1. **Purpose of report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update committee on the final *Tackling Food Poverty and Insecurity North Lanarkshire Strategic Framework* report; to outline the process for applications to a one-off *Tackling Food Poverty Fund 2014-15* and seek approval to delegate to the Head of Planning & Regeneration, the authority to approve or reject grant awards from this grant fund, based upon the criteria and process outlined below.

2. **Background**

2.1 The 3rd Sector has a track record in North Lanarkshire, working in partnership to with the public sector to deliver services around; information and advice, access to low cost / emergency food provision etc. The demand for support services to alleviate food poverty has grown very significantly and all indicators and available intelligence suggest that demand will continue to grow.

2.2 The major cause of the increase in demand is welfare reform: the main thrust of the reforms is not a temporary issue, and fundamental aspects of the reforms are still to be introduced. Food poverty challenges are not likely to be short term in impact.

3. **Framework**

3.1 *A Tackling Food Poverty & Insecurity North Lanarkshire Strategic Framework* has been produced as the final outcome of a piece of work jointly commissioned by the council and NHS Lanarkshire to determine a local response to the growing incidence of food poverty in North Lanarkshire.

3.2 Food poverty is defined in the framework as: "the inability to acquire or consume an adequate quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so."

3.3 The framework recommends that future activity builds upon existing assets and the opportunity to maximise the supports and services already in place as well as the need to ensure increased connectivity between a wider range of partners and stakeholders to address gaps in knowledge and information - particularly within a very fast changing context.
3.4 The framework sets out 6 strategic action areas (Appendix 1) which will be taken forward by Planning & Regeneration Services working in partnership with council services, NHS Lanarkshire and the voluntary sector over the next year.

3.5 NLC Financial Inclusion Team will work in partnership with council services, NHS Lanarkshire and the voluntary sector on the development and servicing of a Food Poverty Working Group, which forms part of the Council's welfare reform governance framework and a new food poverty strategy. This activity links to strategic action 1 of the framework, 'Ensuring access to money advice and income maximisation.'

3.6 In February 2014, as part of the 2014/15 budget, the Council approved investment of £100K to deliver on the findings and recommendations of the report and specifically, to support the strategic action areas. Committee is asked to consider and approve the breakdown of spend from this funding allocation as detailed in section 4 below.

4. NLC Investment Funding

4.1 It is proposed that the £100k of Council funding will support activity over the next 12 months that will strengthen co-ordination, increase access to a range of supports aimed at tackling food insecurity and test supply chain opportunities for the 3rd sector. It is proposed that we:

- Invite the 3rd sector to submit proposals via a grant fund application process, which will aim to strengthen local infrastructure, capacity and supply chain opportunities. Regeneration Services will manage the application; monitoring and reporting of spend. The total grant funding allocation proposed is £85k.

- Deliver a marketing campaign aimed at increasing the uptake of free school meals and breakfast club provision, promoting access to nutritious safe food and reducing the financial burden on households with school age children. This campaign will align with the existing corporate welfare reform working group communication strategy for 2014-2015. The budget proposed for this activity is £7,500.

- Provide direct funding to pay membership to the Glasgow Fareshare (GFS) operation for community based food initiatives (including community cafe, food banks etc). GFS is operating as the West of Scotland 'hub and spoke' model; membership is currently £1K per annum, which results in a return to local food initiatives of up-to 7 times the investment in food. NLC will work with partners in NHSL under existing funding arrangements to open up access to emergency food aid across North Lanarkshire and specifically where there are gaps in provision and linking this to areas of deprivation. £7,500 will be allocated to develop, maintain and build upon existing systems and services to ensure that people in crisis have access to food.

5. Tackling Food Poverty Grant Fund

5.1 The strategic aim of work on food poverty in North Lanarkshire as set out in the framework is: To get affordable, healthy food and other support services to people most in need on a sustainable basis.
5.2 It is proposed that the new grant fund being established will support the following:

   a) Developing, maintaining and improving systems and services to ensure that people in crisis have access to food.
   b) Sourcing, warehousing and distributing food at low or no cost to support activities which address food poverty.
   c) Promoting access to affordable, healthier food and food preparation and cooking skills - particularly in deprived communities.
   d) Maximising volunteering, employability and training gains for priority groups from all food poverty activities.

5.3 Appendix 2 of this report sets out the eligibility criteria and types of activity we would look to fund.

6. Resources

6.1 Planning & Regeneration Services will manage the call for applications; assessment, approval and reporting on spend of the fund within its current staff resource. The Service leads on the social economy development for the council and has a long history of working with the sector and managing grant funding.

6.2 The core funding for the Tackling Food Poverty Fund will be £85K for financial year 2014-2015. It is proposed that there are two levels of award:

   • Level 1 – awards up to £2K to support small community based organisations and
   • Level 2 – awards up to £10K to support infrastructure and delivery mechanisms linked to maximising volunteering, training and employability gains.

6.3 It is envisaged that the fund will support up to 15 Level 1 applications and up to 10 Level 2 applications from third sector organisations in North Lanarkshire over the next year.

7. Application Process

7.1 A scoring model has been developed based on the following criteria:

   • meeting the key aims set out in 5.2 above
   • transparency and equity of access to funding based upon best value and clear evidence of outcomes

7.2 To support this process, a standard proforma grant application will be prepared, which will be used by all applicant organisations. All completed applications will be required to be submitted by 11th June 2014.

7.3 A scoring panel, made up of representatives from the council and Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire, will be established to review and score each application against the criteria and thereafter, prepare an assessment and recommendation to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to approve or reject grant awards.

7.4 An outcome and performance report will be reported at a future P&R (Regeneration & Infrastructure Sub Committee).
7.5 The process can be summarised, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stage 1 – Call for Applications &amp; Guidance issued</td>
<td>May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 2 – Applications returned</td>
<td>11th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 3 – Assessment &amp; Scoring of applications</td>
<td>30th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stage 4 – Funding awards approved</td>
<td>August 2014</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Stage 5 - Monitoring & Reporting              | Interim report – December 2014  
                                               Final report – February 2015 |

8. Conclusion

8.1 Food poverty cannot be addressed in isolation. Responses must connect, support and be informed by a number of other key services, developments and initiatives currently being delivered by the public and voluntary sector locally.

8.2 The development of this new framework and the council’s assistance in providing £100k of funding to support the Strategic Action Areas will further strengthen existing partnerships and the 3rd sector to address challenges around food poverty.

9. Recommendations

9.1 It recommended that committee:

(i) Note the development of Tackling Food Poverty & Insecurity North Lanarkshire Strategic Framework

(ii) Approve the breakdown of spend from the £100k budget allocation as follows:

- £85k grant fund to support local organisations working to address food poverty
- £7,500 campaign to promote free school meals
- £7,500 towards Fareshare membership

(iii) Approve the process for awarding grant funding as set out in Section 7

(iv) Seek further reports on the outcome and performance related to these proposals

---

Paul Jukes  
Executive Director of Regeneration & Environmental Services

Members seeking further information on the contents of this report are asked to contact Caitriona McAuley, Planning & Regeneration Services on 01236 632866.
Tackling Food Poverty in North Lanarkshire - Strategic Framework

Aim - To get affordable, healthy food and other support services to people most in need on a sustainable basis.

The Causes of Food Poverty

Strategic Action Areas

- Welfare Reform
- Long term low levels of income & poverty
- Rising Food & Fuel Costs
- Lack of Access to Cheaper Food
- Ongoing impact of recession

- Ensuring access to money advice & income maximisation
- Developing, maintaining & improving access to food for people in crisis
- Improving uptake of free school meals & breakfast clubs; & services for older people
- Sourcing, warehousing & distributing food at low costs
- Promoting access to affordable & healthier food, food preparation and cooking skills
- Maximising volunteering, employability & training gains from all activities

Measure impact and review progress

North Lanarkshire Council
NHS Lanarkshire
Lanarkshire Community Food & Health P'ship
CABs
Supermarket Chains & food Suppliers
Healthy living initiatives
Food Banks
Community transport initiatives
Wider Statutory & Voluntary Sector Agencies
North Lanarkshire Council Food Poverty Fund for the Voluntary Sector: Applicant Guidance

North Lanarkshire Council Food Poverty Fund is launched!

Concerns about food poverty have increased significantly since early 2013. These have particularly focused on the increasing number of food banks, which provide important and valuable services to very vulnerable individuals and families. Responding fully to the food poverty challenge, requires a broader understanding of food poverty and a longer term and more sustainable approach than food banks alone can provide.

Food poverty cannot be addressed in isolation: responses must connect, support and be informed by a number of other key services, developments and initiatives. The council recognises that the Voluntary Sector is an important part of delivering services to the community.

The Council has allocated £85,000 for a one-off investment fund to enable the voluntary and community sector to reconfigure their service or enhance their capacity or infrastructure to support or provide services which address food poverty and insecurity.

Who can apply for the Food Poverty Fund?

Organisations should be either:

- a Voluntary and Community unincorporated charitable association
- or a Registered Charity and or a company limited by guarantee
- or a Social Enterprise (with a clearly identifiable social purpose stated in Articles of Association)

What is the level of funding available?

This one off investment funding for the Tackling Food Poverty Fund will be for financial year 2014-15.

There are two levels of award:

- **Level 1** – awards up to £2K to support small community based organisations and
- **Level 2** – awards up to £10K to support infrastructure and delivery mechanisms linked to maximising volunteering, training and employability gains.

What activities will this programme support?

All grant applicants must be able to demonstrate how the funding will help the organisation meet the strategic action areas below:

   a) Sourcing, warehousing and distributing food at low or no cost to support activities which address food poverty
b) Promoting access to affordable healthier food, food preparation and cooking skills - particularly in deprived communities

c) Maximising volunteering, employability and training gains for priority groups from all food poverty activities.

d) Developing, maintaining and improving systems and services to ensure that people in crisis have access to food.

Activities could include:

- disseminating information to front line staff in referring agencies;
- identifying disadvantaged communities which do not have access to a food bank and, where possible, developing a food bank or other appropriate resource;
- improving warehousing and distribution (mainly through Lanarkshire Community Food & Health Partnership);
- working with local supermarkets and food suppliers to maximise their co-operation and contribution;
- identifying opportunities to work with North Lanarkshire’s community transport infrastructure to further increase access to food and other related services;
- costs of developing new partnerships with other food aid, healthy living initiatives to support and develop current and innovative community-based food preparation and cooking courses, and other initiatives;
- strengthening the third sector in its employability and training role and
- costs associated with maximising the employability aspects (including employment, training and volunteering) of all new initiatives.

Tackling Food Poverty Fund timetable

- Grant application available - from <insert date>May 2014
- Closing date - <insert date>June 2014.
- Applicants informed whether they have been successful - by <insert date> August 2014
- Payments will be made - from <insert date>August 2014. All spend must be completed by 31st March 2015

Further Information

for further information or to request an application pack, please e-mail mcbridey@northlan.gov.uk or call Yvonne McBride on 01236 632862.