



## Your Moray

**REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER THEME GROUP ON 13 NOVEMBER 2008**

**SUBJECT: SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY**

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

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

1.1 The Community Planning Board has referred the responsibility for overseeing and promoting the Social Inclusion Strategy. This report seeks to establish a co-ordinating group to implement and co-ordinate the Social Inclusion Strategy and the development of the Fairer Scotland Fund.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 **It is recommended that the Safer and Stronger Theme group:**

- (i) **take responsibility for overseeing and promoting the Social Inclusion Strategy**
- (ii) **take responsibility for the development of the Fairer Scotland Fund on behalf of the Partnership**
- (iii) **establish a co-ordinating group to take forward the Social inclusion Strategy and the Fairer Scotland Fund**

### **3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 The Social Inclusion Strategy 2008 –2011 and the Outcome Statement (**see appendix 1**) was agreed by the Community Planning Partnership at the Community Planning Board Meeting on 7 August 2008 (*para 10(i) of the minute refers*).

3.2 At the Community Planning Board meeting on 7 August 2008 the Board agreed to refer the Social Inclusion Strategy to the Stronger and Safer Theme Group in order that the theme group can oversee the promotion and development of the Strategy (*para 10(ii) of the minute refers*).

3.3 The role and remit of the Safer and Stronger Theme Group was agreed at the first meeting of the group held on 21 August 2008 (*para 5 of the minute refers*) and it included the following roles:

- Address social inclusion issues, as detailed in the Social Inclusion Strategy.
- Address issues relating to the Fairer Scotland Fund, as detailed in the funding submission.

- Address the equality agenda within the Partnership structure.
- 3.4 An operational group with the task of implementing the Strategy and the Fairer Scotland Fund needs to be established with appropriate representation from the Partnership and relevant agencies. It is proposed that the membership should include representation from the statutory partners, housing strategy group, existing groups such as the More Choices More Chances Group, Homelessness group, the Youthstart Board and other relevant organisations.
  - 3.5 The group would be responsible for implementing and co-ordinating actions arising from the Social Inclusion Strategy and the outcome statement, and for ensuring delivery of the Fairer Scotland Fund outcomes.
  - 3.6 The group would provide guidance and support to the Fairer Scotland Staff and be involved in the selection and appointment of those staff.
  - 3.7 The Co-ordinating group will provide regular reports to the Safer and Stronger theme group, other theme groups and the Board as required.

#### **4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS**

##### **(a) Community Plan / Theme Plans / Partner Plans**

The Community Plan commits the Partnership to developing the Social Inclusion Strategy. The Partnership will ensure that the key principles set out in the Strategy are reflected in all strategies, policies and actions plans where appropriate.

The Strategy will apply across all thematic groups however the Safer and Stronger Strategic Theme Group has the appropriate remit to oversee the Strategy. The Single Outcome Agreement contains a number of actions that contribute to the Strategy and have been listed in the attached Outcome Statement.

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. 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. As outlined in the Strategy document, the Partners have a number of strategy and policy documents that impact on social inclusion and social justice. The former Scottish Executive issued a series of targets, "Closing the Opportunity Gap", and these are considered within the Strategy. There are a number of National Priorities issued by the Scottish Government and contained within Moray's Single Outcome Agreement that the Strategy seeks to address. The Scottish Government announced as part of the Concordat between it and Local Government that the Fairer Scotland Fund would be established to assist tackle poverty and deprivation across Scotland. Moray Community Planning Partnership has been given an

allocation over the next three years to assist in tackling deprivation and poverty in Moray.

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

Adoption of the Strategy and associated Outcome Statement commits the Partners to specific actions however these form part of the SOA. The Fairer Scotland Fund allocation for Moray will assist in tackling specific issues and can assist in supporting the Strategy. The financial and personnel management issues will be subject to the financial and personnel regulations of the Moray Council.

**(d) Consultations**

The strategy was consulted on widely before the Community Planning Board in August approved it.

**5.0 CONCLUSION**

**5.1 That the Social Inclusion remit is part of the remit of the Safer and Stronger group remit and that in order to ensure implementation of the strategy a co-ordinating group is established.**

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

Background Papers:

Ref:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date : \_\_\_\_\_