



Glasgow City Council
City Administration Committee

Item 2

22nd August 2024

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

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TACKLING POVERTY FUND 2024/25: Update

Purpose of Report:

This paper provides Members with an update on the detailed use of Glasgow City Council's Tackling Poverty Fund 2024/25 including the identified service providers. Furthermore, it seeks Committee approval to award funding to the recommended provider to deliver the agreed 'Support for Disabled Families' programme. It also asks committee to note an award for a pre loved clothing service made through delegated approval.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to;

- 1) Note the updated programme detail set out in Annex A;
- 2) Approve the funding proposal set out in paragraph 3.2; and
- 3) Note the allocation of funding to ApparelXchange set out at paragraph 4.2.

Ward No(s):

Citywide: ✓

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

1 Purpose of this report.

- 1.1 This paper provides Members with an update on the detailed use of Glasgow City Council's Tackling Poverty Fund (2024/25), including the identified service providers. Furthermore, the paper seeks approval from Committee to award funding to the recommended provider to deliver the agreed 'Support for Disabled Families' programme.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Council set its budget for 2024/25 against a backdrop of significant financial challenges. Despite this, it recognised that the impact of these challenges is felt particularly keenly by those already living in low-income households resulting in the deepening of existing inequalities. On that basis, resources totalling £1.2million were allocated to a 'Tackling Poverty Fund'.
- 2.2 Detailed proposals for the use of this fund were approved by City Administration Committee in March 2024. This is provided at **Annex A** and updated to include the current operational status. It was further agreed that the Fund would be administered by the Council's Financial Inclusion & Transformation Team and the 'Cost of Living Crisis' process would be used to identify the specific providers for these initiatives.
- 2.3 The Cost of Living Crisis process, developed in partnership with Internal Audit requires that detailed specifications for the use of Council funds are developed. This includes both the rationale for the investment as well as robust monitoring arrangements that capture appropriate outputs, outcomes and case study details to demonstrate impact. Assessments are undertaken by council staff and recommendations for award considered by Committee.

3 Support for Disabled Families – Award Recommendation

- 3.1 The agreed proposals include investment in support for families where there is a child with a disability. Council officers used the process described in paragraph 2.3 to secure a Third Sector provider for this project. A total of ten organisations were identified and invited to respond to the service specification. The responses received (four) were assessed in line with the agreed process.
- 3.2 Based on the assessment undertaken, the following recommendations for funding are proposed;

Organisation	Description	£
DIFFERabled	Welfare benefit and money advice DIFFERabled will also provide advice and support to families on a one to one basis and in workshops across the city. This assists both parents and children that may have an undiagnosed neuro divergent condition (Autism, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Sensory	£37,500

	Processing Disorder and Dyspraxia). These activities enable parents and carers to understand all aspects of neurodiversity and how to support their loved ones better, providing coping strategies to manage behaviour, environments and sensory requirements.	
One Parent Families Scotland (OPFS).	<p>Welfare benefit and money advice</p> <p>OPFS also offer support to address the immediate situations of crisis faced by lone parents whilst awaiting outcomes of benefit claims and help families access additional specialist supports, resources, and services to help alleviate the daily challenges and struggles faced by families living with complex needs, across the city.</p> <p>All single parents will have access to full OPFS Glasgow support services, to enrich the wraparound support (Family Support, Health and Wellbeing, Peer Support groups, Counselling Service, Specialist Employability Services).</p>	£37,500
TOTAL		£75,000

3.3 Both organisations are members of Glasgow’s “No Wrong Door” approach and work with Glasgow Helps to accept and make referrals for additional support.

4 Pre-Loved Clothing Initiative – Noting of Award

4.1 The agreed proposals also included an allocation of funds to support a pilot subsidised scheme for pre-loved children’s clothing. Council officers used the agreed process to identify a provider. A total of five organisations were identified and invited to respond to the service specification. The responses received (four) were assessed in line with the agreed process.

4.2 Based on the assessment undertaken, the consortium proposal submitted by ApparelXchange and Merry-Go-Round Glasgow was identified as the preferred provider.]

Organisation	Description	£
ApparelXchange (in partnership with Merry-Go-Round Glasgow)	Provision of free pre-loved clothing upto value of £100 per child for families in need of assistance. This can be used throughout the year to access pre-prepared bundles of clothes (schoolwear, activewear, infant clothing, seasonal items etc) or for families to use as required.	£50,000

- 4.3 Given the anticipated demand for this service, officers made use of the agreed 'Delegated Authority Procedure' within the Cost of Living Crisis process to ensure that families can be effectively supported as they prepare for the return to school. The recommendations were therefore examined and approved by the Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council alongside the Executive Director for Finance.
- 4.3 Members are therefore asked to note the award made to ApparelXchange as the lead organisation, as set out in paragraph 4.2.
- 4.4 An impact report for all of the initiatives resourced from the Tackling Poverty Fund will be provided to Committee following the end of the financial year.

5 Policy and Resource Implications

Resource Implications:

Financial: None, these awards are included as part of the Council Budget 2024.25

Legal: None

Personnel: None, these awards will be managed within existing staffing resources.

Procurement: None

Equality and Socio-Economic Impacts:

Does the proposal support the Council's Equality Outcomes 2021-25? Please specify. Yes, outcome 1, 2, 3 & 6

What are the potential equality impacts as a result of this report? Positive impact for those more likely to be impacted by poverty, including those with a disability, women, ethnic minorities, single parents

Please highlight if the policy/proposal will help address socio-economic disadvantage. The projects identified for funding will have a positive impact on addressing socio-economic disadvantage across a range of population groups

Climate Impacts:

Does the proposal support any Climate Yes. Climate Theme 1 Communication and Community Engagement and Climate Theme 2 Just and Inclusive Place

Plan actions? Please specify:

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

The Preloved Clothing project will directly contribute to both reducing waste and increasing awareness of the circular economy. Lessons from this pilot will be used to shape future work.

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

Yes

Privacy and Data Protection Impacts:

Are there any potential data protection impacts as a result of this report
Y/N

No

If Yes, please confirm that a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been carried out

6 Recommendations

6.1 Members are invited to;

- 1) Note the updated programme detail set out in Annex A;
- 2) Approve the funding proposal set out in Section 3; and
- 3) Note the allocation of funding to ApparelXchange set out at Section 4.

Annex A
Tackling Poverty Fund – Agreed Initiatives

Initiative	Description	Funding	Status
Intensive package for families leaving homeless accommodation	Data analysis, through the Centre for Civic Innovation, has identified families in deep poverty within homeless accommodation. This proposal will facilitate the provision of an intensive package of support for these citizens, including Financial Inclusion support alongside essentials for new tenancy to speed up move and ensure family feel more supported.	£200,000	Proposal with Integrated Joint Board for consideration.
Supermarket vouchers for homeless clients	Based on analysis of this approach during COVID, it is proposed that an extension is made to the provision of supermarket vouchers to support clients leaving homeless accommodation. This will assist with the purchase of basics items to facilitate sustaining their new tenancy.	£65,000	Vouchers purchased and distributed
In work poverty support	Creation of a fund to cover costs that will assist citizens facing in work poverty and help them maintain their employment. This will cover areas such as, transport (potential linkages with Free Transport Pilot), Cash First, Childcare, Supermarket Vouchers. There is scope to identify opportunities to link with potential Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) trainee programmes.	£10,000	Process has been developed with Jobs and Business Glasgow for citizens on ILM trainee programmes, to claim expenses that will help them maintain their employment.
Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF)	The Scottish Welfare Fund continues to be an effective route to administer a “cash first” approach for citizens facing hardship. As the Cost-of-Living Crisis continues to bite, then demand for the fund continues to significantly exceed supply.	£300,000	Funding transferred to the SWF team.

Pre-Loved Clothing Initiative	Funding for pre-loved clothing to pilot a scheme providing subsidised children's clothing.	£50,000	Awarded to ApparelXchange and Merry-Go-Round through Delegated Approval process.
Support for families with a disabled child/children	3rd sector organisations provide specialist advice and Welfare Benefit support to families with disabled children.	£75,000	Seeking approval for award to OPFS and DIFFERabled
Cash-First Payments	Allocation to HSCP to further support cash-first initiatives such as Children (Scotland) Act 1995 Section 22 payments.	£500,000	Funding allocated to HSCP
TOTAL		£1,200,000	