

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 19 NOVEMBER 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 and notes the reason provided for not approving continued funding for the GIRFEC development officer post.

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 and notes the reasons provided for not approving continued funding for the GIRFEC development officer post.

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 Management Arrangements

3.3.1 Management arrangements for the fund were agreed at the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 13 January 2009 (*para 5 of the minute refers*), and at the Community Planning Board meeting on the 10 June 2009, where 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.

3.4 Performance Measurement

- 3.4.1 Performance indicators and performance management processes were agreed at Audit and Performance Committee on 3 June 2009 (*para 5 of the minute refers*). All proposals approved for funding will be subject to a Service Level Agreement. In some cases specific targeted pieces of work may be identified based on the results of research carried out for the Fairer Scotland Fund. Any identified work based on the results of research will be subject to the procurement process of the Moray Council.
- 3.4.2 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.
- 3.4.3 A letter will be sent to the Scottish Government detailing the committed spend to projects agreed from the 2009/2010 budget. A proportion of these committed funds may not be spent by March 2010 and a formal letter will be sent requesting permission to carry over this portion of funds into the 2010/2011 financial year. This is due to a delay in some projects starting and the process which has been agreed for the development of the Fairer Scotland Fund.
- ### 3.5 3rd Round Funding Proposals
- 3.5.1 An opportunity to submit proposals through a third round of funding was publicised with a deadline of the 16 October. This opportunity was advertised through all the Theme Group Chairs, Community Planning Partnership groups, placed on Your Moray Website, MVS0 website and Moray Volunteer Centre Website.
- 3.5.2 4 proposals were received and 4 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. (*Appendix 1 refers*)
- 3.5.3 2 proposals were recommended for presentation to the Board for approval and a summary of the recommended proposals can be found at **Appendix 2**. A further proposed amount has been ring fenced for Financial Inclusion provision based on the agreed actions of the Financial Inclusion Strategy. A separate report on the Strategy will be tabled.
- 3.5.4 A second application for continued funding toward the existing GIRFEC development officer post was submitted. After careful consideration the Social Inclusion Implementation Group agreed by majority not to allocate additional funding to the GIRFEC development officer post. The reasons were:
- The partnership acknowledged the value of the post but did not agree that the Fairer Scotland Fund was the appropriate source to provide continued funding for this post. It was agreed that the level of funding requested was not consistent with the impact of this post on tackling the root causes of poverty.

- The reason for the funding being sought is based on the lack of other funding sources. It was agreed that this would open the Fairer Scotland Fund up to other applications for posts in a similar position.
- The aim of the Fairer Scotland Fund is to be used as a catalyst to galvanise mainstream resource and budgets. The original funding awarded for this post was to allow time for mainstream resource to be sourced. It was agreed that any continued funding would go against the FSF key aim.

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

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.

Projects	Funding Committed	Balance of funding available
Funding available to allocate 2009-2011		£841,090

**Transition funding agreed existing CRF projects
(April – June 2009)**

Mobile Information Bus	£3,750	
Moray New Futures	£5,793	
Aberlour Childcare Trust	£11,250	£20,793
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		£820,297

**Projects agreed at May meeting of Community
Planning Board**

Girfec Co-ordinator	£36,000	
Moray Domestic Abuse Forum	£30,000	£66,000
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		£754,297

Employability Provision tender		£102,503
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		£651,794

**Funding approved from second round from
Community Planning Board 27 August 2009**

Milton Drive Community Project	£10,000	
Elgin High School	£20,000	
Youth Justice/Antisocial Behaviour	£40,000	
NHS Mobile Information Bus	£12,000	
NHS Speech and Language Therapy	£30,630	£112,630
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		£539,164

Moray Assisted Recruitment Scheme* (<i>approved allocation from Board meeting 27 August 2009 para 11 of the minute refers</i>).		£267,000
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		£272,164

Assuming the proposed allocation of funding is approved as listed the amount left to allocate from the fund till March 2011 would be £207,616 (this does not include the proposed amount for Financial Inclusion provision)

(d) Consultations

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

Healthier	– 1 proposal
Safer and Stronger	– 1 proposals
Smarter	– 2 proposals

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 in respect of the financial implications outlined in Appendix 2.

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

5.0 **CONCLUSION**

The Community Planning Board is asked to approve the allocation of funding agreed by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group for the third round of investment in the Fairer Scotland Fund and note the reasons provided for not approving continued funding for the GIRFEC development officer post.

Author of Report: Jacqui Taylor
Background Papers: FSF Submissions (3rd round)
Moray financial inclusion strategy

Ref:

Signature: _____

Date : _____