

22 November 2023.
Agenda Item No. 5

Supporting the Plan 4 Glenrothes Area: Community Recovery Fund

Report by: Paul Vaughan, Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service

Wards Affected: 13,14,15

Purpose

To provide members with the necessary information to allocate funding for various projects from the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) for the Glenrothes Area.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to approve the following amounts from the Community Recovery Fund totalling £123,124:

1. St Andrews Environmental Network: £42,346
2. Bike Works Fife: £60,000
3. Balbirnie's Future Foundation SCIO: £20,778
4. Homestart Glenrothes: Steps to Resilience: £28,700

Resource Implications

There are sufficient funds available in the Community Recovery Fund to support the submitted proposals.

This would leave a balance of **£828,086** unallocated of the Community Recovery budget.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no legal or risk implications based on this report.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required because the report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

There has been extensive consultation in the production of the Plan4Glenrothes Area.

Throughout 2022, a series of officer meetings reviewed the existing plan and established key priorities for Members consideration.

Monthly People and Place Leadership Group meetings were facilitated throughout the year up until November 2022 to support the review of the Plan for Glenrothes.

Elected Members attended a workshop in August 2022 focusing on one of the key priorities, 'Tackling Poverty in Glenrothes', that included briefings from key partners involved in the management and delivery of services aimed at tackling poverty related issues, such as welfare support and food and fuel crisis intervention.

A further Members workshop was facilitated in November on this theme, with the specific aim of discussing and seeking comment on potential projects that could be funded through the Community Recovery Fund.

Consultation with community groups and individuals throughout 2022 helped shape and gather support for the four key themes identified within the Plan.

Throughout 2023 consultation with partners across all sectors on the alignment with CRF and Plan4Glenrothes priorities has continued, facilitated by the People and Place Leadership group and the Glenrothes Against Poverty multi agency action group.

Elected members have taken part in four workshops to discuss CRF priorities, and the proposals presented in this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 On 25th August 2022, the Cabinet Committee agreed to allocate £10 million of revenue balances as a Community Recovery Fund. Further to this, the subsequent Cabinet Committee meeting on 22nd September approved the 'Help with Cost of Living: Extending Community Support' report which set out a general approach and criteria for the Fund, including the allocation of £9m across the seven Area Committees. Glenrothes Area has received an allocation of £1.303m as part of this allocation.
- 1.2 The specific criterion for the fund is as follows.
 - Projects should link to Local Community Plan priorities.
 - Projects should take account of Plan for Fife recovery priorities (Community Wealth Building, Tackling Poverty, Economic Recovery, Climate)
 - Projects should provide assessment of benefit to ensure no unintended consequences.
- 1.3 The Community Recovery Fund is available over a two-year period.

2.0 Project Summary Information

- 2.1 St Andrews Environmental Network – This will be used to fund a two-year post for an energy advisor in the Glenrothes area. The advisor will provide additional support to residents in the local area who are struggling with high fuel costs or have homes' with poor energy efficiency which leads to Fuel Poverty. The Energy advisor will support people with impartial, in-depth energy advice to reduce energy usage, as well as make referrals for income maximisation.
- 2.2 Bike Works Fife – The funding will aid in the running of a reuse and recycle bike scheme. Bike Works have agreement to access refuse yards across the Fife area to refurbish the bikes sent to landfill and rehome these to people in the Glenrothes area as a "pay what

you can afford” buying model. This ensures that everyone in the Glenrothes area has the opportunity to have access to a bike, which in turn promotes a more active, healthier and more environmentally friendly community.

- 2.3 Balbirnie’s Future Foundation SCIO – The funding will be used to make improvements to the green spaces in Balbirnie & surrounding parks across the area. This will include maintaining & sustaining the heritage of the park; encouraging participation and responsible citizenship whilst also tackling climate emergency issues.

This will be done in collaboration with Fife Council’s Grounds Maintenance service who will be involved and communicated with for any agreements on the project progress and updates. Fife Coast & Countryside Trust (FCCT) will work in partnership with the project to ensure the advancement of environmental protection in the area.

- 2.4 Homestart Glenrothes: Steps to Resilience – This proposal seeks funding to support young families who have been identified through a referral process as struggling with increased pressures related to the cost of living, and who may have been chronically isolated during the pandemic when their children were small. A blend of 1-1, peer support and groupwork will help these young parents identify more positive pathways through increased confidence, socialisation, learning new skills taking part in constructive activities.

3.0 Grant Evaluation

- 3.1 All grant recipients will be expected to complete a robust project evaluation that outlines impact and that clearly outlines project spend.
- 3.2 A universal evaluation process will be used for all projects, with bespoke additions for individual projects at members’ discretion.
- 3.3 Individual project report evaluations will be shared at Area Committee meetings within a timescale agreed by Members.

4.0 Conclusions

- 4.1 These proposals meet the broad criteria for the Community Recovery Fund. They also contribute to the ‘Plan 4 Fife 2021-2024’ and ‘Glenrothes Area Local Community Plan’ themes “Tackling Poverty” and “Supporting Positive Wellbeing”.
- 4.2 The establishment of these projects will assist in developing a response to the cost-of-living crisis and post Covid recovery for individuals, families, and communities across the Glenrothes Area. Learning gained from these projects will be used to influence and direct future service delivery across the area.
- 4.3 Approved proposal project leads will be required to submit robust evaluation on impact and outcomes within a timescale and framework agreed between Council Officers and Area Committee Members.
- 4.4 Approving these proposals will leave an allocation of £856,786 in the Community Recovery Fund to support other projects.
- 4.5 A transparent, agreed and robust evaluation process will demonstrate impact and ensure project delivery is held accountable to initial project proposals.

List of Appendices

1. Plan4Glenrothes Area

Background Papers

The following papers were relied on in the preparation of this report in terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973: -

- 'Help with Cost of Living : Extending Community Support'. Fife Council Cabinet Committee, 22nd September, 2022.
- [Plan4Fife Local Outcome Improvement Plan 2017 – 2027](#)
- [Recovery and Renewal Plan4Fife 2021 – 2024 Update](#)
- [Plan for Glenrothes Area 2019 - 2022](#)
- [Glenrothes Area Local Strategic Assessment 2022](#)

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