

**ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Weekly Update 26
Friday 26 March 2021**

UK Progress

- [REDACTED]

Scottish Progress

- [REDACTED]

MHCLG Fortnightly Updates

- Scottish Government Officials met with MHCLG on 23 March to discuss the funding announcements provided as part of the 2021 UK Budget and the wider development of the UKSPF.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- A MHCLG led webinar on the Levelling Up Fund for Local Authorities, similar to that held on the CRF, will take place on 29 March.
- MHCLG colleagues made clear that they will be shortly contacting all Local Authorities to get a named contact in order to begin direct engagement.
- It was agreed that the format and role of engagement between MHCLG and SG colleagues would be reconsidered going forward.

ESIF Replacement Steering Group

- At the last Steering Group meeting held on 23 March, members were updated on the UK Budget announcements before discussing its stakeholder reception.
- Members outlined an overwhelming concern of the methodological criteria chosen and competitive and looming deadlines of both the Levelling Up Fund and Community Renewal Fund.
- [REDACTED]

Future Funding Team Activities:

This week:

- Met with SLAED and COSLA to discuss the Local Authority reception of the recent UK Budget funding announcements.
- Attended and supported the ESIF Replacement Steering Group meeting on Tuesday 23 March.
- Met with MHCLG colleagues to discuss in detail the funding announcements following the UK Budget publication and the wider application process.
- Attended the LEADER LAG Chairs meeting to update them on the UK Budget announcements and the development of the UKSPF.
- Attended the ESIF Lead Partner Group Meeting to update them on the UK Budget announcements and the development of the UKSPF.

Next Week:

- [REDACTED]

JOINT STATEMENT

As Ministers in the Devolved Governments of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, we wish to register our shared concerns about the UK Government's decision to bypass democratically agreed devolution arrangements to deliver the Levelling Up and Community Renewal Funds announced at Budget 2021.

We share the aim to spread inclusive economic growth more widely and take the opportunity to simplify systems post EU exit. For that reason, we believe monies to replace EU funds should be allocated in full through the Devolved Governments and successful structures that already exist specifically to deliver economic development to address the needs and opportunities of the people of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland rather than through a new, separate layer of bureaucracy.

The UK Government ignored the Devolved Governments' efforts and requests to input to the development process for these funds for almost three years and is now using powers under the UK Internal Market Act to bypass us completely. It is ignoring our respective devolution arrangements, delivering funding to meet Whitehall's priorities rather than those of the people of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

This must be addressed before further policy development takes place on the Shared Prosperity Fund. Denying us any meaningful input, harms the effectiveness of these funds, will duplicate resources, and risks value for money and the achievement of better, fairer outcomes which our communities and people deserve.

The support announced through these funds is not new money. This funding has sat with our respective governments since powers in this area were devolved. Now, bidding for an unidentified share of a UK pot through a competitive process provides no guarantee of success. With decisions being made entirely by the UK Government, this falls far short of commitments made during the EU referendum for all these powers to be fully devolved after EU exit.

Going forward, we need more than simply a commitment from UK Ministers that the Devolved Governments will be engaged in the development of the Shared Prosperity Fund. We need a clear plan of how and when this will happen and we require consultation and input into the proposed role of the Devolved Governments so that the most vulnerable in our societies are protected and that jobs and prosperity are achieved in a way that is fairer, more inclusive and sustainable for all our citizens.

We will jointly be seeking an urgent meeting with Treasury to raise these important matters.

**ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Weekly Update 27
Friday 9 April 2021**

UK Progress

- [REDACTED]
- On 28 March MHCLG carried out a webinar regarding the Levelling Up Fund for eligible authorities in Scotland. Slides of this event have yet to be published online.

MHCLG Fortnightly Updates

- [REDACTED]

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- [REDACTED]
- Officials noted that MHCLG had held webinars on the CRF and would be holding another around the Levelling Up Fund as well as noting that staff recruitment was being carried out in MHCLG to support the administration and delivery of these Funds within the devolved nations.
- [REDACTED]

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [REDACTED]

Next Week

- [REDACTED]

ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Weekly Update 32
Friday 18 June 2021

Scottish Progress

- [REDACTED]

MHCLG Fortnightly Updates

- [REDACTED]
- The role of Scottish Government in the Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund bidding process remains unclear despite both application deadlines noted for 18 June.
- [REDACTED]

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- [REDACTED]

