

EX25. FAIRER FALKIRK FUND – PROPOSALS FOR FUNDING

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services on an application by the Link Group for funding and on proposals to utilise £66,000 of the Fairer Falkirk Fund on measures to reduce the impact of welfare reform.

An application for funding had been received from the Link Group for £50,000 to fund a Welfare Rights Officer post. It was considered that such a position was similar to, and in addition to, services currently provided by the Council and the Citizens Advice Bureaux and as such it would not be appropriate to support the application.

Proposals were set out to utilise the Fairer Falkirk Fund on early intervention/prevention projects as follows (1) £30,000 to provide funding for a full-time money advisor as part of a project to establish a 'Money Line' branch in Falkirk; (2) £26,000 to establish an Administrative Support post to support the Council's, to be appointed, Project/Change Manager, and (3) £10,000 to commission a feasibility study for the subsidised introduction of an alternative to higher purchase firms along the lines of the 'smarter buys' store model.

Decision

The Executive agreed not to fund the proposal by the Link Group to establish a Welfare Rights Officer and to utilise £66,000 from the Fairer Falkirk Fund on the projects set out in the report.