

Notice of Motion to Moray Council on Wednesday 29 June 2022

UK Shared Prosperity Fund Distribution

Council expresses its concern over the decision taken by the UK Government on UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) distribution which significantly disadvantages the Highlands & Islands area, including Moray, when compared with the EU Structural Funds that the UKSPF is replacing.

Council welcomes COSLA's agreed position on distribution methodology that:

1. the allocation methodology for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund should accurately reflect economic and social need in Scotland across urban and rural regions, recognising that different measures of social and economic need will be required for different geographies;
2. that this assessment of need should fairly include social inequality, rurality, connectivity challenges, distance from services, off-grid energy use and deprivation;
3. that SPF allocations should reflect a fair and accurate picture of social and economic inequalities in both urban and rural communities, and recognising the indicated willingness of the UK government to adopt a distinctive approach for Scotland, recommends therefore that indicators regularly used and relied on in Scotland, such as SIMD, free school meal entitlement and Council Tax Reduction entitlement, should also be considered to determine SPF distribution.

Given the evident disadvantage of the UK Government's UKSPF distribution model for the Highlands & Islands and Moray, Council strongly supports the position that as the UKSPF is a replacement for European Structural Funds, continuity between the two is essential and that as the transition is made between the two funding streams there should be no detriment to existing funding quantum in any region.

Council therefore instructs the Council's Co-Leaders to write to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities setting out this position and lobbying the Minister to put in place a no detriment arrangement for the UKSPF distribution in the Highlands & Islands when compared with the funding quantum received from the EU funding the UKSPF replaces.

Proposer : Cllr Leadbitter

Seconder: Cllr Harris