ESIF Replacement Steering Group

- [REDACTED]

Recent Media Coverage

- The Fraser of Allander Institute (FAI) has recently published an analysis into UK's Levelling Up Fund in which they note that their approach to prioritising local areas for resources lacks transparency and is difficult to fully replicate. The full article is available [here](#).
- The Welsh Government's Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething, has raised concerns regarding the UK Government's decision to bypass the Welsh Government and directly allocate funding for regional and local development via UK-wide funds is a clear assault on Welsh devolution which has recently been reported by the South Wales Argus. The full article is available [here](#).
- Shetland Isle's bid for the Levelling Up Fund has been reported by the Shetland Times. This bid aims to replace the aging Fair Isle ferry Good Shepherd. The full article is available [here](#).
- Glasgow City Council's Community Renewal Fund bid to transform Pollock Park Stables has been reported by the Glasgow Times. The full article is available [here](#).

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Next Week

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Future Funding Secretariat
18 June 2021

ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Weekly Update 34
Friday 2 July 2021

Scottish Progress

- [REDACTED]

UK Progress

- [REDACTED]

MHCLG Fortnightly Updates

- Scottish Government officials were scheduled to meet with MHCLG colleagues on 13 July to discuss the role for Scottish Government in the Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund appraisal process. However due to a continued lack of clarity this was postponed by MHCLG.

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- [REDACTED]
- DA officials noted that the continued lack of engagement with MHCLG and discussed a continued lack of clarity around their roles in the appraisal process of the Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund applications for their respective nations.

Recent Media Coverage

- Levelling up: Boris Johnson promises more powers for local leaders – [Levelling up: Boris Johnson promises more powers for local leaders - BBC News](#)

- Mark Drakeford warns Boris Johnson's 'confrontational approach' could lead to UK 'sleepwalking' into break up – [Mark Drakeford warns Boris Johnson's 'confrontational approach' could lead to UK 'sleepwalking' into break up - Wales Online](#)
- 'The Guardian view on levelling up: not Johnson's idea but Thatcher's' – [The Guardian view on levelling up: not Johnson's idea but Thatcher's | Editorial | The Guardian](#)

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- Preparation for any appraisal requests from MHCLG regarding the LUF and CRF.

Next Week

- Preparation for any appraisal requests from MHCLG regarding the LUF and CRF.
- [REDACTED]

Future Funding Secretariat

16 July 2021

ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Weekly Update 35 Friday 30 July 2021

UK Progress

- MHCLG officials have finally clarified the role of Devolved Administrations in the appraisal of bids for the Community Renewal Fund (CRF) and Levelling Up Fund (LUF).
- During a meeting between SG and UKG officials it was made clear that SG input regarding the appraisal of the Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund would be only around overarching questions around strategic fit, applicant deliverability and equality impacts.
- Despite closure of both Funds on 18 June, SG has been given the tight deadline of one week to provide this information with a response required by 6 August.
- SG officials have been working across policy areas to understand the bid summaries provided.

- [REDACTED]

MHCLG Fortnightly Updates

- Scottish Government officials met with MHCLG on 27 July to discuss the current

- [REDACTED]

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- Devolved Administrations met on 27 July to discuss the current engagement with MHCLG and how they would be responding to the appraisal role offered by UKG for the CRF and LUF.
- Concerns were raised that DA comments on the CRF and LUF bids may be accessed through FOI requests which, in turn, could cause difficulties.

Recent Media Coverage

- 'Report: Government's levelling up plans risk repeating the failures of the last 20 years' – The Institute for Community Studies has unveiled a landmark research report revealing that current approaches to regeneration and economic transformation are not working for the majority of local communities and their economies.- [Report: Government's levelling up plans risk repeating the failures of the last 20 years | Charity Today News](#)
- 'UK Shared Prosperity Fund will 'backfire' on Boris Johnson' - The UK Government has been warned its plan to bypass Holyrood with post- Brexit funding could end up "undermining" its goal of stopping Scottish independence. - [UK Shared Prosperity Fund will 'backfire' on Boris Johnson | The National](#)
- Wales facing a return to 'austerity' unless lost EU funds are replaced, Economy Minister warns - A failure to replace lost EU economic funds could see austerity measures return to Wales, Vaughan Gething has warned. - [Wales facing a return to 'austerity' unless lost EU funds are replaced. Economy Minister warns \(nation.cymru\)](#)
- Help small firms or risk failure of 'levelling up', Government told - The Federation of Small Businesses has warned that the Government's flagship agenda depends on providing support to SMEs - [Help small firms or risk failure of 'levelling up'. Government told - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

- Cutting Universal Credit will undermine the government's levelling up agenda - Pushing benefit levels lower will hurt working families and take money out of local economies, not accelerate our recovery. - [Cutting Universal Credit will undermine the government's levelling up agenda \(politicshome.com\)](https://www.politicshome.com)

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- Preparation for any appraisal requests from MHCLG regarding the LUF and CRF.

- [REDACTED]

Next Week

- [REDACTED]
- Appraisal of Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund bids.

Future Funding Secretariat

2 August 2021

ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Weekly Update 36
Friday 13 August 2021

UK Progress

- [REDACTED]

Scottish Progress

- On 12 August Mr Arthur wrote to Luke Hall outlining his concerns over the role SG has had in the CRF and LUF appraisal process including: the short timescales, lack of information and unclear impact of SG feedback in the wider assessment of bids. The letter has also made clear that satisfactory assurances from UKG on the future role of SG in UKSPF and LUF are required before substantive comments can be provided. A full copy of this letter has been attached to the accompanying email of this note.

MHCLG Fortnightly Updates

- Scottish Government officials were scheduled to meet with MHCLG on 10 August to discuss the wider Levelling Up Agenda however this was cancelled at the behest of MHCLG due to annual leave of colleagues.

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- Devolved Administrations met on 10 August to discuss the current engagement with MHCLG and how they would be responding to the appraisal role offered by UKG for the CRF and LUF.

- [REDACTED]

Recent Media Coverage

- 'Six 'must haves' for Boris' levelling up vision' - Nigel Wilcock, Executive Director of the Institute of Economic Development shares with us the six 'must haves' for Boris' levelling up agenda - [Six 'must haves' for Boris' levelling up vision \(openaccessgovernment.org\)](https://openaccessgovernment.org/six-must-haves-for-boris-levelling-up-vision/)
- 'Emily Morrison: Government's levelling up scheme risks repeating failures of the past' – The Partnerships for People and Place project adopts the wrong approach to place-based work, writes the head of the Institute for Community Studies. - [Emily Morrison: Government's levelling up scheme risks repeating failures of the past | Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) \(lqplus.com\)](https://www.localgovernmentchronicle.com/news/emily-morrison-government-levelling-up-scheme-risks-repeating-failures-of-the-past/)
- 'Boris Johnson: More than half of Britons say prime minister has done a bad job 'levelling up' – Boris Johnson is struggling to break through with his flagship "levelling up" agenda with 55 per cent of Britons saying the Government is doing a bad job on this policy, an exclusive poll reveals - [Boris Johnson: More than half of Britons say PM has done a bad job 'levelling up' | Evening Standard](https://www.eveningstandard.com/news/politics/boris-johnson-more-than-half-of-britons-say-pm-has-done-a-bad-job-levelling-up-1.1211111)
- "Levelling up' funding must be redesigned, NCVO tells government' – The government's levelling up agenda will falter unless it taps into the "unique contribution" charities can

offer, NCVO has warned – [‘Levelling up’ funding must be redesigned. NCVO tells government \(civilsociety.co.uk\)](https://www.civilsociety.co.uk)

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [REDACTED]
- Appraisal of Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund bids.

Next Week

- [REDACTED]

Future Funding Secretariat
13 August 2021

**ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Fortnightly Update 37
Friday 3 September 2021**

UK Process

- [Redacted]

Scottish Progress

- [Redacted]

MHCLG Updates

- [Redacted]

Recent Media

- Good news: We're going to Court - Good Law Project
- Government faces High Court battle over Levelling Up Fund | Third Sector
- Third of most deprived areas will not benefit from Levelling Up Fund, research finds - Rural Services Network (rsnonline.org.uk)
- New Fraser of Allander report provides fresh hope for 'marginalised' Highland Council (pressandjournal.co.uk)

Future Funding Team Activities:

- [Redacted]
- High level commentary provided to MHCLG on Levelling Up Fund bids.
- [Redacted]

Future Funding Team
September 2021

ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Fortnightly Update 39
Friday 1 October 2021

UK Progress

- Despite the UKG Cabinet reshuffle taking place on 15 September and MHCLG being renamed to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), clear ministerial portfolio responsibilities are still to be confirmed.

- [REDACTED]

DLUHC Fortnightly Updates

- [REDACTED]

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- [REDACTED]

Recent Media Coverage

- 'Michael Gove's new UK Government post will see him attack devolution' - Gove's move will put him in charge of spending around £4.6 billion a year on the UK Shared Prosperity Funds through the UK Community Renewal Fund, the Community Ownership Fund and the Levelling Up Fund. – [Michael Gove's new UK Government post will see him attack devolution | The National](#)
- 'It's a myth the UK Government will match EU funding for Wales' - Vaughan Gething – No projects in Wales have yet been guaranteed any money from the pots supposed to be replacing EU funds for Wales – ['It's a myth the UK Government will match EU funding for Wales' - Vaughan Gething - Wales Online](#)
- 'UK Government delays in replacing EU funds costing job opportunities, according to Welsh Government' – The UK Government's delays in replacing EU funds for Wales is leaving communities in the dark and costing job opportunities, the Welsh Government has said. – [UK Government delays in replacing EU funds costing job opportunities, according to Welsh Government | ITV News Wales](#)
- 'Community Wealth Building should be at the heart of levelling up' The chief executive of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies on what a real levelling up strategy should look like – [Community Wealth Building should be at the heart of levelling up - New Statesman](#)

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [Redacted]

Next Week

- [Redacted]

Future Funding Secretariat
1 October 2021

**ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Fortnightly Update 41
Friday 29 October 2021**

UK Progress

- [REDACTED]
- As part of the UKG Budget and Spending Review announcement on 27 October, successful bids for first round of both the Community Ownership Fund and Levelling Up Fund have been released. Despite these announcements no information was provided regarding successful bids for the Community Renewal Fund.
- A total of 8 projects across Scotland have been successful in the first round of bids for the Levelling Up Fund (5 from Level One, 1 from Level Two, and 2 from Level Three) selected to receive support – in total £171.7m of funding to Scottish projects (or just over 10% of all awards). These projects came from 8 Scottish Local Authorities including Aberdeen City, Glasgow City, City of Edinburgh, Falkirk, West Dunbartonshire, Highland Council and Renfrewshire Council.
- [REDACTED]

DLUHC Fortnightly Updates

- [REDACTED]

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- [REDACTED]

Recent Media Coverage

- Following the recent UKG Budget and Spending Review, media reports regarding announcement successful bids for the first round of the Levelling Up Fund and Community Ownership Fund has largely been supportive.
- [REDACTED]

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

Future Funding Secretariat
29 October 2021

MEDIA ARTICLES

Title	Focus	Source	Blurb
'Budget: Scottish Government to receive extra £4.6bn a year'	Overall funding to Scotland	The Herald	The Chancellor has set out his plans for economic recovery after the pandemic in his Budget today. Rishi Sunak said his spending plans were evidence of the 'indisputable fiscal benefit' of being part of the United Kingdom.
'Devolved administrations to be given 'largest block grants' since 1998'	Overall funding to Scotland	The Scotsman	Rishi Sunak announced the increase during his Budget statement, and it will see an increase to Scottish Government funding in each year rising by an average of £4.6 billion. It will rise £2.5 billion for the Welsh Government, and £1.6 billion for the Northern Ireland Executive.
'How Budget 2021 affects Scotland: the key policies explained, from whisky tax to air passenger duty'	Overall funding to Scotland	iNews	The whisky industry has welcomed a freeze in spirits duty, but a cut in Air Passenger Duty within the UK was described as a 'disgrace' by the SNP. The renovation of Inverness Castle and the redevelopment of a key roundabout in Falkirk are among eight projects in Scotland set to be directly funded by the UK Government. A total of £172m of the new UK-wide Levelling Up Fund will make its way north of the border after a series of successful bids from Scottish councils.
Could do better: Budget reaction round up	Overall funding to Scotland	UKFundraising	While there were some positives, yesterday's Budget lacks detail, does not go far enough, and could see charities left with a £6.6 billion funding gap from the pandemic, charities and representational bodies have said. Positive steps noted included the announcements of a commitment to support health research and development, the Recovery Loan Scheme extension, more government funding for community sports facilities across England, and the first projects from the Levelling Up Fund.
Sunak's levelling up	Overall funding to Scotland	Daily Business Group	Rishi Sunak raised the stakes in the battle over the union with a series of direct investments in Scottish projects. As well as £4.6 billion allocated to the Holyrood

cash raises union stakes			government, the Chancellor has allocated more than £170 million directly to infrastructure projects in Scotland as part of the Levelling Up Fund.
No new funding for North Sea transition but string of projects receive cash	Overall funding for Scotland	The Herald	A range of Scottish projects have been granted funding as part of the Chancellors budget today. Among them are Inverness Castle, Pollok Stables and a new marketplace for Aberdeen city centre.
Autumn Budget 2021: 'UK Government has shortchanged Scotland'	Overall funding for Scotland	The Scotsman	The Autumn Budget has been branded an 'embarrassment' and has 'short-changed Scotland', Scottish politicians have claimed, as the Chancellor unveiled a cut in aviation taxes and an increase in minimum wage which critics warned was still below the poverty line.
Almost £2bn slashed from 'levelling up' funding in poor areas, despite Boris Johnson's pledge	UKSPF	The Independent	Tory manifesto pledged to 'match' development spending lost with Brexit – but pot is just £2.6bn over three years, not £4.5bn. The government had pledged to match lost EU funding – to “tackle inequality and deprivation” – which would have required at least £4.5bn over the next three years. But Rishi Sunak’s Budget reveals just £2.6bn has been allocated and reallocates the fund to improving “functional numeracy skills”, to boost job prospects.
More details of UK shared prosperity fund emerge	UKSPF	Local Government Chronicle	The UK shared prosperity fund (UKSPF), which is designed to replace current EU funding, will be worth more than £2.6bn over the next three years, the government has announced – almost five years after details of the fund were first unveiled. Senior members of the Local Government Association have been consulted in recent months over the rollout of the fund, which will be worth £0.4bn in 2022-23, £0.7bn in 2023-24 and £1.5bn in 2024-25. All EU funding programmes are expected to be completed by the end of 2023. Sir Stephen Houghton (Lab), chair of the Special Interest Group of Municipal Authorities, said that “on levelling up, news regarding the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was disappointing,” adding: “It will be a complex set of small pots and funding will not get close to EU levels for another couple of years, compounding the disappointing delays to the community renewal fund.”

Sunak backs £560m numeracy plan	UKSPF	The Financial Times	The initiative, named “Multiply”, announced ahead of Wednesday’s Budget, will receive £560m in funding over the next three year from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the pot of money intended to replace EU structural funds after Brexit.
Sector Response to the Autumn Budget and Spending Review	UKSPF	FE News	Elizabeth Taylor, Chief Executive ERSA said: "Today was the day we expected to learn more about UKSPF through the Spending Review, so we find ourselves disappointed that there is no real detail. What we have learnt is that the Devolved Administrations will have a place within the governance structures for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The Chancellor promised Shared Prosperity Fund would match EU structural funding of £1.5bn a year but it is hard to envisage how the UKSPF commitment will match estimated EU funding of £11bn over 2021-27, if in 2022-23 it is £0.4bn and 2023-24 £0.7bn, we are waiting for 2024-25. "We also understand that UKSPF will fund Multiply , the new UK-wide programme to equip hundreds of thousands of adults with functional numeracy skills to improve their employment prospects, this is a welcome initiative."Evidence shows that we need engagement, participation and employment support as a central feature of UKSPF. There are high numbers in employment, but there is a skills and labour shortage. Programmes and projects funded by European Funding have engaged with people reluctant to be active job seekers, have removed barriers, enhanced skills and responded at the local level needed for place based levelling up. We still hope to see this through UKSPF. We will continue to make the case for employment provisions within UKSPF."
‘Budget: UK to invest £850m to protect museums, galleries, libraries and local culture’	Community Renewal Fund	City AM	Chancellor Rishi Sunak has announced the government will be investing £850m to protect museums, galleries, libraries, and local culture. The government have allocated £220m UK Community Renewal Fund prospectus launch, providing funding for local areas across the UK in 2021-22 for projects investing in people, communities and businesses.
Community hub project in Kinloch Rannoch given £250k Autumn Budget boost	Community Renewal Fund	The Courier	A project aimed at creating a new community hub – including a bar – in Kinloch Rannoch has been handed a £250,000 boost in the UK Chancellor’s Autumn Budget. Councillor John Duff, a Conservative member for the area, said: “The news that the chancellor has awarded £250,000 from the UK Government direct to the Rannoch Community Hub project is absolutely fantastic news for the community and I congratulate the committee on having grasped this brand new funding opportunity with both hands. “This project will make an immense difference to Kinloch Rannoch

