



Report to Executive

Meeting Date – 17th September 2024
Key Decision – Yes
Public/Private – Public

Portfolio – Leader
Directorate – Assistant Chief Executive
Lead Officer – Nik Hardy, Assistant Chief Executive

Title – Allocation of Sellafield Social Impact Investment Fund 2024/25

Summary: This paper seeks approval from the Executive with regards to the allocation of funding from the Sellafield Social Impact Investment Fund (SIIF) for the year 2024/2025. This funding must be utilised within the footprints of the former council areas of Allerdale and Copeland, support the delivery of the Sellafield Social Impact Strategy and the Council’s own priorities.

Recommendations:

That the Executive

1. Approve the split and utilisation of the SIIF funds as outlined in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8.
2. Agree to the delegations as detailed in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8

Tracking

Executive:	17 September 2024
Scrutiny:	
Council:	

1. Background

- 1.1. Between 2014 and 2023 the Board of Sellafield Ltd agreed annually to allocate funding up to £1million to the former Allerdale and Copeland Borough Councils (£500k each) to support projects, initiatives and programmes of work that deliver social conditions for growth.
- 1.2. Sellafield Ltd have continued to allocate those funds to Cumberland Council since 2023 on the basis that £500k continues to be allocated and spent within each of the former Council of Allerdale and Copeland's geographical footprints.
- 1.3. The general requirement of the fund is that activity should be in line with the objectives of Sellafield's Social Impact Strategy and the Energy Act 2016, in addition to the Council's own priorities.
- 1.4. The funding has been used to support and underpin a wide range of activity that has benefitted the local community since its inception. In 2023/2024 to Council allocated the funds to provide support to the community and voluntary sector, sporting and cultural development, regeneration and economic development and social inclusion activity.

2. Proposals

- 2.1. Cumberland Council must now consider how this funding should be utilised in 2024/25. This paper recommends an approach to the utilisation of the funds which acknowledges the long-standing commitments entered into by the former District Councils whilst aligning resources to Cumberland Council's priorities.
- 2.2. Spend associated with the delivery of the SIIF programme must contribute to the delivery of the Sellafield Social Impact Strategy and the Council Plan.
- 2.3. The Sellafield Social Impact Strategy, Six – Social Impact Multiplied, was adopted by Sellafield Ltd in 2020 and forms the basis for their socio-economic investment activities. It has a focus on the following objectives:
 - Resilient economies
 - Thriving communities
 - Social value chains
 - Sustainable incomes
 - Collective impact
- 2.4. Cumberland Council adopted the Council Plan in October 2022. The Plan placed health and wellbeing at the centre of the Council's activities and is supported by four key strategic themes:

- Addressing inequalities
- Environmental resilience and climate emergency
- Local economies that work for local people
- Delivering excellent public services

2.5. In 2023/24 the Council utilised the funding from Sellafield for a wide range of activity. This included investments into leisure activity, festivals, the voluntary and community sector and regeneration programmes.

2.6. The SIIF remains integral to the ongoing delivery of various long-standing commitments made by the former District Councils, therefore the proposal for the utilisation of funding in the current financial year seeks to continue and build on this activity.

2.7. It is proposed that in the former Allerdale Council area the funding is allocated as follows:

Activity	Amount	Strategic objectives contribution	Chief Officer funding delegated to
Community and voluntary sector support	£100,000	This activity has the potential to contribute to a wide range of objectives within the Cumberland Plan and the Sellafield Social Impact Strategy	Director of Public Health and Communities
Sporting and cultural development	£75,000	This activity contributes to the council's aspiration to improve health and wellbeing in addition to Sellafield's aspiration for thriving communities	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport

Regeneration and economic development	£325,000	This activity will contribute to the Council's objective around economies that work for local people and Sellafield's resilient economies objective	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
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2.8. In the former Copeland area, it is proposed that the funding is allocated as follows:

Activity	Amount	Strategic objectives contribution	Chief Officer funding delegated to
Supporting leisure activity	£378,000	This activity contributes to the council's aspiration to improve health and wellbeing in addition to Sellafield's aspiration for thriving communities	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
Regeneration and economic development	£25,000	This activity will contribute to the Council's objective around economies that work for local people and Sellafield's resilient economies objective	Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport
Social inclusion activity	£97,000	This activity has the capability to contribute to a wide range of objectives within the Cumberland Plan and the Sellafield	Director of Public Health and Communities

		Social Impact Strategy	
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2.9. The proposed split of funding detailed above ensures that the council continues to support long standing commitments and respond to other priorities as they emerge that support delivery of the Council Plan objectives.

3. Alternative options considered

- 3.1. Members may choose to support the recommendations contained within the report or otherwise.
- 3.2. Members could propose to utilise the SIIF funding to support a different set of priorities and activities, however this may have a wider impact on the revenue budget of the council.

4. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 4.1. The funding provided to the former district councils over many years resulted in a wealth of socio-economic activity that benefits the local communities in West Cumbria.
- 4.2. Cumberland Council now have the opportunity to continue that good work and the recommendations contained within this report, provide an opportunity to build on existing activity and explore new opportunities.
- 4.3. That the Executive
 1. Approve the split and utilisation of the SIIF funds as outlined in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8.
 2. Agree to the delegations as detailed in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8

Implications:

Contribution to the Cumberland Plan Priorities -

The Social Impact Investment Fund will make a significant contribution to the delivery of the Council Plan. The SIIF funding will be utilised on a wide range of activity and projects and will further the councils objectives in areas such as health and wellbeing, addressing inequalities and economies that work for local people

Relevant Risks –

The principal risks associated with the Social Impact Investment Fund are around the delivery of the programme in accordance with the conditions laid down by Sellafield Ltd. These risks will be mitigated by ensuring that the council operates as a responsible accountable body and

ensures that proper processes and procedures associated with external funding are adhered to.

Consultation / Engagement -

There has been limited engagement on proposals to date given the nature of the funding and existing commitments. Further consultation and engagement will be undertaken within each of the key activity areas as the scope for new projects and activities becomes apparent.

Legal –

Whilst the decisions in relation to the allocation of the funding from Sellafield Ltd could have been taken jointly by the Director of Public Health and Communities and the Director of Place, Sustainable Growth and Transport the matter has been referred to the Executive which also has the power to make any decision.

Further decisions of the Directors will be required in order to expend the allocated funding. The funding must be spent in accordance with Sellafield Ltd's terms and conditions. If used to issue grants, the award must be compliant with the Subsidy Control Act. If services, goods or works are to be procured, then the Council's Contract Procedure Rules must be adhered to.

Finance –

Finance implications are contained within the body of the report.

Information Governance –

No information governance issues arise from this report. Any issues that may arise thereafter will be dealt with as appropriate.

Impact Assessments –

Have you screened the decision for impacts using the Impact Assessment?

The utilisation of the SIIF funding will have positive impacts on the socio-economic challenges faced by Cumberland residents. Further impact assessments will be required as specific elements of the funding are developed in the coming months.

Contact details:

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Appendices attached to report:

Background papers:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: