

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Anti-Poverty and Inequality Committee
<b>DATE</b>	6 November 2024
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2023-24
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	F&C/24/290
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Michelle Crombie
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Susan Thoms, Fairer Aberdeen Coordinator
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	1.14

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2023-24.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Committee:-

- 2.1 Note the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report for 2023-24, at Appendix 1 and the positive impact that has been made to lives of people in Aberdeen; and
- 2.2 Instruct the Executive Director Corporate Services to thank all the Fairer Aberdeen Board members, funded partners, and volunteers for the work they've done and their many successes.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The purpose of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund is to tackle poverty and deprivation in priority neighbourhoods and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. This report includes the Annual Report for 2023-24 at Appendix 1. Appendix 2 details key performance indicators for all funded initiatives, with figures for the previous 4 years for comparison. It also collates figures for the programme over the last 10 years since the Fund was renamed in 2013, following an amalgamation of several previously ringfenced funds, including the Fairer Scotland Fund.
- 3.2 The Fairer Aberdeen Fund (the Fund) is dispersed and managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, made up of representatives from the identified priority neighbourhoods through Regeneration Matters network, the Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations). The Fund is aligned with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) of Economy and People (Children & Young People and Adults) themes and their outcomes.

- 3.3 The Annual Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during 2023-24. £1.54m was allocated by the Council to the Fund, to be dispersed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board. A few highlights are summarised here, further detail is available at Appendix 1.
- 3.4 Funding was awarded to 35 projects within the main programme, as well as a Community Support Fund to support community engagement, and an Employment Support Fund to support costs associated with getting people back into work.
- 3.5 Grants ranged from £2,200 to £168,690 in value. A total of 51,445 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 4,696 of them were under 16 years old. 92% of people supported were affected by poverty; living in low income households or in the most deprived areas. 827 volunteers contributed 139,495 hours of volunteering time with a value of over £2.2m. Match funding achieved by funded initiative totalled more than £875,000.
- 3.6 The Economy theme tackles poverty and promotes inclusive economic growth, removes barriers to accessing employment and helps to maximise household incomes. It provides access to food, 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.
- 3.7 Over the year 965 people were involved in employability programmes, and 249 people moved into work.
- 3.8 5,473 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with 1,558 reporting a total financial gain of £2.3m, an average of £1,480 per person.
- 3.9 5,420 people saved with a credit union. The credit union provided £2.1m in 2,877 affordable loans, avoiding reliance on payday loans or doorstep lending.
- 3.10 629 tonnes of free food were distributed, the equivalent of 1.5m meals (Food Standards Authority standard calculation of 420g per meal, used by FareShare). 38,205 emergency food parcels were provided and 1,079 food bank users were referred to other services for support. Five cooperative Community Food Outlets were established and 7,600 shops took place at Mobile Cooperative Vehicle services and community pantries, offering a more sustainable and dignified response to food insecurity.
- 3.11 Five Community Flats/Projects were funded in priority areas of Cummings Park, Middlefield, Printfield, Seaton and Tillydrone, providing youth work, adult learning, support and advice, addressing isolation and promoting social inclusion. Community Projects have a role in delivering services and support on a wide range of issues and responding to new issues as they arise, like welfare reform, the continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the cost-of-living crisis and need for warm spaces. A number of organisations use the venues to deliver services and distribute resources like free food and sanitary products. Projects support local people's involvement and promote local democracy.

- 3.12 The People (Children and Young People) theme promotes health and wellbeing, provides parenting and family support, services that meet the needs of young people, and opportunities for young people to secure positive destinations. It also provides opportunities for young people to enter employment, education and training. Many more children and young people will benefit from the programme through family support, the provision of food, and employability and financial inclusion support for parents.
- 3.13 Over the year 4,696 children and young people were supported, along with 135 parents and families with complex needs. 409 young people took part in employability programmes, 84 moved on to employment, education, or training. 255 young people accessed 2,127 counselling sessions and 297 young people were involved in training in youth media. At least six families no longer required Social Work support, resulting in a significant saving for statutory services.
- 3.14 The People (Adults) theme promotes health, mental health and wellbeing, community safety, and social cohesion and socially sustainable communities. It supports volunteering, and increased opportunities to influence decision making. Many adults will also benefit from projects listed under the economy theme, that also provide individuals and communities with the social resources needed to reduce feelings of loneliness and social isolation.
- 3.15 Over the year 496 people accessed counselling provision provided locally. Additional patrol hours were allocated to reduce harm to women involved in prostitution and to protect communities from the risk and harm caused by prostitution. 62 ex-offenders and vulnerable adults with complex needs were supported, 23 reduced their risk taking or offending behaviour to secure a positive destination after release, 28 of them moved into positive destinations of volunteering, education and training, and five into employment.

#### **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 2023-24 the Council agreed a sum of £1.54m to be dispersed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board. The same sum was agreed for 2024-25.

#### **5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

#### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

## 7. RISK

<b>Category</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level</b>	<b>*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)</b>  <small>*taking into account controls/control actions</small>	<b>*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?</b>
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	The strategic objectives of the Council and the Community Planning Partnership are not met.	The Fairer Aberdeen programme addresses poverty and inequalities and supports third sector initiatives that can respond to the needs of vulnerable people.	L	Yes
<b>Compliance</b>	Failure to comply with following the Public Pound financial regulations.	The funding programme follows all FtPP regulations and funded initiatives provide feedback reports every 6 months. Outcomes are aligned with the LOIP.	L	Yes
<b>Operational</b>	That community empowerment, which involves local people in decision making and addressing local issues, is not achieved.	The community members on the Fairer Aberdeen Board are supported to engage and decisions made through a deliberative participatory budgeting approach.	L	Yes
<b>Financial</b>	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	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	L	Yes

	potentially increased costs in the long term for public services	involved in responding to the effects of poverty in the long run.		
<b>Reputational</b>	Failure to support vulnerable people during a cost of living crisis.	The Annual Report demonstrates impact and the range of support provided.	L	Yes
<b>Environment / Climate</b>	No significant risk identified			

## 8. OUTCOMES

<u><a href="#">COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</a></u>	
<b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b>	<b>Impact of Report</b>
<u><a href="#">Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</a></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting people with the cost of living - 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.</li> <li>Recognise the importance of the third sector in Aberdeen's life and economy – the majority of the Fund is allocated to community and third sector organisations.</li> <li>Empowering Aberdeen's Communities - the Fairer Aberdeen programme is a positive example of partnership working, involving communities in decision making, bringing a wide range of experience and knowledge to support initiatives that can respond to the needs of vulnerable people.</li> </ul>
<u><a href="#">Aberdeen City Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2016-26</a></u>	
Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes	<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. 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 the costs involved in responding to the effects of poverty in the long run.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 1 – 20% reduction in the percentage of people who report they have been worried they would not</p>

	<p>have enough food to eat and/ or not be able to heat their home by 2026. It seeks to mitigate the causes of immediate and acute poverty, helps to ensure access to appropriate benefits, and supports vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families, and groups, particularly in priority neighbourhoods.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 2 – 74% employment rate for Aberdeen City by 2026 by helping to deliver the LOIP Improvement Project Aim to support people into sustained, good quality employment, with a particular focus on those from priority neighbourhoods and people over 50.</p>
<p>Prosperous People Stretch Outcomes</p>	<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.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 3 - 95% of all children will reach their expected developmental milestones by their 27-30 month review by 2026 by providing parenting and family support.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 4 - 90% of children and young people report they feel listened to all of the time by 2026, by providing counselling and access to physical and mental health and wellbeing activities.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 6 - 95% of children living in our priority neighbourhoods (Quintiles 1 &amp; 2) will sustain a positive destination upon leaving school by 2026, by providing pathways to education, training and employment.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 9 - 10% fewer adults (over 18) charged with more than one offence by 2026, by providing support services for post release offenders to engage with relevant services.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 10 - Healthy life expectancy (time lived in good health) is five years longer by 2026, by providing support to vulnerable and disadvantaged people, families and groups, providing communities with social resources needed to reduce loneliness and social isolation, and increasing opportunities for volunteering.</p>

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
<b>Integrated Impact Assessment</b>	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Michelle Crombie, Corporate Strategy and Community Planning Manager on 30.9.24.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	Not required
<b>Other</b>	None

## 10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

## 11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2023-23
- 11.2 Appendix 2 – Fairer Aberdeen Fund Impact Measures 2023-24

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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