

REPORT TO: COMMUNITY PLANING BOARD ON 27 MAY 2010

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

BY: THE MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides a progress report in relation to the implementation of the Fairer Scotland Fund under National Outcome 7 Local Outcome 3; Inequalities in Moray will be addressed.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Board is asked to note the progress made in the implementation of the Fairer Scotland Fund**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Fairer Scotland Fund is a fund aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation across Scotland. The approach differs from previous deprivation funding that it seeks to tackle poverty at its root cause rather than just tackling the symptoms. It also seeks facilitate the provision of an evidence base which can be used to influence future mainstream resource and inform developments within the SOA. In order to develop the use of the fund and wider identification of rural poverty a Fairer Scotland Fund team was appointed. The remit of the team was to put in place processes to develop the use of the fund in line with the agreed priorities. The team were also responsible for undertaking research and consultation into poverty and deprivation which could be utilised as an evidence base to influence future provision to tackle deprivation in Moray. The objective of the scheme was to target the resource on:
- Regenerating the most disadvantaged areas
 - Improving life chances for individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage
 - Improving employability
- 3.2 At the last Community Planning Board held on 4 March 2010 it was noted that 3 milestones had failed to be completed, the three not completed were as follows:
- Strategy drafted Employability Tendering process complete(draft survey for unemployed people and local services to obtain feedback on current service provision.(see 3.3)

- Development of potential Poverty indicators and consultation process feedback and re drafting of list.(see 3.4)
 - Develop the Fairer Scotland Fund further-contracts from second round funding process awarded. (See 3.5)
- 3.3 The employability tendering process was completed in and the contract awarded in September and began operating in October. The project is beginning to meet targets and provide feedback on its activity. The survey of unemployed people took place in October 2009 and was completed in November 2009, as was the survey of local employability services. An individual survey of the Jobcentre was completed in September 2009.
- 3.4 The Scottish Government has commissioned work to establish a set of Rural Poverty Indicators. It has begun to create financial indicators to complement the national performance framework. It is not known when these results will be produced and Moray FSF staff are actively involved in the national effort to produce rural indicators. It has been agreed that a basic set of indicators in Moray based on SIMD 2009 and component statistics will be available by July 2010.
- 3.5 All contracts have now been completed for the second round funding. Progress reports are being submitted and a full report on the projects will be submitted to the next Board meeting.
- 3.6 There have been staffing changes to the Fairer Scotland Fund team Jackie Taylor resigned her post on 1 April and will be replaced by Susan Eddie who will start on 7 June 2010. In Laura Stien the Research and Information officer has indicated she will leave in mid July 2010.
- 3.7 The Moray Assisted Recruitment Scheme (MARS) was waiting funding from lowlands and uplands Scotland European Structural Fund. We were notified on 10 May that the application had been refused. A separate paper is being presented to this Board on the options now available.
- 3.8 The Financial Inclusion strategy and Employability strategy review have now been completed. The Financial inclusion network and the Employability Action Group are working toward implementation of the action plan.
- 3.9 A priority for the Fairer Scotland Fund team will be ensuring greater targeting of Fairer Scotland Fund projects to tackle disadvantage in response to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (2009)

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Outcome Agreement

To implement the Social Inclusion Strategy is a Key Action within the SOA under Local Outcome 3; Inequalities in Moray will be addressed and contributes to National Outcome 7 – We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.

(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.

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

The allocation of Fairer Scotland Fund 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 ring fencing was been 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:

2010/11 £410,000

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 £149,091 were approved by the Scottish Government to carry forward into 2009/10.

The total funding available for the two years 2009 to 2011 is £981,091, within which £216,617 relates to staffing and running costs, which leaves the balance of £763,474 available for allocation.

Projects	Funding Committed	Balance of funding available
Funding available to allocate 2009-2011		£763,474
Funding awarded to projects (as at 31/3/10)	£506,474	
Moray Assisted Recruitment Scheme (MARS)	£257,000	
Total funding allocated		£763,474

5. CONCLUSION

**The Community Planning Board is asked to note the progress of
the Fairer Scotland Fund**

Author of Report: John Ferguson, Community Planning and Development
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Background Papers:

Ref: