



Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community  
and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities

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**Item 3**

15th April 2021

**Review of the Glasgow Communities Fund – scoping paper**

**Purpose of Report:**

To set out key considerations and proposed objectives for the scope of the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund.

**Recommendations:**

The committee is invited to:

- Note the report
- Comment on the key considerations and proposed objectives
- Consider the next steps outlined for taking forward the review and reporting back to this committee by September 2021

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

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## Introduction

1. This report sets out the context and proposed objectives for the scope of the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund. The purpose of the review is twofold:
  - to look back and identify the lessons learned from the approach taken through the development and introduction of the Fund in October 2020 and
  - to look forward in order to provide recommendations, based on the learning and current context, for the next round of the Fund from April 2023.
2. The committee is also asked to note that the council's Audit and Inspection are undertaking an audit of the Glasgow Communities Fund. The purpose of this audit is to gain assurance that the applications and assessment process was appropriate and inclusive. It is anticipated that a report on this audit will be submitted to the council's Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 5 May 2021 and that it will provide valuable learning that can be taken account of in the wider review.

## Background

3. The development and implementation of the Glasgow Communities Fund has previously been discussed at this committee and at the City Administration Committee.
4. Alongside agreeing to the recommendations for funding, the City Administration Committee on [3 September 2020](#) 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.*
5. The committee also agreed to include 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.*
6. The committee also agreed that *"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."*

## Social Recovery Taskforce

7. Against this background, the Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted existing inequalities within Glasgow. It has also provided an opportunity to refocus on

priorities and the importance of the need for partners and the council to connect, collaborate and contribute to building resilience and empowerment at a local level.

8. The [Social Recovery Taskforce](#) (SRTF) was established in July 2020. It has been undertaking some work which has informed the proposed scope and will further inform the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund.
9. The SRTF is focused on several workstreams to aid recovery. These include Third Sector, Child Poverty, Disabled Communities, Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, Violence Against Women and Young People/Transitions.
10. The SRTF is supported by an Academic Advisory Group of colleagues from the University of Glasgow / Policy Scotland and Glasgow Centre for Population Health.
11. All workstreams have been provided with a series of questions to help inform their key priorities and outcomes. These outcomes will, in time, become a new Community Action Plan with governance oversight through the Strategic Partnership of the Glasgow Community Planning Partnership.
12. The responses to the question below, which each workstream has been asked to consider, will be used to inform the review:

*Are system changes required in the relationship between the council and voluntary sector partners to reduce duplication and lead to greater transparency in determining how resources should be distributed between place, interest and identity priorities? The working group are asked to consider a range of options, including the possibility of moving to a commissioning system for service delivery, rather than the bidding and scoring system used for the Communities Fund. There is no preferred option at this stage – this is a consultative and exploratory exercise.*

13. There is a specific Third Sector Work Stream of the SRTF. This will focus on the relationship between the third and public sector in the city and will explore both high-level and general principles around funding as part of its work. It will also produce a refreshed Concordat between the third sector and the council.

### **Proposed objectives of the review**

14. The committee is asked to note that the City Convener for Community Empowerment, Equalities and Human Rights and Director for Community Empowerment and Equalities have met with representatives of the Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network (GTSIN) to seek their views on the review. Their input is reflected in the proposed scope including objectives and questions set out below.
15. The committee is asked to consider the proposed objectives for the review as follows:
  - To address the issues set out by the City Administration Committee on 3 September 2020 (paragraphs 4 – 6 above)

- To review the approach taken so far in order to learn lessons and refine processes for the future
- To develop refreshed aims for the GCF which seek to address the city's strategic priorities
- To explore through a collaborative and inclusive approach how the third sector can be best supported to address unmet need in our communities – including communities of place, interest and identity
- To reset the relationship between the council and the third sector, acknowledging the unintended detrimental impact of funding decisions through the GCF on the sector
- To help inform the scope of future reviews in particular looking at other discretionary grant funds disbursed by the council across financial services, creative and cultural services and sport

### **Proposed scope of the review**

16. As part of the scope of the review, it may be useful to set out the questions that the review should address. This is not to suggest that other questions may not emerge but rather to ensure that key areas are addressed as fundamental to the review. These questions may be categorised and in some cases may be dependent on other questions. The key focus at this time is to ensure that the key questions, many of which relate to policy areas, are agreed upon as the basis for taking the review forward.
17. The committee is asked to consider the question areas which have been clustered below and to put forward additional areas to be included in the scope:

#### **Learning**

- a. What lessons can be learned from the Glasgow Communities Fund thus far including but not limited to: communications, timescales, application process, potential application stages (e.g. eligibility checks), scoring, sector and citywide budgets, decision making, feedback to applicants

#### **Aims, purpose, strategy**

- b. What is the purpose of a discretionary grant fund such as the Glasgow Communities Fund
- c. How can the council and elected members take a strategic approach to the allocation of resources to address inequalities and unmet need across the city
- d. Are there types of services that should not be funded through a discretionary grant fund and what transitional funding arrangements may be needed

#### **Funding models**

- e. Are there examples of positive collaboration and partnership between the council and third sector in particular that could be drawn on as potential models for future funding and service delivery

#### **Policy**

- f. Should funds be ring-fenced for specific services / service types
- g. Should the GCF be open to all organisations or specific sectors

- h. Should there be minimum standards for all funded projects (e.g. in relation to equalities, inclusion, climate change, governance)
- i. Should applicants be large or small (e.g. depending on levels of income)
- j. Should applicants be incorporated
- k. Should there be a minimum and/or maximum grant size for the GCF

### **Impact**

- l. How do we best monitor and evaluate the impact of funding

18. Once the question areas have been agreed, an explanatory narrative will, where appropriate, be provided to set the context.

19. As well as addressing these questions, the review should also consider whether there might be possible unintended consequences of any recommendations.

### **Stakeholders**

20. It is proposed to hold workshops with a wide range of stakeholders including members of GTSIN, the Social Recovery Taskforce, networks supporting communities of interest and identity and Community Planning Partnership partners. These workshops would be facilitated by an external organisation to enable full participation by stakeholders. The output from the workshops would be written up and analysed as part of the review. The workshops would be complemented by a survey/consultation process.

21. As part of the review, it is also intended to engage with other funders including National Lottery Community Fund and the Robertson Trust. This will assist as we come to set the priorities for the next round of the Fund but also to benchmark with best practice in relation to application, monitoring and evaluation processes.

### **Next steps**

22. It is proposed, following committee feedback on this report, to arrange workshops from May 2021 to seek the views of stakeholders to be fed into review recommendations to be submitted to WECCE by September 2021.

### **Policy and Resource Implications**

#### **Resource Implications:**

*Financial:* Outcomes will be maximised through targeted use of resources and joint working and resourcing with partners

*Legal:* No new legal issues

*Personnel:* No direct personnel issues

*Procurement:* There are no procurement implications

**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.

*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

**Recommendations**

23. The committee is invited to:

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