



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

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND FUNDING

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

1. REASON FOR REPORT

1.1 The Safer & Stronger Strategic Group is asked to consider the evaluations of projects funded under the transitional arrangements of the Fairer Scotland Fund and decide on the continued funding of these projects.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Group:

- (i) consider the evaluations of projects funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund, and
- (ii) consider if funding should be continued to the projects receiving transitional funding to the end of this financial year.

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

3.2 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.

- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 A final submission outlining Morays approach to the FSF based on the Single Outcome Agreement is the subject of another report to the Committee.
- 3.5 The Fairer Scotland fund was made up of a combination of funding streams, i.e. Regeneration Outcome Agreement, Social Inclusion element of the Changing Children's Services Fund, More Choice More Chances. A number of projects funded through these schemes continue to operate.
- 3.6 The Government recognised that in this first year of FSF there would be a managed transition period between previous ring fenced funding arrangements and the new arrangements.
- 3.7 Interim arrangements for the continuation of current projects were agreed at the last Board meeting held on 29 May 2008 (*para 6(ii) of the minute refers*) to allow projects to make arrangements for the change in funding and priorities and funding has been made available to the projects to allow them to continue till September 2008
- 3.8 It was agreed at a meeting of the Board held on 29 May 2008 (*para 6(iii) of the minute refers*) that a report on the evaluation of the projects be submitted to the next Partnership meeting.
- 3.9 At its meeting held on Thursday 7 August 2008, the Community Planning Board agreed to refer consideration of the evaluations of projects funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund and the continued funding of the projects receiving transitional funding to the end of this financial year, to this Group. It was also agreed that progress of the Fairer Scotland Fund against the Single Outcome Agreement be reported back to the Community Planning Board.
- 3.10 Decisions will need to be taken in the context of the relevance to the Moray Community Planning Partnership proposals for meeting the Fairer Scotland Criteria listed in 3.3 and to the Single Outcome Agreement.

- 3.11 Arrangements to appoint staff contained in the proposal is underway and the appointment of a Fairer Scotland Fund Coordinator, Administrator and Community Analyst. The role of the Fairer Scotland fund staff will be to develop the Fund and the FSF proposals. It is important that they have resources with which to carry out this work.
- 3.12 The projects concerned are as follows:
- Moray Youthstart
 - More Choices More Chances
 - Mobile Information Bus
 - Youth Justice
- 3.12 **Moray Youthstart** has been aware that funding would cease in March 2008 and the overall administration and co-ordination function of Youthstart is now in a position to end operations. Youthstart have also identified alternative funding for all the projects that would have been under threat if FSF funding had been removed and do not now require FSF support to maintain the services. Evaluation of the project recognises that there is a need for co-ordination of services for young people and this has been taken account of in the proposal to appoint a FSF coordinator as part of the FSF submission. It is clear from the evaluations that there is evidence that the Moray Youth Action and Moray New Futures projects have relevance to the Fairer Scotland Fund criteria. These projects may come to the FSF at a future date to assist develop projects to assist them meet unmet demand. An evaluation of Youthstart has been attached as **Appendix 1** for information.
- 3.13 **The More Choices More Chances** group has been in place for 2 years. It produced a strategy, which was endorsed by the Partnership at a meeting of the Steering group held in March 2008. The development of the More Choices More Chances Strategy is an integral element of improving employability in the Fairer Scotland Fund proposals. Employability is a key strand of Fairer Scotland and is contained in the Single Outcome agreement. An evaluation of work carried out over the last year has been attached as **Appendix 2**. Recent figure received from the Government indicate that Moray has reduced the numbers of Young people in need of More Choices and More Chances from 400 in 2004 to 330 in 2007. A more detailed paper on "Employability "and the More Choices More Chances strategy will be presented to the next Board meeting outlining how the strategy will be taken forward in the context of the FSF and following a review of the strategy. The cost of continuing the More choices more chances till the end of this financial year will be £33,320.
- 3.11 **The Mobile Information Bus** received a contribution of £15,000 from the Social Inclusion fund. The purpose of the Mobile Information Bus is to encourage young people in rural areas to access information which will support them in making positive lifestyle choices. An Evaluation of the MIB is attached as **Appendix 3**. The service costs £45,000 per

annum to operate and receives 50% funding from NHS Grampian and funding from other sources such as FSF and the Community Safety budget. The cost to the FSF of continuing the project to the end of this financial year would be £7,500

- 3.12 **Moray Youth Justice** received a contribution of £24,100 from the Social Inclusion Fund which contributed to the overall budget of the Moray Youth Justice Service and has been used to fund diversionary activities. An evaluation and explanation of the work carried out by the service is attached as **Appendix 4**. The client group dealt with by the Service are featured as a target group of the More Choices More Chances strategy and are amongst Morays most vulnerable young people. The cost to FSF of continuing this project to the end of this financial year would be £12,050

4. **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

Decisions taken at previous meetings to provide temporary funding and for staffing of the Fairer Scotland fund would mean that there is a budget of £81,508 remaining for expenditure in this in this financial year.

The cost of continuing the projects in this financial year would be

Moray Youthstart	£0
Moray Youth Justice	£12,050
Mobile Information Bus	£ 7,500
Moray More Choices More Chances	£33,320

Staffing Costs in 2009-10 will be £121,995 and the available budget FSF budget for 2009-10 will be £300,005.

The cost of continuing these projects for another year would be

Moray Youth Justice	£24,100
Mobile Information Bus	£15,000
Moray More Choices More Chances	£66,640

(d) Consultations

Moray Youthstart, Moray Youth Justice NHS Grampian and the More Choices More Chances Strategy group have been consulted on the content of this report and have provided evaluations of the projects. Financial Services in the Moray Council have also been consulted and are in agreement with the financial content of this paper.

5.0 CONCLUSION

5.1 That the Group consider the attached evaluations and consider continuation of projects in the context of the Fairer Scotland Fund criteria, the Single Outcome Agreement and the Fairer Scotland Submission.

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

Background Papers:

Ref: