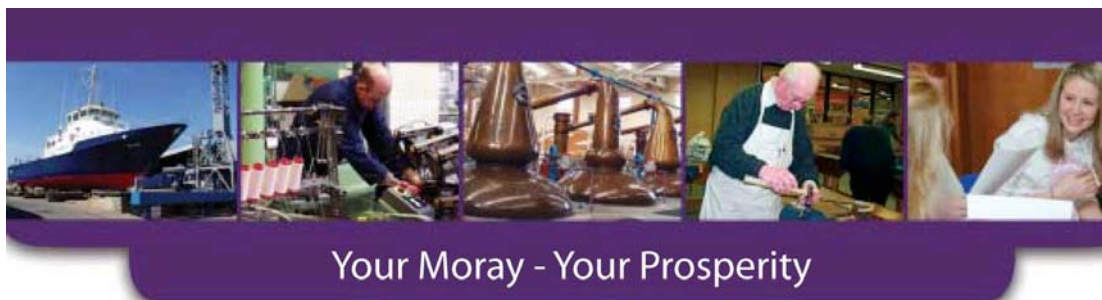




REPORT TO: WEATHIER AND FAIRER STRATEGIC THEME GROUP ON 21 MAY 2009

SUBJECT: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND PROPOSALS

BY: MORAY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

The Wealthier and Fairer strategic theme group is invited to consider how it can contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives and to note progress on investment of the fund.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Wealthier and Fairer strategic theme group considers how it can contribute to the achievement of the Fairer Scotland Fund objectives and are invited to put forward proposals on investment of the fund. The theme group are also asked to note progress made in the development of the fund

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 At the Safer and Stronger strategic theme group meeting, held on 19 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 Fairer Scotland 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 This fund is intended to be used as a catalyst to influence service planning and delivery and to 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 Following the development of a process whereby interested parties could indicate their interest 13 proposals for investment in the fund were received. These were assessed by the Social Inclusion Implementation Group. Three proposals were approved at that stage and presented to the Community Planning Board on the 7 May. The Board approved two of these proposals.
- 3.5 Other ongoing work to inform investment in the fund includes a Financial Inclusion Event on the 5 June. The outcomes of this event will be to develop a Financial Inclusion Strategy for Moray, achieve more effective integration and coordination among providers and investigate the feasibility of establishing a Financial Inclusion Network to maintain effective communication and coordination.
- 3.6 Research work is also ongoing and the first Fairer Scotland Fund strategic assessment has been produced. This will be revised on an ongoing basis and will contribute to effective decision making linked to investment of the fund and contribute to setting of poverty indicators for Moray.
- 3.7 Following an evaluation of the first process the Social Inclusion Implementation Group agreed that a revision was required. The suggested changes include: All proposals linked through the Employability objective will be subject to the Council commissioning process and a specification will be drawn up in due course. It was also agreed that the Safer and Stronger strategic theme group be asked to approve the proposal that each theme group nominates 2 representatives to consider all proposals which are submitted linked to their key proprieties.
- 3.8 In the meantime interested parties can still submit their ideas to their appropriate theme group or the Fairer Scotland Fund team on the outline proposal form. Once the revised process has been agreed letters outlining the changes will be issued to all theme group chairs and lead officers.

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)

The allocation has been 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 current available budget for allocation of the fund for 2009/2010 is approx £439,000 (this includes funds of £148,728.00 brought forward from 2008/2009 and deduction of staffing commitments, projected running costs and funding already committed as detailed in section 3.3) Following approval of the Board for 2 investment ideas the total fund left to allocate for investment ideas and development of the fund for 2009/10 is £375,804.

All funded provision will be subject to a Service Level Agreement and as indicated in section 3.13 any investment in Employability provision will be subject to the Councils Commissioning process.

(d) Consultations

The Safer and Stronger Theme Group are consulted on the revised investment process.

The Social Inclusion Implementation Group was responsible for assessing the proposals received.

The Council’s Principal Accountant was consulted in respect of the financial implications.

Procurement and Contracts of Moray Council will be consulted in the development of the Service Level Agreement and the Commissioning Process.

5. CONCLUSION

The Wealthier and Fairer Theme Group are asked to note progress on the development of the fund. The Theme group is also requested to submit ideas for the investment of the fund.

Author of Report: Jacqui Taylor, Fairer Scotland Manager

**Background Papers: Fairer Scotland Fund Submission
Ref:**

Signature _____ Date _____

**Designation: Community Planning and Development Manager, The Moray
Council**

Name: John Ferguson