

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**MEETING DATE:** 12 March 2013

**BY:** Executive Director (Support Services)

**SUBJECT:** 2013/14 Partnership Funding from Fairer East Lothian Fund, Safer East Lothian Fund and Miscellaneous Grants

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report makes recommendations on awards to external organisations from partnership funds held within the Corporate Policy and Improvement budget.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the proposed allocation of funding from the Miscellaneous Grants (Sections 3.6, 3.8, 3.10, and 3.13)
- 2.2 That Cabinet agrees the proposed allocation of funding from the Safer East Lothian Fund (Section 3.17)
- 2.3 That Cabinet approves the process for distributing the Fairer East Lothian Fund (Sections 3.26, 3.27 and 3.32)
- 2.4 Authority to make final decisions regarding the distribution of Fairer East Lothian Fund within the allocations detailed in Sections 3.26, 3.27 and 3.31 be delegated to two Councillors (the Council Leader and Deputy Leader) in consultation with the Head of Policy and Partnerships as per Standing Order 44.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Corporate Policy and Improvement service within Policy and Partnership holds three partnership funds for which the recently approved 2012/13 budget contains the following amounts to be allocated:

- Miscellaneous Grants                      £306,000
- Safer East Lothian Fund                      £180,000

- Fairer East Lothian Fund £343,000

### **Miscellaneous Grants**

- 3.2 The Miscellaneous Grants budget funds organisations not directly supported by other Council services. With restricted funding levels available, most of the budget is now allocated to supporting a relatively small number of organisations core funding support to the Haddington and Musselburgh Citizen's Advice Bureaux (CABx), funding for the Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home, sponsorship of the Annual Whatton Lodge Golf Competition and annual membership of the Centre for Scottish Public Policy and the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty.
- 3.3 In March 2012 Cabinet agreed to transfer £104,000 from the Fairer East Lothian Fund so that the grants from the Fund made to the two CABx could be rolled into their core funding Service Level Agreement to provide sustainability to allow the CABx to meet client needs. Therefore the total level of funding available through Miscellaneous Grants was increased to £306,000 and it has been maintained at this level for 2013/14.

### ***Haddington and Musselburgh CABx***

- 3.4 The Council initiated a review of welfare and money advice services in 2011. This review has not yet been completed although the recommendations from an interim were accepted in March 2012, including the 'mainstreaming' of the CABx Fairer East Lothian Fund grants referred to above and the re-instating of budget provision for the Council's Welfare Rights Service. The completion of the review has been delayed due to various factors including diversion of key staff resources to support the Council's response to welfare reforms. Completion of the review of welfare and money advice services is now a key action in the Welfare Reform Group's action plan as it is recognised that the demands of advice agencies will increase, it will be crucial to ensure that vulnerable families and individuals have access to advice and services that increase their financial capability.
- 3.5 The current Service Level Agreements with the two CABx currently provides them with funding totalling £298,562. This funding includes core funding for the Bureau, funding for money advice and the grant previously allocated from the Fairer East Lothian Fund. Haddington CAB, which also receives support towards the rent of its property, receives a total of £154,272. Musselburgh CAB receives a total of £144,290. It is also important to recognise and note that the CAB also benefits from a subsidised rental of council owned property, which in effect should be considered as grant in kind. The Estates Manager has advised that the value of this subsidy is approximately £9,205pa.
- 3.6 It is recommended that pending the outcome of the review of welfare and money advice services, which should include consideration of the option of creating either an East Lothian Group CAB or a single CAB, the Service Level Agreements with Haddington CAB and Musselburgh CAB

should be extended for a further year and that funding should remain at the level agreed for 2012/13.

***Lothian Mine Workers Convalescent Home (LMWCH)***

- 3.7 The Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home Trust (LMWCH) provides convalescence for retired miners, their wives and the widows of retired miners in the Lothian area at Whatton Lodge, Gullane. The home accommodates approximately 200 beneficiaries each summer and, in doing so, also indirectly provides valuable respite time to the many carers living within East Lothian. In 2011/12 the Council gave the LMWCH a grant of £5,300. LMWCH has requested funding from the Council for 2013/14 to enable it to continue providing this valuable service to the community.
- 3.8 It is recommended that the 2013/14 grant funding be frozen at last year's level of £5,300, subject to receipt of satisfactory annual report and accounts.

***Annual Whatton Lodge Charity Golf Competition***

- 3.9 In addition to the core grant outlined in 3.7 above, the Council has traditionally supported the LMCH by sponsoring the Annual Whatton Lodge Golf Competition at Royal Musselburgh Golf Course. Since its inception ten years ago the event has raised around £100,000 for the LMCH charity.
- 3.10 It is recommended that a sponsorship contribution of £500 be agreed in 2013, noting that this will entitle the Council to enter a four ball team and to attend the evening fundraising dinner.

