

To: REGENERATION SERVICES COMMITTEE		Subject: FAIRER SCOTLAND FUND AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FUNDING
From: HEAD OF REGENERATION SERVICES		
Date: 17 February 2010	Rep: 1493	

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Regeneration Committee on progress with the funding proposals for the Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) and other associated funding streams.

**2. Background**

2.1 On the 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008 the Scottish Government announced that a Fairer Scotland Fund had been established with an allocation to North Lanarkshire Partnership of £15,488,000 in 2008/2009 and £14,339,000 for 2009/2010. It is intended that the 2010/2011 allocation from the Fairer Scotland Fund of £13,190,000 will be paid to North Lanarkshire Council as part of its block allocation paid via Revenue Support Grant.

2.2 The outcomes for this funding have been incorporated into the Single Outcome Agreement which has been approved and was signed by the Leader of the Council and Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Lifelong Learning on 21<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

2.3 Additionally there are a number of funding streams which have been brought together under the heading of Community Safety monies. These include:

- Former Building Strong Safe Attractive Communities monies
- Former Community Safety Partnership monies, and
- Former Local Action Fund monies.

**3. Fairer Scotland Fund (FSF) Budget 2009/2010**

3.1 The original budget for 2009/2010 is £14,339,000. With the addition of carry forward from 2008/2009, the revised budget is £16,043,342. The commitments for 2009/2010 amount to £15,835,805 and with the previously agreed carry forward of £207,537 funding into 2010/2011 means that the 2009/2010 budget is fully expended.

3.2 In line with procedures, each of the individual FSF activities was asked to review their budget for 2009/2010 and determine a realistic expenditure profile to March 2010.

3.3 Following this the budget underspends detailed overleaf have been identified.

Name of Activity	Identified Underspends 2009/2010
Match for CPP Bid (Regeneration Services)	399,000
Healthy Living Centres (NHS Lanarkshire)	6,750
Fire and Rescue Officer (Strathclyde Fire & Rescue)	3,500
Community Day Programme (Housing & Social Work Services)	2,000
Total	411,250

#### 3.4 Credit Union Support Fund

The Council has agreed to allocate £206,165 to provide support to Credit Unions across North Lanarkshire through the establishment of a Credit Union Support Fund. Credit Unions have been invited to bid for support from this fund for specific activities. A panel has been established consisting of representatives from North Lanarkshire credit unions and the Council to consider applications submitted and make recommendations as appropriate.

3.5 Eight applications were submitted and considered by the panel at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 with the following recommendations.

Budget 2009/2010	206,165
Expenditure to date	153,690
Balance	52,475

Name of Credit Union	Purpose of Funding	Funding Recommendation
Cumbernauld Central	Additional lease costs	1,700
Cumbernauld South	Purchase upgraded PCs and data processing service	8,330
Kirklands	Roof repairs on premises	6,800
Mosshill	Purchase security lighting, live web site, business continuity training and flooring	4,040
Newarthill	Purchase 3 computers and advertising	1,567
Newmains and District	Purchase 2 laptops and 2 printers, 1 PC, 1 heater and web site	3,200
North Coatbridge	Additional lease costs	3,000
Wishaw	Purchase a new photocopier	4,500
Sub-total		33,137
Balance		19,338

3.6 Approval is sought for the recommendations detailed above. If approved the balance remaining in the Credit Union Support Fund will be £19,338.

3.7 The total identified underspend for 2009/2010 is £430,588.

#### 3.8 New Proposal - Community Engagement

Community engagement is a priority in North Lanarkshire and the eight Community Forums are key mechanisms for the Council and partners. It is important that adequate administrative support is provided to allow them to fulfil this role and it is recommended that £15,000 is allocated from the unallocated budget in 2009/2010 to provide administrative and development support through a funding agreement with Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire.

3.9 If approved the underspend for 2009/2010 will be reduced to £415,588 and it is recommended that the Council seek approval from the Scottish Government to carry this forward into 2010/2011.

### 3.10 Local Development Programme

Contained within the Fairer Scotland Fund is the Local Development Programme with an allocated budget of £1,800,000 in 2009/2010. This programme consists of a range of local environmental projects delivered in the LAP areas.

3.11 Recommendations on the LDP are agreed at the Local Area Partnerships/ Committee meetings, however due to the changes in the committee cycle there may be a number of minor changes to the programme which require approval before the end of the financial year.

3.12 The year-end position for the programme is currently being finalised and in order to maximise the funding available in 2010/2011 approval is sought to authorise accruals and carry forward as appropriate.

3.13 The Scottish Government has informed the Council of the process to seek approval to carry forward any funding into 2010/2011 the outcome of which may not be known until June 2010. As detailed earlier in this report Committee has previously agreed that £207,537 is carried forward into next year and it is proposed that the additional £415,588 funding identified in paragraph 3.9 is also carried forward into the next financial year. It is anticipated that there will be small amounts of underspend within individual activities and it is proposed that permission is sought from the Scottish Government to carry all this funding forward into 2010/2011.

## 4. **Community Safety Fund (CSF) Budget 2009/2010**

4.1 The total budget for 2009/2010 is £735,116. The commitments for 2009/2010 amount to £632,990 leaving an unallocated balance of £102,126 and it is proposed that this balance is returned to the Council.

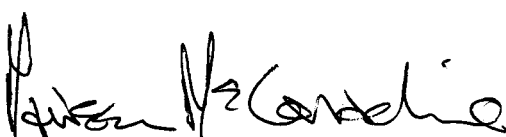
## 5. **Community Safety Fund (CSF) Budget 2010/2011**

5.1 The total budget for 2010/2011 is £734,447 with the commitments for 2010/2011 amounting to £402,198 leaving an unallocated balance of £332,249. The current level of ongoing commitments when compared to the level of funding would enable £332,249 per annum to be released as efficiency savings from this budget. This would mean that the revised budget for 2010/2011 would be £402,198.

## 6. **Recommendations**

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) approve the FSF funding recommendations as detailed in Section 3;
- ii) authorise the Head of Regeneration Services to seek carry forward into 2010/2011 of the funding detailed in paragraph 3.13;
- iii) approve the CSF funding recommendations as detailed in Section 4 and Section 5 and
- iv) otherwise note the content of the report.



**Maureen McConachie**  
**Head of Regeneration Services**