			and I am delighted that the chancellor has recognised the positive transformation that these funds can make to this remote rural community.
Budget: £3m deal for Glasgow's Burrell will help bring back tourists	Community Renewal Fund		The Herald
UK Budget: New Universal Credit taper rate and £170m from levelling up fund	Levelling Up Fund/ Community Renewal Fund		Scottish Housing News
Budget: MSP says UK Government has 'abandoned' North East and Moray	Levelling Up Fund		The National
UK Budget: North Ayrshire Council will 'level up' B714 to Dalry	Levelling Up Fund		Ardrossan and Saltcoats Herald

				“We look forward to developing the design of the project, including active travel infrastructure along the route and other environmental improvements.”
Scottish projects set to benefit from UK Government's direct "levelling up" funding	Levelling Fund	Up	The Scotsman	Glasgow's Burrell Collection will benefit from £3 million investing for exhibitions, while Inverness Castle will undergo major refurbishment work and Aberdeen is set for a new £20 million marketplace, following investment allocated in the Westminster Budget.
Falkirk's futuristic aerial roundabout secures £20 million funding	Levelling Fund	Up	Falkirk Herald	A major project to create an aerial crossing in Falkirk has received a £20m boost from the UK Government following today's budget. Falkirk Council leader Cecil Meiklejohn said: “It builds up the programme of works we are preparing in our Investment Zone and will complement a series of measures which will help drive forward our area's economy following the pandemic

**ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Fortnightly Update 40
Friday 15 October 2021**

UK Progress

- Following on from the UKG Cabinet reshuffle on 15 September, it has been confirmed that Neil O’Brien MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Levelling Up, The Union and Constitution) will be the lead minister in DLUHC for the UKSPF and the Levelling Up White Paper. In light of this, Mr Lochhead has written to Mr O’Brien introducing himself and reiterating the concerns he raised with his predecessor Luke Hall. A copy of this letter has been attached to the accompanying email of this note for further detail.
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

DLUHC Fortnightly Updates

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Recent Media Coverage

- ‘LGA seeks assurances over delay to community renewal fund’ – The Local Government Association is “seeking assurances” from the government that local authorities will be given enough time to deliver projects supported by the new community renewal fund, following delays to the announcement of the grants. – [LGA seeks assurances over delay to community renewal fund | Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) \(lgcplus.com\)](#)
- ‘Northern leaders push Government on levelling up and five 'gamechanger' projects’ – The leaders from the North West, North East and Yorkshire and Humber have urged Levelling Up Minister Michael Gove to meet them to discuss how the region can “play a leading role” in helping the nation recover from the pandemic – [Northern leaders push Government on levelling up and five 'gamechanger' projects - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)
- ‘PM pursuing Oliver Twist-style strategy instead of levelling up, says peer’ – Speaking during a Lords debate on the need to produce a coherent and cost-effective regional

strategy, Labour's Lord Liddle said a green new deal prioritising the transformation of the country's old industrial towns into "exemplars of zero-carbon living" should be at the heart of the approach. He said the Government's current plan involved the creation of "lots of funds" for which local authorities had to make bids to Whitehall departments. – [PM pursuing Oliver Twist-style strategy instead of levelling up, says peer | Evening Standard](#)

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Next Week

- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

Future Funding Secretariat

15 October 2021

ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Fortnightly Update 43 Friday 26 November 2021

UK Progress

- [REDACTED]

Scottish Progress

- [REDACTED]

DLUHC Fortnightly Updates

- SG officials met with DLUHC colleagues (previously MHCLG) on 16 November to discuss the development of the UKSPF and the implementation of the wider Levelling Up Agenda Funds.
- [REDACTED]
- It was also made clear that the Levelling Up white paper will be released in mid-December.

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- [REDACTED]

Recent Media Coverage

Levelling Up Fund

- Business groups and local councils are protesting at a hidden £1.65bn post-Brexit cut to development funding in the north, in a fresh blow to Boris Johnson's claims to be "levelling up" the country. [Business groups attack £1.65bn cut to 'levelling up' funding in north after Brexit | The Independent](#)
- The government has been accused of a lack of urgency in fulfilling a commitment to appoint a taskforce including local government political leaders to engage with officials over the design of the UK shared prosperity fund (UKSPF). [Ministers accused of backtracking on shared prosperity fund local taskforce | Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) \(lgcplus.com\)](#)
- Only a quarter of the money from the recently announced community renewal fund (CRF) will go to the country's most deprived council areas, despite it being intended to "support people and communities most in need across the UK". [Exclusive: Concern as renewal fund fails to prioritise deprived areas | Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) \(lgcplus.com\)](#)

Community Renewal Fund

- Conservative councillors have expressed frustration that their councils' roles in recommending which bids should be taken forward for the £220m community renewal fund (CRF) appeared to have been overlooked by the government when final decisions were made. [Councils question logic of ministers' community renewal fund decisions | Local Government Chronicle \(LGC\) \(lgcplus.com\)](#)

Community Ownership Fund

- A £225,000 grant has helped secure the future of a Bradford foodbank that has seen a huge increase in users since the beginning of the pandemic. [£22k Government cash will save Bradford foodbank from going under - YorkshireLive \(examinerlive.co.uk\)](#)

UK Shared Prosperity Fund

- As set out in this SPICe blog and more detailed briefing, Scotland's economic development landscape is complex, and is undergoing significant change. One part of this is an increased profile for the UK government, through a number of different initiatives. As a backdrop to this Part 6 of the UK Internal Market Act 2020 gives UK Ministers broad powers to provide financial assistance to any part of the UK for the purposes of promoting economic development, providing infrastructure, supporting cultural and sporting activities, and supporting education and training activities and exchanges. [UK government funding of economic development in Scotland – SPICe Spotlight | Solas air SPICe \(spice-spotlight.scot\)](#)

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [Redacted]

Next Week

- [Redacted]

Future Funding Secretariat

26 November 2021

ESIF Replacement Steering Group – Fortnightly Update 42 Friday 12 November 2021

Scottish Progress

- On 8 November, the ESIF Replacement Steering Group met to discuss the recent bid announcements and UK Budget announcements following their announcement at the end of October.
- The Group overwhelmingly raised concern regarding the effectiveness of these Funds noting the time and effort wasted by unsuccessful bidders as well as the poor timescales provided by the UKG to produce substantive applications.



DLUHC Fortnightly Updates

- [Redacted]

Devolved Administration (DA) Updates

- SG officials met with their counterparts on 1 November to discuss the implications and stakeholder response to the UKG Budget.

Recent Media Coverage

- 'Spending Review is another missed chance on 'levelling up' – The Government has promised multiple times that the UK Shared Prosperity Funding will match that lost from EU structural funding, however the Spending Review, finally announcing the funding profile, showed the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) will be just £2.6bn over the next three years – only reaching the annual EU level in the last year of the Review period. – Spending Review is another missed chance on 'levelling up' (themj.co.uk)
- 'Rural firms 'losing out' after EU funds replaced' – Rural businesses have accused ministers of "levelling down" the countryside after analysis of the budget found they will suffer a shortfall of hundreds of millions of pounds in grant funding. – Rural firms 'losing out' after EU funds replaced | Business | The Times
- 'Gove calls for PM to chair cabinet committee on levelling up' – The communities secretary has said that a cabinet committee should be established to examine the government's approach to levelling up. Appearing before the Commons Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee yesterday – Gove calls for PM to chair cabinet committee on levelling up | Local Government Chronicle (LGC) (lgcplus.com)
- 'UK Government accused of treachery in row over Wales' EU replacement funds' – Wales' climate minister has accused the UK Government of treachery as the row continues over how the country's EU funding will be replaced. – UK Government accused of treachery in row over Wales' EU replacement funds | ITV News Wales
- 'Michael Gove's plan to end levelling-up confusion' – This week's cabinet "away day" might have been moved from the grandeur of the prime minister's country house to the depths of Downing Street, but the agenda was still centred on one thing - "levelling-up". – Michael Gove's plan to end levelling-up confusion - BBC News
- 'Government finally publishes levelling up model after criticism' – The Government has finally published the model it used to prioritise cash allocations from its levelling up fund after criticism from the official statistics watchdog. – Government finally publishes levelling up model after criticism (themj.co.uk)

Future Funding Team Activities:

Last week/this Week:

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Next Week

- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]
- [Redacted]

Future Funding Secretariat

12 November 2021