**CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

**THIS PAPER RELATES TO ITEM 11**

**ON THE AGENDA**

**Report to Council**

**Date of Meeting: 1 October 2026**

**Subject: Local Growth Fund Update**

**Report by: Director: Place and Economy**

## 1.0 Purpose

1.1. This report provides Council with an update on the development and delivery of the UK Government's Local Growth Fund (Scotland) (the "LGF") which follows the paper presented to Council on 25th June 2026. This is a matter of strategic importance and requires to be determined by Council.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that Council:

2.1.1. Note the update on the need to progress spend on Local Growth Fund capital projects;

2.1.2. Consider and agree the initial capital projects proposed to be funded through the Forth Valley Local Growth Fund (Appendix 1);

2.1.3. Note the progress made on Year 1 revenue projects, and proposals for revenue spend in Years 2 and 3 (Appendix 1)

2.1.4. Note the outcome and update of the Chief Executive's discussions on the Local Growth Fund decision making structure

2.1.5. Approve a continuation of approval for the Chief Executive to develop decision making structure proposals which will be brought to a future council meeting, and;

2.1.6. Note that Falkirk and Stirling Councils will also consider this report at meetings on 1st and 8th October respectively.

## 3.0 Considerations

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 LGF became operational on 1st April 2026 and provides three-year funding to five regions in Scotland. Funding has been allocated to Regional Economic 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 23rd March 2026.

3.5. Priorities specific to each regional area must be set out, by Regional Economic 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. As Forth Valley does not currently have a regional governance structure, a paper was presented to Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils on 25th June 2026 that detailed Forth Valley's Local Growth Fund Investment Plan submission and requested approval for the Chief Executive to determine a Forth Valley-wide decision making structure and to report back to Council in the autumn of 2026 with appropriate recommendations based on the outcome of those discussions.

3.7. Following Council's approval of the LGF paper on 25th June 2026, Falkirk Council, as Lead Authority for LGF, have held regular meetings with the Scotland Office who confirmed that revenue funding for year 1 must be spent in-year with no option to carry forward any underspends.

3.8. Additionally, revenue projects in years 2 and 3 of the LGF are to be regional in nature and must demonstrate regional impact, rather than a Local Authority focus.

3.9. As a result, officers from Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Councils Economic Development services established the Business Support Group and Skills and Employment Group to mobilise operational delivery of revenue funding proposals approved by all three Councils in the Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Investment Plan (projects detailed in Appendix 1).

3.10. The Scotland Office has also requested greater detail on the LGF capital project proposals, including:

- Regional Housing Enablement Fund
- Regional Active Travel Enablement Fund
- Business and Social Enterprise Grant Fund

3.11. LGF capital project proposals were not suitably advanced to be included within the LGF paper on 25th June 2026 This paper provides further clarity on each of these funds and the projects for consideration.

**Regional Housing Enablement Fund**

3.12. The Forth Valley LGF Investment Plan, agreed at the meeting of Council on 25th June 2026, outlined that support would be provided for preparatory work for housing enablement to undertake early-stage intervention to bring vacant or stalled housing sites back into productive use within the 3-year fund programme.

3.13. Through the consultation on the LGF Investment Plan, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council's housing services all highlighted projects that were unable to progress due to funding gaps. It was also highlighted this is also an issue for housing projects led by partners, such as housing associations and other developers. To address this issue, it was highlighted that funding from LGF could make a material difference to bring stalled projects to fruition.

3.14. As the LGF funding is for a 3-year period, all projects supported must be completed by March 2029, which constrains the range of sites able to be considered at this stage, albeit this could change in time should additional funding be made available. The initial shortlist of housing projects that can be progressed with the greatest certainty to progress to development and ensure funding can be spent are presented in Appendix 1.

**Regional Active Travel Enablement Fund**

3.15. The approved Forth Valley LGF Investment Plan contains a commitment to support priority interventions across roads, active travel and public transport to address provision or constraints related to access to employment and other public services. Such interventions, by the conditions of the LGF must also demonstrate regional impact.

3.16. Through the consultation on the LGF Investment Plan, Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling Council's roads teams highlighted the LGF timescales as being particularly challenging to progress through design, consents and build of new roads projects across Forth Valley. The public transport teams also highlighted the lack of revenue funding as being a key barrier to progressing projects. However, there was potential through all active travel teams to progress with projects which have been suspended due to funding gaps. An initial shortlist of active travel projects that can be progressed is listed in Appendix 1.

**Forth Valley Growth Grant Fund**

3.17. Following approval of the Foth Valley LGF Investment Plan by Full Council on 25 June 2026, a Forth Valley Business & Social Enterprise Grant Scheme is now being developed by Officers across all three Forth Valley Councils. This Scheme will take the form of a Growth Grant and is being designed to help businesses and social enterprises access funding which has been highlighted by Scottish Enterprise in their recent Economic Commentary[1] in June 2026 as a key factor in limiting businesses economic growth potential in Scotland.

3.18. This Fund aims to provide a financial contribution towards business growth projects which will bring economic benefit to the area by way of increased employment and turnover. The grant can only be used towards capital expenditure and will be assessed against criteria such as; Fair Work First, turnover growth potential, job creation, net zero and Community Benefits. Application to the fund will be assessed on an ongoing basis and is planned for launch at the end of October 2026.

**Revenue Projects**

3.19. In addition to work on capital projects, collaborative work across the Forth Valley has seen development of revenue spend proposals. Year 1 spend has been targeted at transitional spend, to support the change from UKSPF to LGF.

3.20. Year 2 and Year 3 activity have now been developed. See Appendix 1 for revenue projects which will meet with LGF investment themes of Business Support and Employability and Skills.

**LGF Decision Making Structure**

3.21. In the 25th June paper, approval was given for the Chief Executive to consult with counterparts at Forth Valley Councils, as well as group leaders, with a view to determining a Forth Valley-wide decision-making structure to oversee the implementation of the LGF, with the outcome of these discussions to be reported back to Council in the autumn of 2026, with appropriate recommendations made based on the agreed outcome.

3.22. On 1st September 2026, the First Minister announced the Scottish Government's Programme for Government ("PfG") which committed to supporting the establishment of Regional Economic Partnerships that are empowered and enabled to drive action that matches their ambitions for future growth, including delivering regional interventions that respond to employers' skills needs and support people into training and jobs.

3.23. As a result of national developments, it is proposed a continuation of the existing approval is provided to the Chief Executive so proposals can be brought forward to a future council meeting to ensure alignment with the PfG ambitions as well as Forth Valley's Transformation Through Collaboration Programme.

## 4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1. There are no direct climate change, sustainability or environmental impacts anticipated as a result of this report. Any projects supported through the LGF that would cause any direct climate change, sustainability and environmental

[1] Scottish Enterprise (2026), *SE Economic Commentary June 2026,* https://www.scottish-enterprise.com/insights-and-events/research-evaluation-and-insight/2026/economic-commentary-june-2026

impacts would be considered as part of other statutory consents (e.g. planning and building standards).

## 5.0 Resource Implications

*5.1. Financial Details*

5.2. The LGF provides a £9.8m award to the Forth Valley region, encompassing the Stirling, Falkirk and Clackmannanshire Council areas. There is no requirement to match fund interventions but this is encouraged by UK Government so there is no additional financial implication for Clackmannanshire Council.

5.3. If agreed, the proposed capital projects will be taken forward for further consideration by Council Officers across the three Forth Valley local authorities. Following the conclusion of the consultation and approval of the Regional Economic Strategy (RES), partners will review the proposed projects to ensure they remain appropriately aligned with, and capable of delivering against, the agreed priorities of the RES, with projects remaining subject to review and the necessary approval processes within each Council.

5.4. Where material changes arising from the RES consultation, or issues affecting the deliverability of a proposed project, mean that a project cannot be progressed during the lifetime of the LGF, Officers will bring forward alternative capital projects for consideration and approval by the relevant Council(s), and progression through the appropriate LGF change control process.

5.5. Administration of the LGF will be undertaken by Falkirk Council as the designated Lead Local Authority (LLA) through which ultimate legal and statutory duties rests. However, there will be a need for Clackmannanshire and Stirling Council to provide staff time to support the development and deliver initiatives funded through the LGF.

5.6. 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 ☐

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

*5.8. 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**

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|---|---|
| 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 The contents of this report were assessed under the Council's Equality and Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment (EFSIA) process and it was determined that an Equality Fairer Scotland Impact Assessment was not required as individual assessments will be undertaken on approved project interventions over the three year life of the Forth Valley Local Growth Fund Investment Plan.

**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 : Full list of Capital and Revenue Projects
- Appendix 2 : Forth Valley LGF Investment Plan
- Appendix 3: Forth Valley LGF Investment Plan Outputs and Outcomes

## 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 ☒

**Author(s)**

| NAME | DESIGNATION | TEL NO / EXTENSION |
|---|---|---|
| A Davidson | Service Manager, Development | - |

**Approved by**

| NAME | DESIGNATION | SIGNATURE |
|---|---|---|
| Kevin Wells | Strategic Director, Place & Economy | [redacted] |

**Appendix 1 – Overview of LGF Capital and Revenue Projects and Indicative Spending Profiles**

## 1. CAPITAL PROJECTS

### 1.1 Regional Housing Enablement Fund

| Location | Overview | Spending Profile |
|---|---|---|
| **Homeless Accommodation Project, Clackmannanshire** | The project will bring new, innovative homeless accommodation and a support hub to give additional benefits having a central point of support for individuals experiencing homelessness by helping with advice to give those individuals the best chance of getting out of a future cycle of homelessness. It seeks to reduce/eradicate the need for costs associated with Bed and Breakfast ("B&B") and allow individuals to stay in their own locality with convenient access to transport and shopping facilities on a suitable site.<br><br>Initial capital investment from General Fund (homeless reserves) / Rapid Re-housing Funds will release future funds from reduction in annual spend on B&B accommodation. Any site identified will require access infrastructure and land preparation work to unlock the site and make suitable for placement of the units which are constructed off site.<br><br>It is likely that this work can take place early in 2027/28, subject to site investigations and planning consent, there are a number of sites identified for investigative work giving more certainty that a suitable site will be viable. | 2026/27: £200,000 (Site preparation)<br>2027/28: £500,000 (Site infrastructure and Construction)<br>2028/29: £200,000 (Construction) |

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| **Bowhouse, Grangemouth, Falkirk** | Falkirk Council's Housing Service has identified an investment-ready project at the former Bowhouse Community Centre site in Grangemouth.<br><br>The site is currently being scoped for nine three and four bedroom homes, designed to be highly energy efficient. with the potential for residents to benefit from zero energy costs for up to ten years, in one of the regions' priority regeneration areas.<br><br>This project directly supports the ambitions of the Falkirk and Grangemouth Growth Deal, the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), Local Growth Fund objectives, and wider Community Planning Partnership outcomes by tackling fuel poverty, increasing disposable income and accelerating the supply of modern, sustainable affordable housing. | 2026/27: £188,000 (Demolition and Ground Clearing)<br><br>2027/28: £882,000 (Site infrastructure and Construction) |
| **Tyndrum, Stirling** | Planning permission has already been approved by the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Planning Authority for an 18-home affordable housing development in Tyndrum, led by the Rural Stirling Housing Association (RHSA). RHSA has already advertised a design-and-build tender to obtain detailed costings for development of the site.<br><br>The development includes a variety of energy-efficient property types to meet local needs, including:<br><br>• Four 1-bedroom cottage flats<br>• Two 1-bedroom single-storey houses<br>• Eight 2-bedroom two-storey properties<br>• Four 3-bedroom two-storey properties | 2026/27: £360,000 (Site preparation)<br><br>2027/28: £280,000 (Site infrastructure and Construction) |

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| | The site sits within an area allocated for mixed-use development, placing the housing away from the immediate roadside to retain road-fronting space for future retail or commercial use. The development includes a new access road, public realm improvements, and reserved natural boundaries alongside the Crom Allt, protecting existing trees and wildlife corridors while incorporating shared grass amenity and play spaces.<br><br>Construction is anticipated to start late 2026/early 2027 contingent on funding approval. | |

### 1.2 Regional Active Travel Enablement Fund

| Location | Overview | Indicative Spending Profile |
|---|---|---|
| **Fishcross to Stirling University** | Stirling Council recently adopted its Sustainable Mobility Strategy, which includes a five-year Active Travel Plan containing a programme of proposed projects that strategically connect Stirling with key destinations across the region. One of the key projects planned for delivery within the next two years is located along the main corridor between Clackmannanshire and Stirling via the A91. The project will provide an essential- active travel route linking the Clackmannanshire boundary with the University of Stirling.<br>The total estimated cost is approximately £2.2 million, with 70% of the funding expected to be secured through the Scottish Government's Active Travel | 2026/27: nil<br>2027/28: £733,000 (Design and Construction) |

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| | Infrastructure Fund. The required 30% match funding, approximately £733,000, is proposed to be provided through the UK's Local Growth Fund. The project is currently at RIBA Stage 2, with the design phase due to be completed during 2027 and construction scheduled for completion in 2028. | |
| **Forth Valley Royal Hospital to Clackmannanshire Bridge Active Travel Corridor** | This active travel corridor will provide concept design of the total corridor (approximately 8km) and construction of approximately 2.5km of upgraded infrastructure from South Bellsdyke to the Clackmannanshire Bridge via Higgins Neuk.<br>This project was identified within the SEStran Strategic Network Study, a comprehensive vision for the development of active travel infrastructure across the region. This corridor also services the villages of Kinnaird, Larbert, Carron and Carronshore. The cost of the design of the full 8km corridor, and upgrade of 2.5km of infrastructure is estimated to cost approximately £1.3m. | 2026/27: £100,000<br><br>2027/28: £200,000<br><br>2028/29: £1,000,000 |
| **Wellbeing Hub, Alloa** | Clackmannanshire Council aspires to develop significant new active travel routes which have direct health and employment benefits. The Wellbeing Hub is a project of significant scale and of regional interest as a location for sport and leisure activity. The Hub will unite different agencies working to improve local people's lives eg. NHS will offer day clinics from the Hub and the new active travel infrastructure will be designed to ensure these crucial health services are accessible for everyone. The route also allows residents to access employment opportunities by supporting alternative modes of transport, particularly | 2026/27: £150,000<br>2027/28 £250,000<br>2028/29 £200,000 |

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| | where there is no public transport during unsociable hours. Encouraging more people to walk and cycle improves physical and mental health of residents and the project aligns with Scottish Government's National Transport Strategy.<br><br>The route includes direct access to the Wellbeing Hub and meets the requirements of the planning approval for the Hub. The work supported will deliver a section from the Wellbeing Hub to the west of Alloa. With LGF and Match funding, the spend for this section will total around £1.5m. | |

### 1.3 Forth Valley Business Capital Grant

| Location | Overview | Indicative Spend Profile |
|---|---|---|
| Forth Valley – capital grant scheme. | Business Advisers in each area will work with the applicant to prepare for application submission and ensure criteria is being met and supporting documentation in order. Only businesses with projects meeting the scheme criteria around growth, job creation, community benefit and fair work will be given access to the application portal which will be managed by Falkirk Council. A panel comprising all 3 Local Authorities will assess applications and the fund will be open until funding is fully allocated. Fund available to existing businesses and trading social enterprises in Year 1, with plans to roll out a smaller start up grant in Years 2 and 3. | Year 1: £250,000<br>Year 2: £710,000<br>Year 3: £710,000 |

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| | Grants up to £25,000 (with a match funding contribution being required). | |

## 2. REVENUE PROJECTS

### 2.1 Business Support

| Location | Overview | Indicative Spend Profile |
|---|---|---|
| Forth Valley | Expert Help Programme : access to fully funded consultancy support in a variety of areas including digital marketing, procurement, strategy, business planning, HR and legal – to support growth projects in businesses across Forth Valley.<br><br>This funding will also support a Pitch to Raise programme in Year 1, and a number of regional business events. | Year 1:<br>Clackmannanshire: £100,000<br>Stirling: £140,000<br>Falkirk: £120,000<br>(and £40k for regional events/Pitch to Raise)<br><br>Year 2: Regional Framework to be set up and projects accessed via Falkirk Council: £277,000<br><br>Year 3: £150,000 |
| Forth Valley | Increasing Business Adviser capacity in Forth Valley. Funding for one Adviser role in each area. | Year 1: £190,000<br>Year 2: £200,000<br>Year 3: £200,000 |

### 2.2 Employability and Skills

| Location | Overview | Indicative Spend Profile |
|---|---|---|
| Forth Valley | Funding to support core skills, regional sector based skills programmes, collaboration with CLD, and vocational training. Funding | Year 1: £330,000<br>Year 2: £340,000<br>Year 3: £175,000 |

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| | allocated equally across the three Local Authorities, but with a working group set up to devise and commission regional sector based skills programmes. | |
| Forth Valley | New Workforce Development Role (regional role) – supporting employers with workforce development and training, and linking across business support and employability. | Year 1: £82,911<br>Year 2: £87,617<br>Year 3: £86,276 |

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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>**Year 1: Transition and Continuity**<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.

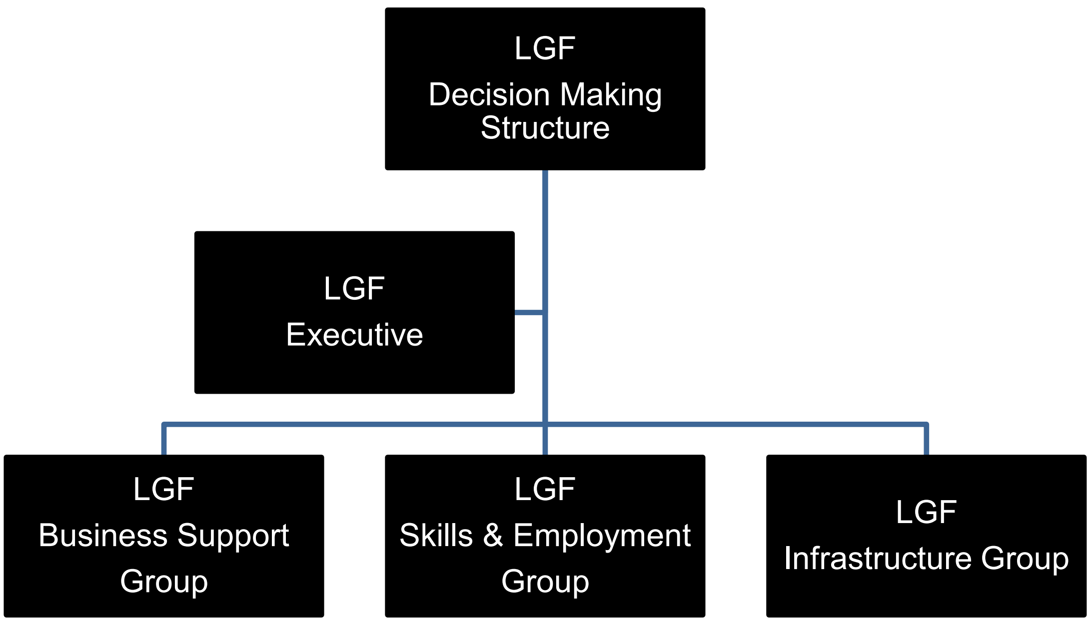
**Overall Approach**
Across the three years, LGF will act as a catalyst for shifting from fragmented local delivery to a more strategic, regionally coordinated model. Year 1 ensures continuity and builds the foundation, while Years 2 and 3 focus on integration, scale and alignment with economic priorities. 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**



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| 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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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:<br><br>• Programme Manager (suggested J Grade) - £65,000<br>• Finance Support Role (suggested J Grade) – £65,000<br>• Monitoring & Evaluation Costs - £14,000<br>• Audit Costs – £20,000<br>• Legal Costs –£20,000<br>• Total = £184,000<br><br>The above figures are an estimate only at this stage as the final requirements are being refined by officers.<br><br>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.<br><br>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 28th 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, |

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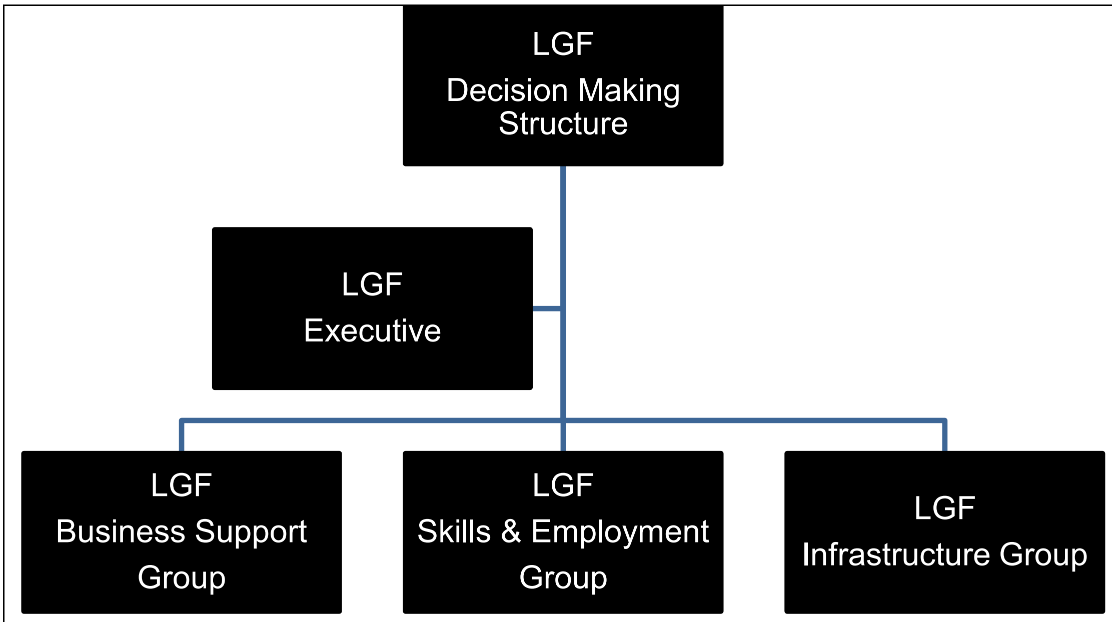
| Stirling Council agreed to operate as the accountable body and was successful in obtaining £50,000 of funding. Funding was awarded to explore opportunities for greater regional working or to set up or formalise regional governance structures. This could include, but is not limited to, dedicated staff 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).<br><br>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.<br><br>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:<br><br>**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.

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| **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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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.<br><br>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. |

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| The proposed Programme Manager will coordinate the regular monitoring and evaluation activity required for the identified output and outcome indicators.<br><br>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.<br><br>• **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.<br><br>• **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.<br><br>• **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. |

**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 Code | Output Indicator for Reporting | Unit of Measurement | 3-Year Forecast (Where applicable) | Definition |
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| **Enabling local growth infrastructure - Infrastructure development** | | | | |
| 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Industrial space means space used for industrial processes, storage or distribution.<br>• Other commercial space means non-public or community spaces that do not fall into the categories above.<br>• 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.<br>• Improvement means adding, renovating or repairing facilities with the aim of creating a better space. It does not include maintenance of existing facilities. |
| 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 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. |
| OP3 | Number of additional premises with or covered by improved digital connectivity | Number of premises | *NA* | The number of additional commercial units with Broadband Access of at Least 1Gbps<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Broadband is a high-speed internet connection that is always on and faster than traditional dial-up access.<br>• 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.<br>• 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). |
| **Enabling local growth infrastructure - Transport and mobility** | | | | |
| OP4 | Total length of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths | Length in kilometres (km) | *9 km* | The km of new or improved cycle ways or foot paths completed.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• 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. |
| OP5 | Number of new and/or improved public transport routes | Length in kilometres (km) | *NA* | Number of New Public Transport Routes<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Both new and improved routes can include new transport nodes, such as new bus, train, or tram stations.<br>• 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. |

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| OP6 | Total length of new/improved road | Length in kilometres (km) | *NA* | The length of new or improved roads completed.<br>• New means the road has been built where it previously did not exist.<br>• 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.<br>• Completed means the road is fully operational and open to the public, and all planned improvements have been fully implemented and operationalised. |
| **Support for business** | | | | |
| OP7 | Number of enterprises receiving grants | Number of enterprises | *94* | Number of enterprises that have received grants.<br>• 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.<br>• Grant means a cash payment by the project that is not repaid. |
| OP8 | Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants | Number of enterprises | *NA* | Number of enterprises having received financial support other than grants.<br>• 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.<br>• Non-grant financial support means loans, risk finance, financial investment from the project that is repayable or confers equity in the enterprise. |
| OP9 | Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support | Number of enterprises | *370* | Number of enterprises that have received non-financial support with the intention of improving performance.<br>• 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<br>• 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.<br>• Improved performance means reductions in costs or increases in turnover/profit.<br>• Support may be ongoing. |
| OP10 | Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready | Number of individuals | *NA* | Number of entrepreneurs having been assisted to be enterprise ready.<br>• Entrepreneurs mean individuals aged 16 and over currently in employment, unemployed or economically inactive with an interest in exploring creating their own business.<br>• 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. |
| **Skills and employment support for growth - Skills and education** | | | | |
| OP11 | Number of people supported to participate in education | 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 training, vocational training, etc.).<br><br>Education or training is a structured and agreed programme of:<br>• Lifelong learning<br>• Formal education<br>• 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).<br><br>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 | *380* | 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.<br><br>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 | *35* | The number of courses developed in collaboration with employers.<br>• Employers mean any business, organisation, governmental department or non-profit organisation that can employ an individual.<br>• Courses include but are not limited to lifelong learning; formal education; educational and/or vocational training activities. |

| Outcome Code | Outcome Indicator for Reporting | Unit of Measurement | 3-Year Forecast (Where applicable) | Definition |
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| **Enabling local growth infrastructure - Infrastructure development** | | | | |
| 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 reporting period report the number of units filled between 1 April and 30 September.<br>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 | *38* | Number of New and Improved Residential Units<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Residential Units means buildings or spaces used for living purposes, such as houses, flats and other dwellings. |
| **Enabling local growth infrastructure - Transport and mobility** | | | | |
| OC3 | Increased use of cycleways or foot paths | Number of additional users | *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 that has been created or improved.<br>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 | *NA* | 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.<br><br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• Both new and improved routes can include new transport nodes, such as new bus, train, or tram stations.<br>• 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. |
| **Support for business** | | | | |
| **Support for business - business support and local investment funds** | | | | |
| 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) | *275* | 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.<br><br>• New means it should not have existed with that employer before the intervention.<br>• Created jobs exclude those created solely to deliver the intervention (e.g. construction).<br>• Permanent means it should have an intended life expectancy of at least 12 months from the point at which it is created.<br>• Only count each individual FTE or job once through the lifetime of a project (i.e. it should not be counted every year)<br>• FTE is a measure of an employees scheduled hours in relation to an employers hours for a full time workweek |
| OC6 | Number of new enterprises created as a result of support | 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.<br>• 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. |
| OC7 | Number of enterprises introducing new or improved products or services | Number of enterprises | *20* | The number of enterprises introducing a new product or service.<br>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.<br>A product or service is new if the enterprise has not previously made this product or service available to the market before.<br>Support must be for an enterprise to introduce one of the following:<br>• Product - when it is either at pre-launch or launched to the market<br>• Service - when it has been introduced to the market |

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| OC8 | Number of enterprises with improved productivity | Number of enterprises | *250* | Number of enterprises with improved productivity within six months.<br>• 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.<br>• Productivity refers to the gross value added per hour worked or gross value added per worker. |
| OC9 | Number of enterprises engaged in new markets | Number of enterprises | *5* | Number of enterprises engaged in new markets following support.<br>• 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.<br>• 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.<br>• New market refers to a market the business has not previously engaged with, whether regional, national, or international. |
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| 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 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).<br><br>Support must be for a business to introduce one of the following:<br>• Product - when it is either at pre-launch or launched to the market<br>• Service - when it has been introduced to the market |
| OC11 | Number of organisations engaged in knowledge transfer activity following support | Number of organisations | *NA* | 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:<br>• Research collaborations.<br>• Free dissemination of research.<br>• Joint and long-term development of new business or services.<br>• Formation of joint ventures and spin-out companies. |
| **Skills and employment support for growth - Skills and education** | | | | |
| 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, including self-employment, following support | Number of people | *140* | 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.<br>• Unemployed individuals, as defined by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) are those:<br>• Without a job, have been actively seeking work in the past four weeks, and are available to start in the next two weeks.<br>• Out of work, have found a job and are waiting to start it in the next two weeks.<br>• Economically inactive people are those not in work and not actively seeking work. |