

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 20 NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT ON: PROGRESS ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION ACTION PLAN FOR DUNDEE

REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)

REPORT NO: 669-2006

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report identifies additional projects to be funded from the Dundee Financial Inclusion Action Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee endorses the funding recommendations of Dundee Partnership as set out in Appendix 1, and the appointment of Niall Alexander to undertake a Community Development Finance Initiative feasibility study.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 This report recommends the allocation of an £215,500 to be met from an allocation of £450k in 2006/7 and £450k in 2007/8 from the Scottish Executive.

4. SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The recommendations of this report contribute directly to targets set in the Council's Anti Poverty Strategy.

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposals contained in this report will tackle the causes and effects of financial exclusion and challenge levels of poverty experienced by significant numbers of families and individuals in Dundee.

6. BACKGROUND

6.1 In September 2006 Committee approved an update of the Dundee Financial Inclusion Plan. Due to anticipated slippage in Year 1 of the programme, a further number projects have been identified which are consistent with the objectives of the Dundee Financial Inclusion Plan and have been developed by the Dundee Partnership's Financial Inclusion Strategy Group.

6.2 At its meeting in September 2006, the Policy and Resources Committee also endorsed the allocation of Dundee Partnership funding to the commissioning of a feasibility study into the development of a Community Development Finance Initiative in Dundee. The timescale for completing this element of the Financial Inclusion Action Plan and the need to achieve spend in year one of the funding programme require an early appointment of a consultant suitable qualified to undertake the study.

Niall Alexander is recognised as a leading authority on financial inclusion in Scotland, being closely associated with the Wester Hailes Community Banking Agreement and his work with Glasgow Housing Association while employed by Blake Stevenson.

Committee is asked to endorse the appointment of Niall Alexander to undertake this study at a cost of up to £15,000

7. **CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with the Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services)

8. **BACKGROUND REPORTS**

Report No 588-2005, Financial Inclusion Action Plan for Dundee
Report No 520-2006, Progress on Financial Inclusion Action Plan for Dundee

Chris Ward
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning)..... 14/11/2006

Appendix 1 - Financial Inclusion Action Plan 13 November 2006

Project Name	Managed by	Aim of Project	Approx Cost
Black & Minority Ethnic (BME) Implementation	Financial Inclusion Strategy Group	Currently research is being carried out into the financial inclusion needs of the BME community on Dundee. This allocation is to allow for the implementation of the recommendations of the research	£38k
Pre-tenancy Financial Inclusion Advice	Hillcrest HA	Pre-tenancy financial inclusion advice for those presenting themselves as homeless. To cover money/benefit advice, developing financial capability and the promotion of other financial inclusion services and products, such as affordable credit, bank accounts etc.	£37k
Quality Standards	Corporate Planning	To introduce and bring into alignment the quality and standard of advice agencies across the City. The Scottish Executive is to introduce Quality Standards for Advice agencies. All future Scottish Executive funding for these agencies is likely to be dependent on agencies having Quality Standards in place.	£25k
Dundee North Law Centre	DNLC	To promote financial inclusion – prevention, products and services to all Law centre clients – 5000 per year.	£14.5k
Financial Inclusion Support Officers	Money Advice Partnership members*	A worker for each of the Money Advice Partnership members to provide a support service for all aspects of financial inclusion including form filling- benefit forms (e.g. Disability Living Allowance), furniture project, budgeting & income and expenditure, bank account opening, content insurance etc. Service to be city wide for all agencies providing Financial Inclusion services and products. * Money Advice Partnership members are Citizens Advice Bureau, DCC Welfare Rights Teams and Money Advice Support Team.	£81k
Financial Inclusion Awareness Raising / Take Up campaign	Corporate Planning	To promote the wide range of Financial Inclusion activity across the City, and to act as an educational and additional debt prevention tool. Range of media coverage - i.e. radio interviews/packages, local newspaper and web based material as well as community and shopping centre stands and surgeries. A City wide joint campaign with other Partners e.g. Jobcentre Plus and banks, to target particularly people affected by post Christmas debt and people concerned about the changes in welfare benefit.	£20k

* Any posts required to implement the above are for 1 year only.