

EX61. FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND INCLUSION

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services on Glasgow City Council's approach to the provision of credit union facilities for every school pupil and detailing the credit union provision within the Falkirk Council area.

Council had agreed in June 2013 to request detail on an initiative by Glasgow City Council to provide Credit Union account facilities for all secondary school pupils. The report set out Glasgow City Council's broader approach to pay day loans within the context of changing behaviour; regulation and constraint; promotion and prevention and influence and evidence, concluding that the Credit Union initiative for secondary school pupils should be viewed within Glasgow's broader approach to dealing with non standard lending.

It was recognised that for the credit unions in the Falkirk area to provide a wider range of services and support, the Falkirk and District Credit Union would have to grow, in terms of savers and borrowers, and that this would take time and require to be managed properly.

The Council was currently seeking to appoint a Credit Union and Financial Inclusion development worker who would work with the credit unions within the area with the aim of developing their business models and support their growth. The officer would take forward the outcomes from a study into demand for low cost credit including increasing the provision of other financial services so that a range of alternatives to non traditional lending is on offer within the area. Additionally the Council has agreed to appoint a financial capability development worker who will work to develop services that will assist citizens to make appropriate decisions in regard to finances.

It was intended that a detailed report on the Council's approach would be submitted in due course.

Decision

The Executive requested a further report on financial inclusion initiatives in due course.