

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Environment Committee****20 November 2013****COMMUNITY WASTE FUND UPDATE****Depute Director (Environment)**

This report updates the Environment Committee on the final distribution of Community Waste Grant Funding to community groups and identifies the positive outcomes arising from the granting of this funding.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Community Waste Fund was introduced following approval at the Environment Committee on 26 March 2008 (Report No. 08/183). This report identified that the community and social enterprise sector were likely to be at the forefront of developing innovative new ways of increasing recycling rates further and achieving greater community awareness and involvement.
- 1.2 It was also noted that community recycling/reuse projects could bring many other social and economic benefits to the Council area such as offering employment, training and volunteering opportunities. The primary focus of the fund was reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill, together with building greater community involvement.
- 1.3 The scheme was successfully jointly managed by the local Quality of Life Trust and the Waste Services team in the Environment Service. Funding of up to £15,000 for non-profit making, constituted community or voluntary organisations was awarded to implement projects that reduced the amount of waste sent to landfill. Greater amounts of funding were released in particular circumstances, where the size and scale of the project was capable of delivering greater landfill diversion and/or social benefits.
- 1.4 On the 22 August 2012 a Community Waste Fund update report (Report No. 12/355) was presented to the Environment Committee. It provided the Committee with an update on the distribution of Community Waste Grant Funding. It was agreed to report back to Committee in 12 months time.
- 1.5 Since 2008, £290,000 of Community Waste Funding has been distributed, with 29 successful applications supported. Applicants received payment after producing proof of purchase to the Quality of Life Trust (e.g. invoices, receipts, contract of employment). The successful management of the fund has meant that all applications were processed, assessed and the applicant informed of the decision within the timescale specified in the grant procedures. As a condition of the grant, the applicants had to provide a report on how they spent the grant and the benefits achieved.

1.6 All available funding has now been allocated to the successful organisations and community groups. A summary of the end of grant feedback received is shown in Appendix 1.

1.7 Combined efforts have resulted in

- Diversion of 1104 tonnes of waste from landfill
- Employment of 10.25 people in new full time equivalent positions
- Creation of 92 volunteering opportunities
- Generation of 52 training opportunities

2. PROPOSALS

2.1 Although the organisations will no longer be supported financially by the Community Waste Fund, officers of Waste Services will continue to provide support through offering advice, promoting activities, raising awareness and information sharing.

2.2 In addition to this the revised Community Environment Challenge Fund (CECF) which was approved at the Environment Committee on 5 June 2013 (Report No. 13/271) is open to community groups to apply for funding (up to 50%) for projects that demonstrate reduction of waste, reuse, recycling or use of environmentally friendly materials, enhance/contribute to the local economy such as tourism or craft or use of local materials, demonstrate environmental sustainability e.g. carbon reduction. Therefore projects which previously would have pursued Community Waste funding can apply for CECF funding.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 The Community Waste Fund has been well received by community and voluntary organisations who have utilised the grant support to develop a wide range of projects, delivering innovative ways of increasing re-use practices, waste minimisation, recycling rates, and achieving greater community awareness and involvement.

3.2. The majority of groups that have received funding continue to grow and many have been able to sustainably expand their operations to become established, well known organisations that the public can rely on to reuse or recycle their household items rather than be disposed of as general waste.

3.3. The Committee is asked to:

- i) Note the content of this report

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Name	Designation	Date
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1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	Yes
Corporate Plan	Yes
Resource Implications	Yes
Financial	None
Workforce	None
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
Assessments	None
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	Yes
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	Yes
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
Consultation	Yes
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
Communication	None
Communications Plan	None

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan/ Single Outcome Agreement by:

- having strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.

Corporate Plan

1.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resources allocation. They are as follows:

- (i) Giving every child the best start in life;
- (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and

(v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

1.3 The report supports objective ii, iii, iv and v.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 The content of this report has no financial implications.

Workforce

2.2 The content of this report has no workforce implications.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 The content of this report has no asset management implications.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.2 This section should reflect that the proposals have been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

i) Assessed as **not relevant** for the purposes of EqIA

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.3 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals. The proposals have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.4 Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

- 3.5 An End of Project Monitoring Form was sent to each organisation that received funding so that the impacts of their project could be recorded after a year.
- 3.6 By working in partnership with the community and/or an existing local Reuse Project to divert waste from landfill in Perth and Kinross, Perth & Kinross Council ensured a sustainable approach was taken to the environment, community and economy. This was especially the case as each project either had start-up costs funded or an injection of cash funded so that expansion of the project was possible – in turn diverting more waste from landfill.

Legal and Governance

- 3.7 The Head of Finance and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted on the content on the report.

Risk

- 3.8 Risks associated with individual projects were identified and managed through the assessment process.

4. Consultation

Internal

- 4.1 The Head of Legal Services and the Head of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

External

- 4.2 Each organisation that received Community Waste Funding has subsequently contributed information to Appendix 1.

5. Communication

- 5.1 No further communication is required.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (and not containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above Report; (list papers concerned)

- Report to the Environment Committee on 26 March 2008 entitled New Waste Initiates (Report No: 08/183)
- Report to the Environment Committee on 22 August 2012 entitled Community Waste Fund Update
- Report to the Environment Committee on 5 June 2013 entitled Community Environment Challenge Fund (CECF) Review

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Summary of Grants Awarded and Benefits

Summary of Grants Awarded and Benefits

Appendix 1

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of waste tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
1	Wood Again	Wood recycling project	15,000.00	54.7	0	4	4	This project, based in Perth, took timber off-cuts, and converted them into wooden products. This project has subsequently been discontinued
2	Meigle Primary Parent Council	Reuse bag project	1,030.77	Unable to quantify	N/A	14 parents volunteer on the school council and delivered this Project	N/A	Bags distributed during a local event and householders are still using them now. The school children have replaced their plastic school folders with the bags and these will last them throughout their time at the school. There are also enough bags to equip the next five years' worth of new-starters at the school.

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
3	Community School of Auchterarder	Plastics reuse project	5,940.00	2.0 tonnes to date	0	0	0	The Plastic Recycling Machine was invested in to divert used plastics away from landfill and convert them into useable plastic sheets that can be used by the pupils to manufacture products. The project also involves the primary pupils in the process and forms the basis of the Eco Education Programme. It allows pupils to become involved, first hand, with the recycling process and helps build an understanding of its importance from an early age. The classes that have used the machine have found the process very effective and has really given them an insight as to what actually goes on in the recycling process.

Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
							Two machines were funded by the Community Waste Fund. The first shreds the plastics (such as milk cartons) in to a pulp. Then heat pressers convert the pulp into plastic sheets (which resemble acrylic but are actually plastic). These sheets are then trimmed by laser cutters. The Nursery and Primary Children use the sheets in their respective design classes and are asked to use their imagination to create new products from the plastic sheets. Examples of products made to-date include house-signs, key fobs and clear picture frames. Different products can be made depending on the grade of the plastics used.
4	Transform Commercial	Furniture Reuse Project	15,000.00	73.0 Tonnes	1 FT driver	N/A	6 (via the Community Job Scheme) Collections: 26T, 800 items, 358 individuals Deliveries: 47T, 2060 items, 1409 individuals

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
5	Perth College WEEE Project	To collect WEEE, repair & sell back to community	10,871.50	10.0 tonnes	2	4 Future Jobs Fund posts	15 Get Ready For Work (GRFW) candidates	The WEEE Centre has won 2 public value awards from Scotland Colleges. GRFW is a skills training and work placement scheme for people aged 16 to 19 who are finding it difficult to access training, learning and employment.
6	Perth & Kinross Real Nappy Network (PKRNN)	Delivery of Perth & Kinross Real Nappy Network	25,000.00	348	0	10	0	Funding for 2010. With over 8 million disposable nappies going to landfill each day within the UK, PKRNN is a local organisation which aims to reduce the number of disposables entering the waste stream. It is a voluntary group of local parents, which provides information, advice and support about the wide range of real (washable / cloth) nappies to local parents, health professionals, nurseries and others.

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
7	Comrie Development Trust	Anaerobic Digestion Feasibility Study	4,500.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	The study was carried out but Anaerobic Digestion did not prove to be feasible at this stage.
8	Gateway Enterprise (PKAVS) Community Repaint	Further expansion of Re-paint Project	8,240.00	1703.0 litres	1x16 hours but not sustained beyond funding	2	2	This project took waste paint collected at Recycling Centres, and redistributed it to community groups for use on their project. This initiative has been discontinued.
9	Starter Packs Perth	Household items reuse	2,889.60	See line 18	N/A	N/A	N/A	A reuse organisation which diverts household items, bedding, curtains and towels from landfill for reuse. Starter Packs Perth helps individuals and families on low incomes who have been given the tenancy of a house or flat but who don't have access to basic household goods.

