

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 9 MARCH 2015

REPORT ON: DUNDEE FAIRNESS COMMISSION

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 41-2015

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report proposes the membership, remit and outline programme and timetable for the Dundee Fairness Commission.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a) endorses the proposed membership and remit of the Dundee Fairness Commission
- b) endorses the programme of timetable for the Commission subject to the final agreement of its members
- c) agrees the reporting arrangements to the Dundee Partnership and Dundee City Council
- d) instructs the Chief Executive to bring an interim report on progress to Policy and Resources Committee in September 2015

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of servicing the administrative needs of the Commission will be met from existing revenue budgets in the Chief Executive's Department.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 At its meeting on 8 September 2014, Policy and Resources Committee approved the formation of a Fairness Commission (Article X of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 September 2014, Report No 240-2014 refers). Officers have subsequently been considering the content, arrangements and progress of other established or emerging commissions across Scotland. As a result, this report recommends the membership, remit, programme and timetable for the Dundee Fairness Commission together with proposals on reporting arrangements which will firmly establish its place within the Dundee Partnership.

5. ESTABLISHING THE DUNDEE FAIRNESS COMMISSION

5.1 Membership

5.1.1 While it is crucial that Dundee City Council plays a leadership role on the Commission, it is clear that the knowledge and expertise which is required is shared across a range of partners and organisations. The members proposed below bring a wealth of experience from a range of settings including partners in the public, voluntary, private and academic sectors:

Councillor Ken Guild, Leader of the Administration, Dundee City Council (or his nominee)
Gerry McLaughlin, Chief Executive, NHS Health Scotland
Drew Walker, Director of Public Health, NHS Tayside
Satwat Rehman, One Parent Families Scotland
Ginny Lawson, Brooksbank Partnership
Elizabeth Kane, Community Representative
Mary Kinninmonth, Director, Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau
Erik Cramb, Retired Industrial Chaplain, Dundee Pensioners' Forum, British Polio Fellowship
Denise McCaffery, Head Teacher, Sidlawview Primary School
Eddie Smith, Chief Superintendent, Police Scotland

Grant Ritchie, Depute Principal, Dundee and Angus College
 Alison Henderson, Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce
 Colin McCashey, Independent Convener, Dundee Adult Support and Protection Committee
 Douglas Robertson, Professor, University of Stirling

5.1.2 To ensure that the Council effectively champions this process on behalf of the Partnership, the Commission will be chaired by the Leader of the Administration or his nominee, with lead officer support from the Director of Corporate Services and the Community Planning Manager. Connections to national policy and developments will be provided by the Tackling Poverty Team Leader on behalf of the Scottish Government.

5.2 Remit

5.2.1 It is proposed that the Dundee Fairness Commission will:

- consider the nature, extent and impact of poverty in Dundee
- identify and investigate the key causes and consequences of poverty along with policy and practical measures to address these
- consider evidence of what has worked elsewhere to combat poverty and inequality
- assess the effectiveness of the efforts to date of Dundee City Council and the broader Dundee Partnership through the Fairness Action Plan for Dundee
- seek the views and involvement of those experiencing poverty first hand
- prepare a report for the Dundee Partnership and Dundee City Council with recommendations on additional priorities for action, tackle and reduce poverty in the city

5.3 Programme and Timetable

5.3.1 The table in Appendix One proposes a programme and timetable for the Commission set out in three stages. The first will establish the group, sign off the remit and consider the evidence around poverty in Dundee and Scotland. It will also begin to examine the current approaches being taken by the Dundee Partnership and the Council.

5.3.2 The second stage will focus on collecting evidence on key factors associated with poverty. Each session will hear from local and national speakers with research or practical experience to inform the Commission's thinking. It is proposed that these areas are:

- Child Poverty and levels of Educational Attainment
- Welfare Reform and the impact of changes
- In-work Poverty and the Living Wage
- Employability and Youth Employment
- Food Security and Fuel Poverty

5.3.3 The third stage will see the Commission finalising and disseminating its recommendations to the Partnership, the Council and to a broad audience of stakeholders at a specially convened conference in June 2016.

5.4 Reporting

5.4.1 Tackling the complex nature of poverty inevitably requires a comprehensive collective response from all community planning partners. It was for this reason that the Fairness Strategy for Dundee was created under the auspices of the Dundee Partnership. Similarly, it is recommended that the Commission reports formally to the Dundee Partnership with an interim report also coming to the Policy and Resources Committee in September 2015. In doing this, members will be able to ensure Council departments are making an effective contribution while also being able to influence the actions of the Partnership as a whole.

5.5 Engagement

5.5.1 The Fairness Strategy for Dundee clearly set out an ambition to create a mechanism to provide a voice for those experiencing poverty in Dundee. Progress towards this has been limited and the Commission will be asked to consider how it wishes to engage with individuals, organisations and communities who can offer a crucial perspective to its work. Officers and community partners will be available to provide support to ensure that this makes a significant and ongoing contribution through the lifetime of the Commission.

6. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality and Impact Assessment and Risk Management. In considering the Fairness Action Plan, the Fairness Commission offers the opportunity to make a significant impact on tackling poverty in the city.

7. **CONSULTATIONS**

The Director of Corporate Services and the Head of Democratic and Legal Services and community planning partners have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

David R Martin
Chief Executive

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Appendix One

Dundee Fairness Commission – Proposed Programme and Timetable

| Stage | Date | Purpose/Topic |
|---|--------------|--|
| Formation and Background | March 15 | a. Formation and Getting to Know Dundee b. Learning about other commissions in Scotland |
| | April 15 | Current poverty profile and tackling poverty through the Dundee Fairness Strategy |
| | May 15 | Poverty in Scotland – challenges and priorities for action |
| Evidence gathering and Scrutiny | June 15 | a. Impact of child poverty in Dundee b. Levels of educational attainment |
| | August 15 | Welfare Reform and the impact of changes |
| | September 15 | In-work poverty and the Living Wage |
| | November 15 | Employability and Youth Employment |
| Conclusions, Reporting and Implementation | December 15 | a. Food security and foodbanks b. Fuel poverty and responses |
| | January 16 | Agree conclusions, priorities and draft recommendations |
| | February 16 | Finalise recommendations and report |
| | March 16 | Present recommendations to the Dundee Partnership, Dundee City Council |
| | June 16 | Hold partnership conference to disseminate findings and recommendations and to initiate implementation |