

ITEM No ...5...

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 7 JANUARY 2018
REPORT ON: DUNDEE FAIRNESS COMMISSION AND FAIRNESS ACTION PLAN
REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE
REPORT NO: 17-2019

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present the recommendations and follow up arrangements for Dundee Fairness Commission and the review of the Dundee Fairness Action Plan.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

a) endorses the recommendations of the Dundee Fairness Commission 2018

b) approves the establishment of a further Dundee Fairness Commission (DFC) and agrees to the development of a proposal for a Fairness Leadership Panel that will bring together members, chief officers and community representatives before the end of 2019.

c) agrees to the appointment of two elected members to the forthcoming Dundee Fairness Commission

d) instructs the Chief Executive's Service to produce a revised Dundee Partnership Fairness Action Plan

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The next Dundee Fairness Commission will cost a total of £70,000 over three financial years March 2019 to September 2020. The Scottish Government has agreed to contribute £10,000 and the balance will be met from existing and anticipated Dundee Partnership and Community Planning Team underspends and agreed carry forwards.

4 BACKGROUND

4.1 Dundee Fairness Commission – Phase 2

- 4.1.1 The second Dundee Fairness Commission was established in June 2017. It was jointly funded by the Scottish Government and the Dundee Partnership and members include a number of local people with lived experience of issues related to poverty, together with 'civic' commissioners including Councillors Alexander and Marra and Executive Directors Elaine Zwirlein and Greg Colgan.

- 4.1.2 The commission launched its final recommendations on 29 November 2018 before presenting these to the Dundee Partnership Management Group (6 December) the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government (12 December). The recommendations have been co-produced by community and civic commissioners and are included in appendix 1.

4.1.3 These will be incorporated into a revised Dundee Fairness Action Plan for the Council and the Dundee Partnership to sign off before the end of this financial year. This will reflect the many developments that have been presented regularly to committee through 6 monthly progress reports since the current action plan was produced in November 2016. These have largely been achieved without additional cost to the council and by accessing external funding.

4.1.4 The Fairness Action Plan will also include more recent commitments to respond to emerging issues such as funeral poverty, period poverty and social isolation and loneliness.

4.2 Dundee Fairness Commission – Phase 3

4.2.1 The poverty truth commission model is designed to achieve a number of outcomes:

- It gives a **meaningful voice** to people with lived experience of poverty and offers an opportunity to work with others and to facilitate personal development
- It offers a **deep and personal experience for civic leaders** to gain a new perspective on the lives of people in Dundee struggling against the day to day reality of dealing with poverty, working alongside and developing relationships with community commissioners, and **influences their professional practice**
- **Taking action** to address identified poverty issues/opportunities during the lifetime of the commission
- Developing genuinely **co-produced recommendations** to create better responses to poverty in Dundee

4.2.2 The approach has been positively acknowledged by participants as successfully delivering all of these outcomes. It is therefore proposed that a further commission be convened to run from March 2019 to September 2020 with recruitment to begin early in 2019. The Scottish Government has offered a final contribution of £10,000 to support this on a joint basis with the balance of the required funding coming from existing and anticipated Dundee Partnership and Community Planning Team underspends and agreed carry forwards.

4.2.3 Two elected members have been represented on each of the Fairness Commissions held so far. It is proposed that this be repeated on the same basis as previously with a member nominated from the administration group and the majority opposition group.

4.3 Long Term Development – Community Voice

4.3.1 In order to build on the experience of the current community commissioners, Faith in the Community Dundee will establish an ongoing community group that will consider fairness and poverty issues. It is anticipated that by September 2020, a further cohort of community commissioners will be ready to join this group with a view to establishing a recognised community voice on anti-poverty issues.

4.3.2 This group will be eligible for charitable funding and will be able to generate income to meet its own costs, thereby securing its independence and sustainability. Reflecting on their experience to date and their ambitions to continue to support and give a voice to people with lived experience of poverty in Dundee, members will be invited to participate in the forthcoming Fairness Leadership Panel (see 4.4.2 below).

4.4 Long Term Development – Fairness Leadership Panel

4.4.1 While it may be desirable to run a continuing series of Fairness Commissions in Dundee, the model requires significant support and development and the cost of this is unsustainable in the long run. It is proposed, therefore, that a new, ongoing model of engagement with communities is developed to succeed the next Fairness Commission.

- 4.4.2 Based on a model that has been effective in Glasgow, the Fairness Leadership Panel will bring together senior Council members and officers with other partners and community leaders on poverty issues to scrutinise and report on ongoing delivery of the Dundee Fairness Action Plan. The precise format and remit of the Fairness Leadership Panel will be developed with potential members over the coming months with the aim of holding the first panel meeting before the end of 2019.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 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 Impact Assessment is available on the Council's website at www.dundee.gov.uk/ia.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The Council Management Team and members of the Dundee Partnership were consulted in the preparation of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

David R Martin
Chief Executive

Appendix 1

Recommendations from Second Dundee Fairness Commission, November 2018

People and Money	
Public bodies and social landlords in Dundee	Adopt more effective and supportive ways of communicating with clients/tenants about money matters and debt
The Dundee Partnership	Creates a single access point for all the financial advice services in the city, including Council and voluntary services that will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - jointly promote financial advice services with a single logo, slogan and phone number - produce new information leaflets, posters and materials with the support of people with experience of services
	Makes a case to participate in the introduction of the Citizen's Basic Income Scheme for Scotland

Mental Health	
The Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership	Develops a 24/7 drop-in (self-referral) service in collaboration with beneficiaries and offering clinical, non-clinical, therapeutic and peer support.
The Dundee Partnership	Provides training for service providers and frontline staff (including GP surgeries) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - raise awareness of the impact of poverty on mental health - improve interactions with service users - support prevention and early intervention - increase referrals/ signposting to non-clinical mental health support.
	Disseminates the Fairness Commission's mental health research findings to all relevant partners, strategic planners and commissioners and holds them accountable for implementing the associated recommendations.
The Dundee Drug Commission and the Dundee Alcohol & Drug Partnership	Utilise the Fairness Commission's mental health research findings to ensure that people with substance misuse issues are offered and can access appropriate mental health support.

Stigma	
The Dundee Partnership	Launches a public campaign for a #FairerDundee
	Prepares a series of new, positive anti-poverty messages & non-stigmatising stories for #FairerDundee
	Develops joint campaigns with the local media to challenge and change public perceptions
	Produces guidance and materials to enable all service providers to attract, recruit, train and support staff with the right values and attitudes towards people who are experiencing poverty or who are in recovery
	Does more research to understand the stigma and challenges experienced people struggling against in-work poverty