



Glasgow City Council

Wellbeing, Empowerment, Community
and Citizen Engagement City Policy Committee

Report by Director of Community Empowerment and Equalities

Contact: Richard Kelly

Ext: 0141 287 0066

Item 2

11th November 2021

Review of the Glasgow Communities Fund

Purpose of Report:

To update on Third Sector consultation undertaken by Ipsos MORI to inform the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund and to seek committee's views on responses to the consultation, proposed next steps and a draft timetable

Recommendations:

The committee is invited to:

- Note the report
- Consider the report at **Appendix 1** from Ipsos MORI following consultation with the Third Sector
- Consider the responses to the consultation and recommendations at **Appendix 2**
- Consider the next steps and draft timetable at **Appendix 3**

Ward No(s):

Citywide:

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

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

Any Ordnance Survey mapping included within this Report is provided by Glasgow City Council under licence from the Ordnance Survey in order to fulfil its public function to make available Council-held public domain information. Persons viewing this mapping should contact Ordnance Survey Copyright for advice where they wish to licence Ordnance Survey mapping/map data for their own use. The OS web site can be found at <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk> "

If accessing this Report via the Internet, please note that any mapping is for illustrative purposes only and is not true to any marked scale

Introduction

1. A report setting out the scope of the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund was presented to this committee on [15 April 2021](#) with a wider update on the Glasgow Communities Fund including the review provided in a report to this committee on [12 August 2021](#).
2. The purpose of the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund is:
 - 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.
3. The committee will recall that Ipsos MORI have been commissioned to carry out independent research with the Third Sector to inform the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund. Regular meetings have been held with Ipsos MORI and the Glasgow Third Sector Interface Network (GTSIN) to agree and finalise fieldwork. The research included:
 - An online survey of third sector organisations (with 241 respondents) running from 28 June to 6 August 2021
 - Online focus groups (c. 90 minutes) with small groups of stakeholders (55 individuals), to explore their views in more detail
4. Ipsos MORI have produced a full report on the consultation with the Third Sector – this is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report. **Appendix 2** provides a response to key points raised during the Third Sector consultation (included in **Appendix 1**) and, where required, makes recommendations for addressing these points in a future phase of the Glasgow Communities Fund.
5. The Ipsos MORI report will be used to inform the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund and will be fed into the future shape of funding for the Third Sector alongside other feedback including, but not limited to, views from the [Social Recovery Taskforce](#) on future funding arrangements, audits of the Glasgow Communities Fund application and grants processes and strategic and financial considerations by Elected Members.
6. The committee is also asked to note that during October 2021 a survey of all Elected Members was undertaken by Ipsos MORI. It is anticipated that this will also be used to inform the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund in particular in relation to strategic and financial aspects of the review.

Background

7. The City Administration Committee on [3 September 2020](#) approved recommendations for the Glasgow Communities Fund and 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. 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.*
8. 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.”*
9. In April 2021, WECCE approved the scope for the review which had been developed in collaboration with GTSIN.

Objectives for the review

10. This committee agreed the objectives for the review as follows:

- To address the issues set out by the City Administration Committee on 3 September 2020 (paragraphs 7 – 8 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

11. This committee also agreed a number of question areas to be included in the scope including Learning, Aims, Funding models, Policy and Impact. These were used as the basis for the consultation with the Third Sector undertaken by Ipsos MORI.

Internal Audits of Glasgow Communities Fund

12. During Spring 2021, the council’s Audit and Inspection conducted an audit of the Glasgow Communities Fund application process. The scope of the audit was to

gain assurance that the applications process was appropriate and inclusive, that transactions made were appropriate, authorised, recorded and were processed in line with documented procedures.

13. A [report](#) was submitted to Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee on 5 May 2021 noting that a reasonable level of assurance can be placed upon the control environment. The report identified three recommendations for improvement
14. The committee is informed that officers will address the recommendations in line with the timescales detailed in the report to Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee and that the recommendations will also feed into the development of a future phase of the Fund.
15. A further internal audit is currently underway on the administration of grant awards under the Glasgow Communities Fund and a further report will be submitted to Finance and Audit Scrutiny Committee later in 2021/22.

Social Recovery Taskforce

16. The committee will recall from previous reports (most recently on [12 August 2021](#)) that the Social Recovery Taskforce (SRTF) was established in July 2020 and that there are several workstreams underway to aid recovery. These include Third Sector, Child Poverty, Disabled Communities, Black and Minority Ethnic Communities, Violence Against Women and Young People/Transitions.
17. The responses to the question below, which each workstream has been asked to consider, will be used to inform the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund:

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.

18. There is a specific Third Sector workstream 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.
19. The committee is informed that responses to the question at paragraph 18 above will also be built into the review of the Glasgow Communities Fund.

Next steps

20. Following committee feedback on this report, a number of next steps are proposed including:

- developing, with third sector partners and other funders, the operational improvements to a future phase of the Fund drawing on **Appendices 1 and 2** to this report
- decisions on the strategic and financial shape of the Fund to be determined by the City Administration Committee in June 2022 as outlined in the draft high level timetable at **Appendix 3**
- the establishment of a short-life working group, chaired by Councillor Layden, to help shape the next phase of the Fund. A nomination is sought from each political party on WECCE and up to 3 representatives from the Third Sector

21. Meantime, it is proposed that officers develop a project plan and timescales for delivery of a future phase of the Glasgow Communities Fund from April 2023. This will include development and appraisal of policy options for consideration by WECCE in March 2022 to inform decisions by the City Administration Committee in June 2022. Such policy options could include the Fund being administered by the council (a) as currently or (b) with a greater level of devolved decision making through the Area Partnerships or (c) via an external organisation. The advantages and disadvantages of each policy option would be set out including the decision making arrangements and potential costs of each model.

22. The committee is asked to note that feedback from the elected member survey (paragraph 6 above) and from the Social Recovery Taskforce work (paragraphs 16-19 above) will also inform the future shape of the Fund.

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 Yes the proposal has the potential to impact on the council Equality Outcomes in relation to the following Improvement Aims:

2021-25? Please specify. 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

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify: It is anticipated that future funding will contribute to the continuing regeneration of Glasgow with many of the supported projects also led by local communities and community organisations

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal? It is anticipated that funding awards will have a positive impact on third sector jobs, skills, local communities, social and community cohesion

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target? At this time, no contribution to Glasgow's net zero carbon target

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts: No privacy or data protection impacts identified.

Recommendations

23. The committee is invited to:

- Note the report
- Consider the report at **Appendix 1** from Ipsos MORI following consultation with the Third Sector
- Consider the responses to the consultation and recommendations at **Appendix 2**
- Consider the next steps and draft timetable at **Appendix 3**