

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Council
<b>DATE</b>	14 December 2022
<b>EXEMPT</b>	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b>	No
<b>REPORT TITLE</b>	Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2021-22
<b>REPORT NUMBER</b>	CUS/22/286
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Andy MacDonald
<b>CHIEF OFFICER</b>	Derek McGowan
<b>REPORT AUTHOR</b>	Susan Thoms, Fairer Aberdeen Coordinator
<b>TERMS OF REFERENCE</b>	21

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with the Fairer Aberdeen Fund Annual Report 2021-22.

### 2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Council:-

- 2.1 Note the Fairer Aberdeen Annual Report for 2021-22, at Appendix 1 and the positive impact that has been made to lives of people in Aberdeen; and
- 2.2 Instruct the Director of Customer Services to congratulate the Fairer Aberdeen Board and their volunteers for the work they've done and their many successes.

### 3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 At its meeting of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2017 the Council agreed that Fairer Aberdeen Annual Reports would continue to be reported to Full Council. This report includes the Annual Report for 2021-22 at Appendix 1. Appendix 2 details key performance indicators to demonstrate impact. Given the impact of the pandemic and lockdown restrictions, performance figures for the previous two years have also been included for comparison.
- 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 areas through Regeneration Matters network, the Civic Forum, the Council, NHS Grampian, Police Scotland and ACVO (Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations). The Fund is aligned with the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) themes and outcomes.
- 3.3 The Annual Report details how the Fund was used and the impact it had during 2021-22. £1.6m was allocated by the Council to the Fund, to be dispersed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board, to tackle poverty and deprivation in the priority

areas of Cummings Park, Mastrick, Middlefield, Northfield, Seaton, Tillydrone, Woodside and Torry, and across the City with vulnerable groups and individuals. A few highlights are summarised here, further detail is available at Appendix 1.

- 3.4 Funding was awarded to 38 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.
- 3.5 Grants ranged from £3,500 to £159,500 in value. A total of 35,610 people were involved in, or benefited from, funded initiatives, 11,099 of them were under 16 years old. 643 volunteers contributed 114,280 hours of volunteering time with a value of over £1.7m.
- 3.6 The Economy theme tackles poverty and promotes inclusive economic growth, removes barriers to accessing employment and helps to maximise household incomes. It also provides opportunities for young people to enter employment, education and training. 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 611 people were involved in employability programmes, 236 people moved into work. Numbers have significantly recovered following the pandemic and lack of available vacancies in the city (in 2020-21 97 people were supported into work).
- 3.8 3,032 people received money advice or income maximisation advice, with 1,059 reporting a total financial gain of £6m, an average of £5,600 per person.
- 3.9 5,326 people saved with a credit union, providing £1.8m in 3,900 affordable loans, avoiding reliance on payday loans or doorstep lending.
- 3.10 557 tonnes of free food were distributed to 232 Community Food members, the equivalent of 1.3m meals (Food Standards Authority standard calculation of 420g per meal, used by FareShare). 23,937 emergency food parcels were provided for 15,293 people and to partner organisations and services. 650 food bank users were referred to other services for support. 3 community pantries supported 232 members, as a more dignified and longer-term solution to food poverty.
- 3.11 5 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 Covid-19 pandemic, and now 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.
- 3.13 Over the year 11,099 children and young people were supported, along with 495 parents and families with complex needs. 43 young people moved on to employment, education, or training. 231 young people accessed 1,824 counselling sessions and 149 young people were involved in producing youth media. At least 4 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 learning opportunities, volunteering, and increased opportunities to influence decision making.
- 3.15 Over the year 355 people accessed counselling provision provided locally, 487 people took part in adult learning activities, 103 older people were supported to develop digital skills and 14 volunteers provided support to rough sleepers. Additional patrol hours were allocated to reduce harm to women involved in the sex trade and to protect communities from the risk and harm caused by prostitution. 37 ex-offenders were supported to secure a positive destination after release, 10 of them moved into work.

#### **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 2020-21 the Council agreed a sum of £1.6m to be managed by the Fairer Aberdeen Board. The same sum was agreed for 2022-23.

#### **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

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H)  *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
<b>Strategic Risk</b>	The Fairer Aberdeen programme addresses poverty and inequalities, helping to achieve the strategic objectives of the Council and the Community Planning Partnership.	The Fairer Aberdeen programme 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>	Supporting community empowerment - the Fairer Aberdeen Board involves local people in decision making and addressing local issues.	The community members on the 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 potentially increased costs in	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	L	Yes

	the long term for public services	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 2022-2023</a></u>	
<b>Impact of Report</b>	
<p><b>Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement</b></p> <p><u><a href="#">Working in Partnership for Aberdeen</a></u></p>	<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>	
<p>Prosperous Economy Stretch Outcomes</p>	<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 – No one will suffer due to poverty 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</p>

	<p>people, families, and groups, particularly in priority neighbourhoods.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 2 – 400 unemployed Aberdeen City residents supported into Fair Work by 2026 by helping to deliver the LOIP Improvement Project Aim to support 50 people into sustained, good quality employment by 2023, and 100 by 2026, 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 4 - 95% of children (0-5 years) will reach their expected developmental milestones by the time of their child health reviews 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 will report that their experiences of mental health and wellbeing have been listened to 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 7 - 95% of all our children, including those living in our priority neighbourhoods, 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 10 - 25% fewer people receiving a first ever Court conviction and 2% fewer people reconvicted within one year by 2026, by providing support services for pre and post release offenders to engage with relevant services.</p> <p>The Fairer Aberdeen Programme supports the delivery of LOIP Stretch Outcome 11 - 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
Integrated Impact Assessment	Not required
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required
Other	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 Annual Report 2021-22

11.2 Appendix 2 – Funded Initiatives Impact Measures

## 12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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