

REPORT TO: THE COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 10 JUNE 2009

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 To note the arrangements for performance management of the Fairer Scotland Fund. The board is also asked to note the revision to the Fairer Scotland Fund submission process.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended, that the Board note arrangements for performance management and the revisions to the Fairer Scotland Fund submission process.

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 £435 million in total over three years and is part of the local government settlement. An allocation has been made to Moray over the next three years to enable the Community Planning Partnership to work to tackle poverty and disadvantage.

3.2 At the Community Planning Board meeting on 29 May 2008, a proposal outlining the key objectives for the use of this fund for Moray to tackle poverty was presented for approval and thereafter submitted and approved by the Scottish Government. The three key areas identified for Moray on which the focus of the fund will be targeted are:

- Regenerating the most disadvantaged areas
- Improving life chances for Individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage
- Improving employability

3.3 At the Community Planning Board meeting held on 7 May 2009 (*para 13 (iii) of the minute refers*) it was agreed that a report be submitted to the special meeting on 10 June with detailed monitoring proposals on the Fairer Scotland Fund.

3.4 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

3.4.1 At the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 13 January 2009 (*para 5 of the minute refers*), it was agreed that the Moray Council give responsibility of the allocation and management of the Fairer Scotland Fund to the Community Planning Partnership. This would be on the understanding that

any personnel or procurement issues are subject to the personnel and procurement policies of the council and that the financial regulations of the council are applied.

- 3.4.2 At the Safer and Stronger Theme Group on 19 February 2009 arrangements for the management and allocation of funds were agreed (*para 7 (l) of the minute refers*). This group delegated the operational management of the Fund to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group.
- 3.4.3 Currently the Social Inclusion Implementation Group is responsible for ensuring that the application forms meet the required criteria for the Fund and recommendations are made to the Board for approval. Theme groups are consulted on the proposals. Currently the Social Inclusion Implementation Group is responsible for assessing all proposals received for investment in the Fairer Scotland Fund and making recommendations to the Board.
- 3.4.4 Following the first round of proposals the Social Inclusion Implementation Group agreed that this process required to be streamlined. The Safer and Stronger Theme group have been consulted and agreed at its meeting held on the 21 May 2009 (*para 2 of the minute refers*) that in future relevant proposals be presented to the Chairs of each Theme group for approval. This will ensure that they fit with the key priorities of the Theme group. In doing so this does not assume any form of scrutiny of approval of funding. **(Appendix 1)**
- 3.4.5 It was also agreed at the Social Inclusion Implementation group that following receipt of a significant number of employability proposals by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group that all employability provision under the fund be subject to the Council open tendering process. This can ensure that any activity will be focused and specific based on the Fairer Scotland Fund Strategic Assessment and the primary research. Greater co-ordination and collaboration between all providers will be developed and robust and measurable performance indicators will be set with clear monitoring processes in place. This will be in line with Moray Council procurement procedures.
- 3.4.6 The Fairer Scotland Fund staff will ensure that each individual project supported by the Fund will be subject to a Service Level Agreement that will outline performance measures for the specific project. These will be subject to a quarterly monitoring report to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group who will report to the Safer and Stronger theme group.
- 3.4.7 The Fairer Scotland Fund staff will identify prioritised focused pieces of work based on the needs highlighted in the strategic assessment which will require specific projects to be developed and approved by the Board. These will be subject to the procurement process of the Moray Council and within each agreed contract there will be clear performance indicators for each project. These will be subject to a quarterly monitoring report to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group.
- 3.4.8 The following performance indicators have been identified as Fairer Scotland Fund Team Performance Indicators:

- (i) The Fairer Scotland team will have allocated 75% of the Fund by March 2010 and they will have allocated 100% of the Fund by August 2010.
- (ii) Following completion of the research and production of the Strategic Assessment for the Fairer Scotland Fund, accurate poverty indicators for Moray will be established by September 2009.

3.4.9 Indicators and overall performance of the Fairer Scotland project will be presented quarterly to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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

The Scottish Government has allocated the Fairer Scotland Fund to the Community Planning Partnership. It is closely aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and the Investment will allow investment in actions outlined in the SOA. In particular National Outcome 7.

(b) Policy and Legal

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. The introduction of a 'Duty of Community Planning' through the Local Government (Scotland) Act 2003 emphasises the importance of considering social inclusion in the Community Planning process. The Scottish Government announced as part of the Concordat between it and Local Government that the Fairer Scotland Fund would be established to assist in tackling poverty and deprivation across Scotland.

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

The allocation has been 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".

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 total amount spent from the Fairer Scotland Funding 2008/9 was £197,216. This includes staff and associated costs.

The current available budget for allocation of the fund for 2009/2010 is approx £376,166 (this includes funds of £149,090 brought forward from 2008/2009 and deduction of staffing commitments, projected running costs and funding already committed.)

5 CONCLUSION

5.1 This report outlines arrangements for the performance management and the committee is asked to note the revised arrangements for performance management.

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Background Papers:

Ref: