

## ITEM No ...2.....

**REPORT TO:** CLIMATE, ENVIRONMENT & BIODIVERSITY COMMITTEE –  
19 FEBRUARY 2024

**REPORT ON:** DUNDEE CLIMATE FUND – DELIVERING COMMUNITY CHOICES  
THROUGH PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

**REPORT BY:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CITY DEVELOPMENT

**REPORT NO:** 48-2024

### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report updates the Committee on progress of the Dundee Climate Fund, the first Scottish Local Authority led green Participatory Budget (PB), which was approved by the Policy & Resources Committee on 27 June 2022.

### 2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes and endorses the Dundee Climate Fund update as set out in this report.

### 3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

### 4 BACKGROUND

4.1 COSLA and the Scottish Government developed a framework agreement setting down that at least 1% of local government budgets should be subject to participatory budgeting by the end of 2021. The framework defined Community Choices as the term used in Scotland for Participatory Budgeting (PB) and set PB as the enabler for active participation of citizens in local decision-making. The Council was the first local authority in Scotland using a community choices model to identify and have citizens decide on local climate change spend.

4.2 Reference is made to Item XV of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on 27 June 2022 which approved the establishment of the Dundee Climate Fund (Report No 174-2022). The Dundee Climate Fund (DCF) involves citizens in developing proposals for, and deciding on, the allocation of £750,000, to deliver community-led climate change projects in the city. The DCF operates over a four-year period, from September 2022 – March 2026 and will be allocated over a series of funding rounds.

4.3 The DCF is built on the principles of Participatory Budgeting, raising awareness of climate change and supporting communities to identify and vote on local projects aimed at delivering on the following themes:

- **Energy:** reducing consumption, promoting energy efficiency, use of renewables;
- **Transport:** encouraging active travel, decarbonising transport;
- **Waste:** reducing waste, recycling, reusing resources;
- **Resilience:** improving greenspaces, biodiversity, local food growing; and
- **Building Capacity:** increasing awareness, engaging communities and young people in climate change.

4.4 The Policy and Resources Committee previously approved the DCF approach including the eligibility criteria, governance arrangements, engagement and outreach. In summary, project proposals submitted are vetted by a Review Panel consisting of experts in energy, transport, waste, resilience and capacity building. Eligible projects then go forward to a public vote.

Applications are considered for both small projects (up to a maximum of £25,000) and large projects (up to a maximum of £100,000). For proposals over £25,000, organisations with free reserves more than three months operating expenses are required to provide match funding of 25% in kind/cash. A governance group has been established to manage the Fund with representatives from Communities, Sustainability and Climate Change, Finance and Legal.

- 4.5 Only not-for-profit, constituted groups with one of the following structures can submit proposals for consideration:
- constituted community group or club;
  - Social Enterprise;
  - Community Interest Companies (CIC); and
  - a registered charity (SCIO).
- 4.6 The final decision on spend is made by public vote with authority to determine the proposed distribution of funding delegated to the Executive Directors Corporate Services and Neighbourhood Service. At the end of the project a further report will be submitted to the Climate, Environment and Biodiversity Committee detailing the final spend.
- 4.7 The first round of the DCF was launched in August 2022, with applications accepted between mid-September and mid-November 2022. A total of 29 applications were then assessed by the Review Panel and the Panel put forward 23 projects to the public vote. The successful 23 projects were subsequently published at the end of January 2023 and the public voting period concluded on the 23 March 2023. The winners were then announced by the end of March 2023.
- 4.8 A total of 4376 public votes were cast and 12 local projects subsequently benefitted from a share of £385,066. A list of the successful projects and the funding received is set out in Appendix 1 to this report. One project withdrew, as they had received funding elsewhere. This returned funding that was used to put towards Round 2 engagement costs.
- 4.9 Based on feedback from Round One, the voting process was improved to include:
- in-person voting across all libraries;
  - the option for Facebook and Google voting and assistance with setting up a MyGov account where needed to improve access; and
  - updated the Dundee's Voice website to improve the experience of users.
- 4.10 The second round of the DCF was launched in April 2023 and is currently in progress. The remaining funds from round one (£364,934) are available for this second round.
- 4.11 At the start of Round Two, the DCF Team led a "Speed-Dating Ideas Generation Workshop", followed by community engagement sessions at Community Centres, with a particular focus on community larders, cafés, and faith groups. Over 200 people were engaged in developing project ideas they wished to see developed for Round 2 of the DCF.
- 4.12 Applications were invited up until 4 November 2023, following which 15 projects were assessed by the Review Panel. A total of 10 projects were subsequently put forward for the public vote, which will run until 15 March 2024. A list of these projects is set out in Appendix 2. The successful projects will then be announced by the end of March 2024.

Full details of the Round One and Two projects can be found at:

<https://dundeVOICE.communitychoices.scot/CommunityChoices>

**5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The original committee report,174-2022, was 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.dundeecity.gov.uk/ia](http://www.dundeecity.gov.uk/ia).

**6 CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report and are in agreement with its content.

**7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

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25 January 2024

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**APPENDIX 1****DUNDEE CLIMATE FUND**

Round One funded projects:

<b>SUCCESSFUL PROJECTS</b>	<b>FUNDING AWARDED</b>
Backyard Botanicals Haven for Pollinators	£9,875 <i>(withdrew application as secured funding elsewhere)</i>
Campy Growers Food for the Future	£57,707
Douglas Food Cupboard Energy Saving Support	£6,049
Dundee Bairns electric van for food and clothes delivery	£20,481
Dundee Heritage Trust Green Verdant Works	£87,526
Fairmuir Community Green	£12,000
Heart Space Yoga and Bodyworks Fit for the Future	£50,000
Scottish Association for Mental Health Duntrune Community Garden Growing Chrysalis	£20,725
St Fergus Parent Council Climate Heroes Project	£16,142
The Maxwell Centre Maxwell Grows Dundee	£42,704
Transition Dundee Reducing Food Waste in Dundee	£48,857
Wellbeing Works Community Toolbox	£13,000
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£385,066</b>

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**APPENDIX 2****DUNDEE CLIMATE FUND**

Round Two projects at voting stage:

<b>Successful Projects</b>	<b>FUNDING SOUGHT</b>
Strathmartine Community Larder – Affordable Energy Efficiency and Food Growing	£12,749
Campy Growers – Boosting Infrastructure and Delivery	£81,501
Abertay University Students' Association – Climate Cafes	£1,600
St Mary's Community Centre – Energy Efficiency Project	£20,177
Transition Dundee – Expanding Outreach and Engagement	£57,020
Maxwell Centre – The Big Grow Dundee	£43,085
Alexanders Community Development, Signpost International and Campy Growers – Shared Electric Van	£17,794
Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre Ltd – Secondary Double Glazing	£53,104
Ninewells Community Garden – Turning Unloved Apples Into Juice For Community	£7,100
Claypotts Castle Primary Parent Council – Douglas Diggers	£32,123
<b>Total:</b>	<b>£326,253</b>