



**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD**

**SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND**

**BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the proposals for the Fairer Scotland Fund for 2008/10.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Board agree:**

- (i) the outline proposal for Fairer Scotland Fund Investment based on the submission to the Scottish Government at the end of March 2008.**
- (ii) to extend the temporary funding for another 3 months to**
  - **Moray Youthstart**
  - **Moray More Choices More Chances Strategy**
  - **Social Inclusion element of the Changing Children's Services Fund**

**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;
  - 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. Prior to submission at Community Planning Steering Group meeting held on 13 March 2008 the partnership were advised that an outline proposal would be sent to the Government and would align with the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.5 An initial outline was forwarded to Scottish Government by their deadline of 31 March 2008. A copy of the submission is attached. **(Appendix)**
- 3.6 Feedback from the Scottish Government has been received. It stated that the submission clearly demonstrated our 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 Scottish Government has requested that a finalised proposal be presented to them and agreed by the Partnership by the 30<sup>th</sup> of June 2008. This finalised proposal will be presented on a template based on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) and will be dependent on the final version of the SOA.
- 3.8 As the finalised SOA and Fairer Scotland proposals will not be finalised until the 30 June 2008 interim arrangements for the continuation of current projects should be extended for a further 3 months to allow projects to make arrangements for the change in funding and priorities.
- 3.9 At the Moray Council's Policy Committee held on 5 March 2008 it was agreed to make a temporary allocations from the Fairer Scotland funding to the following projects for three months to allow transition.
- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| ➤ Moray Youthstart   | £48,250        |
| ➤ More Choices More Chances Strategy Group   | £16,610        |
| ➤ Changing Children's Services Fund - Social Inclusion<br>(Social Inclusion projects include a drugs support worker;<br>Youth Justice, Mobile Information Bus and drugs related<br>work carried out by Aberlour Child Care Trust.) | <u>£25,272</u> |
| ➤ Total  | £90,130        |
- 3.10 Following a Council review of ring fenced funding the Social Inclusion element was reduced from £25,272 to £1,500 to continue the following projects till September, Mobile Information Bus and Youth Justice only. The total cost of continuing Moray Youthstart (£48,250), More Choices More Chances Strategy

(16,610) and the Social Inclusion (£1,500) projects for a further 3 months will be £66,360.

- 3.11 If the Partnership agree to the proposals in this report, the following projects will not be funded beyond the August 2008 and groups will have to make any arrangements for any implications arising from the removal of this funding;
- Moray Youthstart
  - Youth Justice
  - Mobile Information Bus
- 3.12 The development of the More Choices More Chances Strategy needs to be considered as an integral element of improving employability in the Fairer Scotland Fund proposals.
- 3.13 The outline proposal states that the Partnership “will invest in the capacity to develop and facilitate networking, co-ordination and information and to expand that work beyond that of young people to include all those working with disadvantaged communities and individuals”. It is therefore proposed to ensure that this co-ordination takes place and to oversee the implementation and administration of the Fairer Scotland Fund, that a Fairer Scotland Co-ordinator Post and Fund Administrator be established.
- 3.14 The outline proposal also recognises that we will need to create the capacity to gather and analyse existing intelligence and research from across the partnership into deprivation. This will allow effective targeting and allow the partnership to undertake new research to assist identify the levels and nature of rural deprivation in Moray and develop a set of deprivation indicators for rural Moray. In establishing the Partnership’s Strategy to tackle deprivation and disadvantage it would be proposed that an analyst post be established.
- 3.15 The total cost for these posts in 2008-9 for these posts which will commence in August 2008 is approximately £105,000.
- 3.16 There are a number of other investments identified in the outline proposal that if agreed will require development and will be co-ordinated and developed by the Co-ordinator supported by the Administrator and Analyst.

### **SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

**(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans**

The Fairer Scotland Fund is closely aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and the investment will allow the Partnership to invest in actions outlined in the SOA.

**(b) Policy and Legal**

The Scottish Government views on the use of the fund are outlined in 3.6 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 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 fund is made up of a number of other funds, which include the Community Regeneration Fund, More Choices More Chances Community Voices Fund, and an element of the changing children’s services funds. As stated earlier there are projects still funded by these funds that will be affected by the changes.

The previous decision to continue the funding made on the 5 March 2008 means that there is currently a budget of £252,868 available.

