

Glasgow Communities Fund – Allocation of funding for next 3 financial years approved – Declarations of interest.

4 With reference to the minutes of 29th August 2019 (Print 3, page 257) approving a new grant fund to replace the Integrated Grant Fund (IGF) and the proposed budget for the next 3 financial years, Councillor Layden, City Convener for Community Empowerment, Equalities and Human Rights, presented a report regarding the proposed grant awards and budget allocations for the Glasgow Communities Fund for the next 3 financial years, advising

- (1) that this committee on 12th March 2020 (Print 7, page 571) had approved a 6-months extension of grant awards for city-wide projects for 2020/21 from 1st April to 30th September 2020 due to the potential impact on existing grant-holders and their service users of a cessation of IGF and no alternative funding programme in place;
- (2) of the application and assessment process, including the scoring framework;
- (3) of the 74 applications recommended for funding totalling £14,289,577 for 30 months from 1st October 2020 to 31st March 2023, as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (4) of the 134 applications which, following assessment, were not recommended for funding, as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (5) of the proposed allocation of Glasgow Communities Fund funding for 30 months totalling £33,342,346 for the 3 Sector Community Planning Partnerships, as detailed in the report;
- (6) of the updated Equalities Impact Assessment, as detailed at Appendix 3 of the report; and
- (7) of the next steps to be undertaken, including a review of the approach taken so far to learn lessons and refine processes for the future.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) acknowledged the hugely important role of community organisations in Glasgow;
- (b) recognised and regretted the frustration and distress this process had caused to people working for and relying on these services and further, recognised that this process had eroded already fragile trust with the third sector and that work was needed to repair this trust, including immediate capacity to deliver useful feedback to all applicants;
- (c) agreed that paragraph 55 in the report be replaced with the following, with subsequent paragraphs being renumbered:-

- “55. We are committed to reviewing the approach taken so far, to learn lessons and strengthen the Council’s relationship with the third sector as needed ahead of the next funding round in 2023. Committee notes the announcement by the City Convener for Community Empowerment, Equalities and Human Rights for a separate transitional fund, and that this fund will support organisations previously funded by the Integrated Grant Fund and unsuccessfully applied to the Glasgow Communities Fund. This fund, subject to the Council’s budgeting process, should match the length of the current Communities Fund.
56. A co-created review, which is both inclusive and comprehensive, of the current process will report well in advance of the end of the transition fund and the Communities Fund. The scope for which review will be brought to Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community and Citizens Engagement City Policy Committee (WECCE) within 6 months and the review report to be brought back to WECCE by September 2021, including consideration of:
- the appropriate and sustainable provision of financial and legal advice and information services;
 - all appropriate avenues to provide funding to and work towards genuine long term partnership with vital infrastructure organisations throughout the city;
 - a full equalities impact assessment of the Communities Fund and the transition towards any new funding model;
 - the impact of COVID-19 on communities and the third sector; and
 - whether the Council is the right body to manage a discretionary grants process, or if better outcomes can be achieved by other methods of delivery.
57. Any proposals for future third sector funding from this Council will be directly informed by this review, developed in partnership with our stakeholders and approved by the relevant Council Committee before the end of 2021. In addition, the Council’s Audit Plan 2020/21 includes a review of the controls and arrangements in relation to the new Fund and will also provide important feedback and insight.”;

(d) approved

- (i) the Glasgow Communities Fund grant awards for city-wide projects for 30 months from 1st October 2020 to 31st March 2023, as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes;
- (ii) the Glasgow Communities Fund budget allocations to the Sector Community Planning Partnerships for 30 months from 1st October 2020 to 31st March 2023, as detailed in the report; and
- (iii) the next steps, as detailed in paragraphs 54 to 60 of the report; and

- (e) agreed in terms of Standing Order No 30 (7), that this decision would not be subject to the call-in process for the reasons set out in the report.

In terms of Standing Order No 27

- (i) Councillor Aitken declared an interest in relation to Citizens' Theatre;
- (ii) Councillor Hunter declared an interest in relation to 63 HIV Scotland Fast Tracking Glasgow;
- (iii) Councillor Kelly declared an interest in relation to the Easterhouse Citizens' Advice Bureau and Glasgow East Arts Company;
- (iv) Councillor Thomas Kerr declared an interest in relation to the Glasgow International Jazz Festival Board; and
- (v) Councillor Long declared an interest in relation to Glasgow Women's Library.