

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL**Environment Committee****4 June 2014****THE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE FUND (CECF) UPDATE****Report by the Depute Director (Environment)**

This report provide a an update on the award of Community Environment Challenge Funding to Community Groups since the key changes were made to the Fund, as approved by The Environment Committee on 5 June 2013.

1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES

- 1.1 The Environment Committee approved changes to the Community Environment Challenge Fund (CECF) in June 2013 to make the fund more accessible to community groups and local organisations, to streamline the assessment and approval process and to assist community groups to improve their areas, in partnership with the Council (Report No. 13/271).
- 1.2 The revised Fund is aimed at community groups leading and delivering projects to make significant improvements in their local environment which are widely supported by the community. Additionally, the revised Fund requires a long term maintenance commitment for the environmental projects undertaken through the Fund.

2. PROPOSALS

- 2.1 The committee is asked to note the distribution of funding to community projects from the CECF for the period 01 June 2013 – 31 March 2014, as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The outcomes of the CECF to be reported to the Environment Committee on a 12 monthly basis.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 3.1 The revised CECF is continuing to fund the development of sustainable community led environmental improvement projects through an accessible, streamlined, effective assessment and approval process.
- 3.2 The Committee is asked to:
 - i) Note the contents of this Report
 - ii) Request that the outcomes of the CECF to be reported to the Environment Committee in a further 12 months.

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

1. Strategic Implications

Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The proposals in this report relate to the delivery of the Perth and Kinross Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement in terms of following the priorities:

- (i) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (ii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (iii) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

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. The proposals in this report relate to the delivery of the following objectives:

- (i) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
- (ii) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
- (iii) Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations

2. Resource Implications

Financial

- 2.1 The CECF has the following levels of funding available over the period 2013/14 to 2016/17:

Up to £100,000 of funding available annually between 2012/13 and 2016/17.

- 2.2 For the period 01 June 2013 – 31 March 2014, the CECF has committed £100,000 to community groups.

Workforce

- 2.3 The proposals in this report have no workforce implications.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

- 2.4 The proposals aim to enhance public open space assets and/or potentially reduce the maintenance burden on the Council by working in partnership with community groups.

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 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in the Community Environment Challenge Fund report were considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and were assessed as relevant and the following positive outcomes are expected following implementation.
- 3.3 The criteria for the grant requires the applicant to have consulted widely in the community and have community support for the project they are seeking funding for. An improved environment or facilities funded by the grant should benefit most groups and the effect would therefore be positive. An annual review of the success of the grant aid programme will be undertaken including an assessment of equalities in relation to the funding awarded and any negative impacts will be addressed.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 3.4 The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 places a duty on the Council to identify and assess the environmental consequences of its proposals.

- 3.5 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

- 3.6 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 Challenge Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.
- 3.7 There was previously no method of monitoring the impacts of the Community Environment Challenge Fund. It was therefore agreed in June 2013 that an End of Project Feedback Form is sent to each group that has received funding so that the impacts on the community and their local area can be recorded.
- 3.8 By working in partnership with the community to enhance and maintain the environmental quality in locally important areas, we are ensuring a sustainable approach is taken to the environment, community and economy.

Legal and Governance

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

Risk

- 3.10 Risks associated with individual projects are identified and managed through the assessment process.

4. Consultation

Internal

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

External

- 4.2 Before submitting the June 2013 Committee Report, the amended essential and desired criteria were consulted on with representatives from Take A Pride in Perthshire.

5. Communication

- 5.1 Below is a list of the communications which continue to be undertaken as part of implementing the proposals, including the key target audiences and the communication methods.

Communications

- PKC website
- Leaflet
- Launch

Target Audience

Communities across Perth and Kinross including:

- Local groups
- Individuals
- Take A Pride in Perthshire
- In Bloom Committees

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 material extent in preparing the above Report:-

- Environment Committee Report (Ref No. 13/271) – dated 05.06.13
- Environment Committee Report (Ref No. 11/446) – dated 07.09.11

3. APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Projects approved by the CECF since June 2013

Projects supported by the CECF from June 2013 – 31 March 2014

Applicant	Project Brief	Sum Requested	Grant Awarded	Financial Year	Other Notes
Abernethy Environmental Association	Improvement to local park (Phase II of the Project)	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	13/14	Improvement to local park (Phase II of the Project)
Glenfarg and Duncricvie Bloom Association	Railway Wall Community Conservation Project	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	13/14	Railway Wall Community Conservation Project
Breadalbane Community Garden	Development of Community Garden	£2,628.44	£2,628.44	13/14	Development of Community Garden
Methven Playing Field Committee	Renovation of King George V Park	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	13/14	Improvement of local park
TRACKS Community Link Brigade	Creation of a path linking Easter Balgedie with West Balgedie	£5,450.00	£5,450.00	13/14	Linking local community together
Crieff in Leaf Association	Reinstating local wall and installing planters on the High Street	£9,044	£9,044	13/14	Only £7,987.56 to be paid from 13/14 budget, then £1,056.44 to be paid from 14/15 budget
			2013/14 TOTAL =£100,000		The £53,934 of 2013/14 funding was awarded using the previous CECF procedure.