The decision to continue some of the current projects totals £66,360. The staffing costs to ensure the project can deliver its objectives £105,000. If these recommendations are approved there will be a balance in The Fairer Scotland Fund of £81,508 for developmental work as outlined in the submission.

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

**5.1 The Fairer Scotland Fund combines a number of previous funding sources into one submission and is one of the few areas left which will retain its ring fenced funding status. However there are a number of projects which were previously funded and therefore an extension to those projects is required to enable them to address the implications of the change of priorities for this funding. Further it is recognised that to deliver against this agenda staffing resources will be required.**

**5.2 As this application must be submitted to the Scottish Government but approved by the Community Planning Partnership the Board is asked to approve the draft submission at this time.**

Author of Report: John Ferguson, Community Planning and Development Officer

Background Papers:  
Ref:

## APPENDIX

### **MORAY COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND: Improving Lives, Regenerating Communities INITIAL PROPOSAL**

The Moray Community Planning Partnership (CPP) agreed at its meeting in March 2008 that the Fairer Scotland Fund proposal should be closely linked with the overall Single Outcome Agreement prepared by Moray Council and agreed by the Partnership. It is the aim of the Partnership to ensure that the work carried out under Fairer Scotland Fund will be fully integrated with the SOA by 2009. (***See appendix A for SOA outcomes and indicators relevant to the FSF***)

Many of the structural causes of poverty and disadvantage are being addressed within the SOA and where possible the use of the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) will complement the existing outcomes and actions outlined in the SOA. The SOA recognises that that tackling poverty, disadvantage and economic growth go hand in hand. This document will outline Partnership priorities and intended approach to the use of the Fairer Scotland Fund in tackling poverty and deprivation in Moray. It will address how we will use the fund to assist in regenerating our most disadvantaged communities, improving the life chances of individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage and for improving employability particularly for young people and other hard to reach groups.

In Moray we have had experience of the development of a Regeneration Outcome agreement. In Moray this was based on a thematic approach, the theme was Young People and Moray Youthstart the vehicle for the ROA. This has been given interim funding through the FSF as a part of a managed transition. The experience of the ROA, More Choices More Chances strategy and the experience gained by the partners in a range of initiatives will influence the development of the FSF.

Key actions identified as priorities are highlighted in bold italics throughout the proposal

#### **REGENERATING THE MOST DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.**

In Moray we have just 2 data zones in the 20% most deprived areas, both of which are in Elgin. This represents just 1.7% of Moray's data zones. Practically all areas which are most deprived are found in the larger towns, with concentrations in the centre of Elgin, the north of Forres and the east of Buckie. However in Moray we also need to consider the needs of specific groups who experience exclusion or deprivation including those in the more rural areas of Moray. To do that we need to have a clear understanding of deprivation and poverty across Moray and we would look to carry out research into this while developing more relevant local indicators to base the future investment of the FSF. The engagement of those people experiencing poverty and disadvantage in the process of tackling issues is essential and the participation of the community in the development of the FSF is central to its success.

### **Intelligence gathering**

In order to regenerate Morays most disadvantaged communities we need to develop a clear understanding of the extent and nature of deprivation in Moray through co-ordinated intelligence and a high quality of community engagement. We need to have a strategic perspective from the partners and from those people who are experiencing poverty and disadvantage to allow us to monitor and evaluate impact.

***We will create the capacity to gather and analyse existing intelligence and research from across the partnership into deprivation. This will allow effective targeting and allow us to undertake new research to assist us identify the levels and nature of rural deprivation in Moray and develop a set of deprivation indicators for rural Moray.***

### **Community Engagement**

Moray has a good network of community engagement and a youth participation framework; Community Councils, Tenant associations, a citizen's panel, active Community Halls and Associations. The Moray CPP has established a Local Community Planning Framework. The Community Planning Partnership is also establishing a Moray Equality forum. There is limited support provided currently to ensure that those who live in more disadvantaged communities are participating. Apart from developing work in those areas identified in the SIMD as most deprived, there are a number of communities of interest e.g. young people, migrant workers, people with disability and older people. To ensure their effective participation requires a longer-term approach in supporting and building the capacity to fully engage. There is not currently enough capacity to ensure that the process is fully inclusive, and that the more disadvantaged communities are well represented in the process of community planning. The work of the Youth Inclusion project and the consultation work carried out by Moray Youthstart and others indicate that young people clearly want a voice in influencing services but for those more vulnerable young people this means more intensive support. ***The Partnership intend to develop the capacity to support and develop community engagement within geographic communities and communities of need. Communities need resources to tackle issues that they have identified and financial support will be targeted to those most disadvantaged communities to allow them to do so.***

The key outcomes from the SOA relevant to this element of the FSF are:

- Deprivation in Moray communities will be tackled
- People in Moray will be able to influence decisions that affect their communities and lives and active participation within communities will be encouraged through supporting adult and youth engagement in tackling issues of concern to them.
- Young people will be supported within the community
- Children and young people will be active members of the community.

### **IMPROVING THE LIFE CHANCES OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS EXPERIENCING POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE**

In Moray the Community Planning Partners are already trying to address a range factors such as fuel poverty, a low wage economy, long term unemployment, low attainment, substance misuse and disability that contribute to poverty. Moray has a

number of developments currently underway which are targeted at improving the life chances of individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage. We will build to enhance that provision and to identify clear gaps in provision before establishing new initiatives. We have identified that there is a need for more co-ordinated and integrated working between partners. There needs to be a clear mechanism for sharing information and developing a clear understanding between partner agencies about respective roles and opportunities for collaboration.

### **Networking**

The current More Choices More Chances strategy for Moray and the work of The Moray Youthstart initiative have both identified that in work with young people there is a need for more co-ordinated and integrated working between partners. There needs to be a clear mechanism for sharing information and to allow a clear understanding between partner agencies about their respective roles and opportunities for collaboration. The facilitation of networking, co-ordination and sharing of information was a key element of the previous ROA and there is a need to sustain and develop this function across all the areas of the FSF and not simply for young people. ***We will invest in the capacity to develop and facilitate networking, co-ordination and information and to expand that work beyond that of young people to include all those working with disadvantaged communities and individuals.***

### **Information and Advice**

There is also a need to look at the process of information and advice provision to those experiencing poverty and disadvantage. This includes advice and information on health, employment, financial matters, training and youth specific information. Existing work with Welfare Benefits staff and money advice shows that there are clear economic and social benefits in ensuring the uptake of financial benefits and support in dealing with debt both for the community and the individuals. ***We will invest in building the capacity of the Partnership to provide welfare benefits' advice and improved information to those people experiencing poverty and disadvantage.***

### **Development Projects**

There are a number of issues specific to Moray that cause or contribute to poverty in Moray; the low wage economy, fuel poverty, poor housing and homelessness, substance misuse debt, low attainment, a lack of qualifications, short term employment, literacy and numeracy issues and offending behaviour. The Fairer Scotland Fund will contribute to tackling these issues through some of the measures discussed earlier in this paper but specifically ***the Partnership will assist develop projects that contribute to tackling the root causes of poverty and disadvantage, that can contribute to achieving the outcomes outlined in the SOA and can demonstrate a high level of community and user control of the project.***

The key outcomes from the SOA relevant to this element of the FSF are:

- Deprivation in Moray communities will be tackled
- Children will be cared for and supported to reduce the risk of exclusion
- Children of substance misusing parents will be identified and supported
- The life chances of looked after children will improve

- The volume and quality of housing throughout Moray will increase
- People assessed as homeless will be provided with appropriate accommodation
- The impact of the drink culture which affects our communities will reduce

### **IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY**

The partnership believes that work is for many people an effective route out of poverty. It wants to increase the opportunities for sustained employment for vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in order to lift them permanently out of poverty. There are a number of actions contained in the SOA aimed at improving the overall employability of people in Moray and addressing the structural issues to encourage economic growth and increase opportunities for employment including the development of social enterprise. Work must be carried out to ensure that the vulnerable and disadvantaged in Moray can benefit from any increase in opportunities and are supported into employment.

### **More Choices More Chances**

The partnership has established its More Choices More Chances strategy and is working to develop the action plan to reduce the numbers of young people not in employment, education or training, however the SOA has identified that more needs to be done to increase opportunities for vulnerable people. The More Choices More Chances strategy is working to establish early intervention strategies, develop and enhance partnership working looking specifically at the key worker role. It sets out to ensure strategic planning and integrated working - linking to current plans and to establish comprehensive shared systems for the tracking of young people who are in need of more choices and more chances and those young people who could potentially join that group. ***The partnership will provide support to allow the More Choices More Chances strategy to continue.***

