

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Partnership & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	12.03.2025
Subject:	Overview of the Anglesey UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Purpose of Report:	To provide an update on the delivery of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund on Anglesey between 2022 and 2025
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr. Dylan Rees
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Gary Pritchard – Leader and Economic Development Portfolio Holder
Head of Service:	Christian Branch - Head of Regulation and Economic Development
Report Author:	Manon Francis (Project Manager – SPF)
Tel:	
Email:	manonfrancis@ynysmon.llyw.cymru
Local Members:	Relevant to all Elected Members

1 - Recommendation/s

The Committee is requested to:

- R1. Note the successful delivery of Anglesey’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the positive outputs achieved between 2022 and 2025**
- R2. Note the implementation of Anglesey’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund in line with UK Government guidance**
- R3. Recognises the on-going role of the Council in managing the delivery of the funding on the Island, as well as supporting local delivery partners**
- R4. To request further updates from Officers in respect of SPF delivery during 2025/2026**

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) has been developed against the context of our corporate priorities with other key local, regional and national policies and strategies informing the Regional Investment Plan

Local strategies:

- Council Plan 2023 - 2028 (Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2023)
- Isle of Anglesey & Gwynedd Well-being Plan (Gwynedd & Anglesey Public Service Board, 2018)
- Isle of Anglesey County Council Strategic Equality Plan 2020 –2024 (Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2020)
- Anglesey and Gwynedd Joint Local Development Plan 2011 –2026 (Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2017)
- Isle of Anglesey County Council toward Net Zero Plan 2022-2025 (Isle of Anglesey County Council, 2022)

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities **[focus on customer/citizen]**

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality **[focus on value]**

3.3 A look at any risks **[focus on risk]**

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role **[focus on performance & quality]**

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

3.6 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. How have the main challenges and risks been overcome to date to ensure the successful implementation of the new approach to distributing UK Government funding?
2. What are the next steps following the completion of the current programme in March 2025?
3. The SPF has supported 913 local residents in improving their numeracy skills to date, what led to the decision to remove funding for adult numeracy, and what impact does this have on the residents of Anglesey?
4. What assurances can be provided that all projects will successfully meet their evaluation milestones and commitments prior to the closure process?
5. The projected forecast for the number of people accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment was 76, yet the actual number recorded is 0. What are the reasons behind this significant gap?
6. Overall, Anglesey's UK Shared Prosperity Fund has been successful, delivering positive outcomes. What plans are in place to ensure that both the successes and challenges encountered are properly documented and learned from?

5 – Background / Context

a. Background

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is £2.6 billion of funding provided by UK Government for local investment across the UK between December 2022 and March 2025.

The UKSPF has three investment priorities:

- Community and Place
- Supporting Local Business
- People and Skills (including adult numeracy - Multiply)

The UK Government launched the UKSPF as a replacement to the European Structural Fund programmes. The EU Structural Funds had been a major funding source in Wales for several decades and Anglesey had always been a significant recipient of these funds; supporting businesses, developing skills, increasing employability as well as capital infrastructure programmes.

The allocation for Anglesey through the UKSPF was £16,081,937 (with £2.78M ringfenced towards Multiply). Funding was approved and released from UK Government on an annual basis (funding profile below).

Funding Sources	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
UKSPF Allocation excluding Multiply	£1,614,652	£3,229,305	£8460,778	£13,304,735
Multiply Allocation	£839,619	£968,791	£968,791	£2,777,201
Total UKSPF Allocation	£2,454,271	£4,198,096	£9,429,569	£16,081,936

The SPF Programme commenced in December 2022. The Council undertook an open call process for projects between the 30th January 2023 and 24th February 2023. 87 applications were submitted and following a stringent assessment process, 25 projects were approved for funding support (15 Single LA projects, and 10 Multi LA projects). The Council delivered 8 of the 15 Single LA Projects. **Annex A** provides a summary of our delivery partners and their approved projects.

Each Delivery Partner has been responsible for implementing and managing their own approved project, with the Council's SPF team (consisting of two officers: SPF Project Manager and SPF Grants Officer, as well as Finance) providing support. The SPF team also liaised closely with the Regional Lead Authority (Gwynedd Council) and the Delivery Partners to monitor and regularly review progress, expenditure and compliance. Stringent project quality and budget monitoring took place along with risk management.

b. Governance

During the development of the UKSPF Programme, UK Government asked Local Government in Wales to collaborate and produce one Regional Investment Plan for the region (North Wales) and therefore to nominate a single Lead Body to submit the Plan and act as the Accountable Body for the funding. It was agreed by the Council's Executive Committee in July 2022 that Gwynedd Council would be the Lead Authority for the region (a position supported by all other North Wales Local Authorities). The formal relationship existed between UK Government and Gwynedd Council (with a subsequent Inter Authority Agreement between Gwynedd Council and the five other Local Authorities). This meant that all funding was passed from UK Government to Gwynedd Council, with all UKSPF projects across the region submitting their project claims to Gwynedd Council.

The final decision regarding the allocation of funding on Anglesey lies with the Local Authority, through the Anglesey UK SPF Programme Board. The SPF Programme Board consists of the Leader, Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Chief Executive, the S151 Officer and the HoS for Regulation and Economic Development.

The Council's SPF Team continues to work closely with each of the Delivery Partners to progress their projects and to monitor key issues and risks. Meetings are held every four weeks with each of the 25 projects. These meetings are an opportunity to discuss all aspects of the project delivery and putting projects in touch with other partners where there is an opportunity to work together, avoid duplication and share best practice.

Complementing the regional and local governance noted above, the Council's SPF Team also meet separately with UK Government representatives once a month to update them on progress, highlight areas of concern and share best practice.

c. Programme Overview

The current SPF Programme will come to an end on the 31st March, 2025. The Council's SPF team has been working closely with Delivery Partners and have fostered strong working relationship built on trust, openness and collaboration to realise the best possible outcomes for Anglesey. The priority has been to ensure that all allocated project expenditure is utilised, and meaningful benefits are achieved, for the benefit of Anglesey residents and businesses.

It is envisaged that by the time all final claims are submitted and processed (final reporting to UK Government on the 1st of May 2025), the projects should have delivered significant benefits for Anglesey residents and communities, including:

- Financial support to **496** businesses, enterprises and organisations
- Supported **913** local residents to improve their numeracy skills
- Supported the creation of, or safeguarded, **80** jobs on the Island
- Helped **361** people to secure a qualification

The UK Government believes that the Programme has performed extremely well. They are satisfied that most of the anticipated outputs have been achieved, or are on track to be achieved by the end of the Programme. In many cases, the forecasted outputs have been surpassed.

Annex B provides further details on the Programme's achievements. Note that these figures are up to November 2024 project claims. Many outputs are still being achieved right up to the end of the projects.

The positive performance of the Programme has been achieved through fostering strong collaborative working between the SPF Team and Delivery Partners. In January 2025, the Council's SPF team were successful in securing additional funding for Anglesey (from regional underspend) for the delivery of further Multiply activities. This was a positive step,

demonstrating the relevant Delivery Partners' capability to spend additional funding, achieve additional outputs and realise greater benefits for the Island.

The SPF Programme represented a new approach to the distribution of UK Government funding. There were a number of challenges that had to be overcome to ensure delivery was effective, including:

- I. The Council being the 'lead' body for the Island, ensuring local needs were met.
- II. A delayed start to the programme, with the delivery timescales being condensed into 2.5 years.
- III. The need to undertake an open, competitive call for projects.
- IV. The unprecedented demand following the open call, and the subsequent robust assessment processes and decision making.
- V. The need to align with regional arrangements in terms of co-ordination and reporting.
- VI. The provision of support to Delivery Partners to ensure they had sufficient capacity, capability and experience to deliver.

d. Closure Process

There has been a staggered project closure process amongst Anglesey SPF projects:

- 3 of the 25 SPF projects closed on the 31st December, 2024.
- 7 will be closing at the end of February 2025.
- 15 projects will close on the 31st of March, 2025.

In terms of project evaluation, each project has been allocated funding (1-2% of total project cost) for an independent evaluation to be carried out and submitted prior to the final claim. The SPF Team are working with the projects to ensure all evaluation milestones and commitments are met.

The Regional Team will also be carrying out a lighter touch evaluation on the delivery of the SPF Programme in North Wales.

