

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 23 FEBRUARY 2023**

**REPORT ON: DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY REGENERATION FUNDING FOR 2023/24**

**REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**REPORT NO: 61-2023**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To propose the funding allocation to the Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund (DPCRf) for financial year 2023/24 and changes arising from a recent review of procedures relating to this funding.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- a) agrees the allocation of £783,000 of funding for 2023/24 as set out in the table at 5.1 and a reduction in the total Revenue funding from £502,226 to £452,226.
  - b) notes the additional funding streams available to communities in 2023/24 totalling a further £400,000 (see para 4.5)
  - c) notes the changes proposed by the DPCRf Review Group (see section 6)

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 An overall total allocation for DPCRf of £783,000 be made from Capital and Revenue to Chief Executive's services budgets in 2023/24, with at least £330,774 of this allocated to capital projects. This results in a revenue budget saving of £50,000.

## **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 Community Regeneration Forums by providing funding to each Forum initially for three years until 2013 and since then on an annual basis.
- 4.2 Community Regeneration Forums are in place in six of Dundee's eight wards: Colonsay, East End, Lochee, Maryfield, North East and Strathmartine. The Forums' links with Local Community Planning Partnerships have been strengthened through the Dundee Partnership agreeing to allocate funding to Community Regeneration Forums. This is then allocated in close liaison with Local Community Planning Partnerships (LCPPs). Funding has been directed towards three priority areas: physical improvements, youth inclusion activity and small grants to local groups.
- 4.3 The role of the Forums has been widely recognised and they are central to the infrastructure of Community Planning, Decentralisation and Community Engagement. Accordingly, this has been reflected in Dundee Partnership's commitment to their continuing key role.
- 4.4 Projects supported through this funding touch on every aspect of life in our communities. They support many social and community activities to promote inclusion and community wellbeing and spirit alongside physical improvements to neighbourhoods that have been identified by local people.
- 4.5 In addition to DPCRf there are other funding streams available to communities via participatory budgeting processes as follows:

- a) **Dundee Climate Change Fund** was launched in summer 2022 and aims to involve citizens in developing proposals for and deciding on the allocation of £750,000 which will deliver community-led climate change projects. It is a democratic process built on the principles of Participatory Budgeting whereby citizens decide directly how to spend part of a public budget and supports the delivery of the Dundee Climate Action Plan.

Operating over 4 years (Sept 2022 – March 2026), it will be split into two funding rounds. The first-round process started in Autumn 2022 seeking proposals from groups across the City. From 30 January 2023, 23 projects go to the public vote where citizens will decide how the £375,000 will be spend.

The Scottish Government also provided £60,000 in financial support for the promotion and public engagement work. The Council is seen as a local authority innovator in delivering Scotland’s first local authority climate community choices project. Learning from this engagement work and the use of CONSUL (known as Dundee’s Voice) will be shared with DPCRf Forums.

- b) **Youth Fund** is aimed at awarding grants to projects and activities that support the development and learning opportunities in Dundee for young people aged 10 to 25 who live, work or study in Dundee. The total funding available each year is £25,000. A range of proposals, each up to a maximum of £2,500, are set up and voted upon by young people via the Young Scot portal. The applications with the highest number of votes go forward to receive funding.

## 5.0 FUNDING PROPOSALS FOR 2022/23

- 5.1 Given the ongoing financial pressures the Council faces trying to achieve a balanced budget for 2023/24, funding of a more discretionary nature has been reviewed. This has resulted in a proposal to reduce the revenue budget for the Community Regeneration Fund. The proposed allocations for each ward for 2023/24 are set out in Table 1 below and Table 2 below shows the 2022/23 allocations for information.

**Table 1 – New Allocations for 2023/24**

Ward	Capital	Revenue	<b>New Total for 2023/24</b>	Reduction
Coldside	£67,230	£83,770	<b>£151,000</b>	£9,000
East End	£72,609	£91,391	<b>£164,000</b>	£10,000
Lochee	£69,920	£87,080	<b>£157,000</b>	£10,000
Maryfield	£24,203	£32,297	<b>£56,500</b>	£3,500
North East	£53,784	£67,716	<b>£121,500</b>	£7,500
Strathmartine	£43,028	£53,972	<b>£97,000</b>	£6,000
The Ferry	0	£18,000	<b>£18,000</b>	£2,000
West End	0	£18,000	<b>£18,000</b>	£2,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£330,774</b>	<b>£452,226</b>	<b>£783,000</b>	<b>£50,000</b>

**Table 2 – Previous Allocations for 2022/23**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Capital</b>	<b>Revenue</b>	<b>Total</b>
Coldside	£67,230	£92,770	<b>£160,000</b>
East End	£72,609	£101,391	<b>£174,000</b>
Lochee	£69,920	£97,080	<b>£167,000</b>
Maryfield	£24,203	£35,797	<b>£60,000</b>
North East	£53,784	£75,216	<b>£129,000</b>
Strathmartine	£43,028	£59,972	<b>£103,000</b>
The Ferry	0	£20,000	<b>£20,000</b>
West End	0	£20,000	<b>£20,000</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£330,774</b>	<b>£502,226</b>	<b>£833,000</b>

5.2 There continues to be a significant level of funding available directly to local groups, charities and third sector organisations from a wide range of sources. To mitigate the impacts of reducing community regeneration funding, officers within the Dundee Partnership, Communities teams and DVVA will arrange the following to maximise access to alternative funding:

- Promotion of [Funding Finder](#) (an online funding resource) with support from Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action.
- Provide training and support sessions for local groups and organisations on how to make the best applications to other funders e.g. Awards for All
- Offering support to help groups to apply for future funding independently from alternative sources.

## **6.0 REVIEW OF DPCRf PROCESSES**

6.1 A thorough review procedures for this fund were carried out by Forum members and DCC officers from the Dundee Partnership, and Community Empowerment Teams to ensure that the fund continues to be administered in an efficient, effective and transparent manner. Several suggestions were put forward for discussion, and the consensus was that the following improvements should be taken forward and implemented.

- A ‘Meet the Funders’ event would be useful, so that potential applicants and Forum members are more aware of other sources and are able to bring additional funds into the city as a result. This could be coordinated with similar events held by DVVA and the post within DVVA that the Council provided funding for.
- Additional promotion of the fund via several routes is needed, to encourage a broader range of applications and applicants. These include social media channels; direct, proactive sharing of information with potential applicants; sharing information on previously funded projects, and issuing a DPCRf focussed newsletter.
- Expanding the involvement of young people through asking youth / school groups in each Ward to comment on applications
- Making use of the online CONSUL platform, under the banner of Dundee’s Voice, to enable the wider community to view and comment on upcoming applications. Forums will then be able to gain the views of their local communities more directly and so be more responsive to local need
- Training on what to expect from applications would be incorporated into the Community Empowerment Team’s training plan for new Forum members
- A word limit should be applied to the main narrative sections of application forms to help keep them clear and concise
- Actions should be taken to improve two-way communication with Local Community Planning Partnerships. This is particularly important in relation to the Local Community Plans’ development and implementation.

6.2 The Review Group also examined the Code of Practice for Community Regeneration Forum Members and made changes to bring the document up to date. Key updates to the Code of Practice are:

- Allowing for hybrid meetings to take place
- Allowing Forum members to communicate their views in writing in advance of meetings they are unable to attend
- Formally stating the links between the fund, Local Community Plans and City Plan regarding meeting local need
- Updating of volunteer expenses to current rates
- Updating of the roles of staff supporting Forums

6.3 The expected timescales for the implementation of improvements varies from item to item, and are summarised below:

- Meet the Funders event: Liaison with DVVA in early 2023, with one or more events to take place early in the 2023-24 financial year
- Use of CONSUL is to be piloted during 2023/24
- The word limit is already being trialled, with a view to it becoming permanent for 2023-24 onwards
- All other improvements above are to be implemented for the 2023-24 financial year
- The updated Code of Practice will be shared with the Building Stronger Communities group for ratification at their January meeting

## **7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 This report has been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment to identify impacts on Equality & Diversity, Fairness & Poverty, Environment and Corporate Risk. An impact, positive or negative, on one or more of these issues was identified. An appropriate senior manager has checked and agreed with this assessment. A copy of the Integrated Impact Assessment showing the impacts and accompanying benefits of / mitigating factors for them is included as an Appendix to this report.

7.2 There will still be real and significant positive impacts in all communities because of the continued allocation of £783,000 in funding and how the allocation of this funding is determined. The split of funding across the city is in line with the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020, ensuring more funding goes to the wards with higher deprivation but also ensuring some funding is made available within the Ferry and West End wards to assist with tackling pockets of deprivation.

7.3 While this report also proposes a reduction in the available revenue funding of 10% for each ward which it is anticipated could have some adverse impacts based on knowledge of previous applications, it is difficult to ascertain specific adverse impacts on any of the protected characteristic, key household or socio-economic groups, as we cannot reliably predict which groups or organisations will make applications and whether the local Community Regeneration Forums will agree to support over other equally valid applications.

7.4 In order to mitigate the impacts of reducing this funding, efforts will continue through Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action, the Community Empowerment and Dundee Partnership teams to encourage potential DPCRf applicants to source funds from external sources such as Awards for All (Big Lottery funding), charitable trusts, etc as well as locally available funds such as the Communities Mental Health & Wellbeing Fund being administered through the Third Sector Interface.

7.5 Overall, it is anticipated that the additional funds that could be brought into the city will not only offset the reduction in DPCRf but also help to bring about increased community capacity in terms of skills around making funding applications. The Dundee Partnership Team are also identifying where organisations have sufficient reserves to be able to fund / part fund the

activities they may be seeking support for to enable the remaining DPCRf allocations to go further.

- 7.6 It should also be noted that in the previous years there has been funding remaining and often carried forward. For the last two years, carry forwards of unallocated funds have been agreed as follows: from 2021/22 to 2022/23 - £112,654 Revenue and £20,700 Capital and 2020/21 to 2021/22 - £146,269 Revenue and £45,234 Capital.

## **8.0 CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The Council Management Team have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

## **9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

GREGORY COLGAN  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

DATE: 13 FEBRUARY 2023

## Integrated Impact Assessment

Committee Report Number: 61-2023

Document Title: Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Funding for 2023/24

Document Type: Other

Description:

The report sets out proposals for the continued delivery of the Dundee Partnership Community Regeneration Fund (DPCRf) in 2023/24 with allocations in line with the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020. It also proposes changes arising from a recent review of procedures relating to this funding.

Intended Outcome:

The funding of £783,000 for financial year 2023-24 will continue to empower local people from our most deprived areas in their support of social and community activities that promote inclusion and promote community wellbeing, spirit and resilience. Significant physical and environmental improvements identified by community members are also able to be developed with this funding.

To contribute to the achievement of necessary Revenue budget savings whilst continuing to invest in Community Regeneration within our most deprived neighbourhoods.

Period Covered: 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

Monitoring:

The Dundee Partnership team will continue to monitor any of the proposals that are implemented, as they oversee the administration of the DPCRf monies. Records will be kept of all applications to the fund, along with assessment of these and decisions reached on them. Proposals are developed by Community Regeneration Forums supported by the Community Empowerment team and final decisions are ratified on a monthly basis at the Building Stronger Communities Group.

Lead Author:

Paul Davies, Senior Community Planning Officer, Chief Executive's Services

[paul.davies@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:paul.davies@dundee.gov.uk)

01382434624

c/o 21 City Square, Floor 3

Director Responsible:

Andrea Calder, Head of Chief Executive's Services, Chief Executive's Services

[andrea.calder@dundee.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.calder@dundee.gov.uk), 01382424684

c/o 21 City Square, Floor 2

## **Equality, Diversity and Human Rights**

### **Impacts & Implications**

Age: Positive

While this report proposes a reduction in the available funding of 10% for each ward which it is anticipated could have some adverse impacts based on knowledge of previous applications, it is difficult to ascertain specific adverse impacts on any of the protected characteristic, key household or socio-economic groups, as we cannot reliably predict which groups or organisations will make applications and whether the local Community Regeneration Forums will agree to support over other equally valid applications.

Except for age and sex, it is generally not possible to ascertain impacts on the other protected characteristics as applications in general are not often very specific on exactly who their projects support. Any awards that are made from the fund that impact on people with protected characteristics will however be positive in nature.

Disability: Not Known. See comment for Age above

Gender Reassignment: Not Known. See comment for Age above

Marriage & Civil Partnership: Not Known. See comment for Age above

Pregnancy & Maternity: Not Known. See comment for Age above

Race / Ethnicity: Not Known. See comment for Age above

Religion or Belief: Not Known. See comment for Age above

Sex: Positive. See comment for Age above.

Sexual Orientation: Not Known. See comment for Age above

Are any Human Rights not covered by the Equalities questions above impacted by this report?

No

## **Fairness & Poverty**

### **Geographic Impacts & Implications**

Strathmartine: Positive

Lochee: Positive

Coldside: Positive

Maryfield: Positive

North East: Positive

East End: Positive

The Ferry: Positive

West End: Positive

There will still be real and significant positive impacts in all communities because of the continued allocation of £783,000 in funding and how the allocation of this funding is determined. The split of funding across the city is in line with the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) 2020, ensuring more funding goes to the wards with higher deprivation but also ensuring some funding is made available within the Ferry and West End wards to assist with tackling pockets of deprivation.

## **Household Group Impacts and Implications**

Looked After Children & Care Leavers: Not Known.

There will be real and significant positive impacts across the key Household and Socio-Economic groups because of the continued allocations and the projects they will support, but it is not possible to identify which specific areas will benefit in advance, as all Forums will consider applications based on their individual merits during each financial year. Any awards that are made from the fund will however be positive in nature.

The continued prioritisation of funding towards key groups of citizens and areas most impacted by poverty in the City, ensures those most in need of support can still access it via the groups supported by DPCRf.

Carers: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Lone Parent Families: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Single Female Households with Children: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Greater number of children and/or young children: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Pensioners - single / couple: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Unskilled workers or unemployed: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Serious & enduring mental health problems: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Homeless: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Drug and/or alcohol problems: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Offenders & Ex-offenders: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

## **Socio Economic Disadvantage Impacts & Implications**

Employment Status: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Education & Skills: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Income: Positive

Many of the DPCRf supported projects are of a nature that help people to make their income go further e.g. community cafes, community larders and Open Spaces. During the winter this year, over £50,000 has been allocated to this sort of support from the DPCRf, and this form of funding support is likely to continue while the cost of living crisis is ongoing.

Caring Responsibilities (including Childcare): Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Affordability and accessibility of services: Positive

DPCRf funding is often used to enable organisations to deliver activities for free, or very low cost, to the participants. This enables more people, particularly those with limited incomes, to access a wider range of opportunities.

Fuel Poverty: Positive

See comment for Income above. In particular, the Open Spaces activities that are supported help with Fuel Poverty by providing alternate spaces that families can access and take part in activities while reducing the need to keep their homes heated.



Cost of Living / Poverty Premium: Positive

See comments for Income, Fuel Poverty and Affordability & Accessibility of Services above. Collectively, activities supported in these three areas of work make a noticeable contribution to mitigating the high cost of living for those who have the least.

Connectivity / Internet Access: Not Known. See comment for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Income / Benefit Advice / Income Maximisation: Not Known

Another possible use for DPCRf monies is to support agencies in providing or enabling access to money advice, which would contribute to putting more money in people's pockets. It is however, not possible to state in advance whether there will be applications of this nature.

Employment Opportunities: Positive

There are usually applications throughout the year which provide a range of work opportunities for people. These are posts that are responding to local need, and most often employ local people.

Education: No Impact

Health: Not Known. See comment made for Looked After Children & Care Leavers above.

Life Expectancy: Not Known

Measuring this is beyond the scope of the fund, though it is hoped that many of the activities will positively contribute to longer, healthier and happier lives.

Mental Health: Positive

Many of the projects supported by DPCRf bring people across all age groups or specific age groups together for a range of activities and this helps to support community cohesion and reduce social isolation, positively impacting on mental health.

Overweight / Obesity: Positive

Many of the Youth Inclusion activities that are regularly supported via DPCRf increase the activity levels of young people, thus contributing to reducing the overall levels of obesity across the city. Some projects that receive funding are aimed at adults will also contribute e.g., walking groups, growing groups, etc.

Child Health: Positive

See comments for Overweight / Obesity above. In addition, many of the projects supported will have a positive impact on the overall living conditions for children (e.g. community larders helping to put food on the family table), which will in turn have a positive impact on child health.

Neighbourhood Satisfaction: Positive

DPCRf supports Physical and Environmental Improvements as a core part of the funding available. Applications, particularly those from community groups, are responsive to the needs of local communities.

Transport: No Impact

## **Environment**

### **Climate Change Impacts**

Mitigating Greenhouse Gases: No Impact

Adapting to the effects of climate change: No Impact

## **Resource Use Impacts**

Energy efficiency & consumption: No Impact.

Prevention, reduction, re-use, recovery or recycling of waste: No Impact

Sustainable Procurement: No Impact

## **Transport Impacts**

Accessible transport provision: No Impact

Sustainable modes of transport: No Impact

## **Natural Environment Impacts**

Air, land & water quality: No Impact

Biodiversity: No Impact

Open & green spaces: Positive

Proposals are regularly received that have positive impacts on local green and open spaces. We cannot, however, reliably predict which agencies will make applications or whether the local Community Regeneration Forums will be supportive of any proposed activities over other, equally valid applications. Any awards that are made from the fund will however be positive in nature.

## **Built Environment Impacts**

Built Heritage: No Impact

Housing: No Impact

Is the proposal subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)?

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.

## **Corporate Risk**

### **Corporate Risk Impacts**

Political Reputational Risk: Negative

With any proposed reduction in funding, there are always risks relating to negativity in the press and/or on social media. Given the current political climate however, the general public are aware that difficult decisions do need to be taken with regards to discretionary funds. As mitigation of a reduction in funding, it should be highlighted that further efforts will be taking place to attract other external funding that will hopefully more than counteract the proposed reductions.

Economic/Financial Sustainability / Security & Equipment: No Impact

Social Impact / Safety of Staff & Clients: Positive

The ongoing process of providing funds for local communities to deliver activities and make improvements will continue to contribute to a better sense of community across the city.

Technological / Business or Service Interruption: No Impact

Environmental: Positive

Work on green & open spaces, and community gardens will contribute positively to managing risk in relation to environmental matters.

Legal / Statutory Obligations: No Impact

Organisational / Staffing & Competence: No Impact

Corporate Risk Implications & Mitigation:

The risk implications associated with the subject matter of this report are "business as normal" risks and any increase to the level of risk to the Council is minimal. This is due either to the risk being inherently low or as a result of the risk being transferred in full or in part to another party on a fair and equitable basis. The subject matter is routine and has happened many times before without significant impact.