The Partnership's Youth Strategy recognised the need to create more opportunities for young people. The partners are working to increase those opportunities such as the apprenticeship scheme being developed by The Moray Council but there is a need to provide flexible support for the more vulnerable to take up these opportunities. ***The Fairer Scotland Fund will provide a flexible supported employment programme for young people who are identified as being in the group of young people in need of more choices and more chances in order to take advantage of these opportunities***

### **Workforce plus**

The current workforce plus partnership needs to be revitalised and consideration will be given to how best that can be achieved. Many of the existing partners in the More Choice More Chances strategy group are involved in issues of employability for other vulnerable and disadvantaged people, a strong link between these partnerships will be formed. ***The partnership will also consider mechanisms to support people on benefit back into training and employment.***

The key outcomes from the SOA relevant to this element of the FSF are:

- The numbers of young people employed in Moray who have access to career development in Moray will increase
- Needs will be recognised early and appropriate support provided

- The quality of the educational experience in Moray will increase
- We will make full use of those not yet in the labour market
- The quality of the educational learning experience in Moray Schools will increase

The Community Planning Partnership will develop a finalised proposal for the Fairer Scotland Fund based on this initial proposal. To do so it will engage with its partners, the theme groups and the local community planning structures, relevant groups and the Youthstart Board. More Choices More Chances Strategy Group and the Rural Partnership Task Group and communities of need will be consulted in the process of preparing a final proposal.

The Partnership has made some arrangements to ensure a managed transition and has given interim funding to a number of projects whose ring fenced funding ended with the introduction of the Fairer Scotland Fund.

## APPENDIX A

### RELEVANT NATIONAL OUTCOMES AND LIKELY OUTCOME INDICATORS

#### REGENERATING THE MOST DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

**National Outcome 4:** Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

**National Outcome 5:** Our Children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed

**National outcome 10:**We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need

**National Outcome 11:** We have strong resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others

**National Outcome 13:** We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive society.

#### Indicators

- No of citizens involved in Local Community Planning Structures
- No of Tenants Forums in Moray
- Number of Voluntary organisations registered with MVS0 Moray Voluntary Services organisation
- No of Volunteers registered with Volunteer Centre Moray
- Number of active Community Councils
- Participation in Citizen Panel Surveys
- Numbers of active Community Associations and Village Halls
- No of Young people involved in Youth Participation Structures & other participatory structures
- Number of people living in financial exclusion and experiencing multiple deprivation, relative to the Scottish population
- Median income for single person households

#### IMPROVING THE LIFE CHANCES OF INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS EXPERIENCING POVERTY AND DISADVANTAGE

**National outcome 5:** Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.

**National outcome 6:** We live longer, healthier lives

**National outcome 7:** We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society

**National Outcome 8;** We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk

**National outcome 10:** We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.

**Indicators**

- Housing deprivation – SIMD
- Number of people living in financial exclusion and experiencing multiple deprivation, relative to the Scottish population
- Decrease the proportion of individuals living in poverty.
- Proportion of pre 1919 housing stock in Moray
- Median income for single person households
- Levels of private rented stock
- Number of children (aged 0-15 dependant on receipt of income support and Job seekers allowance
- Median weekly earnings relative to the Scottish average
- The number of racist incidents No of racially aggravated crimes
- Numbers of people receiving ESOL support
- Alcohol/drugs related deaths
- Alcohol related hospital discharge figures
- New clients reported to Scottish Drugs Misuse Database
- Psychiatric inpatient discharges with a diagnosis of drug misuse
- Reduce the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions
- Reduce alcohol related hospital admissions by 2010
- Pregnancies among 13-15 year olds, per 1000 population
- Average number of years of good health as measured by the index of healthy life expectancy
- % of looked after children with at least 1 qualification at SCQF level 3 or above
- % of looked after children attaining maths and English at SCQF level 3 or above

**IMPROVING EMPLOYABILITY**

**National Outcome 2** We realise our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people

**National Outcome 4** our young people is successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens

**National outcome 8** We have improved the life chances for children, young people and families at risk

**Indicators**

- Level of upper qualifications in the Moray community/economy.
- Vulnerable adults into paid employment
- Number of claimants in receipt of unemployment related benefits relative to the Scottish average

- Number of employable vulnerable adults sustaining employment for six months or more.
- Qualification levels within the local workforce
- 16 to19 year olds need of more choices and more chances
- No of people domiciled in Moray studying further/higher education
- School leaver destination
- Educational Tariff Scores
- HMIE school reports
- No of people domiciled in Moray studying further and higher education
- % of young people leaving care not in employment education or training