

OFFICIAL



Glasgow City Council

City Administration Committee

Report by: Councillor Richard Bell, Depute Leader of the Council,
City Treasurer and Convener for Financial Inclusion

Item 4

22nd June 2022

Contact: Lesley Haddow Ext 74280

EMERGING NEEDS COVID RECOVERY FUND

Purpose of Report:

To provide Elected Members with an update on the projects agreed at the City Administration Committee (CAC) on 2nd September 2021, and confirmation of unallocated expenditure, supported by the Emerging Needs COVID Recovery Fund.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Committee notes the content of the report.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide Elected Members with an update on the projects agreed at City Administration Committee (CAC) ¹ on 2nd September 2021, and confirmation of unallocated expenditure, from the Emerging Needs COVID Recovery Fund.

2. Background to the Emerging Needs COVID Recovery Fund

- 2.1 Elected Members agreed in the 2021/22 council budget that a fund of £2 million was to be allocated to target poverty reduction and a community-focused recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.
- 2.2 This is a one-off fund and all payments allocated to support services are non-recurring. The aim of this fund is to support financial inclusion, access to healthy food and respond to the emerging needs of Glasgow's communities as the city begins its recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. Projects Supported by the Fund

- 3.1 The Transformation and Financial Inclusion Team (the Team) used the experience gathered from our partnership working during the emergency response to the pandemic, to engage further with these organisations to determine opportunities to make best use of the recovery fund.
- 3.2 In particular, we engaged with those organisations that represent some of our most disadvantaged citizens and those most affected by the pandemic, for example, disabled people, lone parent families and women experiencing domestic violence; and where we identified other negative impacts, exacerbated by the pandemic. In recognition of these challenges facing our citizens, the funding proposals that committee considered are shown in table 1:

Table 1

Organisation	Funding cost
Terrence Higgins Trust	£30,000
Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living	£150,000
Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations	£100,000
Women's Aid Groups	£200,000
Glasgow Disability Alliance	£100,000
Clyde Gateway & Partners	£500,000
Food Growing Strategy	£200,000
Neighbourhood & Regeneration Services (NRS) Private Rented Sector Housing and Welfare Team (Hub)	£400,000
Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP)Team	£210,000

¹ [CAC Report -COVID Recovery Fund](#)

OFFICIAL

Cash First (Review of Scottish Welfare Fund)	£30,000*
Total	£1,890,000

*This was decommitted as the Scottish Government undertook a national review of the Scottish Welfare Fund process.

- 3.3 Committee was asked to accept a recommendation in the CAC report of September 2021 that would allow the FI team to work with other support organisations and then distribute the unallocated balance of the funding and report on this later. Table 2 provides an update on the funding that has now been committed:

Table 2

Organisation	Funding cost
Subtotal from table 1	£1,890,000
Bus travel for under 22s	£50,000
Dixon Community Multi-Cultural Day Care Centre	£20,000
Simon Community	£40,000
Total	£2,000,000

- 3.4 These funded projects support a range of services that will make a significant difference to those most affected by the pandemic. The following table briefly describes the type of service these organisations offered and the outcomes to date.

Organisation	Project Type	Outcome
Terence Higgins Trust	Financial Inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 37 clients supported • Financial gains of £35k • Financial savings of £5k • Debt managed £1.5k
Glasgow Centre for Independent Living	Employability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding supported 19 individuals to participate in GCIL's intensive personal development programme "Achieve the Success You Deserve".
VAWG Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for tenancies (Glasgow East Women's Aid) 	One off payment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments for one off items or services, e.g., houses deep

OFFICIAL

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist Activities • Fund to Support front line VAWG services 	<p>Safety and info on court action</p>	<p>cleaned prior to uptake of tenancy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case studies (see appendix) • Monthly events for 20 single women who've been particularly isolated during the pandemic. • Six weekly confidence building course for 16 women. • 'Welcome to Glasgow' course – 5 sessions for 12 women with information on key services / how to access support. • The grant has also increased staffing to allow for more capacity to provide individual support.
<p>Glasgow Disability Alliance</p>	<p>Employability</p>	<p>Issued Cloudbook Laptops and 1 Laptop Computer to 6 individuals supported by the project. These will be used for a variety of online activities.</p> <p>It also allowed GDA to provide MiFi portable battery powered wireless devices to facilitate broadband access to the internet. Individuals who are being supported through Connects team support and coaching will be referred on for Digital Employability Project engagement.</p>
<p>Clyde Gateway</p>	<p>Employability</p>	<p>Engaged with 150 families to date, which</p>

OFFICIAL

		<p>has highlighted an interest in employability in the following sectors, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 14 care & hospitality• 22 childcare/classroom assistant• 9 ESOL (BME) <p>In addition, the project team is fully supporting 26 families into employment and this number will continue to grow based on the above engagement exercise.</p>
Corporate Policy (GCC)	Food	<p>Funding allocated to the Bellahouston Green Recovery Project that is led by Locavore CIC and to date has supported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infrastructure for community and individual growing plots and initial costs of a community gardener to support this• Establishment of an orchard and soft fruit beds• Repair and replacement of polytunnels and set up for full production in 2022, expected to create 6 new Living Wage jobs within the season• Further repairs and renewals to the glasshouse to stabilise for use for propagation and made ready for future investment.

OFFICIAL

		The funding has also allowed for the extension of the Alexandra Rose voucher scheme in Glasgow.
Pantries Network	Food	Funding allocated to support the current transport arrangements provided by Community Transport Glasgow to the Scottish Pantry Network.
Private Rented Sector	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 973 applications received • Tenancy sustainment 84% • Homelessness prevention 87% • Income generated for clients £56k • Case studies see appendix.
West of Scotland Housing Forum	Employment	Engaging with 9 registered social landlords has resulted in 13 modern apprenticeships posts being funded.
Bus travel for under 22s	Marketing	The FI Team has assisted with visiting all Glasgow Secondary schools and received 4,800 applications for S1/S2.
Dixon Community Multi-Cultural Day Care Centre	Supporting local community activities for vulnerable older people.	Case studies see appendix
Simon Community	Assistance with the cost of internal construction	Capital expenditure allocated to support the cost of the build of "Our

OFFICIAL

		Space” Women’s Day Centre.
--	--	----------------------------

3.5 Underpinning this targeted approach is the opportunity for closer working between organisations to understand the complexities and realities of the lives of our citizens. This will allow us to develop and provide a more comprehensive holistic level of support which has previously not always been available.

4. Feedback on outcomes

4.1 The fund recipients provide feedback on their programmes; however, this is proportionate to the value and the level of expected outcomes.

5. Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: This report details the actual spend against the £2m investment announced in the 2021/22 budget under the Emerging Needs COVID Recovery Fund.

Legal: The report raises no new legal issues

Personnel: There are no direct personnel implications

Procurement: There are no relevant procurement issues

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council’s Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Yes.
Outcome 1- An increased proportion of women, black and minority ethnic people, younger people, disabled people and LGBTI+ are supported to enter employment or training.
Outcome 3 - Service users are provided with information accessible to them on services provided by the Council Family particularly, those who face barriers through disability, language and digital exclusion.
Outcome 4 - Glasgow’s work to end violence against women and girls

Positive impact - EQIA available via this link [ENCRF EQIA](#)

OFFICIAL

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report?

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage.

Enabling those most vulnerable and in our deprived areas access to suitable training and child care that will improve their employment opportunities. Citizens with disabilities, language or digital issues are being supported by the council and 3rd sector organisations to ensure they are accessing the appropriate services, benefits and digital training to help them increase their employment opportunities. Proposed funding to services to that support work to end violence against women.

