

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	21 st June 2017
REPORT TITLE	Fairer Aberdeen Fund 6 month progress report 2016-17
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/111
DIRECTOR	Bernadette Marjoram, Interim Director
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the 6 month progress report 2016-17 for the Fairer Aberdeen Fund programme, and the allocation of funding for 2017-18.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Council is asked to:
- a) Consider and advise the Fairer Aberdeen Board of the Council's comments on the 6 month progress report for 2016-17, at Appendix 1.
 - b) Note the information at Appendix 2 listing the initiatives being funded in 2017-18.
 - c) Note the information at Appendix 3 relating to the Participatory Budgeting event carried out by the Fairer Aberdeen Board in October 2016.
 - d) Agree that further Fairer Aberdeen annual and 6 month progress reports are issued as Service Updates in future.

3. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

- 3.1 The Finance, Policy and Resources Committee of 12th 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 Aberdeen Fund. Following agreement in 2013 that the Council would oversee the community planning process, these updates now come to this meeting for approval. This report includes the 6 Month Report for 2016-17 at Appendix 1 and the list of initiatives being funded in 2017-18 at Appendix 2. It is proposed that future annual and 6 month updates take the form of a Service Update in future.

- 3.2 The 6 Month Progress Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during the first 6 months of 2016. £1,500,000 was awarded to 45 projects, supporting work in regeneration areas and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. Grants ranged from £2,000 to £155,000 in value. Some of the achievements are summarised here:
- 3.3 A total of 19,788 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 3,585 of them were under 16 years old. 843 volunteers contributed 157,137 hours of volunteering time, worth £2.1m. (Volunteering is generally valued as the average hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £13.60. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)).
- 3.4 1,036 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with a total financial gain of £1,111,928, an average of £1,073 per person.
- 3.5 1,347 affordable loans, totalling £1,009,899, were provided by the credit unions.
- 3.6 193 tons of free food was distributed and 5,111 food parcels were given out to 1,710 beneficiaries.
- 3.7 173 people moved into work. 23 access centres in areas of high unemployment offered weekly employment support drop in sessions. 98 young people were involved in activities designed to increase their opportunities to move into positive destinations, and 49 young people moved onto employment, education or training.
- 3.8 48 Community Food Outlets operated in local communities, 27 of them in Sheltered Housing complexes, and free food was distributed to 129 organisations through FareShare.
- 3.9 227 people accessed 2,490 sessions of mental health counselling provision, 88 of them were under 16 years old, and counselling was provided in 7 regeneration neighbourhoods. 60% of clients showed a decreased score in their HAD scales (Hospital/Anxiety-Depression monitoring forms).
- 3.10 Home-Start supported 28 families in regeneration areas and 6 of these families no longer require social work support.
- 3.11 1,435 people participated in activities and services provided in Community Projects and Flats. Cummings Park, Seaton and Tillydrone Community Flats are wholly funded by Fairer Aberdeen, and a number of organisations use these venues to deliver services within the areas. The number of attendances to use their facilities including phone, computers, making enquiries and getting information totalled 8,185.
- 3.12 286 people participated in Adult Learning activities and 136 people were involved in producing community media. 6 hour-long programmes, representing key issues and news from the regeneration areas, were produced and broadcast weekly by members of the local communities. Community magazines were produced and distributed 3 times a year in 7 regeneration areas. Volunteers contributed over 12,000 hours producing community media at SHMU.

- 3.13 89 older people registered as new learners with Silver City Surfers to learn IT skills and how to use the internet. Beneficiaries included people with disabilities, sensory impairments and dementia.
- 3.14 The Fairer Aberdeen Board agreed to allocate £10,000 to undertake a participatory budgeting exercise during 2016-17. Participatory budgeting (PB) is recognised internationally as a way for local people to have a direct say in how, and where, public funds can be used to address local needs. PB originated in Porto Alegre, Brazil in the late 1980s and has since spread to over 1,500 localities around the world. It was born from a desire to reallocate public money locally and democratically to where it was needed most. When PB is adopted its use can be very important in helping individuals feel connected to each other and to their communities and can instil a sense of ownership, trust and connectivity.
- 3.15 The Scottish Government supports PB as a tool for community engagement which sits alongside the objectives of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015. An additional £10,000 was awarded to match the Fairer Aberdeen funding from the Community Choices Fund, and consultancy from PB Partners was available to support the process. An additional £5,000 was contributed by the Aberdeen Integrated Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 3.16 The Fairer Aberdeen Board established a PB steering group of community representatives and partners supported by the Coordinator and Development Officer to plan the process, and the PB event took place in October 2016. 60 people attended the event including the Scottish Government Minister for Communities and Housing, and the event was opened and awards presented by the Council Leader. 25 residents of the Froghall, Powis and Sunnybank area attended and were eligible to vote. There were 22 applications received and 12 projects were successful in securing funding. 24 feedback forms were received from voters who attended, the feedback was positive with respondents feeling more able to influence decisions, and that PB was a fair way to allocate funding.
- 3.17 A report on the Fairer Aberdeen PB event is at Appendix 3.

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 2016-17 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 2017-18.
- 4.3 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.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

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 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.

Employee

None

Customer / citizen

None

Environmental

None

Technological

None

Legal

None

Reputational

Many of the funded projects are valued and appreciated within local communities for the support they provide residents and the positive impact they have. Over 20,000 beneficiaries and volunteers would be negatively impacted, and services significantly reduced, if funding was unavailable.

7. IMPACT SECTION

Economy

- 7.1 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. The Fairer Aberdeen Board takes a participatory approach to allocating funding, with the majority of the Board being made up of community representatives, with knowledge of the regeneration areas.

- 7.1.1 The Board regularly monitors the programme to ensure there is no duplication of provision and will continue to review projects as necessary and appropriate.

People

- 7.2 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

- 7.2.1 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 closer together."

- 7.2.2 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.

- 7.2.3 The Fairer Aberdeen Board, which represents a partnership, participatory approach, comprises of the Chair of Community Planning Aberdeen, three Aberdeen City Elected Members, 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.

Place

- 7.3 The Fairer Aberdeen Fund plays an important part in providing 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.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. APPENDICES (if applicable)

Appendix 1 - Fairer Aberdeen 6 month progress report 2016-17
Appendix 2 - Fairer Aberdeen Programme 2017-18
Appendix 3 – Fairer Aberdeen U Decide Report

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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