***Annual Membership of Centre for Scottish Public Policy (CSPP) and the Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty (SLGFAP)***

- 3.11 In 2011/12 the Council took out annual membership of the CSPP and the SLGFAP – £250 and £960 respectively. The CSPP is an independent think tank, which promotes the development of public policy in Scotland by providing new thinking whilst challenging existing structures, systems and levels of public engagement. It provides a range of services, including organising conferences and seminars covering a range of issues relevant to local government.
- 3.12 The SLGFAP is a cross-party network of Scottish local authority elected members and officers, together with other public and third sector organisations with a specific interest in antipoverty and social justice issues. Over the last year the Forum has provided a forum for disseminating information about and discussion around the impact of the welfare reform agenda.
- 3.13 It is recommended that the Council renews its memberships of both the CSPP and the SLGFAP.

### **Safer East Lothian Fund**

- 3.14 The allocation for the Safer East Lothian Fund (SELF) in 2013/14 has been maintained at the same level as was set in 2012/13 - £180,000.
- 3.15 The SELF has been available for a number of years to support community safety related activity, including contributing towards the Council's funding of the Police Initiative Teams, youth diversionary activity, home safety, road safety and supporting activities aimed at tackling violence against women.
- 3.16 Projects/ initiatives supported through the SELF contribute to the delivery of Community Safety SOA outcomes. In some instances funding allocations have been identified to support broad areas of work, with detailed proposals for use of the funds to be made by relevant officer/ partner groups. The following table shows how the funding was allocated in 2012/13 for specific projects or areas of work

**Table 1: Recommended allocation of funding from SELF**

<b>Project / initiative</b>	<b>Amount (£)</b>
Musselburgh Policing team	79,000
The Risk Factory	11,170
Youth diversionary work The East Lothian Tasking and Coordinating Group will be responsible for allocating these funds based on analysis of local evidence to target interventions where most needed	45,000
Violence Against Women work To support the work of the East Lothian Violence Against Women Partnership's	25,000
Road Safety	4,000
Carefree Kids (home safety work)	12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£176,170</b>
<b>Total available</b>	<b>£180,000</b>
<b>Currently unallocated</b>	<b>£3,830</b>

- 3.17 It is recommended that 2013/14 funds be allocated in the same way. The above table shows that £3,830 remains unallocated. This funding will be used to progress delivery of Community Safety outcomes. Since the amount involved is relatively small it is suggested that delegating authority would be more appropriate than repeatedly approaching Cabinet. It is recommended that authority to make decisions regarding

this remaining funding be delegated to two Councillors (the Council Leader and Deputy Leader) in consultation with the Head of Policy and Partnerships as per Standing Order 44.

### **Fairer East Lothian Fund**

- 3.18 The Fairer East Lothian Fund (FELF) was established to support projects that work to tackle poverty and deprivation in support of the Single Outcome Agreement outcomes: *'Fewer people in East Lothian will experience poverty'*.
- 3.19 The total available for disbursement from the Fairer East Lothian Fund in 2013/14 is £343,000
- 3.20 As detailed above (para 3.3) £104,000 was allocated from the Fund to be included in the Service Level Agreement funding the Haddington CAB and Musselburgh CAB. In addition in 2012/13 grants totalling £372,000 were made to 11 projects which supported one or more of these outcomes. These grants were made with no commitment to funding being continued beyond March 2013.
- 3.21 The Council was approached in early 2012 by Macmillan Cancer to jointly fund a Macmillan Benefits Adviser in East Lothian based within the Council's Welfare Rights Service for six years. The contribution of c. £21,000 per year from MacMillan has been matched by the Council with funding being transferred from the Fairer East Lothian Fund to Adult Wellbeing.
- 3.22 The draft Tackling Poverty Strategic Action Plan which is being developed by the Community Planning Partnership's Tackling Poverty Theme Group will be finalised in April 2013. The Plan will align with the Action Plan being developed by Council's Welfare Reform Task Group to ensure that the Council is prepared for the introduction of welfare reforms and takes action to mitigate the worst impacts of the reforms.
- 3.23 It is proposed that, rather than invite Council services and outside organisations to apply for funding, a more structured approach should be taken with the aim of ensuring that the Fund is used to support the Plan and its key outcomes (e.g. eliminating potential duplication, creating greater capacity to address specific issues rather than dissipating funds across too many organisations and using funding to achieve matched funding from other sources).
- 3.24 It is recommended that the Fund be allocated to support the Tackling Poverty Plan outcomes as follows.

***People in East Lothian will have better access to advice and information, including debt and money advice  
and  
Fewer people in East Lothian will be financially excluded and all vulnerable groups will have access to advice and services that increase financial capability***

- 3.25 As detailed above significant funding – almost £300,000 – is being provided to Haddington CAB and Musselburgh CAB and a further £21,000 has been taken from the Fund as the match fund element for the Macmillan Benefits Adviser. However, it is recognised that the welfare reforms will increase the demand for welfare and money advice and that vulnerable groups will need to have access to advice and services that increase their financial capability. For example, the East Lothian's Carer's Strategy includes an outcome to 'increase access to appropriate debt and financial advice for carers and families (and to support those worst affected by welfare reform changes).'
- 3.26 Therefore, it is proposed that £120,000 of the Fairer East Lothian Fund should be allocated to support an initiative or initiatives that address unmet need for advice and information from vulnerable groups, including carers. Several projects currently funded through the Fund provide debt and financial advice – Action Group, Carers of East Lothian and Changeworks. It is proposed that these groups should be approached with a view to co-producing a project or projects that meet this aim.

***People furthest from the labour market develop work ready skills and Families have the support they need to thrive and children have the best start in life***

- 3.27 It is recommended that £165,000 of the Fairer East Lothian Fund should be allocated to support projects that support the achievement of these outcomes. Providing high quality employment pathways for East Lothian's workforce is one of the five key outcomes set out in the Economic Development Strategy approved by the Council in October 2012. An employability strategy and action plan is being developed to support the achievement of this outcome. The Tackling Poverty Plan seeks to support the employability element of the economic development strategy by focussing on supporting people furthest from the labour market to develop work ready skills. The Plan also recognises the need to intervene as early as possible to support vulnerable families to thrive and give children the best start in life; for example, through supporting vulnerable parents to develop the life and work ready skills that will help them gain employment.
- 3.28 Several projects currently funded through the Fairer East Lothian Fund including the Bridges Project, Into Work and the Council's Community Learning and Development service run projects that provide employment advice and support. It is proposed that these groups should be approached to explore how their projects can be developed to support the employability strategy. This would include providing welfare advice and employment support particularly for those who are most adversely affected by the welfare reforms including disabled people and single parents. These projects should be linked to the new multi-agency Employment Hub being established in Haddington.

### ***Transfer of Responsibility, Transitional Funding and New Projects***

- 3.29 It should be noted that there are on-going discussions within the Council about partnership funding with a view to closer alignment between the various grants funds administered by council services. Discussions between the Community Housing Service and Policy Partnerships have identified several projects that receive funding from these two services. Consideration is being given to transfer responsibility for funding projects between these two services. Responsibility for funding for the Amber Mediation project would transfer from Policy and Partnerships to Community Housing whilst responsibility for funding the Bridges Project would transfer from Community Housing to Policy and Partnerships.
- 3.30 Several groups currently receiving project funding through the Fairer East Lothian Fund will not receive funding for 2013/14 as they do not meet the new priorities detailed above. It is recognised that although the current funding is due to end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 with no commitment to continue funding beyond that date groups may require some transitional funding to wind down their project or identify alternative funding sources.
- 3.31 In addition, it is proposed that a small portion of the Fund should be left unallocated to fund projects or initiatives that directly support the achievement of the Tackling Poverty Plan and the Welfare Reform Task Group's action plan. This might include supporting the establishment of an East Lothian Rights and Advice Forum and supporting the project work to develop digital inclusion or financial inclusion linked to the introduction of Universal Credit.
- 3.32 It is recommended that the remaining £58,000 of the Fairer East Lothian Fund should remain unallocated in order to support transitional funding and / or new projects.

## **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The allocation of Miscellaneous Grants and Fairer East Lothian Funding will help the Council to achieve the desired outcome in the Single Outcome Agreement '*Fewer People will experience poverty in East Lothian*'.
- 4.2 The allocation of the Safer East Lothian Fund will contribute to achieving the Single Outcome agreement's community safety related outcomes.
- 4.3 The proposed grant awards to the Lothian Mineworkers and Convalescent Home and the associated Golf Competition contribute towards the Council priorities in relation to supporting vulnerable people, and promoting healthy communities.
- 4.4 The membership of the CSPP and the SLGFAP will allow the Council to benefit from the information and services provided by these two

organisations and support the work of national forums developing thinking around key issues facing Scottish Local Government.

## **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been carried out and no negative impacts have been found

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial – The recommended grants to Haddington CAB, Musselburgh CAB, Lothian Mineworkers Convalescent Home, sponsorship of the Whatton Lodge charity golf competition and annual memberships to the Centre for Scottish Public Policy and Scottish Local Government Forum Against Poverty total £305,542, which can be contained within the £306,000 allocated for Miscellaneous Grants in the 2013/14 budget. The awards from the Safer East Lothian Fund and the Fairer East Lothian Fund can be met from their respective budgets of £180,000 and £343,000.
- 6.2 Personnel – none
- 6.3 Other – none

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 Partnership Funding from the Chief Executive's Office 2012/13; report to Cabinet, 13 March 2012

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