

REPORT TO: COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE ON 19 AUGUST 2008

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The reason for this report is to ask the Committee to agree to the establishment of three posts to develop the Fairer Scotland Fund.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A (13) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to authorise, control and review as necessary, in consultation with the appropriate Service Committee, the establishment of all categories of staff of the Council, with the exception of teachers.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the committee agrees to the establishment of the Fairer Scotland Co-ordinator, the Fairer Scotland Administrator and the Partner Analyst posts.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Scottish Government announced as part of the Concordat between it and Local Government that a new fund would be created aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation across Scotland. Nationally the fund will total of £145 million per annum for the next three years and is part of the local government settlement.
- 3.2 An allocation has been made to Moray over the next three years to enable the Community Planning Partnership to work to tackle area based and individual poverty.
- 3.3 The Government have said that the purpose of the new fund should be governed by Community Planning Partnerships using the following key principles:
- A clear focus on investment to address the causes of poverty, not its symptoms;
 - A strong emphasis placed on making early interventions for vulnerable individuals;
 - Promotion of joint working between local partners;
 - Focussed action on improving employability as a key means of tackling poverty; and
 - Empowering communities and individuals to influence and inform the decisions made by Community Planning partnerships.

- 3.4 The Scottish Government requested that the Community Planning Partnership give a brief outline of their approach to the Fairer Scotland Fund. At the Community Planning Steering Group meeting held on 13 March 2008 the Partnership were advised that an outline proposal for investment of the Fairer Scotland Fund would be submitted to the Government and would align with the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.5 The Scottish Government has requested that a finalised proposal be presented to them in June 2008. The Partnership Board agreed at its meeting held on 29 May 2008 (*para 6(i) of the minute refers*) to a submission based on the initial proposal. A finalised proposal was presented and included a template based on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA).
- 3.6 The Fairer Scotland Submission reflects the Governments strategic priorities in relation to the key themes outlined in their guidance i.e.
- Regenerating the most disadvantaged Areas
 - Improving the Life Chances of Individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage
 - Improving employability
- 3.7 The proposal included investment in three posts which the partnership need to implement the actions listed in the Fairer Scotland submission which includes a Fairer Scotland co-ordinator, Administrator and a Partner Analyst.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The Fairer Scotland Fund will assist the Council achieve a number of its priorities listed in the corporate plan. It will assist the Council in specific elements of the Social programme particularly supporting and encouraging “measures that achieve social inclusion and enhance the quality of life” and in developing” a strategic approach to tackling social inclusion and social justice. It is closely aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and the Investment will allow investment in actions outlined in the SOA. This Investment has been agreed by the Community Planning Partnership.

(b) Policy and Legal

The Scottish Government views on the use of the fund are outlined in 3.1 50 3.4 of this paper. The Moray Council has a statutory duty under the Local Government in Scotland Bill 2003 part 2 section 16(1) to initiate, maintain and facilitate the process of Community Planning.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

The Fairer Scotland Fund allocation will be ring fenced in the first two years of the spending review period to ensure Community Planning Partnership engagement in driving “strategic investment of these resources”. It is envisaged that the ring fencing will be removed in

2010/11 as Single Outcome Agreements are concluded with Community Planning Partnerships.

The funding allocation for Moray from the Fairer Scotland Fund is:

2008/09	£343,000
2009/10	£422,000
2010/11	£500,000

The appointments are subject to detailed job evaluations being carried out however budgets have been allocated to appoint the following staff

Fairer Scotland Co-ordinator at an indicative Grade 11- £51,567
 Partner Analyst at Grade at an indicative Grade 10- £45,473
 Fairer Scotland Administrator at an indicative Grade 5 -£23,723
 Total staffing cost will be cost £120,963 Per annum
 These posts will be for the length of the Fairer Scotland Funding outlined above.

The staffing and other associated costs such as desk, travel and equipment costs to ensure the project can deliver its objectives till the end of this financial year 08/09 will be £80,642 and there are sufficient funds in this and following year's budget for these posts

(d) Consultations

The Community Planning Partnership considered the Fairer Scotland Proposal at its Board Meeting held 29 May 2008 and again at the Board meeting held on the 7 August 2008. Financial Services have been consulted and has incorporated their comments on the financial implications of this report. Personnel Services have also been consulted and their comments have been incorporated in to the report. Job descriptions and evaluations are being presented to Personnel services for grading of the posts

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Community Planning Board agreed the submission presented to the Scottish Government which requires staffing to Co-ordinate and administer the Fairer Scotland Fund and to the appointment of a Partnership Analyst The committee is asked therefore to agree to the establishment of these posts.**

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Background Papers:

Ref.: