Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment (EFSIA) Summary of Assessment

**Title:**

*Name of your decision, activity, policy, strategy or proposal. Referred to throughout as 'proposal' in this document.*

Local Growth Fund Investment

**Key findings from this assessment (or reason why an EFSIA is not required):**

This report seeks approval for an Investment Plan to UK Government for the Local Growth Fund programme. The report does not make specific recommendations affecting any equality groups, though future activity will have an impact.

Individual assessments will be undertaken on approved project interventions over the three-year life of the investment plan. The proposal does not suggest discontinuation of current services, funded under previous UK Government-funded programmes, so the identified impacts section has not been completed.

**Summary of actions taken because of this assessment:**

Processes will be established – at a regional level – to ensure that the interests and positions of equality groups are protected when the proposal proceeds to operate across the Forth Valley.

**Ongoing actions beyond implementation of the proposal include:**

Establishment of required governance and project appraisal processes – in collaboration with Falkirk Council (Lead Accountable Body) and Stirling Council.

Development of Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment processes to support the creation and drafting of project proposals for Local Growth Fund approval and delivery.

**Lead person(s) for this assessment:**

Paul Morris, Economic Development Strategy Officer

**Senior officer approval of assessment:**

Alison Davidson, Economic Development Team Leader

**DATE:** Tuesday the 19<sup>th</sup> of May 2026

## **Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment (EFSIA)**

An Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment (EFSIA) must be completed in relation to any decisions, activities, policies, strategies or proposals of the Council (referred to as 'proposal' in this document). The first stage of the assessment process will determine the level of impact assessment required.

This form should be completed using the guidance contained in the document: ['NAME']. Please read the guidance before completing this form.

The aim of this assessment is to allow you to critically assess:

- the impact of the proposal on those with protected characteristics and, where relevant, affected by socio-economic disadvantage (referred to as 'equality groups' in this document);
- whether the Council is meeting its legal requirements in terms of Public Sector Equality Duty and the Fairer Scotland Duty;
- whether any measures need to be put in place to ensure any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised.

The Fairer Scotland Duty requires public authorities to pay 'due regard' to how they can reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage, when making **strategic decisions**. Strategic decisions are key, high-level decisions such as decisions about setting priorities, allocating resources, delivery or implementation and commissioning services and all decisions that go to Council or committee for approval.

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### **Step A – Confirm the details of your proposal**

- 1. Describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal.**
- 2. Why is the proposal required?**
- 3. Who is affected by the proposal?**
- 4. What other Council policies or activities may be related to this proposal? The EFSIAs for related policies might help you understand potential impacts.**
- 5. Is the proposal a strategic decision? If so, please complete the steps below in relation to socio-economic disadvantage. If not, please state why it is not a strategic decision:**

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### **Step B – Consider the level of EFSIA required**

*You should consider the available evidence and data relevant to your proposal. You should gather information in order to:*

- *help you to understand the importance of your proposal for those from equality groups,*
- *inform the depth of EFSIA you need to do (this should be proportionate to the potential impact), and*
- *provide justification for the outcome, including where it is agreed an EFSIA is not required.*

6. What information is available about the experience of those with protected characteristics in relation to this proposal? Does the proposal relate to an area where there are already known inequalities? Refer to the guidance for sources of evidence and complete the table below.

Equality Group	Evidence source (e.g. online resources, report, survey, consultation exercise already carried out)	What does the evidence tell you about the experiences of this group in relation to the proposal? NB Lack of evidence may suggest a gap in knowledge/ need for consultation (Step C).
Age		
Disability		
Race		
Sex		
Gender Reassignment		
Sexual orientation		
Religion or Belief		
Pregnancy or maternity		
Marriage or civil partnership (only the first aim of the Duty is relevant to this protected characteristic and only in relation to work matters)		
Socio economic disadvantage (if required)		

7. Based on the evidence above, is there relevance to some or all of the equality groups? Y/ N/ unclear

If yes or unclear, proceed to further steps and complete full EFSIA

If no, explain why below and then proceed to Step E:

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## Step C – Stakeholder engagement

This step will help you to address any gaps in evidence identified in Step B. Engagement with people who may be affected by a proposal can help clarify the impact it will have on different equality groups. Sufficient evidence is required for you to show 'due regard' to the likely or actual impact of your proposal on equality groups.

**8. Based on the outcome of your assessment of the evidence under Step B, please detail the groups you intend to engage with or any further research that is required in order to allow you to fully assess the impact of the proposal on these groups. If you decide not to engage with stakeholders, please state why not:**

**9. Please detail the outcome of any further engagement, consultation and/or research carried out:**

**Step D - Impact on equality groups and steps to address this**

**10. Consider the impact of the proposal in relation to each protected characteristic under each aim of the general duty:**

- Is there potential for discrimination, victimisation, harassment or other unlawful conduct that is prohibited under the Equality Act 2010? How will this be mitigated?
- Is there potential to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who do not? How can this be achieved?
- Is there potential for developing good relations between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not? How can this be achieved?

**If relevant, consider socio-economic impact.**

Age	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Disability	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Race	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Sex	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Gender Reassignment	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Sexual Orientation	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Religion or Belief	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Pregnancy/maternity	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination				
potential for developing good relations				
potential to advance equality of opportunity				

Marriage/civil partnership	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Positive impacts	Negative impacts	No impact	
risk of discrimination (only the first aim of the Duty is relevant to this protected characteristic and only in relation to work matters)				

Socio-economic disadvantage	Place 'X' in the relevant box(es)			Describe any actions you plan to take, eg. to mitigate any impact, maximise positive impact, or record your justification to not make changes
	Yes	No	No impact	
(If required) Will the proposal reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage?				

## 11. Describe how the assessment might affect the proposal or project timeline?

Examples of the items you should consider here include, but are not limited to:

- **Communication plan:** do you need to communicate with people affected by proposal in a specific format (e.g. audio, subtitled video, different languages) or do you need help from other organisations to reach certain groups?
- **Cost:** do you propose any actions because of this assessment which will incur additional cost?
- **Resources:** do the actions you propose require additional or specialist resource to deliver them?
- **Timing:** will you need to build more time into the project plan to undertake research, consult or to complete any actions identified in this assessment?

12. **Having considered the potential or actual impacts of your proposal, you should now record the outcome of this assessment.** Choose from one of the following:

Please select (X)	<b>Implications for the proposal</b>
	<p><b>No major change</b> Your assessment demonstrates that the proposal shows no risk of unlawful discrimination and that you have taken all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, subject to continuing monitoring and review.</p>
	<p><b>Adjust the proposal and/or implement mitigations</b> You have identified ways of modifying the proposal to avoid discrimination or to better advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations. In addition, or alternatively, you will introduce measures to mitigate any negative impacts. Adjustments and mitigations should be recorded in the tables under Step D above and summarised in the summary sheet at the front of the document.</p>
	<p><b>Continue the proposal with adverse impact</b> The proposal will continue despite the potential for adverse impact. Any proposal which results in direct discrimination is likely to be unlawful and should be stopped and advice taken. Any proposal which results in indirect discrimination should be objectively justified and the basis for this set out in the tables under Step D above and summarised in the summary sheet at the front of the document. If objective justification is not possible, the proposal should be stopped whilst advice is taken.</p>
	<p><b>Stop the proposal</b> The proposal will not be implemented due to adverse effects that are not justified and cannot be mitigated.</p>

## Step E - Discuss and review the assessment with decision-makers

13. **You must discuss the findings of this assessment at each stage with senior decision makers during the lifetime of the proposal and before you finalise the assessment. Record details of these discussions and decisions taken below:**

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## Step F – Post-implementation actions and monitoring impact

It is important to continue to monitor the impact of your proposal on equality groups to ensure that your actual or likely impacts are those you recorded. This will also highlight any unforeseen impacts.

14. **Record any post-implementation actions required.**
  
15. **Note here how you intend to monitor the impact of this proposal on equality groups.**
  
16. **Note here when the EFSIA will be reviewed as part of the post-implementation review of the proposal:**

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## Step G – Assessment sign off and approval

Lead person(s) for this assessment:

Signed:

Date:

Senior officer approval of assessment:

Signed:

Date:

All full EFSIAs must be published on the Council's website as soon as possible after the decision is made to implement the proposal.

