



**REPORT TO: GREENER STRATEGIC GROUP
– 26 MARCH 2009**

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND PROPOSALS

**BY: MORAY COUNCIL, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT
SERVICES**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 The Greener Strategic Group is invited to consider how it can contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives and put forward proposals on how the fund could be invested.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Greener Strategic Group considers how it can contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives and puts forward proposals on how the fund could be invested.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At the Safer and Stronger Strategic Theme Group meeting, held on 19th February 2009, it was agreed that all the Theme Groups, as well as the Community Engagement Group, would be approached to identify how they could contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives.
- 3.2 The Fairer Scotland Fund submission was presented last year by the Moray Community Planning Partnership (MCP) to the Scottish Government and outlines the MCP's approach to the use of the Fund in tackling poverty and deprivation in Moray. It seeks to address how the Fund could be used to assist in regenerating our most disadvantaged communities, improving the life chances of individuals and groups experiencing poverty and disadvantage and improving employability, particularly for young people and other hard-to-reach groups.
- 3.3 The Fund is intended to be used as a catalyst to influence service planning and delivery and direct mainstream resources to best effect in tackling poverty and disadvantage. It has been agreed that the Fund should not be promoted as a

grant scheme or bidding process. Rather it would use the Partnership structure to allow the process to be linked into the Partnership's priorities in the Single Outcome Agreement and objectives around social inclusion. This also takes account of the 'cross-cutting' nature of the process of tackling poverty and disadvantage.

- 3.4 The Social Inclusion Coordinating Group has developed criteria, on which all proposals for funding should be based and decisions made. These are set out in the guidelines produced to inform the application process. An application form is also available.
- 3.5 The deadline for the first round of proposals for initial investment of the Fund is **Friday 17th April**. All applications should be submitted to Jacqui Taylor, Fairer Scotland Fund Manager, by that date. The Social Inclusion Coordinating Group will then assess all proposals received, including seeking further information if required, before presenting its recommendations to the Community Planning Board on 7th May 2009.
- 3.6 Further ideas and proposals for the use of the Fund may be submitted thereafter as part of a rolling programme.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans**
The Fairer Scotland Fund is aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and will enable investment in actions to achieve the priorities outlined in the SOA.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
The Fairer Scotland Fund has been established to assist tackling poverty and deprivation across Scotland, as part of the Concordat between the Scottish Government and Local Authorities.
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Staffing and Risks)**
There are no such implications arising directly from this report.
- (d) **Consultations**
The Safer and Stronger Strategic Group has been consulted and agreed to all the Theme Groups being invited to consider and submit proposals for using investment from the Fairer Scotland Fund.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 **The Greener Strategic Group is invited to consider how it can contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives and put forward proposals on how the fund could be invested.**

Author of Report: Roy Anderson, Community Planning Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: