

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 JUNE 2021

FRIDAY NIGHT PROJECTS – FUTURE COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS

REPORT BY VIVIEN SMITH, THE DIRECTOR OF STRATEGIC POLICY, TRANSFORMATION AND PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM & KELLY MCINTOSH, DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

ABSTRACT

This report seeks committee approval to review the current grant funding arrangements applied to the various Friday Night Project providers across Angus and the potential opportunities of collaborating this service with the Councils venues currently occupied and utilised by ANGUSalive (AA)

1. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee:

- (i) agree to continue with the application of existing funding arrangements of the Friday Night Project for the remainder of the 2021/22 financial year while officers work with current Friday Night Project providers to develop and monitor the reintroduction of these projects throughout the COVID-19 pandemic recovery; and
- (ii) authorise the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform to review the options available for collaboration between Friday Night Project providers, the Council and ANGUSalive as part of the latter's Transformation Project.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN

- 2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Local Outcomes Improvement Plan and Locality Plans:

ECONOMY

- 1. An inclusive and sustainable economy
- 2. A skilled and adaptable workforce
- 3. Attractive employment opportunities

PEOPLE

- 4. The best start in life for children
- 5. More opportunities for people to achieve success
- 6. Improved physical, mental and emotional health and well-being

PLACE

- 7. Safe, secure, vibrant and sustainable communities
- 8. A reduced carbon footprint
- 9. An enhanced, protected and enjoyed natural and built environment

3. BACKGROUND

Reference is made to Item 9 paragraph 6 of the minute of meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee of 9 March 2021 where Committee agreed that the Director of Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform and the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning, in consultation with Director of Communities, submit a Report to a future meeting of this Committee giving an overview of all the Friday Night Projects (FNP's), detailing the activity of each, the costs and how they are funded.

FNPs have been operating for many years. Initially these were funded by Angus Council through Youth Justice and the Local Integrated Children's Partnerships – these Partnerships were also able to access small grant funding from the then Youthlink community fund if required.

In 2011 the Police also invested £50,000 over a 3 year period for the purpose of FNP as part of youth diversion activities across Angus from residual funding from Tayside Police as they moved to become part of the National Police Force.

This funding has evolved over the years and the Communities Team now holds a total budget of £75,000 to support delivery of FNP's across Angus.

FNP's are currently operated by a variety of providers. These are between, Angus Council's Communities team, Voluntary Action Angus and four independent local groups

Activities undertaken by at FNP's vary across the projects depending on the facilities available. A range of sports activities including football, basketball, badminton and spin bikes are available in some of the larger venues. Smaller group activities are also available including arts and crafts, music, and social space to socialise with peers. In addition, some one off and focused events are arranged periodically – for example drug and alcohol awareness workshops, themed events and specialist activities. e.g. special effects make up. However, these are not exclusive and the independent groups coordinate the activities depending on local demand and interest expressed by young people. Attendance figures vary across the projects with the smaller project involving 25 young people per session and the larger projects 130 young people per session.

Each project provides its own activities from a venue or venues available within their specific locality. With limited exceptions these are usually within leisure centres and town halls, some of which are operated by Angus Alive (AA).

All of the facilities AA operate from are owned by the Council and are governed by a Licence to Occupy. AA are also responsible for the delivery of key services from these facilities which are agreed and included within the Services Agreement between the parties and funded via the annual Services Payment (Management Fee).

4. CURRENT POSITION

The Council's annual budget is £75,000 for the provision of 7 FNP's across Angus by 6 providers. These FNP's are located in Kirriemuir, Forfar, Arbroath, Birkhill, Carnoustie, Brechin and Montrose.

Grant allocations amount in 2019/20 (pre-COVID pandemic) were as follows:

Location	Organisation	Friday Night Project Title	Grant Allocation 19/20
Arbroath	Communities Team	Friday Night Project	£16,140
Kirriemuir	Voluntary Action Angus	Friday Night Project	£13,440
Forfar	Pitstop Forfar	Friday Night Initiative	£8,000
Birkhill	Birkhill Friday Night Project	Birkhill FNP	£5,753
Carnoustie	Communities Team	Carnoustie FNP	£11,400
Montrose	Borrowfield Community Centre	Montrose FNP	£6,393
Brechin	The Attic	Brechin Youth Project	£6,000

In addition to these allocations, a further £7,000 was committed to Friday Night Football. This was delivered by Angus Alive (AA) across five of the projects.

It is recognised that a proportion of the above costs are utilised to pay for venue hire in delivering the projects.

These services are currently suspended due to the pandemic and Council officers are engaging with providers to monitor and develop a return of the projects as and when they are safely permitted. It is acknowledged that the future service provision may not reflect that of pre-COVID,

however new arrangements will be developed and captured over the course of the next year within individual agreements.

Venue hire is a fundamental part of these FNP's to function, especially in the colder seasons, and AA accommodate this within their occupied facilities at a concessionary rate in accordance with their existing pricing structure. Following a new developing Grant process adopted between the Council and Voluntary Action Angus (VAA) the typical costs of venue hire in Kirriemuir at Websters Sports Centre is now recorded at £7,000 per annum. The Council does not specify the use of AA facilities in our Grant agreements with providers.

The grant process employed is linked to VAA holding a 3-year grant agreement with the Council. This is to allow more security to VAA as an organisation and time for outcomes to be reached.

Venue hire costs by the other providers are known to be in the range from £1,500 to £7,500 for each project annually, this range is due to the varying of programmed activities and size of venue/project. This will likely change in the forthcoming year as these projects were closed during the COVID pandemic and as they move to reopen when restrictions are relaxed where new ways of service delivery will be required.

It is recognised that where Angus Alive (AA) facilities are utilised these payments are essentially circulated from the Council as funder, to the service provider, then to AA as the arm's length culture, sport and leisure trust for the Council.

Reporting is required to be undertaken annually by each provider and submitted to the Council's Senior Practitioner – Community Learning and Development for review. This information is used to monitor performance and shape how future years' service provision is delivered.

As Members will be aware Angus Alive (AA) is currently reopening their services in line with relaxation of national COVID restrictions and are working with Council Officers as part of a Transformation Project to update and develop the agreements held between both parties. This project is looking for opportunities for AA to expand and or streamline their service provision. Significant conclusion of this project is anticipated to be achieved for commencement on 1 April 2022.

5. PROPOSALS

Council officers have already begun to engage with existing providers to discuss and understand how and when projects can be reintroduced in accordance with the continued easing of lockdown restrictions. This is likely to be seen over the Summer months and will be crucial as a support towards young people's wellbeing following the impacts of the COVID pandemic on their lives over the last year. Assured funding for the forth coming year will allow collaboration to continue while a greater joint understanding of demand is collected. This demand will be reflective in how the funding is utilised and recorded for review especially for areas where it is circulated to Angus Alive (AA) for venue hire and how that can be streamlined, expanded upon or otherwise.

The current AA Transformation Project has developed to a position where multiple workstreams have been identified covering a variety of opportunities and efficiencies. The potential of including a lean mechanism for FNP venue provision within the future Services Agreement could be considered within a workstream focused on future building use and future model of service delivery. This would also help identify any added benefit AA could bring to the projects beyond the hiring out of venues, for example, the provision of Friday Night Football across the various projects.

Liaison and engagement with all providers will be sought in conjunction with input from AA, to capture their proposals for reintroducing the projects across Angus and the new costs associated with these.

The recommended options would be reported to full Council as part of the AA Transformation Project considerations to be included as part of future Services Agreement or to Policy & Resources to advise otherwise as instructed.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The potential inclusion of venue use within the Services Agreement held between the Council and Angus Alive (AA) would see an uplift in the Management Fee and a subsequent reduction in grant payments towards the multiple FNP providers across Angus as any AA facility needs would already be agreed. This however would be an improvement of a payment process while identifying and improving the partnering approach in achieving the outcomes of the FNPs.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried and is attached.

8. CONSULTATION

The interim Chief Executive of VAA has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

NOTE: No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

REPORT AUTHOR:

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Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment Form

(To be completed with reference to Guidance Notes)

Step 1

Name of Proposal (includes e. g. budget savings, committee reports, strategies, policies, procedures, service reviews, functions): Friday Night Projects – Future Commissioning Arrangements

Step 2

Is this only a **screening** Equality Impact Assessment

No

(A) If Yes, please choose from the following options **all** reasons why a full EIA/FSD is not required:

(i) It does not impact on people

Yes

(ii) It is a percentage increase in fees which has no differential impact on protected characteristics

No

(iii) It is for information only

No

(iv) It is reflective e.g. of budget spend over a financial year

No

(v) It is technical

Yes

If you have answered yes to any of points above, please go to **Step 16**, and sign off the Assessment.

(B) If you have answered No to the above, please indicate the following:

Is this a full Equality Impact Assessment

Yes

Is this a Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment

No

If you have answered Yes to either or both of the above, continue with Step 3.

If your proposal is a **strategy** please ensure you complete Step 13 which is the Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment.

Step 3

(i)Lead Directorate/Service: Strategic Policy, Transformation and Public Sector Reform

(ii)Are there any **relevant** statutory requirements affecting this proposal? If so, please describe.

No

(iii)What is the aim of the proposal? Please give full details.

The proposal aims to review the current commissioning arrangements of Friday Night Projects for young people across Angus to identify efficiencies towards their outcomes

(iv)Is it a new proposal? Yes Please indicate OR

Is it a review of e.g. an existing budget saving, report, strategy, policy, service review, procedure or function? No Please indicate

Step 4: Which people does your proposal involve or have consequences for?

Please indicate all which apply:

Employees Yes

Job Applicants No

Service users Yes

Members of the public Yes

Step 5: List the evidence/data/research that has been used in this assessment (links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance). This could include:

Internal data (e.g. customer satisfaction surveys; equality monitoring data; customer complaints).

As part of current Grant Agreement requirements reports are submitted annually to the Councils Senior Practitioner – Community Learning & Development officer identifying performance and spend

Grant feedback from providers as part of application process

ANGUSalive income information and service provision as part of the current Transformation Project being undertaken in partnership between the Council and ANGUSalive

Internal consultation (e.g. with staff, trade unions and any other services affected).

N/A at this stage as review not fully commenced, will develop and report as required if progresses

External data (e.g. Census, equality reports, equality evidence finder, performance reports, research, available statistics)

N/A at this stage as review not fully commenced, will develop and report as required if progresses

External consultation (e.g. partner organisations, national organisations, community groups, other councils).

N/A at this stage as review not fully commenced, will develop and report as required if progresses

Other (general information as appropriate).

Step 6: Evidence Gaps.

Are there any gaps in the equality information you currently hold? No

If yes, please state what they are, and what measures you will take to obtain the evidence you need.

Step 7: Are there potential differential impacts on protected characteristic groups? Please complete for each group, including details of the potential impact on those affected. Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each group. Please state the reason(s) why.

Age

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Disability

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Gender reassignment

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Marriage and Civil Partnership

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Race - (includes Gypsy Travellers)

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Religion or Belief

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Sex

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Sexual orientation

Impact

Neutral as review is initially looking processes behind how service is organised

Step 8: Consultation with any of the groups potentially affected

If you have consulted with any group potentially affected, please give details of how this was done and what the results were.

No consultation undertaken at this stage as review has not fully commenced

If you have not consulted with any group potentially affected, how have you ensured that you can make an informed decision about mitigating action of any negative impact (Step 9)?

Step 9: What mitigating steps will be taken to remove or reduce potentially negative impacts?

Purpose of the commissioning arrangements review will be clear that it is focused on process with no reduction or detriment to current level of service provision. Any opportunity identified through the review that could potentially lead to an improvement will be captured and approached accordingly.

Step 10: If a potentially negative impact has been identified, please state below the justification.

No

Step 11: In what way does this proposal contribute to any or all of the public sector equality duty to: eliminate unlawful discrimination; advance equality of opportunity; and foster good relations between people of different protected characteristics?

This proposal for review will assist in identifying the opportunities to provide increase the efficiencies between the Council, ANGUSalive and the providers of Friday Night Projects across Angus towards their outcomes towards young people

Step 12: Is there any action which could be taken to advance equalities in relation to this proposal?

If so these will be identified through the review and considered appropriately

Step 13: FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

This step is only applicable to **strategies** which are key, high level decisions. If your proposal is **not** a strategy, please leave this Step blank, and go to Step 14.

Links to data sources, information etc which you may find useful are in the Guidance.

Step 13(A) What evidence do you have about any socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome in relation to this strategic issue?

Step 13(B) Please state if there are any gaps in socio-economic evidence for this strategy and how you will take measures to gather the evidence you need.

Step 13(C) Are there any potential impacts this strategy may have specifically on the undernoted groupings? Please remember to take into account any particular impact resulting from **Covid-19**.

Please state if there is a potentially positive, negative, neutral or unknown impact for each grouping.

Low and/or No Wealth (e.g. those with enough money to meet basic living costs and pay bills but have no savings to deal with any unexpected spends and no provision for the future.

Impact

Material Deprivation (i.e. those unable to access basic goods and services e.g. repair/replace broken electrical goods, warm home, leisure and hobbies).

Impact

Area Deprivation (i.e. where people live (e.g. rural areas), or where they work (e.g. accessibility of transport).

Impact

Socio-economic Background i.e. social class including parents' education, people's employment and income.

Impact

Other – please indicate

Step 13(D) Please state below if there are measures which could be taken to reduce socio-economic disadvantage/inequalities of outcome.

Step 14: What arrangements will be put in place to monitor and review the Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment?

The outcome of the review will require to be reported to a future Committee where the Equality Impact Assessment will be updated to reflect the findings for consideration

Step 15: Where will this Equality Impact/Fairer Scotland Duty Assessment be published?

On the Councils website accompanying the associated Committee Report

Step 16: Sign off and Authorisation. Please state name, post, and date for each:

Prepared by: Pete Morton 12/05/21

Reviewed by:

Approved by: Vivien Smith 31/05/21

NB. There are several worked examples of separate EIA and FSD Assessments in the Guidance which may be of use to you.
