

REPORT TO: CITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE - 29 FEBRUARY 2024

REPORT ON: COMMUNITY REGENERATION FUND

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 144-2024

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To propose the funding allocations to the Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) for 2024/25 and to agree to explore how to widen community participation.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that committee:

- a) agrees to the allocation of £760,226 of funding for 2024/25 as set out in Table 1 at para 3.1 and notes the adjustment of the total Capital funding from £330,774 to £308,000.
- b) agrees to pause the process for the Capital funding meantime and remits officers to explore options to widen community participation.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 Limited capital resources, along with the inflationary increases on the projected costs on major projects, has resulted in budgets having to be reduced to match resources to expenditure and make the capital plan affordable. The Capital Plan has set out an allocation of £308K per annum from 2024/25 to 2027/28, excluding any agreed carry forwards each year which is a capital saving of £22,774.

3.2 The proposed allocations for each ward in 2024/25 are set out in Table 1, below. Revenue funding remains at the current level while a reduction of £22,774 for Capital is shared proportionately across the 6 Community Regeneration Areas.

Table 1 Proposed Allocations for Capital & Revenue 2024/25

	2023/24 Allocation	Capital	Revenue	New Total for 2024/25	Capital Funding Reduction
Coldside	£151,000	£62,600	£83,770	£146,370	£4,630
East End	£164,000	£67,600	£91,391	£158,991	£5,009
Lochee	£157,000	£65,100	£87,080	£152,180	£4,820
Maryfield	£56,500	£22,500	£32,297	£54,797	£1,703
North East	£121,500	£50,100	£67,716	£117,816	£3,684
Strathmartine	£97,000	£40,100	£53,972	£94,072	£2,928
The Ferry	£18,000	£0	£18,000	£18,000	£0
West End	£18,000	£0	£18,000	£18,000	£0
TOTAL	£783,000	£308,000	£452,226	£760,226	£22,774

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 the six Community Regeneration Forums (Coldside, East End, Lochee, Maryfield, North East and Strathmartine) by providing funding to each Forum initially for three years until 2013 and since then on an annual basis. From 2014/15, a budget

was also allocated to the West End and Broughty Ferry Local Community Planning Partnerships to enable them to support poverty-focused regeneration activity in their wards.

- 4.3 Projects supported through this funding touch on very many aspects of life in the areas assessed as experiencing the greatest levels of deprivations. They support many social and community activities to reduce poverty, tackle the cost of living, promote inclusion and community wellbeing and spirit alongside significant physical improvements that have been identified by local people. It should be noted that circa £50K in 2022/23 was used to support Cost of Living (Open Doors initiative).
- 4.4 The Community Regeneration Fund (CRF) is popular and well-used by communities and supports a wide range of activities in our most vulnerable communities, particularly during school holiday periods. It also results in circa 40% Revenue & 47% Capital of this funding going to council and Leisure and Culture Dundee for additional services requested in communities.
- 4.5 This funding also supports the delivery of our Participatory Budgeting ambitions to achieve the 1% of our budget target. The allocation of capital and revenue funding to local communities and areas experiencing significant deprivation through the Community Regeneration Forums (CR Forums) and Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs) has been recognised as effective practice for many years.

5.0 FUTURE PROPOSALS

- 5.1 There remains scope to further develop the Community Regeneration Fund to broaden the base of community participation and enable the largest number of local people to influence financial decisions that relate to their communities and the action taken to improve the quality of life in their neighbourhoods.
- 5.2 Further work would build on good CRF practice and the role of the CR Forums; expand public influence; continue to meet our statutory obligations to develop community empowerment through greater participatory budgeting by directing local funding towards meeting the City's priorities including Local Community Plans.
- 5.3 In 2024/25, it is proposed that the current process for dealing with the Capital funding is paused and officers remitted to explore options as to how it could be allocated through a wider participatory budgeting approach in the future and report back to committee in summer 2024.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 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.
- 6.2 Following the exercise proposed in this report, any issues raised will be considered through our Integrated Impact Assessment process and as appropriate this will be reported with any future recommendations for consideration to Committee.

7.0 CONSULTATIONS

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

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

GREGORY COLGAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE: FEBRUARY 2024

ANDREA CALDER, HEAD OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S SERVICE