

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 27 AUGUST 2009

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the allocation of funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund to the proposals recommended by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group as listed in **Appendix 2**.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Community Planning Board approves allocation of funding to the proposals listed at Appendix 2 following recommendation by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group.**

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 totalling £1,265,000 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 MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

- 3.3.1 At the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 13 January 2009 (*para 5 of the minute refers*), responsibility for the allocation and management of the Fairer Scotland Fund was given to the Community Planning Partnership. The operational management of the Fund was delegated to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group by the Safer and Stronger Group on the 19 February 2009 and at the Community Planning Board meeting on the 10 June 2009 it was agreed that all matters related to Social Inclusion and inequalities including the Fairer Scotland Fund would in future report directly through the Community Planning Board.

- 3.3.2 The Social Inclusion Implementation Group is responsible for assessing each proposal received for funding to ensure that it meets the required criteria for the Fund (**See Appendix 1.**) The Fairer Scotland Fund team are responsible for ensuring that all applicants have followed the agreed process and only proposals which have been submitted and followed the agreed process will be considered for funding. If a proposal is not deemed as fitting with the fund criteria it will not be presented to the Social Inclusion Implementation group at that time.
- 3.3.3 Following assessment by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group recommendations will be made to the Community Planning Board for final approval. Theme group chairs are consulted through the Fairer Scotland Fund team on the proposals prior to presentation and assessment by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group.

3.4 PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT

- 3.4.1 All proposals approved for funding will be subject to a Service Level Agreement which will outline specific performance measurements and outcomes to be met. These will be set in line with the fund priorities and the Single Outcome Agreement. Progress towards the agreed outcomes will be monitored on a quarterly basis through the Social Inclusion Implementation group and these will be reported to the Community Planning Board and the Policy and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis.
- 3.4.2 In some cases specific targeted pieces of work may be identified based on the results of research carried out for the Fairer Scotland Fund. This may 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 contracts will be subject to a quarterly monitoring report to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group, the Community Planning Board and Policy and Resources Committee. Currently a specification for the development of employability provision is going through the Council Procurement process.

3.5 FUNDING PROPOSALS

- 3.5.1 An opportunity to submit proposals through a second round of funding was publicised with a deadline of the 22 July 2009. This opportunity was advertised through all the Theme Group Chairs, Community Planning partnership groups, placed on Your Moray Website, MVSO website and Moray Volunteer Centre Website.
- 3.5.2 9 proposals were received and 9 were presented to the Social Inclusion Implementation Group for assessment and recommendation to the Board based on the fund criteria and ability to tackle the root causes of poverty.
- 3.5.3 5 proposals were recommended for presentation to the Board for approval and a summary of the recommended proposals can be found at **Appendix 2**

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The Fairer Scotland Fund is closely aligned to the Single outcome Agreement and any investment in the fund will contribute towards the actions and outcomes contained in the SOA.

(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

In addition a balance of £3,306 was carried forward from various funds from 2007/08.

The total amount spent from the Fairer Scotland Funding in 2008/9 was £197,216 (this includes staff and running costs). The unspent funds of £149,090 were approved by the Scottish Government to carry forward into 2009/10.

The total funding available for the two years 2009 to 2011 is £1,071,090, within which £230,000 relates to staffing and running costs, which leaves the balance of £841,090 available for allocation.

	Proposed Allocation	Balance of funding available
Funding available to allocate 2009-2011	£841,090	£841,090
Transition funding agreed existing CRF projects (April – June 2009)	£20,793	£820,297
Projects agreed at May	£66,000	£754,297

meeting of Community Planning Board		
Estimated Employability Provision tender (see para 3.4.2 above)	£120,000	£634,297
Proposed funding as indicated in 3.5 and detailed Appendix 2	£112,630	£521,667

Assuming the proposed allocation of funding is approved as listed the amount left to allocate from the fund till March 2011 would be £521,667

(d) Consultations

Chairs of the theme groups were consulted on the relevant proposals received as follows:

Healthier – 4 proposals
 Safer and Stronger – 3 proposals
 Wealthier and Fairer – 1 proposal
 Smarter – 1 proposal

The Social Inclusion Implementation Group assessed and made recommendations to the Board on the proposals received and were consulted and agreed to the use of the Fairer Scotland Fund as part of a larger funding package towards the development of the Moray Assisted Recruitment Scheme.

The Head of Financial Services has been consulted and is in agreement with financial implications contained in this report.

Procurement and Moray Council contracts will be consulted in the development of the Service level agreements.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 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 in the Fairer Scotland Fund.

Author of Report: Jacqui Taylor Fairer Scotland Fund Manager
 Background Papers:
 Ref:

Signature: _____

Date : _____