



REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 7 MAY 2009

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND ALLOCATION OF FUNDING 2009/10

BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the first round of allocation of funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund 2009/10 as agreed by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group on 27 April 2009.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Board agrees to the allocation of funding for the first round of proposals as listed in 3.9 from the Fairer Scotland Fund 2009/10 as agreed by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group on 27 April 2009.

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 At the Community Planning Board meeting on the 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

The government wanted to portray the fund as an investment fund that would be used as a catalyst to influence mainstream delivery and provision.

- 3.4 A previous allocation of the funding was given as a transitional arrangement to projects which were previously funded through the Regeneration Outcome Agreement for 2008/09 and a further three months for the first quarter of 2009/10.

These include:

Aberlour Childcare Trust	£11,250.00
Mobile Information Bus (NHS)	£3,750.00
Moray New Futures (SCVO)	£5,793.75

- 3.5 At the Safer and Stronger Theme group meeting on the 19 February 2009 (*para 7 (i) refers*) the arrangements for the management of the fund were agreed.

- 3.6 In order to ensure that the fund contributes to the outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement and ensure the fund matches with the strategic framework of the Community Planning Partnership it was agreed by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group that all the Strategic Theme Groups and the Community Engagement group be invited to submit ideas for the use of the fund. It was agreed that recommendations would be presented to the board for approval.

- 3.7 Following the establishment of the Fairer Scotland Fund team in February a process was developed to allow interested parties to submit their ideas for investment of the fund and approved by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group. Information on this process was provided to all the Theme groups, the Community Engagement Group and placed on the 'Your Moray' Website. The first round of proposals deadline on the 17 April 2009 and 13 proposals for investment were received.

- 3.8 At the Social Inclusion Implementation Group meeting on the 27 April 2009 the group considered the proposals. Three submissions were approved for investment from the fund based on established criteria, which fitted the key objective of the Fairer Scotland Fund, the key priorities of the partnership and the ability to tackle the root causes of poverty and disadvantage.

- 3.9 The Social Inclusion group agreed to defer decisions on three other proposals which focused on Employability until they had been considered by the Employability Action Group (formally More Choices, More Chances) and one other where it was agreed to seek further information. Six of the proposals were not approved.

- 3.10 The Social Inclusion Implementation Group approved the following proposals:

The Moray Council, Children's and Families Social Work GIRFEC Development Officer (awarded to March 2010)	£33,750
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The Moray Council, Welfare Benefits 1 additional Welfare Benefits Adviser (plus ¼ admin) (Awarded to March 2011)	£60,000
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The Moray Council, Domestic Abuse Forum
2 part time Family Support Worker Posts (12 month pilot)

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£30,000

Total Funding approved

£123,750

4. 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 Partnership's use of the fund approved by the Scottish Government is outlined in Section 3.3. The Moray Council has the 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. As outlined in the Strategy document, the Partners have a number of strategy and policy documents that impact on social inclusion and social justice. The former Scottish Executive issued a series of targets, "Closing the Opportunity Gap", and these are considered within the Strategy. There are a number of National Priorities issued by the Scottish Government and contained within Moray's Single Outcome Agreement that the Strategy seeks to address. 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. Moray Community Planning Partnership has been given an allocation over the next three years to assist in tackling deprivation and poverty in Moray.

(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". 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 current available budget for allocation of the fund for 2009/2010 is approx £439,000 (this includes funds of £148,728.00 brought forward from 2008/2009 and deduction of staffing commitments, projected running costs and funding already committed as detailed in section 3.3) and assuming that the proposed allocations of the fund for the three investment ideas as indicated above is approved by the Board the amount left available for further developmental ideas is £315,804.

It is proposed that all funded provision should be subject to a Service Level Agreement and that once the key priorities are identified for Moray through the Research being undertaken future proposals will be invited through a Commissioning process.

(d) Consultations

The Safer and Stronger Theme Group was consulted on the process to invite ideas through the Theme groups and the Community Engagement Group. All Theme groups were contacted about the process.

The Social Inclusion Implementation Group was responsible for assessing the proposals received.

The Council's Principal Accountant was consulted in respect of the financial implication outlined in section 3.9.

Procurement and Contracts of Moray Council will be consulted in the development of the Service Level Agreement and the Commissioning Process.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the allocation of funding agreed by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group for the first round of investment of the Fairer Scotland Fund.

Author of Report: Jacqui Taylor, Fairer Scotland Manager

Background Papers: Fairer Scotland Fund Submission
Ref:

Signature:  _____

Date: 29/6/2009

Name: John Ferguson Designation: Community Planning and Development Manager