

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 5 MARCH 2020

REPORT ON: DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT FUNDING - 2020/2021

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 97-2020

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.0 This report outlines proposed funding allocations to Dundee Partnership projects for the financial year 2020/21.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee approves the allocations of funding to the organisations/projects set out in Appendix 1 for 2020/21.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 For financial year 2020/21 it is proposed to allocate grants amounting to £582,703. These proposals represent a saving of £30,000.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Following the mainstreaming of the Scottish Government's Fairer Scotland Fund, the projects supported by the Dundee Partnership have largely been consolidated across council services over subsequent years. A small number continue to be managed by the Chief Executive's Service due to their relationship to the Fairness strategy, anti-poverty and regeneration work. A summary of the services to be provided by these projects and organisations is outlined in Appendix 1.

4.2 These projects were the subject of a council-wide report to Policy and Resources Committee in February 2019 where a 5% reduction for all third sector projects was agreed. (Article II of the Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee of 21 February 2019, Report No 92-2019 refers.) The same report proposed that officers should review funding to ensure that best value is being achieved and that the outcomes being delivered are closely aligned with Council and City Plan priorities.

4.3 Following this review, it is proposed that funding to four projects remain unchanged for 2020/21 as follows:

Save by the Bell, Hillcrest Futures Project, Dundee Energy and Efficiency Project and Leisure and Culture Dundee – Youth Sport Development.

4.4 In recent years, the financial stability of Discovery Credit Union has improved, and it is clear that the service no longer requires the previous level of funding. The most recent accounts available for DCU also show that they are only £12,000 from breaking even based solely on the income they generate through lending to their members. They also still hold approximately £20,000 received previously from the Council for underwriting bad debt associated with low cost loans. For 2020/21, an allocation of £24,504 will enable DCU to maintain additional activity delivered thanks to funding from the Council.

4.5 The Board of Dundee North Law Centre is currently looking into a number of changes that should help to modernise the project. These aim to achieve an increase in Scottish Legal Aid Board revenue and/or a reduction in the staffing complement. Based on these anticipated improvements, a 4% saving is proposed. An allocation for 2020/21 of £150,304 will enable Dundee North Law Centre to continue to provide free legal advice, assistance and representation to individuals living in community regeneration areas.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This report has been subject to an assessment of any impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment is attached to this report.
- 5.2 Due to impressive improvements in financial performance at Discovery Credit Union and measures to increase external funding to Dundee North Law Centre, it is anticipated that there will be little or no impact on project delivery and access as a result of proposed savings.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

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

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

David Martin
Chief Executive

DATE: 21 February 2020

Appendix 1

| Name of Organisation | Brief description of services provided | Allocation 2019-20 £ | Savings £ | Allocation 2020-21 £ | % funded by DP |
|---|---|-------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Discovery Credit Union | To encourage savings habits / asset building and provide access to affordable credit in order to help reduce poverty. With targets of registering 600 new members, issuing 2000 credit union loans and increase members' savings by 10% per year. DP fully fund 1.8 of the 9 fte posts. | 47,504 | 24,504 | 23,000 | 15% |
| Dundee North Law Centre | To provide free legal advice, assistance and representation (especially at appeals) to individuals in regeneration areas. A particular area of speciality is work on housing related cases. With targets of increasing income by £1.1m, financial gains via mandatory reconsiderations or appeals of £1.4m, 270 clients engaged in prison project, 1130 people receiving benefit, money and debt advice and 378 people with increased income through benefits or income maximisation. DP fund 50% of the 12 fte posts. | 155,800 | 5,496 | 150,304 | 34% |
| Save by the Bell | To develop the money management skills of children and young people in Dundee as a preventative strategy against financial exclusion in adulthood. With targets for 300 primary school pupils to open a new account, provide 25 financial awareness raising sessions to 750 pupils, increasing pupils' skills in money handling. DP fully fund 5 part-time term-time only posts. | 51,404 | - | 51,404 | 100% |
| Hillcrest Futures Project | To provide financial advice, training and support to help individuals and families sustain their tenancies. With targets for 150 group sessions, 80 1:1 sessions, 98% of tenancies to be maintained, 120 tenants receiving financial health checks. DP fully fund the 2.4 fte posts. | 79,653 | - | 79,653 | 60% |
| Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project | Helping over 3000 citizens per year deal with more than £95,000 fuel debts, including negotiating on their behalf, energy advice creating a saving of more than £210,000, accessing cheaper tariffs, assisting with bank account opening and income maximisation. DP funds 55% of the 5 fte posts. | 98,457 | - | 98,457 | 55% |
| Leisure & Culture Dundee | Previously Youth Sport Development, this includes football, gymnastics and sports drop-ins, community and school activities, developing volunteer coaches, supporting young people to gain sports qualifications and employability work. DP fully fund 5.5 fte posts and contribute up to 40% to 4 fte posts. | 179,885 | - | 179,885 | 73% |
| | Total | 612,703 | 30,000 | 582,703 | |

Committee Report No: 97-2020

Document Title: Dundee Partnership Funded Projects Proposals for 2020-21

Document Type: Other

New/Existing: New

Period Covered: 01/04/2020 - 31/03/2021

Document Description:

Document sets out proposals for the continuation of the Dundee Partnership funded projects administered by the Chief Executive's Services that allow for necessary budget savings to be made whilst attempting to mitigate for the impact of these savings.

Intended Outcome:

To achieve savings to be made from allocations to Dundee Partnership funded projects that will contribute to the necessary budget savings whilst minimising impact on activities taking place.

How will the proposal be monitored?:

The Dundee Partnership Team will lead on the proposal implemented, as they oversee the administration of the Third Sector projects considered in the report. This includes monitoring of budgets, spend, and delivery against agreed outcomes and outputs.

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A. Equality and Diversity Impacts:

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Age: | No Impact |
| Disability: | No Impact |
| Gender Reassignment: | No Impact |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership: | No Impact |
| Pregnancy and Maternity: | No Impact |
| Race/Ethnicity: | No Impact |
| Religion or Belief: | No Impact |
| Sex: | No Impact |
| Sexual Orientation: | No Impact |

Equality and diversity Implications:

No impact on those with protected characteristics is expected as a result of these proposals

Proposed Mitigating Actions: N/A.

Is the proposal subject to a full EQIA? : No

B. Fairness and Poverty Impacts:

Geography

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Strathmartine (Ardler, St Mary's and Kirkton): | No Impact |
| Lochee (Lochee/Beechwood, Charleston and Menzieshill): | No Impact |
| Coldside (Hilltown, Fairmuir and Coldside): | No Impact |
| Maryfield (Stobswell and City Centre): | No Impact |
| North East (Whitfield, Fintry and Mill O' Mains): | No Impact |
| East End (Mid Craigie, Linlathen and Douglas): | No Impact |
| The Ferry: | No Impact |
| West End: | No Impact |

Household Group

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Lone Parent Families: | No Impact |
| Greater Number of children and/or Young Children: | No Impact |
| Pensioners - Single/Couple: | No Impact |
| Single female households with children: | No Impact |
| Unskilled workers or unemployed: | No Impact |
| Serious and enduring mental health problems: | No Impact |
| Homeless: | No Impact |
| Drug and/or alcohol problems: | No Impact |
| Offenders and Ex-offenders: | No Impact |
| Looked after children and care leavers: | No Impact |
| Carers: | No Impact |

Significant Impact

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Employment: | No Impact |
| Education and Skills: | No Impact |
| Benefit Advice/Income Maximisation: | Not Known |
| Childcare: | No Impact |
| Affordability and Accessibility of services: | Not Known |

Fairness and Poverty Implications:

The small reduction in funding to Dundee North Law Centre may impact slightly upon the project's overall capacity to deliver benefit and housing related advice.

Similarly the reduction in funding to Discovery Credit Union may impact on their ability to offer lower cost loans to their members, potentially resulting in higher costs to access their products.

Proposed Mitigating Actions:

The Board of DNLC are currently looking into a number of changes that should help to modernise the project. When these changes are brought in, it could be expected that there will be an increase in Scottish Legal Aid Board revenue, savings made to the project running costs, and/or a reduction in the needed staffing complement. Any or all of these would offset the proposed reduction in funding.

The most recent accounts available for Discovery Credit Union show that they hold approximately £20,000 from previous DCC funding for the underwriting of bad debts. The same accounts also showed DCU able to add to their financial reserves. On this basis, it is likely that the reduction in funding will have little or no impact on project delivery and access to their low cost loans by members from our most deprived areas. The Dundee Partnership Team will continue to monitor the project in order to determine whether any change in the affordability / accessibility of low cost loans takes place.

C. Environmental Impacts

Climate Change

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|---|-----------|
| Mitigating greenhouse gases: | No Impact |
| Adapting to the effects of climate change: | No Impact |

Resource Use

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Energy efficiency and consumption: | No Impact |
| Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling waste: | No Impact |
| Sustainable Procurement: | No Impact |

Transport

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Accessible transport provision: | No Impact |
| Sustainable modes of transport: | No Impact |

Natural Environment

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Air, land and water quality: | No Impact |
| Biodiversity: | No Impact |
| Open and green spaces: | No Impact |

Built Environment

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Built Heritage: | No Impact |
| Housing: | No Impact |

Is the proposal subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment

No further action is required as it does not qualify as a Plan, Programme or Strategy as defined by the Environment Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Proposed Mitigating Actions: None required.

Environmental Implications: None

D. Corporate Risk Impacts

Corporate Risk Implications:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are 'business as normal' risks. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant loss. There is comfort that the risks inherent within the activity are either transferred to another party, shared equally and fairly between the Council and another party or are negligible.

Corporate Risk Mitigating Actions: N/A