



Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Empowerment, Communities and
Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities

Contact: Richard Kelly Ext: 70066

Glasgow Communities Fund

Purpose of Report:

This report provides an update on the Glasgow Communities Fund.

Recommendations:

The Committee is invited to:

- note the report
- note the ongoing role of the cross party working group in providing advice on the development of the Fund
- note the update on capacity building support provided and planned (Appendix 1)
- note the latest draft of the equality impact assessment (Appendix 2)

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

Local member(s) advised: Yes No consulted: Yes No

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Glasgow Communities Fund. It is submitted following feedback from the cross-party working group established by this Committee to provide ongoing advice on the development of the Fund.

2 Background

- 2.1 The City Administration Committee on 29 August 2019 approved a [report and appendices](#) setting out the aims, budget, budget assumptions and budget methodology for the Glasgow Communities Fund.
- 2.2 The WECCE at its meeting on 15 August 2019 considered the above report including that a short-life cross-party working group comprising Cllr Layden (Chair), Bailie Christie, Cllrs Connelly, Long and Rhodes would be established to provide input as the work on developing the Fund progresses. The working group has met 7 times as at 5 November.

3 Current Position

- 3.1 The Glasgow Communities Fund was launched on Wednesday 18 September 2019 with, at that time, a closing date of Sunday 20 October 2019.
- 3.2 Following feedback from stakeholders and consideration by the cross party working group, it was decided to accept applications from unincorporated organisations to the Fund. In light of this, the deadline for applications was extended to Friday 25 October 2019 at 5pm for all applicants. This was communicated to all who had received notification of the launch and across social media channels.
- 3.3 During the application window, over 500 queries were received including both by email and telephone. The majority of the queries were submitted to the cesgrants@glasgow.gov.uk mailbox.
- 3.4 Queries were submitted by a range of parties including existing IGF grant-holders and organisations that are not currently funded. In a number of cases organisations or networks lobbied directly or through elected representatives at various levels.
- 3.5 For many of the queries, organisations were referred to the Fund Guidance however in some cases a follow-up call was required. Queries covered a range of subjects including technical questions regarding the application form as well as clarification on eligibility criteria and funding levels. Where the queries were common or of wider relevance, these were used to update the [FAQ](#) on the Glasgow Communities Fund [webpage](#).
- 3.6 At the time of writing, information on the number of applications received, geographical areas and amounts requested is not yet available. Officers are in the process of collating this. Information on the applications received and areas covered will be provided in future reports.

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4 Criteria and assessment process

- 4.1 Officers will use an assessment tool, based on the application form and budget template, to assess and score applications in an objective and transparent manner. Assessments and recommendations will be based on the information provided in the funding applications and how they fit with the priorities of the Fund.
- 4.2 Applicants were advised that it is their responsibility to submit a fully completed application form and required documents by the closing date and that late or incomplete applications will not be accepted. All applications will be subject to an initial technical check to ensure that all required supporting documents have been received, that they were submitted by the deadline and that the grant requested was a minimum of £20,000 per annum.
- 4.3 All applications which pass the initial check will undergo an assessment. All applications will be assessed against the same criteria as follows:
- Organisation/Governance
 - Project Development
 - Project Delivery
 - Project Impact and Outcomes
 - Organisation and Project Finance
 - Sustainability
- 4.4 Each criteria will be scored between 0 – 5 with 0 the lowest and 5 the highest and have been weighted appropriately. There will be moderation and peer review to ensure that applications have been assessed and scored in a consistent manner.
- 4.5 It should be noted that even if an application is considered to be fundable, it may not be funded due to the available budget.

5 Decision making arrangements and timetable

- 5.1 It is anticipated that a report with specific grant recommendations will be submitted to the Council's City Administration Committee and Sector Community Planning Partnerships early in 2020.
- 5.2 Discussions are ongoing with the cross party working group on a range of matters including the specific timetable and format of information to be provided to decision making bodies.

6 Capacity building support

- 6.1 Council officers have been working closely with capacity building partners to plan and deliver tailored, responsive, support for third sector organisations currently funded via the IGF.

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- 6.2 A self-assessment questionnaire was issued to all currently funded IGF third sector organisations in August 2019 to stimulate discussion within organisations towards planning for change and to identify the types of support they may need. This has informed plans for providing services through existing IGF funded capacity building support. A fuller update on the questionnaire, findings, workshops held/planned and future plans is provided in **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 6.3 The work undertaken to date funded via IGF awards will also help inform the development of plans for use of the additional provision of £359,792 agreed by the City Administration Committee on 21 March 2019. This will ensure that these complement the existing programme, for example, for organisations which require assistance with winding down projects at the end of their IGF funding or require support with business development. Updates will continue to be provided and advice sought from the cross party working group.

7 Equality Impact Assessment

- 7.1 As work has progressed on the Glasgow Communities Fund, a full Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) was developed by a small working group of council and third sector colleagues. The latest draft is in **Appendix 2** to this report.
- 7.2 Following discussion at the initial working group meetings, it was agreed that the EQIA would not concentrate on the impact of the end of the IGF, as the decision to close that fund had been made some time ago. Instead, the EQIA should focus on the principles and application/assessment process of the Glasgow Communities Fund to ensure that the new fund has the potential to bring positive impacts to equalities groups.
- 7.3 Whilst it is inevitable that some previously funded organisations will no longer receive the same level of funding, the EQIA concludes that the principles approved by the City Administration Committee, along with published criteria should ensure that organisations working with equalities groups and the most vulnerable are treated fairly. In addition, the new application form asks for more information from applicants on their equalities practice and target service users, which will provide a better baseline of equalities data in future.

8 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

<i>Financial:</i>	Outcomes will be maximised through targeted use of resources and joint working and resourcing with partners
<i>Legal:</i>	No new legal issues
<i>Personnel:</i>	No direct personnel issues
<i>Procurement:</i>	There are no procurement implications

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Council Strategic Plan: The proposal supports all core objectives of the council plan

It is envisaged that the proposal will contribute to objectives: 21, 27, 42, 52, 75, 86.

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2017-22 Yes the proposal has the potential to impact on the council Equality Outcomes in relation to the following Improvement Aims:

- Improve economic outcomes for people with Protected Characteristics; and
- Improve access to council Family Services by people with protected characteristics

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? No impacts identified at this stage. An EQIA will be prepared during development of the funding programmes

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio economic disadvantage. It is anticipated that future funding recommendations will have a positive impact on third sector jobs, skills, local communities, social and community cohesion

Sustainability Impacts:

Environmental: The funding review will support organisations to consider issues around environmental sustainability and the climate emergency

Social, including Article 19 opportunities: It is anticipated that future funding recommendations will have a positive impact on third sector jobs, skills, local communities, social and community cohesion

Economic: It is anticipated that future funding recommendations will have a positive economic impact on local communities across Glasgow

Privacy and Data Protection impacts: No privacy or data protection impacts have been identified

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