The UK Government has also commissioned a national evaluation of the Programme. The Council has submitted information into this evaluation.

e. Risks

The risks encountered during the delivery of the SPF Programme on Anglesey included:

- I. Delivering the programme within the timeframe set out by UK Government.
- II. Reputational risk for the Council as the 'lead body' responsible for selecting the successful projects and managing the overall UK SPF allocation for Anglesey.
- III. Projects requiring more funding than is available within the Programme due to the impact of inflation and increased costs.
- IV. Delivery being primarily dependent on the performance of external Delivery Partners.
- V. The need to continuously review and adapt to changes in circumstances of Delivery Partners.

Each of the projects developed and maintained their own Risk Registers which were updated on a quarterly basis.

f. New Funding Announced

The original timescales of the SPF Programme have now been extended into 2025/26, and the UK Government has confirmed the following allocation for Anglesey:

- Capital £1,495,296
- Revenue £3,898,805
- Total £5,394,101

This represents a significant reduction in the funds available when compared with the first 2.5 years of the SPF Programme.

The UK Government has made it clear that whilst the 2025/ 2026 funding is entirely separate from the previous SPF allocation, the three original thematic priorities (Community & Place; Supporting Local Business and People and Skills) will remain. The funding for Multiply (adult numeracy) has been removed.

Fundamentally, the new funding allocation represents an extension to the current SPF programme. As such, existing Delivery Partners have been asked to submit applications to continue their current activities for a further 12 months. Undertaking a new open call for projects is considered unachievable given:

- I. Insufficient capacity to undertake a full process given ongoing commitments and workload arising from the original SPF Programme.
- II. Tight timeframe to implement an open call process, including the need to complete formal assessments of all applications.
- III. Insufficient time for new projects to be identified, developed, approved, monitored, closed and reported upon.
- IV. A reduced funding allocation that doesn't meet the full socio-economic needs of the Island.

It is crucial that the SPF 2025/ 2026 delivery period is commenced as soon as practicably possible in April 2025.

During this transitional year, the Council will also begin discussions with stakeholders to identify project ideas and interventions that could be supported by future UK Government support in 2026/27 and beyond.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

None – applications by and for protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 will be dealt with exactly the same and funding could be targeted towards those groups

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

Positive – this funding has the potential to be targeted towards those at a socio-economic disadvantage

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

Positive – by creating employment opportunities in the area it is hoped that more Welsh speakers will be able to benefit and stay in the locality.
Opportunities to learn Welsh/ increase confidence through some of the SPF Projects.
Raise the profile of the Welsh Language

7 – Financial Implications

Neutral – there are no financial implications on the County Council as staffing costs have been paid for and will be met through the programme.

8 – Appendices:

Annex A – Anglesey SPF Project Summaries

Annex B – Outputs Summary for Anglesey UKSPF Programme

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

<https://www.anglesey.gov.wales/en/Business/Economic-development/UK-Shared-Prosperty-Fund.aspx>

Annex A – Anglesey SPF Projects Summaries

Investment Priority: Community and Place

Project Name	Delivery Organisation
Improving Anglesey resident financial resilience and wellbeing economy	IACC
This project, in collaboration with Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Ynys Môn, aims to enhance the financial resilience of households on Anglesey through one-on-one support in community spaces. By focusing on early intervention and ongoing assistance, it seeks to address immediate hardship and improve long-term financial stability for those facing poverty and deprivation.	
CCTV Project	Anglesey and Gwynedd Safety Partnership
The installation of CCTV in Llangfeni and Holyhead. The project will also include work on selected lighting columns.	
Balchder Bro	Menter Môn
The project will deliver activities and improvements across Ynys Môn, aligning with community and strategic priorities. Its key aims are to stimulate local pride, improve well-being, and empower communities. It will enhance local identity, support arts and environmental events, strengthen community hubs, and promote sustainability through net-zero initiatives and conservation efforts.	
Connecting People, Nature and Place	Small Woods
This project will enhance skills, resilience, and well-being for those facing employment barriers by developing accessible outdoor sites and expanding learning activities on Anglesey. It will offer nature-based programs, training, and volunteering opportunities while promoting green careers, restoring woodlands, and improving accessibility.	
Green Destination Programme	IACC
The project will support environmental and visitor economy goals, aligning with the AONB Management Plan and Destination Management Plan. It focuses on enhancing landscapes, addressing the nature crisis, promoting well-being, supporting vibrant communities, and managing climate change impacts.	
Creu Ynys Actif	IACC
This project has three key elements: grants of £5,000–£30,000 for local sports clubs, Môn Actif initiatives supporting dementia care, water safety, and youth health, and capital investment in leisure centres.	
Prosiect Pontio Cymunedau Môn	IACC
This project, in partnership with Medrwn Môn, aims to create a resilient island by empowering communities to design and deliver solutions based on local needs. Key initiatives include developing and modernizing community hubs, creating new safe spaces, conducting a feasibility study for play and green spaces, and providing training to strengthen community groups' capacity.	
Lle Da	IACC
The Place-Making Programme for Anglesey's town centres and villages aims to improve urban spaces, support town councils, and enhance local facilities. Key actions include developing Place-Making Plans, re-occupying empty premises, improving shop fronts, and promoting events and visual enhancements.	
North Wales Active, Healthy and Happy	Gogledd Cymru Actif
This multi-authority project across Anglesey, Gwynedd, Denbighshire, and Flint aims to support regular physical activity by building capacity, skills, resilience, and confidence in communities. Led by the communities, it focuses on empowering them to create sustainable solutions for daily activity.	
North Wales Growth Vision Opportunities	Ambition North Wales

This multi-authority project across North Wales aims to maximize benefits from investments aligned with the North Wales Growth Deal. It focuses on five key workstreams—regional collaboration, skills, digital, energy and net zero, and social value—delivering activities to ensure communities benefit from these initiatives.

Caru Cymru

Keep Wales Tidy

This multi-authority project in Anglesey, Conwy, Flint, and Wrexham focuses on expanding community litter-picking efforts and supporting local initiatives to reduce litter. Activities include growing volunteer networks, promoting litter-free zones, raising awareness, supporting local authority strategies, and organizing events like repair cafes and recycling pop-ups to tackle waste and fly-tipping.

Investment Priority: Supporting Local Business

Project Name	Delivery Organisation
Green Digital	GLLM
This project offers evaluation and mentoring to businesses, helping them improve digital and net zero capabilities, boosting efficiency, productivity, and carbon reduction. It includes diagnostics, personalized decarbonization and digitalization roadmaps, mentorship, and guidance on funding, best practices, and operational changes.	
Cefnogi Busnesau Môn	Môn CF
This project offers one-on-one mentoring, business planning, cash flow assistance, UTR application support, and small grants for new and existing businesses. Services include help with business plans, grant applications, self-employment training, online presence improvements, and referrals to other resources.	
Igniting Innovation	MSParc
Igniting Innovation will create high-level employment, support business growth, foster start-ups, and upskill locals in the digital and energy sectors across Anglesey. It will also help children at risk of becoming NEET by teaching life skills and promoting business pathways, while strengthening personal and economic resilience.	
Specialist Support for Social Enterprises in North Wales	Cwmpas
This multi-authority project in Anglesey and Gwynedd provides specialist consultancy and market development support to enhance Social Business Wales (SBW). It offers tailored consultancy in areas like HR, tax, and finance, along with networking, training, and events to help the sector grow and access funding opportunities.	
Hwb Menter	Menter Môn
This multi-authority project in Anglesey and Gwynedd will maintain and develop the Enterprise Hub (Hwb Menter) to support entrepreneurs with knowledge, advice, networking, and space for their start-ups. It will also promote the use of SMART activities in local towns through the "SMART Gwynedd a Môn" initiative.	
Skills and Innovation Voucher Scheme	Bangor University
This multi-authority scheme in Anglesey, Gwynedd, and Flint offers the Skills and Innovation Voucher (SIV) Scheme to support SMEs and graduate entrepreneurs. Vouchers can be used for accessing Bangor University's expertise, facilities, and training related to R&D, innovation, and skills development.	

Investment Priority: People and Skills

Project Name	Delivery Organisation
Anglesey Young People – Succeeding Together	IACC
This project aims to support young people on Anglesey by improving skills, well-being, and reducing the risk of becoming NEET. It will provide an alternative curriculum with emotional well-being support, outdoor activities, and qualifications, as well as extended work experience opportunities through local employer partnerships.	
A Space for Life	IACC
This project aims to renovate a storage facility in Llangefni Library into a welcoming community space for both the library and local organizations. It will offer a variety of events and activities, including author visits, creative workshops, and digital support to help residents improve their IT skills.	
Supportive Steps	GLLM
Supportive Steps is a multi-authority scheme in Anglesey, Gwynedd, and Conwy that offers tailored mentoring for participants aged 16 to 25 transitioning into further education, along with comprehensive well-being and mental health support to aid their progression from college to employment.	
Employer Skills North Wales	GLLM
This multi-authority project in Gwynedd, Môn, and Conwy will help employers identify training needs and skills gaps in their workforce, offering group and individual sessions to support employee skill development and business growth.	
MULTIPLY	
Numeracy for Life	GLLM
This multi-authority project in Gwynedd, Môn, Conwy and Denbighshire aims to improve adult numeracy skills across Anglesey through community-based and work-related support, offering both one-on-one and group sessions. Targeting adults aged 19+ without L2 maths qualifications, it focuses on practical applications like saving money and budgeting for daily life.	
Môn Multiply	GLLM
The project involves Môn CF offering community courses across Anglesey with embedded numeracy skills, leading to qualifications, and CAB running sessions to improve numeracy and boost confidence in money management. It also includes placing 8 apprentices with trusted employers, aiming for NVQ Level 2 certification.	

Annex B – Outputs Summary for Anglesey UKSPF Programme (figures accurate up to November 2024 project claims)

Investment Priority: Community & Place		
Output	Forecast	Actual
Amount of green or blue space created or improved (m ²)	1,481	1,478
Amount of land made wheelchair accessible/ step free (m ²)	50	45
Amount of public realm created or improved (m ²)	530	511
Number of amenities/ facilities created or improved (number of amenities of facilities)	75	40
Number of commercial buildings completed or improved (number of buildings)	36	4
Number of events / participatory programmes	845	805
Number of feasibility studies developed as a result of support	38	22
Number of households receiving support	106	106
Number of households supported to take up energy efficiency measures	110	110
Number of local events or activities supported	593	544
Number of neighbourhood improvements undertaken	698	163
Number of new or improved cycleways or footpaths	2	0
Number of organisations receiving financial support other than grants (number of organisations)	30	29
Number of organisations receiving grants	80	77
Number of organisations receiving non-financial support	93	86
Number of people attending training sessions	72	29
Number of people reached	6,341	7,178
Number of rehabilitated premises	3	3
Number of Tourism, Culture or Heritage assets created or improved	22	6
Number of trees planted	5,250	5,250
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (number of opportunities)	1,242	1,208

Investment Priority: Supporting Local Business		
Output	Forecast	Actual
Amount of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure completed (m ²)	5,000	0
Number of angel investors engaged	42	30
Number of decarbonisation plans developed as a result of support	39	12
Number of enterprises receiving angel investment	9	9
Number of enterprises receiving financial support other than grants	60	37
Number of enterprises receiving grants	428	396
Number of enterprises receiving non-financial support	631	580
Number of events/ participatory programmes	51	50
Number of low or zero carbon energy infrastructure installed (number of units)	23	15
Number of people attending training sessions	150	138
Number of people reached	100	100
Number of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready	301	249
Number of Tourism, Culture or Heritage assets created or improved	16	1

Investment Priority: People and Skills including Multiply		
Output	Forecast	Actual
Number of economically inactive people engaging with keyworker support services	384	384
Number of people accessing mental and physical health support leading to employment	76	0
Number of people attending training sessions	180	98
Number of people in employment engaging with the skills system	264	204
Number of people receiving support to gain vocational licence	82	82
Number of people receiving support to gain employment	384	384
Number of people retraining	99	93
Number of people supported onto a course through provision of financial support	395	215
Number of people supported to access basic skills	831	852
Number of people supported to engage in job-searching	648	648
Number of people supported to engage in life skills	1,696	1,093
Number of people supported to gain a qualification	692	624
Number of people supported to participate in education	407	132
Number of people taking part in work experience programmes	98	50
Number of socially excluded people accessing support	211	201
Number of volunteering opportunities supported (number of opportunities)	69	69
Number of adult numeracy courses run in a local area through Multiply (Number of courses)	90	83
Number of different cohorts participating in numeracy courses (Number of cohorts)	45	39
Number of people achieving a qualification	152	134
Number of people participating in Multiply funded courses	913	761

****A number of the projects are still claiming outputs right to the project end date. Discussions with delivery partners indicate that the forecasts will be achieved.***