

Social Innovation Challenge Funding approved – Declaration of interest.

2 With reference to the minutes of 24th October 2024 (Print 5, page 32) approving the establishment of the Social Innovation Challenge Fund, Councillor Aitken, Leader of the Council and City Convener for City and City Region and Just Transition presented a report seeking approval for funding of the fund for 2026/27, advising

- (1) that following the success of the 2025/26 programme, which had resulted in 4 organisations being awarded funding totalling £230,907, it was proposed that the Challenge Fund continued for 2026/27 to support the development of innovative efforts to tackle barriers faced by underrepresented groups;
- (2) of the engagement and application process for funding for 2026/27 which had attracted 104 organisations who were invited to submit an expression of interest and had resulted in 32 applications being received, with the highest scoring 14 being passed to the Expert Advisory Group which was made up of individuals with lived experience of the systematic barriers the fund aimed to overcome;
- (3) of a summary of each of the 4 top scoring applications, as detailed in the report; and
- (4) that it was proposed that these top 4 scoring applications be awarded funding totalling £255,512 and would be subject to regular monitoring reviews over the year to gauge progress and the impact funding had had in relation to fund outcomes, and that funding would be allocated in phases throughout the first 6 months of the programme.

After consideration, the committee

- (a) approved the 2026/27 funding, as detailed in the report; and
- (b) noted that progress updates would be submitted to the Economy, Housing, Transport and Regeneration City Policy Committee.

In terms of Standing Order No 27, Councillor Hussain declared an interest in this item of business and left the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.