

ITEM No ...6.....

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 8 MARCH 2021

REPORT ON: DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY REGENERATION FUNDING FOR 2021/2022

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 95-2021

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To propose the funding allocation to the Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund (DPCRf) for financial year 2021/2022.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a) agrees the funding allocation for each ward as set out in section 5.
- b) notes how funding has been utilised during the pandemic in section 6 below.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 A total allocation of £813,000 be made from Capital and Revenue to Chief Executive's services budgets in 2021/2022, with at least £330,774 of this allocated to capital projects.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Community Regeneration Forums were first established in September 2004 to respond to the Scottish Government's Closing the Gap agenda. Since 2010, the Dundee Partnership has continued its commitment to supporting Community Regeneration Forums by providing funding to each Forum initially for three years until 2013 and since then on an annual basis.

4.2 Community Regeneration Forums are in place in six of Dundee's eight Wards; Colonsay, East End, Lochee, Maryfield, North East and Strathmartine. The Forums' links with Local Community Planning Partnerships have been strengthened through the Dundee Partnership agreeing to allocate funding to Community Regeneration Forums. This is then allocated in close liaison with Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs). Funding has been directed towards three priority areas: physical improvements, youth inclusion activity and small grants to local groups.

4.3 The role of the Forums has been widely recognised and they are central to the infrastructure of Community Planning, Decentralisation and Community Engagement. Accordingly, this has been reflected in Dundee Partnership's commitment to their continuing key role.

4.4 Projects supported through this funding touch on every aspect of life in our communities. They support many social and community activities to promote inclusion and community wellbeing and spirit alongside physical improvements to neighbourhoods that have been identified by local people.

5.0 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR 2021/2022

5.1 Report 96-2020 to Policy and Resources Committee on 5 March 2020 set out changes to the allocation of the funding to each ward informed by the 15% most deprived zones identified in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation 2020 (SIMD2020). This revised data was published in January 2020.

- 5.2 This resulted in significant changes, so to reduce the impacts of the redistribution in the short-term, phasing of the changes was agreed to take place over two financial years (2020/2021 and 2021/2022). The proposed allocations for 2021/2022 are set in Table 1 below and Table 2 shows the 2020/2021 allocations.

Table 1: 2021/2022 Allocations

WARD	TOTAL	CAPITAL	REVENUE	CHANGE FROM 2020/2021
Coldside	£160,000	£67,230	£92,770	£19,500
East End	£174,000	£72,609	£101,391	£22,000
Lochee	£167,000	£69,920	£97,080	0
Maryfield	£60,000	£24,203	£35,797	-£32,500
North East	£129,000	£53,784	£75,216	£2,000
Strathmartine	£103,000	£43,028	£59,972	-£11,000
The Ferry	£10,000	-	£10,000	0
West End	£10,000	-	£10,000	0
TOTAL	£813,000	£330,774	482,226	0

Table 2: 2020/2021 Allocations

WARD	TOTAL	CAPITAL	REVENUE
Coldside	£140,500	£58,605	£81,895
East End	£152,000	£63,402	£88,598
Lochee	£167,000	£69,659	£97,341
Maryfield	£92,500	£38,583	£53,917
North East	£127,000	£52,974	£74,026
Strathmartine	£114,000	£47,551	£66,449
The Ferry	£10,000	-	£10,000
West End	£10,000	-	£10,000
TOTAL	£813,000	£330,774	£482,226

- 5.3 Where these changes result in reductions, this will inevitably present some challenges to the affected Community Regeneration Forums (CR Forums) and Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs). To support them in this process and ensure the available funding is directed to the most relevant local community regeneration activity, a number of measures were planned from April 2020 and the following have been implemented:

- Combining Small Grants and Youth Inclusion allocations to simplify process for Forums and applicants.
- Offering support from the Community Empowerment Team to help groups to apply for future funding independently from alternative sources.
- Disallow applications from schools as they now have access to funds like PEF (Pupil Equity Funding).
- Strictly apply a reserves policy to ensure that groups and organisations who have sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet the cost of the activity do not have access to funding.
- Encourage applicants to apply to other funders prior to applying for DPCRf monies to ensure that the total value of grants received by groups in Dundee increases.
- Introduce a scoring aspect to the assessment process that will show the relative alignment with Community Regeneration and local community plan priorities.

- 5.4 The remaining measures listed below will be progressed during 2021:
- Promoting Funder Finder (an online funding resource) with support from Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action.
 - Providing training and support sessions for local groups and organisations on how to make the best applications to other funders like Awards for All, via the Community Empowerment Team.
 - Offering support from the Community Learning Team to help groups to apply for future funding independently from alternative sources.
- 5.5 It is also proposed that officers discuss a range of further options with Community Regeneration Forum members with the aim of reaching agreement over which additional changes could be implemented during 2022/2023. These may also consider issues such as match funding, alternative sources and minimum/maximum limits for grants.

6.0 COVID IMPACTS AND FUNDING DURING 2020/21

- 6.1 Under normal circumstances the DPCRF operates to a monthly cycle of assessment and allocation of funds, including meetings of the Community Regeneration Forums. Due to COVID-19, these meetings had to be suspended. In addition, Dundee Partnership Team and Community Empowerment Team staff were required to assist with implementing emergency measures responding to the first lockdown. Allocation of funding was therefore suspended.
- 6.2 Prior to the lockdown some funds had been allocated, primarily for year-long youth inclusion projects. As much of this activity was unable to go ahead, funding payments were not made immediately, with projects instead receiving a portion of the allocated funds monthly based on activity that they were able to undertake safely within the Government guidelines. This process has carried on throughout the year. Where projects identified that they would be unable to spend some or all of the funds, these were returned to the funding pot for reallocation.
- 6.3 Once the initial crisis was being dealt with, and procedures in place, it was recognised that allocation of funding would be again possible, although Forums would need to make different arrangements for making decisions e.g. meeting online, telephone conferences, etc. Alongside this, the Building Stronger Communities formed a sub-group to discuss and ratify funding recommendations from Forums via conference calls. With these changes in place, funding was opened up for activity during specific periods (July-August, September-October, November-December, and January-March). Some applications were agreed for longer than the initial two months, with part payments being released on a monthly basis in the same fashion as the year-long projects described above.
- 6.4 By December it was apparent that a monthly cycle of grant applications, assessments and allocations could resume for the rest of the financial year. Online meetings of the Community Regeneration Forums and Building Stronger Communities remains the norm.
- 6.5 In a typical year, the DPCRF supports a wide range of projects under three headings, Small Grants, Youth Inclusion, and Physical & Environmental Improvements. Many of the funding applications have been for activities during school holidays, community events, trips and sporting activities, but due to COVID-19 restrictions much of that usual activity for the first two categories has been strictly limited or unable to take place, while Capital works in the latter category have experienced some delays.
- 6.6 As a direct result of COVID-19, we have seen grant allocations for; equipment & adaptations to premises to ensure activities can take place safely, a range of activity & wellbeing packs for people of all ages, equipment to enable digital delivery of activities online, and equipment & other costs to support development & delivery of emergency food provision.

- 6.7 Digital exclusion was highlighted as one of the issues faced by Community Regeneration Forums, with many of their members being older and either lacking in the digital technology or digital skills for participation in online meetings. This has led to a range of different local adaptations to enable group recommendations to be made, highlighting the flexibility present within Forums too.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality and Diversity, Fairness and Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at www.dundee.gov.uk/jia.

8.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 8.1 The Council Management Team were consulted in the preparation of this report.

9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

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DATE: 16 FEBRUARY 2021