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
								The Volunteers at Starter Packs Perth make up packs of household goods to give people a positive start to their new home lives. They supply everything that contributes to a comfortable home from crockery and bed linen to cleaning materials and toiletries.
10	Salvation Army	Furniture re-use	11,300.00	See line 15	See line 15	See line 15	See line 15	See line 15
11	Beautiful Perth	Westbank Green Compost Project	5,820.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Funding for the Feasibility Study on a potential composting site at Westbank Nursery, Jeanfield Road, Perth.
12	Plastic Bag Free Kinross-shire	Plastic bag free project in Kinross-shire	5,965.05	Unable to quantify	N/A	N/A	N/A	Bags distributed successfully and still in use now. Plastic Bag Free events subsequently delivered and local supermarket offered these bags and displayed Kinross-campaign posters for International Plastic Bag Free Day 2010.
13	Gateway Enterprise - Community Repaint	To improve and develop the current paint re-use project	10,000.00	1824.0 litres	1x16 hours but not sustained beyond funding	3	2	See item 8

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
14	Salvation Army - Furniture Reuse	To expand current furniture re-use project. Application for rent (2009/10)	3,667.00	See line 15	See line 15	See line 15	See line 15	See line 15
15	Salvation Army - Furniture Reuse	To expand current furniture re-use project. Application for rent (2010/11)	3,667 (18, 634 in total)	195 tonnes	1 part time	15	6 training for existing staff, and temporary Future Jobs Fund staff, especially in terms of electrical testing	Project supports the reuse of furniture (which would otherwise be landfilled), and offered for sale at low cost
16	Bankfoot Community Church	To develop an ornamental garden, including a plastic bottle green house & wormery	539.70	Unable to quantify	N/A	N/A	N/A	Project delivered successfully, reclaimed timber used as well as recycled plastic bottles. Wormery and compost bin in place.
17	The Perth Bike Station	To establish a bike recycling project	15,000.00	109.6	3	On average 10	N/A	Two staff recruited first, then the Robertson Trust Funding allowed for a third mechanic to be recruited. This mechanic started as a volunteer then trained up at The Bike Station and was taken on as staff thereafter.

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
18	Starter Packs Perth	To improve the already established household starter pack business	4,842.57	By the end of this year, on track for again 359 Starter Packs = approx 16.0 tonnes of reused materials	N/A	N/A	N/A	Volunteers were in place before funding and are continuing to volunteer with this Project.
19	Coupar Angus Pride of Place	Plastic bag free project in Coupar Angus	3,250.00	Unknown tonnages	N/A	N/A	N/A	Project successfully delivered.
20	Comrie Zero Waste Fortnight	Zero Waste Fortnight	1,782.00	0.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Community run project to minimise the amount of waste produced by the public, for disposal to landfill.
21	Perth & Kinross Real Nappy Network	Real Nappy Project Work	25,000.00	273.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	See Item 6
22	Perth College	Reuse Website	13,000.00	2.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	No new posts were established but 2 staff and 6 students worked on website development and 4 staff on promotion There has been extensive marketing and promotion of the website, both through e-marketing, hard copy marketing, at events and 1-2-1 promotion.

	Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
23	Real Nappy Network	Real Nappy Project Work	28,500.00	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	See Item 6
24	PUSH	The Three Rs	11,650.00	580.0 Kg Textiles 250.0 Kg Other materials	1	6	14	The project now named the 4R's (reduce, reuse, recycle & retail) has been successful and we are actively seeking funding to continue employing the project leader.
25	Starter Packs Perth	To improve the already established household starter pack business	3,055.92	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	See Item 9
26	Carse of Gowrie Sustainability Group	Carse of Gowrie Zero Waste Fortnight	688.89	5.0	0	2	0	
27	Gateway Furniture Project, Wisecraft	Expansion of timber collections	13,916.00	6.0-10.0, Timber 5.0+ general	1 part time (20hrs per week)	4	3	House clearance, and timber recycling has helped to fund the project through resale of goods to the value of approx £7800, in the last year.
28	Remake Scotland	Community Scrapstore	5,235.00	N/A	0.75	18+	N/A	Have also been able to contract a number of local makers & artists to provide educational classes on reuse.

Project	Project brief	Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	Comments
29	Perth Bike Station – moving up a gear	17,000.00	Too early to predict	1 predicted	Too early to predict	Too early to predict	
		Amount Awarded £	Estimate of tonnage of waste diverted from Landfill	Number of new posts established (FTE equivalent)	Number of volunteering opportunities created	Number of training / placement opportunities	
Total expenditure		274,951.00**	1104.40	10.25	92	52	

£2,600 is being held by Grants Direct as commitments not yet claimed for