

Financial Inclusion - Redesign of Financial Inclusion Services update and extension to current funding model approved.

2 With reference to the minutes of 25th January 2024 (Print 6, page 33) approving Glasgow Communities Fund (GCF) awards to Glasgow Advice and Information Network (GAIN) organisations from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025, with the option to extend if required, Councillor Bell, Depute Leader of the Council, City Treasurer and City Convener for Financial Inclusion, presented a report regarding a proposed extension to the current Financial Inclusion (FI) model,

- (1) advising that
 - (a) the current model for providing FI support in Glasgow focussed on the provision of crisis intervention and had delivered significant benefits to citizens in need of assistance, securing substantial financial gains, managing debt and mitigating the impacts of a lack of money;
 - (b) it was widely recognised that the current traditional approach could not deliver the transformational impact required to tackle the levels of poverty in the city, therefore a redesign of the current service model was required;
 - (c) members of the financial inclusion sector had participated in an intensive process of service co-design that would inform the future mechanism for the allocation of funding currently made to the city's FI sector by the GCF; and
 - (d) whilst the process on the FI design had been significant, with stakeholders working in partnership to identify the issues and opportunities for delivery of a new FI service, there had been some key elements of the redesign that were still in development stages and could take a further few months to resolve;
- (2) detailing proposals to extend the current FI funding model for a period of up to 9 months to allow for the completion of the redesign process; and
- (3) seeking committee's approval to suspend the call-in procedure under Council Standing Order No 30 (7), to allow for grant awards to be issued to organisations and for payments to be released as a matter of urgency to meet 2025/26 first quarter costs.

After consideration, the committee

- (i) noted the update on the ongoing Financial Inclusion funding model redesign; and
- (ii) approved
 - (A) an extension to the current Financial Inclusion funding model for a period of up to 9 months; and

- (B) the suspension of the call-in procedure under Council Standing Order No 30 (7) to allow for grant awards to be issued to organisations and payments released as a matter of urgency.