



REPORT TO: SAFER & STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP ON 21 AUGUST 2008

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND

**BY: MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Safer & Stronger Strategic Group is asked to note the final Fairer Scotland submission to the Government.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Group:

(i) note the final Fairer Scotland Submission made to The Scottish Government.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At its meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2008, the Community Planning Board agreed to refer consideration of this report to the Safer & Stronger Strategic Group.

3.2 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 of £145 million per annum for the next three years and is part of the local government settlement.

3.3 An allocation has been made to Moray over the next three years to enable the Community Planning Partnership to work to tackle area based and individual poverty.

- 3.4 The Government have said that the purpose of the new fund should be governed by Community Planning Partnerships using the following key principles:
- A clear focus on investment to address the causes of poverty, not its symptoms;
 - A strong emphasis placed on making early interventions for vulnerable individuals;
 - Promotion of joint working between local partners;
 - Focussed action on improving employability as a key means of tackling poverty;
 - Empowering communities and individuals to influence and inform the decisions made by Community Planning partnerships.
- 3.5 At the Community planning Board meeting on the 29 May 2008 it was agreed that a proposal be submitted to the Scottish Government based on the initial proposal presented at the meeting (*para 6 (i) of the Minute refers*)
- 3.6 The Scottish Government had requested that a finalised proposal (**see appendix 1**) be presented to them by the Partnership in June 2008. A finalised proposal has been presented based on the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA)
- 3.7 The Government is currently reviewing the FSF plans from all CPPs. They will provide Ministers with a picture of how Partnerships are using the FSF as a catalyst to tackle concentrated deprivation experienced by communities and particular groups across the country. They plan to write to each CPP in early August to offer supportive feedback and practical assistance aimed at helping Partnerships develop continuous improvement activity.

SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

- (a) **Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans**
The Fairer Scotland Fund is closely aligned to the Single Outcome Agreement and the investment will allow the Partnership to invest in actions outlined in the SOA.
- (b) **Policy and Legal**
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.
- (c) **Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)**
The allocation will be 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”. It is envisaged that the ring fencing will be 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;
2008/09 £343,000
2009/10 £422,000
2010/11 £500,000

The fund is made up of a number of other funds, which include the Community Regeneration Fund, More Choices More Chances Community Voices Fund, and an element of the changing children's services funds. As stated earlier there are projects still funded by these funds that will be affected by the changes. The funding of these projects is the subject of a separate paper to this board.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 It is recommended that the Board note the final Fairer Scotland Submission made to The Scottish Government

Author of Report: John Ferguson, Community Planning and Development Officer

Background Papers:

Ref: