

**REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANNING BOARD ON 4 MARCH 2010**

**SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND**

**BY: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANGER,  
THE MORAY COUNCIL**

**1. REASON FOR REPORT**

1.1 The Community Planning Board is asked to note that the ring fencing of the cash allocation for the Fairer Scotland Fund will end in March 2010 and the control of the Fairer Scotland budget becomes the responsibility of the Moray Council. In order that this can be implemented the delegation of control of the fund to the Board will be altered to reflect the changing situation.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

**2.1 It is recommended that the Board note as a result of removal of ring fencing from the Fairer Scotland Fund that control of the fund has been returned to the Moray Council.**

**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 totalled £145 million over three years and is part of the local government settlement.

3.2 At the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 13 January 2009 (*para5 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 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 report directly through the Community Planning Board.

3.3 The ring fencing will be removed in March 2010. Responsibility for the allocation and management of the Fairer Scotland Fund will be the responsibility of the Moray Council.

- 3.4 It is crucial that the Community Planning Board retain their overview and responsibility for the coordination of efforts to tackle deprivation and ensure social inclusion as outlined in the report to this Board meeting on tackling inequality.
- 3.5 The FSF team will continue to report to the Community Planning Partnership Board and the operational management of the fund will be retained by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group and the allocation of Funds will continue to be placed before the Community Planning Board for comment before final approval by the Council's Policy and Resources Committee.

#### **4 SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

- (a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan**  
The Community Plan commits the Partnership to developing the Social Inclusion Strategy. The Partnership will ensure that the key principles set out in the Strategy are reflected in all strategies, policies and actions plans where appropriate. The Strategy will apply across all thematic groups however the Safer and Stronger Strategic Theme Group has the appropriate remit to oversee the Strategy. The Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) contains a number of actions that contribute to the Strategy and have been listed under Outcome 7 - We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society
- (b) Policy and Legal**  
The Council and its Community Planning Partners have a statutory duty under Section 15(2) of the Local Government Act in Scotland (2003) to make provision for consulting with the public over the planning and provision of services. 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. 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.
- (c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

The Fairer Scotland Fund allocation is 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 ring fencing will be removed in 2010/11.

## **5 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The removal of the ring fencing on the allocation of funding from the Fairer Scotland Fund means that the responsibility for the allocation and management of the Fairer Scotland Fund will be the responsibility of the Moray Council in 2010/2011.**

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Background Papers:

Ref: