

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2013
DIRECTOR	Paul Fleming, Acting Director of Corporate Governance
TITLE OF REPORT	Fairer Scotland Fund - Progress Report (1 <sup>st</sup> April 2012 – 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013)
REPORT NUMBER	CG/13/111

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with the annual report on progress with Community Planning Aberdeen's Fairer Scotland Fund programmes and projects funded in the previous financial year, and information on the Projects being funded in 2013-14.

To give consideration to a request from Community Planning Aberdeen that £96,749K unspent monies in 2012/13 be added to the allocation for 2013/14 to support additional priority Community Planning work.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Council is asked to:

- a. Consider and advise the Fairer Scotland Fund Board of the Committee's comments on the Annual Report for 2012-13, Appendix 1
- b. Note the information at Appendix 2 detailing the funding decisions taken by the Fairer Scotland Fund Board in relation to Project funding for 2013-14.
- c. Consider the request from Community Planning Aberdeen for an additional allocation of £96,749K in this financial year.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fairer Scotland Fund is a fund initially created by the Scottish Government, in December 2008, aimed at tackling poverty and deprivation. The first two years of the fund were ringfenced within the Council's budget for the Community Planning Partnership (now called Community Planning Aberdeen) in order to support partners to work together to tackle area-based and individual poverty; and to help more people access and sustain employment opportunities. Following the initial 2 years the allocation is now included as part of the Council's annual settlement and the Council has agreed to provide an agreed level of funding to the CPA to continue the Fairer Scotland Fund grant process.

In 2012/ 13 the Council agreed a sum of £1.625M to support Community Planning Aberdeen's Fairer Scotland Fund Board. The current 5 year Business Plan contains a sum of 1.625 M for the first 2 years of the plan. In year 3 of the plan i.e. 2015/16 there is a proposed reduction of the fund by £250K i.e. the Fund from that year onwards if maintained in subsequent years would amount to £1.375M.

In 2012/13 there was an underspend of £96,749 in the Council's Fairer Scotland Fund allocation to Community Planning Aberdeen. The Council's financial regulations prevented these monies being carried forward to 2013-14. This issue was discussed at the Community Planning Management Group meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013 which resolved to make a request that the monies underspent by the FSF Board on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen in 2012-13 be reallocated to Community Planning Aberdeen in 2013-14.

The Council has agreed to continue the current governance arrangements through the Community Planning Partnership's Fairer Scotland Fund Board, which allocates the Fund following an application process to support appropriate programmes and projects.

Projects funded by the Fairer Scotland Fund Board are required to meet specific terms and conditions and comply with State Aid regulations, where required, and with guidance to local authorities on "Following the Public Pound " policy. Application for grant is annually through an open process to the Board.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

##### Personnel

The initiatives and programmes, being funded, support frontline services that are provided by the Council, Community, Voluntary and other public services sector partners with 93% of the fund allocated to voluntary and community organisations. In 2012-13 20,829 people participated in 60 funded initiatives; 1,401 volunteers were involved in activities funded by the FSF, contributing over 107,571 volunteer hours.

The Fairer Scotland Fund provides funding for a Support Team currently comprising 1 FTE Programme Coordinator and 1 FTE Development Worker. This small team is responsible for fund allocation, reporting, evaluation of Fairer Scotland Fund programmes, projects and initiatives, partnership building, advising applicants, supporting the Regeneration Matters community representatives group, administering and managing the Fairer Scotland Fund on behalf of the Fairer Scotland Fund Board.

##### Sustainability and Environment

The Fairer Scotland Fund plays an important part in providing services that tackle poverty and contribute to improving sustainability by improving the environment and well being for the cities most disadvantaged communities and vulnerable individuals. The various programmes are addressing unemployment, providing

financial inclusion services, improving health and skills and enabling more sustainable and safer communities.

## Risk Management

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 long term for public services. 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.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 5.1 The Fairer Scotland Fund Board comprises the Chair of The Aberdeen City Alliance, three Aberdeen City Councillors (currently Councillors Yvonne Allan, Gordon Graham and Jim Noble), one representative from Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations, one representative from NHS Grampian, one representative from Grampian Police, seven representatives from priority regeneration areas (appointed through the Regeneration Matters Group), and three representatives from the Aberdeen Civic Forum.
- 5.2 The Finance and Resources Committee of the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009 agreed that half yearly updates should be provided for the Corporate Performance and Policy Committee on the outcomes achieved through the investment in Fairer Scotland Fund. As the last meeting of the council agreed that The Council should oversee the community planning process and given that Fairer Scotland Fund is a community planning matter it is advised that future reports regarding Fairer Scotland Fund should therefore come to this meeting for approval.
- 5.3 In 2012-13 there was an underspend of £96,749 in the Fairer Scotland Fund allocation to Community Planning Aberdeen. The Council's financial regulations prevented these monies being carried forward to 2013-14. This issue was discussed at the Community Planning Management Group meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> August 2013 which resolved to make a request that the monies underspent by the FSF Board on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen in 2012 -13 be reallocated to Community Planning Aberdeen in 2013-14.
- 5.4 The Fairer Scotland Fund Board met on the 10<sup>th</sup> October and agreed that if the Council was minded to reinstate the unallocated monies from 2012/13 in this years budget i.e. 2013/14 then the Board would identify potential one off "capital" expenditure that could be used to provide improvements or address specific needs in priority regeneration neighbourhoods for due consideration at a future meeting of the Council's Finance, Policy and Resources Committee.
- 5.5 The Fairer Scotland Fund Board met on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2013 to consider applications for funding for 2013 -14. Awards were made to the projects as listed at Appendix 2. Several of the projects being funded through Fairer Scotland Fund, especially those that relate to improving employability and financial

inclusion play a significant role in relation to the city's response to current and planned changes arising from welfare reform.

## 6. IMPACT

The Fairer Scotland Fund outcomes are reflected in the Single Outcome Agreement. Funding is being applied to support the following specific national outcomes:

- We realize our full economic potential with more and better employment opportunities for our people
- Our Children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed
- We live longer, healthier lives
- We are better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation
- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens
- We live our lives safe from crime, disorder and danger
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society

The Fairer Scotland Fund and the Partnership Board contribute to a wide range of objectives contained within the Councils policy statement, Smarter Aberdeen, in relation to how we work with our partners to seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city and encouraging and supporting citizens to participate in the development, design and decision making of services to promote civic pride, active citizenship and resilience.

Fairer Scotland Fund investment also contributes to several of the Council's Key Priorities within the Five Year Business Plan, including:

- Provide for the needs of the most vulnerable people
- Help to ensure that all schoolchildren reach their potential
- Ensure efficient and effective delivery of services by the council and with its partners

## 7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The information contained at Appendix 1 is based on the monitoring reports that funded projects are required to produce as part of the terms and conditions for Fairer Scotland Fund grant.

Appendix 2 details the funding decisions made by the Fairer Scotland Fund Board at its meeting of 17 March 2013.

## 8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Dave Kilgour  
Strategist  
[dkilgour@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:dkilgour@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 523035

Susan Thoms  
Fairer Scotland Fund Programme Coordinator  
[sthoms@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:sthoms@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 523833