

ANGUS COUNCIL

STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE

09 DECEMBER 2008

FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND: IMPROVING LIVES, REGENERATING COMMUNITIES

REPORT BY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ABSTRACT

This report refers to the Fairer Scotland Fund introduced by the Scottish Government for 2008/09 and makes recommendations for the allocation of underspend/slippage this financial year.

1. RECOMMENDATION

The committee agree that the forecast underspend of approximately £35,000 from the 2008/09 allocation of Fairer Scotland Funding be distributed as follows:

- Arbroath Academy Skills for Life PE Suite - £10,000
- Community Learning & Development Department Youth Achievement Awards Programme - £1,680
- Arbroath Academy Out of School Clubs - £1,230
- People First Cliffburn Community Printer - £5,000
- Café Project Children and Young Peoples Activity Programme - £10,000
- Bruce Road Flat Computers for Communities - £6,000.

2. BACKGROUND

At its meeting on 5th February 2008 committee agreed to extend core projects previously funded under the Community Regeneration Fund, Working for Families and More Choices More Chances from the Fairer Scotland Fund allocation for 2008/09. During this time one of the core projects under employability has been mainstreamed by Jobcentre Plus as part of the Pathways to Work Programme. The Condition Management Project ran for approximately two years under the Community Regeneration Fund and was designed to support recipients of Incapacity Benefit wishing to return to the labour market make the transition from benefits to employment. The mainstreaming of the project has been acknowledged as an extremely positive endorsement of the work of the pilot scheme and provides an excellent exit strategy for the regeneration funded work. This has however resulted in an underspend of approximately £35,000 during the 2008/09 period.

3. ALLOCATION OF UNDERSPEND

At its meeting on 5th November 2008 the Fairer Scotland Sub Group agreed that the following current request for funding be recommended for support through the 2008/09 underspend.

Project Title	Applicant	Brief Description	Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
Skills for Life/Skills for Work – P.E. Fitness Suite Development	Helen Gray Arbroath Academy	Contribution towards development of fitness suite to enhance provision of existing courses on offer and to add to bank of 'skills to work' courses	£20,000	£10,000
Youth Achievement Awards	Helen Reid Angus Council	To provide resources to enable young people to participate	£1,680	£1,680
School Club Support	Archie Bathgate Arbroath Academy	To provide equipment for established school clubs including breakfast football and basketball clubs, tacky club and photography club	£1,230	£1,230

Project Title	Applicant	Brief Description	Grant Requested	Grant Recommended
Community Printer / Photocopier	Margot Reilly People First Cliffburn	To purchase a colour printer/photocopier for community office	£5,000	£5,000
Children and Young Peoples' Activity Programme	Angela Spink CAFÉ Project	To improve facilities, launch a marketing campaign and deliver additional activities targeted at young people from the Arbroath regeneration area	£22,500	£10,000
Computers for Communities	Margaret Simpson Bruce Road Community Flat	To provide computers for the group to run community activities such as homework club and job club	£6,000	£6,000

Approval of these projects will not compromise the Fairer Scotland allocation during 2010/11.

If approved the Community Regeneration Officer will support and co-ordinate the work of the projects in terms of co-ordinating the resource in line with the Fairer Scotland elements of the Single Outcome Agreement and preparing the necessary performance management reports in relation to the use of the fund.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Approval of the recommendations would allow for a full spend in financial year 2008/09 within the allocation of £244,000 for projects previously funded through the Community Regeneration Fund from the overall Fairer Scotland budget of £735,000.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

There are no human rights implications

6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

The issues dealt with in this report have been the subject of consideration from an equalities perspective (as required by legislation). An equalities impact assessment has been taken.

7. CONSULTATION

The Director of Corporate Services, Head of Law and Administration and Head of Finance have been consulted on the terms of this report. The Fairer Scotland Group has also been consulted on this report.

D S Sawers
Chief Executive

DG

Background Papers:

Report Number 155/08
Strategic Policy Committee
5 February 2008-11-11 Fairer Scotland Funding: Improving Lives, Regenerating Communities
Report by Director of Support Services