

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	17 th December 2014
DIRECTOR	Pete Leonard
TITLE OF REPORT	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2013-14 and 6 Month Progress Report (1 st April - 30 th September 2014)
REPORT NUMBER:	CHI/14/057
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide Members with the Annual Report 2013-14 and 6 month progress report from 1st April to 30th September 2014 of the Fairer Aberdeen Fund programme and to advise on projects currently being funded in this financial year.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Council is asked to:

- a) Consider and advise the Fairer Aberdeen Board of the Council's comments on the Annual Report for 2013-14, at Appendix 1.
- b) Note the information at Appendix 2 outlining Fairer Aberdeen Fund progress between April 1st and Sept 30th 2014.
- c) Note the information at Appendix 3 listing the initiatives being funded in 2014-15.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Fairer Scotland Fund was 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 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

In 2013-14 the Council agreed a sum of £1.625m to be managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board on behalf of Community Planning Aberdeen. The same sum was agreed for 2014-15.

The Fairer Aberdeen Board comprises of the Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen, Cllr Jenny Laing, three Aberdeen City Councillors (Councillors Yvonne Allan, Gordon Graham and Jim Noble), one representative from Aberdeen Council for Voluntary Organisations, one representative from NHS Grampian, one representative from Police Scotland, seven representatives from priority regeneration areas (appointed through the Regeneration Matters Group), and three representatives from the Aberdeen Civic Forum. In December 2013 it was agreed that the name of the Board would be changed to Fairer Aberdeen. During 2014-15 the Board will be reviewing its membership roles and responsibilities.

An application process is in place to ensure funding is allocated to appropriate programmes and projects. Organisations funded by the Fairer Aberdeen Board are required to meet specific terms and conditions and comply with State Aid regulations, where required, and to comply with "Following the Public Pound " financial guidance.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Personnel

The Fairer Aberdeen 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 Aberdeen Fund programmes, projects and initiatives, partnership building, advising applicants, supporting the Regeneration Matters community representatives group, administering and managing the Fairer Aberdeen Fund on behalf of the Fairer Aberdeen Board.

The initiatives and programmes being funded support frontline services that are provided by the Council, Community, Voluntary and other public sector partners with 90% of the fund allocated to voluntary and community organisations. Approximately 30 FTE staff posts are funded in 50 projects. In 2013-14 943 volunteers contributed over 101,000 volunteer hours with a value of just under £1.5m*, almost doubling the value of the Fund.

*Volunteering time is generally valued as the average hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £14.45. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE))

Sustainability and Environment

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund plays an important part in providing services that tackle poverty and contribute to improving sustainability by improving the environment and wellbeing for the cities 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.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

5.1 The Finance and Resources Committee of the 12th November 2009 agreed that half yearly updates should be provided on the outcomes achieved through the investment in Fairer Aberdeen Fund. This report includes the Annual Report for 2013-14 and the 6 month report for 2014-15.

6. IMPACT

The main purpose for the fund is targeting disadvantaged communities and vulnerable groups and individuals. The Fairer Aberdeen Board has agreed the following outcomes:

- Maximising income
- Getting people into work
- Improving mental health and well being
- Building stronger safer communities
- Increasing skills and creativity

During 2014-15 the Board will be reviewing priorities and outcomes in line with the Single Outcome Agreement and local needs.

The Fairer Aberdeen Fund also contributes to a wide range of objectives contained within the Councils policy statement, 'Aberdeen – the Smarter City' in relation to "challenging inequalities wherever they exist and bringing our communities closed together."

Fairer Aberdeen Fund initiatives also contribute to the delivery of the Council's Anti-Poverty Strategy and have an important role in responding to Welfare Reform changes.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

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.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The information contained at Appendices 1 and 2 is based on the monitoring reports that funded projects are required to produce as part of the terms and conditions for Fairer Aberdeen Fund grant.

Appendix 3 details the projects that had funding agreed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board at its meeting of 13th March 2014.

9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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