



## Your Moray - Your Environment

**REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2008**

**SUBJECT: MORAY COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL FUND AND AWARD SCHEME**

**BY: HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **1. REASON FOR REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the environmental awards scheme and progress on the feasibility of establishing a community environmental fund.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Strategic Group agree:

- (1) The details outlined for the awards scheme.
- (2) To note that a report is being prepared for the appropriate Moray Council Committee in October seeking funding to establish a Community Environmental Fund.
- (3) That the Community Planning partners of the Strategic Group be asked to consider contributing £5,000 towards a Community Environmental Fund.
- (4) To promote the Climate Challenge Fund to the wider community and note the opportunity to work in partnership with community groups to access funds from the scheme and draw down match funding from the LEADER programme.

Arrangements for the promotion of the Fund will be made available to members of the Group as appropriate.

### **3. BACKGROUND**

#### **3.1 Environmental Awards Scheme**

- 3.1.1 This years award scheme follows on from a very successful event held in November 2007. It has been agreed that the event will follow the same format as last year and the date has been set for Monday 24 November 2008 from 17.30-19.30. Last year the awards were held at Moray College Beechtree Restaurant and the College has kindly agreed to provide the venue and hot buffet free of charge again this year. Richard Lochhead MSP has also confirmed his attendance as Guest Speaker.

3.1.2 At present there is a budget of £2,300 available for publicity and marketing of the event, purchase of the awards and refreshments for the drinks reception. Last years overall winner received £500 prize money to invest in an environmental project and it is intended to offer a monetary prize again this year.

### 3.2 Community Environmental Fund

3.2.1 At the meeting of the Greener Strategic Group on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2008 it was agreed a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Group on establishing a Community Environmental Fund.

3.2.2 The Community Environmental Fund is intended to support and encourage grass roots environmental projects within Moray. In supporting projects the aim would be to meet the environmental priorities of the Group whilst supporting local tourism and economic development. The types of projects envisage would range from environmental improvements, to renewables projects as well as green travel and energy efficiency projects.

3.2.3 A report is being drafted for an appropriate committee in October seeking funding to establish the Fund. Based on the Council's past experience of administering similar grants, approximately £40,000 will be required each year over a 3-year period. The Council may be in a position to contribute a significant proportion of the monies, this would however be subject to securing financial contributions from the other partners of the Strategic Group. A contribution of £5,000 from each organisation is proposed.

3.2.4 It is intended that community groups will be required to bring a match funding contribution (sources including the lottery, Climate Challenge Fund and LEADER). A report on the outcome of the Committee Meeting will be submitted to the next Greener Group meeting in November.

## 4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

### (a) **Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement**

The Award Scheme would raise awareness and profile of environmental issues and hopefully inspire wider community to increase efforts in recycling and energy efficiency.

### (b) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**

There is a budget in place to organise the event and arrangements can be accommodated within staff resources of the Strategic Group.

**(c) Consultations**

SEPA, SNH and FCS as Community Plan partners have been invited to comment on this report and the request for financial contributions and may be in a position to advise the Group by the time of the meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> September.

**5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The establishment of a Community Environmental Fund will meet some of the priorities of the Group by supporting community projects. There will be direct benefit to the environment be this by means of environmental improvements, carbon emission reductions or supporting local sustainable food. It is anticipated that projects will also benefit local tourism and create local economic development opportunities.**

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Background Papers:  
Ref: EG