

ITEM No ...2.....

REPORT TO: CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT AND BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE –
22 SEPTEMBER 2025

REPORT ON: DUNDEE CLIMATE FUND

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

REPORT NO: 271-2025

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report updates Committee on the delivery of the Dundee Climate Fund (DCF) Round 1, Round 2 and Round 3.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the funding that has been awarded through the Dundee Climate Fund.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the agreement of this report.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 COSLA and the Scottish Government developed a framework agreement setting down that at least 1% of local government budgets is subject to participatory budgeting since the end of 2021. The framework defines Community Choices as the term used in Scotland for Participatory Budgeting (PB) and set PB as the enabler for active participation of citizens in local decision making.
- 4.2 Article XV of the meeting of the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 27 June 2022 approved the establishment of the Dundee Climate Fund. The Council was the first local authority in Scotland to use a community choices model to identify and have citizens decide on local climate change spend.
- 4.3 Dundee City Council declared a climate emergency recognising the serious environmental, social and economic challenges faced by climate change and has set a target of achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045 or sooner. The City Council has a key leadership role in responding to this and supporting delivery of the Dundee Climate Action Plan. The DCF is an important part in the Council's policy response to mobilising community action on climate change, where there is none, enabling existing communities to have a greater impact, and facilitating capacity building within the network of local stakeholders.

Dundee Climate Fund Overview

- 4.4 The DCF involved citizens in developing proposals for and deciding on the allocation of £750,000. It has delivered 27 community-led climate change projects in the city over a three-year period. Article II of the meeting of the Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Committee on 19 February 2024 provided an update on progress following the first round of the DCF.

Process and Voting

- 4.5 The DCF was an educative process raising awareness of climate change and supporting communities to identify and vote on local projects aimed at delivering on the following themes:
- **Energy:** reducing consumption, promoting energy efficiency, use of renewables;

- **Transport:** encouraging active travel, decarbonising transport;
 - **Waste:** reducing waste, recycling, reusing resources;
 - **Resilience:** improving greenspaces, biodiversity, local food growing; and
 - **Building Capacity:** increasing awareness, engaging communities and young people in climate change.
- 4.6 The DCF employed a democratic process built on the principles of Participatory Budgeting whereby citizens decide directly how to spend part of a public budget and support the Dundee Climate Action Plan delivery.
- 4.7 Dundee residents cast their votes online via the Dundee's Voice Platform. In-person voting across Dundee's Libraries was added to Rounds 2 and 3.

Outreach and Engagement

- 4.8 Content was created and advertised to maximise outreach, including stills, video, and voice-over (for radio). The DCF rounds 1 and 2 were promoted across various platforms to increase outreach: social media, radio, podcast ads, video ads, digital ads, and Dundee Street advertising. Further products included banners for each community centre and for events (e.g. University of Dundee's Festival of the Future), shopping centres, pop-up locations, posters for Community Centres, local shopping centres and local businesses. Round 3 of the DCF utilised a video-based campaign showcasing each project alongside social media campaign graphics.
- 4.8.1 A new piece of public art, Pollin8, has been installed at the city's Botanic Gardens to commemorate the Dundee Climate Fund. Designed by Fife-based sculptor [Ailsa Magnus MRSS](#), eight individual woodcarvings celebrate the playful vitality of nature's pollen, supported by more than 100 ceramic tree bumble bees produced by local school children. The project was voted for by the public through participatory budgeting and funded by Scottish Government.

Funding Allocation

- 4.9 DCF Round 1: £375,190, 11 projects supported:
- Backyard Botanicals - [Haven for pollinators](#) - £9,875 (withdrew funding as other funding was received);
 - Campy Growers - [Food for the future](#) - £57,707;
 - Douglas Food Cupboard - [Energy saving support](#) - £6,049;
 - Dundee Bairns - [Electric van for food and clothes delivery](#) - £20,481;
 - Dundee Heritage Trust - [Green Verdant Works](#) - £87,526;
 - [Fairmuir Community Green](#) - £12,000;
 - Heart Space Yoga & Bodyworks - [Fit for the Future](#) - £50,000;
 - Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH) Duntrune Community Garden - [Growing chrysalis](#) - £20,725;
 - St Fergus Parent Council - [Climate Heroes Project](#) - £16,142;
 - The Maxwell Centre - [Maxwell Grows Dundee](#) - £42,704;

- Transition Dundee - [Reducing Food Waste in Dundee](#) - £48,857; and
 - Wellbeing Works - [Community Toolbox](#) - £13,000.
- 4.10 DCF Round 2: £279,647, 10 projects supported.
- Abertay University Student Association – [Climate Cafés](#) - £1,600;
 - Alexander Community Development, Campy Growers and Signpost International - [Electric van for community food deliveries](#) - £24,576;
 - Campy Growers - [Collective Delivery](#) - £81,501;
 - Douglas Diggers - [Community growing spaces for all within the heart of Douglas](#) - £32,123;
 - Dundee Rep Theatre - [Hot Rep! Installing secondary glazing](#) - £53,104;
 - Ninewells Community Garden - [Turn unloved apples into juice for community](#) - £7,100;
 - St Mary's Community Centre - [Energy Efficiency Project](#) - £20,177;
 - Strathmartine Community Larder - [Affordable energy efficiency & food growing](#) - £12,750;
 - The Maxwell Centre - [The Big Grow Dundee: 100 food gardens for 100 foodie families](#) - £43,085; and
 - Transition Dundee - [Expanding outreach, engagement and services for all](#) - £57,021.
- 4.11 The total funding allocated in rounds 1 and 2 was £654,837, leaving a balance of £95,163 for round 3. This was subsequently supplemented by an underspend of £15,509 from round 1. The following six projects have been awarded funding in the final round of the DCF:
- Campy Growers' [Green Gazebo: A Place to Connect](#) - £24,962;
 - Creative Gardens – [Connecting Community, Nature, and Art](#) - £9,033;
 - Scottish Action for Mental Health: [Growing Chrysalis Dawson Park Community Garden](#) - £24,464;
 - ScrapAntics [Resilience Worker](#) - £19,333;
 - [Student-Led Farmers Market](#) – Eastern Dundee Pupil Food Growing Initiative - £6,810; and
- 4.11.1 The Maxwell Centre: [The Big Grow Dundee](#) - £22,160.
- 4.12 The final spend of the collective Dundee Climate Fund will be determined once all award recipients have finalised their spending. It may be possible to fund another project if sufficient funds have been reclaimed. We will continue to monitor spend to determine how this can be utilised.
- 4.13 Through the DCF 1, a diverse range of community-led initiatives have delivered measurable environmental, social, and economic benefits across the city. Campy Growers continued to transform former council nursery land into a thriving urban agriculture hub, quadrupling its growing space and establishing a respected network for food resilience. Douglas Food Cupboard distributed energy-saving air fryers and LED bulbs to over 100 households, significantly reducing energy consumption and supporting vulnerable families. Dundee Bairsns

acquired an electric van to enhance the decarbonisation of delivery of meals and essentials, while reducing reliance on volunteer vehicles. Heart Space Yoga retrofitted its historic building with solar panels and battery storage, achieving over 10 tonnes of CO₂ savings within the course of a year and improving thermal comfort for users. Wellbeing Works expanded its Community Toolbox, promoting circular economy principles through tool-sharing and recycling, with membership rising by over 50%. Transition Dundee launched a Gleaning Project, gleaning over 4 tonnes of food, and expanded its Community Fridge operations through the purchase of an electric van, increasing the redistributing surplus food by 30 tonnes and engaging 62 volunteers, while achieving a reduction of 258 metric tonnes of CO₂e. Verdant Works installed energy-efficient heating in heritage spaces, enabling year-round community engagement and educational programming, and progressing toward Green Tourism accreditation. Friends of Fairmuir Park developed a community garden on a reclaimed bowling green, increasing food production, biodiversity, and hosting inclusive events such as harvest festivals and free lunches. SAMH's Duntrune Community Garden created a multipurpose greenspace with food forests, composting systems, and an outdoor kitchen, delivering over 3,500 volunteer hours and engaging thousands of visitors in climate-friendly practices.

- 4.14 The DCF 2 continued to support a diverse array of projects. Campy Growers enhanced their infrastructure with a borehole, rainwater harvesting system, and propagation tunnel, significantly increasing their capacity to grow and distribute chemical-free produce while improving water security and community outreach. The Maxwell Centre's "Big Grow" initiative empowered 104 households to establish their own food gardens, delivering over 2,000 plants, 18 workshops, and fostering intergenerational learning and biodiversity through tailored support and community events. Claypotts Castle Primary Parent Council's "Douglas Diggers" project transformed a community space into a vibrant hub for food growing, outdoor learning, and seasonal celebrations, engaging over 800 participants and embedding environmental education across age groups. Dundee REP Theatre implemented innovative magnetic secondary glazing in its A-listed building, achieving measurable carbon reductions and improved thermal comfort, particularly in its dance studio, while serving as an exemplar for sustainable retrofitting in heritage spaces. Abertay University Students' Association hosted six Climate Cafés, offering practical sustainability education and skill-building workshops that addressed fast fashion, food waste, and civic engagement, with strong student participation and positive feedback. Ninewells Community Garden collected 360kg apples from a collective of community orchards and their garden resulting in pressing of the 188 litres of apple juice, whilst saving those from going to waste. Collectively, these projects demonstrate the breadth of community-led climate action in Dundee, combining infrastructure improvements, education, and inclusive engagement to foster long-term sustainability.
- 4.15 Highlights from the DCF 3 are yet to be awaited as projects are currently underway.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate Senior Manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

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