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Plan actions? Please specify:

Yes. Climate plan Theme 4: Health and Wellbeing.

One of the proposed funded projects is to support improving the accessibility and affordability of fresh food across our most deprived communities. This will be delivered as part of the City's Food Growing Strategy/City Food Plan and will focus particularly on securing supply through food pantries and community food initiatives.

What are the potential climate impacts as a result of this proposal?

Reduced food miles and minimises waste, while also promoting healthy, seasonal and ethically sourced food available to all.

Will the proposal contribute to Glasgow's net zero carbon target?

Yes.

Privacy and Data

Protection impacts: None

6. Recommendations:

It is recommended that committee notes the content of the report.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

Appendix – Case Studies

Assist – Case studies

1. A client's court case was finalised, but she was disappointed with the court's decision.

Outcome - The client stated to her Assist worker "I don't know how sane I would have been without you. You were really, really helpful and took the time to talk through things regarding court when no one else was telling me anything and I can't thank you enough".

2. Another client told her worker that before their support she used to have to hide any treats she bought for the children as her ex-partner tried to retain total financial control of her.

Outcome – The client said that recently she has been treating the children to normal things (ice cream and visits to cafés). She says it breaks her heart to see how pleased, surprised, and grateful they are and how much things have changed since he is no longer in her life.

3. A client told her worker that she had been in court the previous day when the accused's lawyer asked if my client would accept a plea deal if the accused pled guilty to just one of the charges. Our client refused the request and the accused pled guilty to 5 out of the 6 charges. The charges included: assault to injury and multiple breaches of bail.

Outcome – The client was very thankful for the support from ASSIST and the client said that a few months ago she wouldn't have been able to stick up for herself. She feels she has come a long way and has 'won' and regained some of her strength and control.

PRS – Case study

The tenant was a lone parent with 4 children who worked 16 hours per week. She was struggling financially and had accumulated approximately £1600 in rent arrears, due partly to communication issues with her landlord who had recently purchased the property. The property was also infested with rats and in a state of disrepair and this was adding to the stress for the tenant and her young family.

Outcome

The PRS team contacted colleagues in Financial Services' Housing Benefit (HB) team and sorted out her HB claim that led to the tenant receiving almost £6k in backdated benefit that cleared her rent arrears and has brought her rent account up to date. The tenant had excessive fuel costs and she was referred to HEAT that are supporting her to reduce her fuel costs and provide fuel/energy advice. While the financial issues were being addressed the PRS team were able to communicate effectively with the landlord who agreed to sort out the rat infestation problem and not only carried out repairs but renewed the kitchen and the flooring throughout the

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

house as he wanted to help his tenant sustain her tenancy and avoid homelessness. As it was nearly Christmas the PRS team's partnership with a local charity ensured the tenant got help with toys and gifts for her children and this avoided unnecessary debt.

Dixon Community Multi-Cultural Day Care Centre - Case study

Mrs B is 85yrs of age. She lives with her daughter, who works full time. There is no other family support. Her daughter advised that prior to lockdown, Mrs B was reasonably independent, going to the local bingo hall 3-4 times per week, going to the hairdresser, arranging and attending her own medical appointments. Mrs B had several health problems: Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure and a previous diagnosis of depression. Mrs B's GP had also intimated that she had Vascular Dementia, but this had not been confirmed. It was agreed that Mrs B would benefit from attending the Day Opportunities project where staff would be on hand to assist and support Mrs B.

Outcome

Mrs B comes to the centre on a Tuesday. She also attends the special events organised by the centre.

She has told her daughter she loves coming to the Centre – that she really looks forward to her outing on a Tuesday, her toastie at lunchtime, meeting other people and the game of bingo.

Mrs B loves the special events and singers organised by Centre and is always asking staff when the next afternoon will be. Mrs B loves singing and always makes sure she has a front row seat for entertainment. Mrs B has become more confident and healthier.

OFFICIAL