



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Finance and Public Administration Committee

Professor Henry Overman
Director
What Works Centre for Local Economic
Growth

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Dear Professor Overman

The Finance and Public Administration Committee has a longstanding interest in the replacement of EU Funding in Scotland, building on the work of its predecessor Committee in Session 5. As such it has undertaken scrutiny of the Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Community Renewal Fund as they were launched.

The Committee is exploring holding a future evidence session with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, anticipated to take place in early 2023. To inform this session, we agreed to seek the views from the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth in relation to its role in developing the monitoring and evaluation of both the Levelling Up Fund and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF).

We note that the Levelling Up Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy sets out how external expertise from the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth helped develop the approach to the monitoring and evaluation of the Levelling Up Fund by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, and Department for Transport.

Alongside this the UKSPF prospectus highlights the toolkits and guidance of the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth as an important resource in relation to the Communities and Place investment priority. It also confirms that “a scoping study in partnership with the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth” will take place once investment plans have been received to inform a national approach to evaluation.

Given this, the Committee would very much welcome further information on your role in supporting the development of the monitoring and evaluation of the Levelling Up Fund and UKSPF. In particular we would welcome views on:

- the work of the What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth in Scotland;
- any examples of how your toolkits and guidance have been used to inform decision-making around investment in the Communities and Place investment priority;
- the extent to which your toolkits and guidance show evidence of impact in relation to any Scottish based interventions supporting the Communities and Place investment priority,
- progress with your scoping study, its remit and timetable, following the deadline of 1 August for submitting investment plans. We also seek further information on the extent to which your scoping study will explore any variations across the UK in investment plan approaches.

We would welcome a response from you by no later than **Friday 10 February 2023**. Please do not hesitate to contact Jane Williams, Senior Clerk to the Committee, should you have any queries or wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

Kenneth Gibson MSP
Convener
Finance and Public Administration Committee