
Report To:	Policy and Resources Committee	Date:	21 March 2023
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities and Organisational Development	Report No:	PR/09/23/TM
Contact Officer:	Tony McEwan	Contact No:	01475 712828
Subject:	Anti-Poverty Funding Update		

1.0 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 ☒ For Decision ☒ For Information/Noting
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to update the Policy and Resources Committee with the financial position of the Anti-poverty recurring budget and position of the anti-poverty ear-marked reserve (EMR).
- 1.3 At its meeting in December 2022, Council agreed a £600k saving from the £0.83m recurring anti-poverty budget leaving a core recurring budget of £230k. As part of the saving it was also agreed that funding for various education initiatives in relation to anti-poverty, totalling £259k, should also be added to the recurring anti-poverty budget giving a total available recurring budget of £0.489million.
- 1.4 The Anti-Poverty Strategic Group is recommending using the recurring anti-poverty budget to continue to fund a number of previously agreed initiatives. Further details on these proposals can be found in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 1.5 Appendix 2 provides detail on the current commitments within the anti-poverty EMR and officers recommend that a future report will be submitted to this committee evaluating the current initiatives and proposals for the unallocated budget.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:
- notes the changes to the recurring anti-poverty budget detailed in the report;
 - agrees to the allocation of the recurring anti-poverty budget shown in Appendix 1;
 - notes the position of the anti-poverty ear marked reserve in Appendix 2; and
 - agrees that a report on the evaluation of current initiatives and proposals for the unallocated EMR is brought to a future meeting of this committee.

Ruth Binks
Corporate Director, Education, Communities and Organisational Development

3.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 3.1 At its meeting in December 2022, Council agreed a £600k saving from the £1.08m recurring anti-poverty budget leaving a recurring budget of £230k from 2023/24. It was also agreed that funding for various education initiatives in relation to anti-poverty, totalling £259k, should also be added to the recurring anti-poverty budget. Education Initiatives include:
- enhanced Free School Meal Eligibility Criteria (£50k);
 - enhanced Clothing Grant Eligibility Criteria (£92k);
 - £30 uplift on Primary School Clothing Grants (£42k); and
 - 1-2 mile FSM Secondary Transport Grants (£75k).
- 3.2 As part of the same saving it was agreed that the Integration Joint Board (IJB) would oversee the allocation of the previous £250k contribution to the recurring Anti-poverty budget. Officers from the Council and HSCP will continue to work closely to ensure best use of the overall resources allocated.
- 3.3 In addition, an Anti-Poverty Ear Marked Reserve has been set aside. The known commitments approved by P&R in this EMR total £754,100 are made up of the following:
- FSM holiday payments and bridging payments for 2022/23 (£355k)
 - FSM meal payments for pupils affected by teacher industrial action (£19k);
 - iHeat funding (£70k);
 - Warm Grants (£100k);
 - Additional Scottish Welfare Fund Contribution (£50k);
 - SWF Crisis Grants 40% uplift (£60k); and
 - Food insecurity initiatives (100k)
- 3.4 Taking into account the £800k allocated from reserves as part of the 2023/25 budget and the identified underspends from Anti-poverty Initiatives leaves an unallocated budget of £1.148m. More detail on the EMR is provided in Appendix 2 to this report.
- 3.5 Appendix 3 provides the Policy and Resources Committee with the updated position in relation to the progress against spend of the current anti-poverty initiatives. An update on the evaluation of these initiatives will be submitted to a future meeting of this committee.
- 3.6 The Anti-poverty initiatives are currently implemented and monitored by an officer working group drawn from across Council services and the HSCP. The work of the officer working group is overseen by an Anti-poverty Strategic Group which consists of members of the Corporate Management Team and several officers from the working group. From April 2023, the officer working group will report progress on anti-poverty initiatives directly to the Corporate Management Team with the Corporate Director for Education, Communities and OD continuing to report progress to the Policy and Resources Committee.

4.0 PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The Anti-Poverty Strategic Group recommends that the £489k recurring anti-poverty budget is used as set out in Appendix 1. This leaves £52k unallocated. A further report will be brought back to P&R detailing how this funding could be used.
- 4.2 In terms of the unallocated Anti-Poverty EMR, proposals for using the remaining budget will be considered at a future meeting of the committee.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The table below shows whether risks and implications apply if the recommendation(s) is(are) agreed:

SUBJECT	YES	NO	N/A
Financial	x		
Legal/Risk	x		
Human Resources		x	
Strategic (LOIP/Corporate Plan)	x		
Equalities & Fairer Scotland Duty		x	
Children & Young People's Rights & Wellbeing		x	
Environmental & Sustainability		x	
Data Protection		x	

5.2 Finance

Based on the proposals in this report £52,000 from the recurring budget remains to be allocated whilst £1.148million remains in the earmarked reserve. Officers will report back on proposals regarding both sums.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
Anti Poverty	Other Expenditure	2023/24	£0.437 million		Allocated sums will be allocated to the relevant service budgets

5.3 Legal/Risk

None

5.4 Human Resources

None

5.5 Strategic

Tackling poverty and reducing inequalities in Inverclyde is a key priority for the Council and HSCP. This report provides recommendations which are in line with this key priority.

5.6 **Equalities and Fairer Scotland Duty**

(a) Equalities

This report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) process with the following outcome:

	YES – Assessed as relevant and an EqIA is required.
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, assessed as not relevant and no EqIA is required. Provide any other relevant reasons why an EqIA is not necessary/screening statement.

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report’s recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant under the Fairer Scotland Duty for the following reasons: Provide reasons why the report has been assessed as not relevant.

5.7 **Children and Young People**

Has a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – Assessed as relevant and a CRWIA is required.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve a new policy, function or strategy or recommends a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy which will have an impact on children’s rights.

5.8 **Environmental/Sustainability**

None

	YES – assessed as relevant and a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required.
X	NO – This report does not propose or seek approval for a plan, policy, programme, strategy or document which is like to have significant environmental effects, if implemented.

5.9 **Data Protection**

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO – Assessed as not relevant as this report does not involve data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

6.0 **CONSULTATION**

6.1 Consultations have already been carried out in relation to the initial budget and also as part of the Council's 2023/25 budget exercise.

7.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

7.1 None.

Anti Poverty Recurring Budget 2023/24

Funding 2023/24:

Base Budget	£1,080,000
Budget transferred from Education	£259,000
HSCP element to be retained by HSCP	(£250,000)
Budget Saving	(£600,000)
	<u>£489,000</u>

Proposed Uses:

FSM Holiday Payments	£103,000
Tail o' the Bank Credit Union NDR	£3,000
Food Insecurity - 2* Fare Share Subscriptions	£32,000
Crisis Grants 20% uplift on SG rates	£40,000
Enhanced Free School Meal Eligibility Criteria	£50,000
Enhanced Clothing Grant Eligibility Criteria	£92,000
£30 uplift on Primary School Clothing Grants	£42,000
1-2 mile FSM recipients transport - Secondary	£75,000
	<u>£437,000</u>

Balance Remaining Unallocated	(£52,000)
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Anti-Poverty EMR - Projected Balance 31/03/23

EMR Opening Balance 01/04/22	£309,000
<u>Additional Budget</u>	
SG Funding for Bridging Payments projected underspend	£86,807
Winter Support Fund Contingency underspend	£3,000
Anti Poverty Recurring budget unallocated funding:	
Uncommitted Anti Poverty Recurring budget to 31/03/23	£164,500
Further underspend - Employability and Business Start Up	£355,500
Underspend School SWs	£39,000
ADP funding	£145,000
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	£704,000
Allocation from Reserves for period 2023/25	£800,000
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	£1,902,807
<u>Known Commitments</u>	
FSM Holiday Payments & Bridging Payments 22/23	£355,374
FSM - further 2 strike days projected	£18,726
iHeat Funding	£70,000
Warm Grants - Sept 22 P&R	£100,000
Additional Scottish Welfare Fund Contribution	£50,000
SWF Crisis Grants - maintain 40% uplift (P&R Exec Sub 10/03/22)	£60,000
Further food insecurity initiatives	£100,000
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	£754,100
 Anti Poverty EMR Unallocated - Projected 31/03/23	 £1,148,707

Anti Poverty Recurring Budget 2021/23

<u>Intervention</u>	Original Estimated Total Cost	Revised Estimated Total Cost	Actual 21/22	Approved Budget 2022/23	Revised Estimate 2022/23	Actual to 20/02/23	Estimate 2023/24
Dedicated Team Leader	£72,000	£72,000	£27,000	£36,000	£38,000	£32,130	£7,000
Employment	£1,037,000	£616,500	£36,500	£518,500	£143,537	£110,537	£436,463
School Linked Social Workers	£202,000	£112,500	£31,500	£101,000	£81,000	£85,613	£0
Business Start Up	£167,000	£87,000	£1,000	£133,600	£53,600	£23,965	£32,400
Food Insecurity	£124,000	£124,000	£25,000	£62,000	£62,640	£55,140	£36,360
Fuel Insecurity	£200,000	£200,000	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000	£83,330	£0
Financial Fitness	£60,000	£60,000	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000	£22,500	£0
Starter Packs	£74,000	£74,000	£37,000	£37,000	£37,000	£27,747	£0
Early Intervention Support & Mentoring for Families	£104,000	£104,000	£26,000	£52,000	£52,000	£39,000	£26,000
Tail o' the Bank Credit Union	£8,000	£6,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£3,000	£0
Contingency - Transferred to Anti-Poverty EMR	£112,000	£704,000	£0	£164,500	£704,000	£0	£0
	<u>£2,160,000</u>	<u>£2,160,000</u>	<u>£317,000</u>	<u>£1,237,600</u>	<u>£1,304,777</u>	<u>£482,962</u>	<u>£538,223</u>
Employment - IRISE ADP Funding				£145,000	£0	0	£145,000