

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Aberdeen City Council
DATE	3 March 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2019-20
REPORT NUMBER	CUS/21/039
DIRECTOR	Andy MacDonald
CHIEF OFFICER	Derek McGowan
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TERMS OF REFERENCE	21

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2019-20.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:

- 2.1 Note the Annual Report for 2019-20, at Appendix 1 and instruct the Director of Customer Services to report the Council's feedback to the Fairer Aberdeen Board as appropriate.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 At its meeting of 21st June 2017 the Council agreed that Fairer Aberdeen Annual Reports would continue to be reported to Full Council. This report includes the Annual Report for 2019-20 at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Annual Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during 2019-20. £1.6m was allocated by the Council to the Fairer Aberdeen Fund, to be dispersed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, to tackle poverty and deprivation in the priority areas of Cummings Park, Mastrick, Middlefield, Northfield,

Seaton, Tillydrone, Woodside and Torry, and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. A few highlights are summarised here, further detail is available at Appendix 1.

- 3.3 At its meeting of 5th March 2018, Council agreed to request that the Chief Officer - Early Intervention and Community Empowerment ensure that future reports contain a table detailing project spend for each project with an explanation of the impact it has had in terms of the programme. This is available at Appendix 2.
- 3.4 The Fund is dispersed and managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, made up of representatives from the identified priority areas, the Civic Forum, the Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations). Following discussion with Locality Partnerships, the Fund is now aligned with the LOIP and Locality Plan themes and community representatives from Locality Partnerships participated in subgroups considering applications for funding and made recommendations to the Fairer Aberdeen Board.
- 3.5 Funding was awarded to 41 projects within the main programme, as well as a Community Support Fund to support community engagement, an Employment Support Fund to support costs associated with getting people back into work, and a Participatory Budgeting event to reduce social isolation in Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank.
- 3.6 Grants ranged from £2,200 to £156,000 in value. A total of 34,431 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 9,327 of them were under 16 years old. 973 volunteers contributed 145,324 hours of volunteering time with a value of over £2.2m.
- 3.7 The Economy theme promotes inclusive economic growth, removes barriers to accessing employment and helps to maximise household incomes. It also provides opportunities for young people to enter employment, education and training. It provides access to affordable financial services and products, coordinated provision of quality advice and information services, and access to support and skills needed to return to work, including initial engagement, personal development activity and in work support.
- 3.8 Over the year 270 people moved into work and 62 young people moved on to employment, education or training.
- 3.9 2126 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with 1268 reporting a total financial gain of £3.1m, an average of £2500 per person.
- 3.10 5625 people saved with a credit union, providing £1.7m in affordable loans.
- 3.11 The People (Children and Young People) theme promotes health and provides parenting and family support, services that meet the needs of young people, and opportunities for young people to secure positive destinations.

- 3.12 Over the year 9,327 children and young people were supported, along with 469 parents and families with complex needs. 359 young people accessed 3076 counselling sessions and 186 young people were involved in producing youth media. At least 5 families no longer required Social Work support.
- 3.13 The People (Adults) theme promotes health, mental health and wellbeing, community safety, and social cohesion and socially sustainable communities. It supports learning opportunities, volunteering, and increased opportunities to influence decision making and improves.
- 3.14 Over the year 404 people accessed counselling provision delivered in priority areas, 654 people took part in adult learning activities, 105 older people were supported to develop digital skills and 130 volunteers provided support to rough sleepers. Additional patrol hours were allocated to reduce harm to women involved in the sex trade and to protect communities from the risk and harm caused by prostitution. 61 ex-offenders were supported in the community after their release, 20 secured a positive destination and 11 moved into work.
- 3.15 The Place theme addresses food poverty and supports community initiatives to increase access to healthy and affordable food. It provides community facilities, access to recreational and educational activities, support with welfare reform issues, and promotes community capacity building.
- 3.16 Over the year 484 tonnes of free food was distributed, the equivalent of 1.4m meals, and 3 community pantries operated with 205 members. 582 food bank users were referred to other services for support and 1,021 received financial support through their SAFE Team. 5 Community Flats/Projects were funded in priority areas, providing youth work, adult learning, support and advice and addressing isolation.
- 3.17 The Fairer Aberdeen Board held another PB (Participatory Budgeting) event in Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank in October 2019. The areas chosen for PB reflect the desire of the Fairer Aberdeen Board to allocate funding to neighbourhoods with pockets of deprivation but out with the priority areas that usually receive funding. 18 proposals were received, and £25,000 allocated to 16 projects that received most votes at the public voting event, including SZTUKA Art Agency Polish Association, Powis Residents Group, Froghall Community Centre, Powis Community Centre, Sunnybank Community Centre, Kittybrewster Congregational Church, Friends of Sunnybank Park and Froghall Residents Group. Activities included community gardening, Chair Yoga for seniors, Sports and games, Arts and Crafts, international cooking and youth work.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Fairer Aberdeen Fund is allocated by Aberdeen City Council and is aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation; supporting partners to work together to tackle area-based and individual poverty; and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities. Funding supports initiatives and services for the most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable people across the City.

4.2 In 2019-20 the Council agreed a sum of £1.6m to be managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board. The same sum was agreed for 2020-21.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic risk	Over 34,000 people benefitted from funded initiatives through the year. Many of the initiatives provide services that are preventative and addressing inequalities within the City, however there is an increasing need for support for people in crisis situations which is also being delivered for some of our most vulnerable citizens.	L	The Fairer Aberdeen programme is a positive example of partnership working, involving communities in decision making, bring a wide range of experience and knowledge to support initiatives that can respond to the needs of vulnerable people.
Compliance	No risks identified		
Operational	No risks identified		
Financial	Failure to continue to address the needs of Aberdeen's most disadvantaged communities would have a detrimental effect for the individuals and communities involved and potentially increased costs in the	L	Supporting people into employment, maximizing people's income, providing early intervention in relation to education and health is not only a better outcome for individuals but reduces the costs involved in responding to the effects of poverty in the long run.

	long term for public services.		
Reputational	The public may be unaware of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund and its contributions to the LOIP and Locality Plans may not be clear.	L	The Annual Report will be widely circulated. The programme is now aligned with the LOIP and Locality Plan priorities. Reports are provided to Locality Partnerships.
Environment /climate	No risks identified		

7. OUTCOMES

COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement	The activities in this report support the delivery of Policy Statement People 9 - Promote diversion activities for youths and adults in our city with enhanced focus on our three locality areas.
Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	<p>The activities detailed in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcomes:</p> <p>2 - 90% of working people in Living Wage Employment by 2026.</p> <p>2.1 - Promoting inclusive economic growth for our most disadvantaged communities.</p> <p>They also support delivery of the following outcomes in Locality Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove barriers to accessing employment and employment progression. • Maximise household incomes. • Maximise the employment, education and training opportunities for school leavers. <p>The initiatives and programmes being funded support frontline services that are provided by the Council, Community, Voluntary and other public sector partners with 95% of the fund allocated to voluntary and community organisations. Supporting people into employment, maximising people's income, providing early intervention in relation to education and health is not only a better outcome for individuals but reduces</p>

	<p>the costs involved in responding to the effects of poverty in the long run.</p>
<p>Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<p>The activities detailed in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcomes</p> <p>3. 95% of children (0-5years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews by 2026.</p> <p>3.1 Ensuring that families receive the parenting and family support they need.</p> <p>Improving health and reducing inequalities</p> <p>4. 90% of children and young people will report that they feel mentally well by 2026 –</p> <p>4.2 Increasing children’s knowledge and understanding of their own physical and mental wellbeing.</p> <p>7. Child Friendly City which supports all children to prosper and engage actively with their communities by 2026.</p> <p>10. 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year of receiving a community or custodial sentence by 2026–</p> <p>10.2 Ensuring people on community sentences and liberated from prison have better access to services.</p> <p>11. Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026.</p> <p>11.1 Supporting vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families and groups.</p> <p>11.4 Encouraging adoption of healthier lifestyles.</p> <p>They also support delivery of the following outcomes in Locality Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve outcomes for families with the most complex needs. • Facilities and services that meet the needs of young people. • Improve health, mental health and wellbeing/ • Access to learning opportunities to develop digital skills and use the internet safely. • Enhance social cohesion and socially sustainable communities. • Increased opportunities to influence decision making. • Improve community safety to keep people safe. • Prevent and reduce levels of substance misuse. <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Fund supports a range of initiatives to support vulnerable people. Many of the services are addressing inequalities within the City and responding to an increasing need for support for people in crisis situations. Fairer Aberdeen initiatives also contribute to the delivery of the Council’s Locality Plans,</p>

	Anti-Poverty Strategy and have an important role in responding to Welfare Reform changes.
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	<p>The activities detailed in this report support the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcomes</p> <p>13. No one in Aberdeen will go without food due to poverty by 2026.</p> <p>13.1 Increasing food resilience at individual and community level by establishing self-governing community co-operatives to offer further supportive ways of providing food.</p> <p>They also support delivery of the following outcomes in Locality Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased opportunities to access high quality, fit for purpose facilities. • Appropriate spaces and facilities to support play and recreational activities. • Celebrate and promote heritage and culture. • Tidy and well-maintained communities. • Support community capacity building through the use of technology. <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Fund provides services that tackle poverty and contribute to improving wellbeing for the city's most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable individuals. The programme responds to locally identified issues and addresses unemployment, providing financial inclusion services, improving health and literacies and enabling more sustainable and safer communities.</p>

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Equality & Human Rights Impact Assessment	Full EHRIA required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Duty of Due Regard / Fairer Scotland Duty	Not applicable

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Funded initiatives provide annual monitoring reports which are used to produce the Annual Report.

10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Fairer Aberdeen Annual Report 2019-20
Appendix 2 – Funded Initiatives Impact Measures

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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