

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	11 th December 2017
REPORT TITLE	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2016-17
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/278
DIRECTOR	Bernadette Marjoram, Interim Director
REPORT AUTHOR	Susan Thoms, Programme Coordinator

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with the Annual Report 2016-17 for the Fairer Aberdeen Fund programme.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Council is asked to:
- a) Note the Annual Report for 2016-17, at Appendix 1 and instruct the Interim Director to report the Council's feedback to the Fairer Aberdeen Board as appropriate.
 - b) Note that the Fairer Aberdeen Board will be carrying out a further Participatory Budgeting event during 2017-18.

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. At its meeting of 21st June 2017 the Council agreed that Annual Reports would continue to come to this meeting and 6 month reports would take the form of a service update. This report includes the Annual Report for 2016-17 at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 The Annual Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during 2016-17. £1,625,000 was allocated by Council to the Fairer Aberdeen Fund, to be dispersed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, to support work in priority areas and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. Funding was awarded to 45 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. Funding was also received from the Community Choices Fund and Aberdeen City Health and Social Care Partnership to support the PB event. Grants ranged from £200 to £158,000 in value. Some of the achievements are summarised here:

- 3.3 Over 25,000 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 5,000 of them were under 16 years old. Over 1,070 volunteers contributed 134,713 hours of volunteering time, worth £1.9m. (Volunteering is generally valued as the average hourly pay rate in the area, in Aberdeen this was £13.73. (Office of National Statistics, the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE)).
- 3.4 2,883 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with a total financial gain of £3,031,494, an average of £1,051 per person.
- 3.5 3,319 affordable loans, totalling £2,235,714, were provided by the credit unions.
- 3.6 405 tons of free food was distributed, the equivalent of 81,000 food parcels or 964,285 meals.
- 3.7 314 people moved into work. 14 access centres in areas of high unemployment offered weekly employment support drop in sessions. 137 young people were involved in activities designed to increase their opportunities to move into positive destinations, and 75 young people moved onto employment, education or training.
- 3.8 63 Community Food Outlets operated in local communities, 35 of them in Sheltered Housing complexes, and free food was distributed to 124 organisations through FareShare.
- 3.9 573 people accessed 4,995 sessions of mental health counselling provision, 200 of them were under 16 years old, and counselling was provided in 7 regeneration neighbourhoods.
- 3.10 Home-Start supported 30 families in regeneration areas and 6 of these families no longer require social work support. 172 volunteers provided hot meals, laundry and showering facilities for rough sleepers at Street Alternative sessions run 4 times a week by Aberdeen Cyrenians.
- 3.11 2,005 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 14,993.
- 3.12 Police Scotland Operation Begonia provided 1,144 hours of additional police patrols engaging with sex workers, reducing numbers of calls to the Police regarding on street prostitution in the City Centre and Seaton.
- 3.13 428 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 18,000 hours producing community media at SHMU. 91 young people were involved in producing youth media, 22 of them secured a Saltire Award and 10 moved on to employment.
- 3.14 231 young parents took part in classes to promote positive parenting including cooking, first aid and support with financial issues

- 3.15 149 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.
- 3.16 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.
- 3.17 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.
- 3.18 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.
- 3.19 The Fairer Aberdeen Board will be holding another PB event in March 2018, covering the George Street, Castlehill & Pittodrie and City Centre areas. The areas chosen reflect the desire of the Fairer Aberdeen Board to allocate funding to neighbourhoods with pockets of deprivation but outwith the priority areas that usually receive funding.

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

6.1 Financial

6.1.1 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.

6.2 Employee

None

6.3 Customer / citizen

6.3.1 Over 25,000 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.

6.4 Environmental

None

6.5 Technological

None

6.6 Legal

None

6.7 Reputational

6.7.1 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 26,000 beneficiaries and volunteers would be negatively impacted, and services significantly reduced, if funding was unavailable.

7. IMPACT SECTION

7.1 Economy

7.1.1 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.

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

7.2 People

- 7.2.1 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

- 7.2.2 The Fairer Aberdeen Fund also contributes to a wide range of objectives contained within the Councils policy statement for 2012-2017, 'Aberdeen –the Smarter City' in relation to "challenging inequalities wherever they exist and bringing our communities closer together."

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

- 7.2.4 Fairer Aberdeen initiatives also contribute to the Locality Plans developed for the priority neighbourhoods.

- 7.2.5 The Fairer Aberdeen Board represents a partnership, participatory approach, comprising 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.

7.3 Place

- 7.3.1 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

Funded initiatives provide 6 monthly and annual monitoring reports which are used to produce this report.

9. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Fairer Aberdeen Annual Report 2016-17

10. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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