



THE WEE GLASGOW LOAN





COUNCILLOR MATT KERR'S BLOG

Hello, Councillor Matt Kerr here. I'm the Executive Member for Social Justice and am delighted to also be taking over the role of Executive Member for Co-operative Glasgow from Depute Leader of the Council, Archie Graham. Councillor Graham has done a fantastic job in setting up the Co-operative Development Unit and overseeing its work for the last three years. As someone who has had a life-long commitment to co-operative working, I am determined to continue this good work and to spread the co-operative approach throughout the Council Family.

2016 has been an impressive year for Co-operative Glasgow - from being a finalist at the Eurocities Awards in Milan to its contribution to the development and launch of the Wee Glasgow Loan.

The Wee Glasgow Loan (WGL) is an original and exciting financial product, developed in partnership with Financial Services and

two of the city's Credit Unions. It is a small, short-term loan that provides people with a simple and flexible solution to help spread the cost of borrowing. The interest rate on a WGL is much lower than that charged by a typical payday lender, so it helps people save money and makes good financial sense. The terms are designed to fit a person's budget and personal circumstances.

Congratulations are also in order to the Co-operative Development Unit which was shortlisted at this year's Eurocities Awards in the category of Innovation for their work in making Glasgow a Co-operative City. The ceremony took place in Milan and Glasgow was up against Athens, the eventual winner, and Utrecht.

Councillor Archie Graham and Alan Davidson attended the awards ceremony; although Glasgow did not win the award it is still an impressive achievement to make

“In its first three weeks of operation, the WGL has received 4007 applications requesting £1.5million. To put this in context and to illustrate the need and demand for this type of product, it's useful to compare it to the experience of London Mutual Credit Union when it launched a similar product a few years ago and received 6000 applications in its first year. It's a great example of co-operative working which will give real assistance to people on low incomes who need swift access to affordable credit. The Wee Glasgow Loan is open to all Glasgow residents – see page 4 for more information.”

COUNCILLOR MATT KERR

it to the final three and highlights the work that is being done by the Council Family. Below is the link to the video submission for the award showcasing Glasgow City Council's commitment to Co-operative working.

<https://youtu.be/wkh5Tx-J6V8>

The Co-operative Glasgow Business Development Fund has funded a diverse range of Co-operative businesses this year. With our support, FareShare Glasgow was able to greatly increase the amount of surplus food they redistributed. For more information on their latest developments **see page 5.**

Fashioned in Glasgow is another impressive example of the diverse sectors that have received funding. Based at the Mercat Building, Fashioned in Glasgow will be creating jobs in manufacturing, revitalising a heritage industry and creating enterprises

by helping starts ups to set up and grow their business. An evaluation of the impact of the Co-operative Development Unit on developing co-operative working with key stakeholders and its impact on business activity will shortly get underway. Consultants, ekosgen, will be contacting various stakeholders and Co-operatives over the next few weeks.

We look forward to receiving the final report which will be complete for April 2017 and will inform the creation of a new Action Plan for co-operative working in the coming years.

And finally I take this opportunity to thank you all for your hard work and your valuable contribution. I wish you all a happy and enjoyable festive season and I look forward to us all continuing to work together in 2017 to build on our progress to date and thus ensure an even more successful Co-operative Glasgow.

THE WEE GLASGOW LOAN



Elaine Bone, Pollok Credit Union

The Council's Payday Lending Sounding Board report of 2013 provided strong evidence that there are over 100,000 loans totalling around £57m taken out every year in Glasgow from high-cost, non-standard lenders with over £20m a year leaving the city in high-cost APR as profits for these companies. Borrowers are generally some of our most vulnerable citizens with limited or no options to access mainstream credit.

Furthermore, borrowers are often unaware of the high costs and consequences of pay day loans and the terms of a rent-to-own agreement that often results in far too many of our citizens being caught in a cycle of debt and developing associated problems including a direct negative impact on their health. Having no access to mainstream credit means that people, the majority of whom are on low incomes or benefits with a poor credit history have no choice but to pay an exorbitant 'Poverty Premium' to make ends meet.

To combat this vicious cycle and provide people with a practical solution, Eddie Percy, CDU Unit, Development and Regeneration Services (DRS) and Gerry Quinn, Financial Services (FS) have worked closely with Pollok Credit Union and BCD Credit Union to develop a product known as the 'Wee Glasgow Loan'. The Wee Glasgow Loan will allow Glasgow's residents to borrow up to a maximum of £600, capped at £400 for a first loan with a fixed interest rate of 2% (APR – 26.8%).

Eddie Percy explains, "The Wee Glasgow Loan

is a true co-operative partnership between DRS, FS and two established and progressive credit unions to provide fair and equal access to affordable credit and financial products for our citizens. With flexible repayments based on what people can afford over a period that meets their needs, the product has none of the toxic features of payday lenders and rent-to-own companies such as hidden fees, late repayment charges, penalties, threat of repossession and long-term binding repayment contracts. All the things that often leave people who use payday loans and rent-to-own companies regularly, stuck in a financial rut".

At the launch of the Wee Glasgow Loan, Frank McAveety, leader of Glasgow City Council, said "This as another excellent example of co-operative working between the Council and the credit union sector to deliver a Glasgow solution for a Glasgow problem". Describing the Wee Glasgow Loan, the Leader explained that 'every Glasgow citizen can apply on-line, loan decisions are based on affordability and the total interest repayable is a fraction of the amount charged by private sector providers for the same loan over the same period."

Jim Garrity, Operations Director at Pollok Credit Union in explaining why Pollok CU and BCD CU have invested an initial £1m in the Wee Glasgow Loan said, "For too long now pay day lenders and rent-to-own retailers have used their position of strength to prey on the most disadvantaged communities, often trapping entire families in an abusive cycle of debt. We are really pleased that the Council get this and agreed to provide us with the necessary level of financial resources to meet product start-up and marketing costs".

The introduction of the Wee Glasgow Loan has already proven to be a hit with around £93,000 made in loans to just over 230 Glaswegians in its first two weeks of operation.

The Wee Glasgow Loan is open to all Glasgow residents. For more info click on:

www.weeglasgowloan.scot

FARESHARE



Staff at FareShare: Left to Right - Jim Burns, Hayley Dymond, Lynne Collie, Scott Crawford, Andy Goldsmith

In partnership with Move On, a youth employability charity that supports homeless people, the Council has helped establish FareShare Glasgow (FSG). This project takes perfectly good, in-date food from manufacturers and retailers (e.g. Tesco, Asda, Marks and Spencer, Brakes etc) and makes weekly deliveries to a wide range of not-for-profit organisations working with the most vulnerable people in the community across Glasgow and the West.

Every year, thousands of tonnes of high quality, surplus food is wasted due to production and packaging errors, out of date promotions, discounted lines, below-spec vegetables etc. At the same time, there are over 4 million people throughout the UK who cannot afford a healthy diet, among them the homeless, the elderly, children, refugees and people suffering physical and mental health problems. FSG's aim is to address this imbalance by re-distributing the surplus food.

Unlike Food Banks which distribute parcels of groceries, FSG encourages disadvantaged

people into an environment where they can receive a nutritious meal in addition to appropriate support.

The recipient organisations each pay an annual fee to receive their weekly delivery and are known as Community Food Members (CFMs). The CFMs pay £2000 for membership to have food delivered or £1000 if they pick it up themselves. For this they will get around £10,000 to £13,000 worth of food over the year, so they are able to re-invest the savings made on their annual food bills in services to their clients. There are currently 54 CFMs across Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

FSG started as a pilot project in late 2011 and then operated from modest premises in Springburn for the first few years of its existence. In May 2016 it moved to a newly refurbished 12,000 sq.ft. warehouse in South Street. This is more than four times the size of the previous premises and has enabled the amount of food that it can accept, store and re-distribute to greatly increase, thereby having an even bigger impact on food poverty.



Volunteers Kevin Robertshaw and Neil Fraser loading van for delivery

A major objective of FSG is to create employability opportunities and the warehouse is staffed by a mixture of six paid staff and people who volunteer. In addition, Employability Fund training, (through Skills Development Scotland), offers 24 young people aged 16 and 17 years, 12 week vocational and practical training. All of the young people have either been in care and /or affected by homelessness and work in the FareShare warehouse for 30 hours per week. All trainees complete an SQA in Employability, REHIS Food Hygiene, Manual Handling and Health and Safety certificates, before progressing to the warehouse as part of their practical, on the job training. Over the course of a year around 100 people work in the warehouse to ensure that the whole operation runs smoothly.

A grant of almost £55,000 was given to FSG from the Co-operative Glasgow Business Development Fund when they moved in May in order to purchase and install two large, walk-in chills, a freezer room and industrial pallet racking in the new premises. It is envisaged that in the next year the additional warehouse capacity and equipment will allow FSG to increase the food they distribute by at least 141.84 tonnes per year, an additional 337,721.04 meals, to

those affected by food poverty in Glasgow and the West of Scotland. In the last eighteen months (from 1/06/15 to 11/11/16) FareShare in Glasgow has:

- redistributed 712.8 tonnes of surplus food and;
- saved 684.3 tonnes of Co2 by diverting that food from landfill

This amount of food has an equivalent cost of £2,545,815 and equates to 1,697,210 meals!

Homeless World Cup

FareShare Glasgow, along with their food partner, Tesco, also supplied all the food and water for the recent Homeless World Cup which was held in George Square.

In all they provided enough food for 3 meals per day, to over 850 players and officials over 8 days, an incredible 20,400 meals. In addition, they were able to provide over 21,000 litres of water to keep everyone hydrated throughout the event. A fantastic achievement for a very worthwhile cause.

For further information on FareShare Glasgow and the West of Scotland (FSGWS) please click on the link below: www.fareshare.org.uk

COMMUNITY BENEFITS



Front Row: Marion Mallan, Operational Procurement Manager, Maureen Fitzpatrick, Procurement Development Manager, Dorothy Balfour, Category Manager Back Row: Craig Macliver, Development Officer, Gary Stewart, Operational Procurement Manager

The Corporate Procurement Unit (CPU), with support from key service departments and stakeholders, has implemented a revised Community Benefits policy to reflect changes to procurement legislation and to support delivery of the council's strategic aims, objectives and key priorities.

While previously Community Benefits were primarily utilised in works contracts, the revised policy ensures that they are now also considered and included within services and goods contracts, while also ensuring that the types of Community Benefits sought are expanded. Community Benefits will be considered and included in procurement activity (where relevant and proportionate) with aggregated spend values which exceed the thresholds noted:

- Works Contracts >£500k
- Services/Goods Contracts >£50k

Community Benefits targeted for delivery under the revised policy include, but are not limited to outcomes in the following areas:

- Targeted Recruitment and Training
- Educational Support
- Vocational Training
- Business Support and Supply Chain Development
- Supported Business, Third Sector and Voluntary Initiatives
- Social Enterprise and Co-operative initiatives
- Community and Environmental Initiatives
- Equality and Diversity Initiatives
- Poverty Initiatives

Use of the Revised Community Benefits Policy

A summary of procurement activity under the revised Community Benefits policy to date (including both on-going and awarded procurement) is outlined in the table below:

| Type | No. of Contracts | Value |
|----------|------------------|---------|
| Works | 14 | £83.3m |
| Services | 19 | £29.8m |
| Goods | 1 | £1.6m |
| Total | 34 | £114.7m |

This table highlights the impact of the revised policy as Community Benefits have now been included in 20 services and goods contracts (worth over £30mil) where they may not previously have been considered.

As a result, Community Benefits outcomes are expected to be delivered in the following areas:

| Theme | Outcome |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Targeted Recruitment and Training | New entrant positions (including apprentices and graduates) Graduate placements Vocational taster placements |
| Educational Support | School workshops Career events School mentoring |
| Business Support | Business Mentoring with SMEs, Social Enterprises, Third Sector Organisations and/or Supported Businesses |

Over the coming newsletters, we will provide further updates on the implementation of the revised policy as well as examples of use and case studies highlighting some the outcomes generated through Community Benefits.

The full Community Benefits Policy can be viewed here:

www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19491



WORKING CO-OPERATIVELY ACROSS THE COUNCIL – GOVANHILL



Front Row: Margo Uprichard, The Space, Marie McLelland, Glasgow City Council, Eszther Tarcsafalvi, Govanhill Community Development Trust, Back Row: Marcela Adamova, Romanalav, Sylvie Akram, Glasgow City Council

The community of Govanhill is one of the most unique in the country. Not only is it one of the most densely populated, it is also the most ethnically diverse in Scotland.

Already blighted with socio-economic deprivation, the arrival of migrants from Central, Southern and Eastern Europe since 2004 has added to the already stretched services. Around 4,000 Roma have made Govanhill their home. However, a history of severe discrimination and marginalisation had led to them becoming some of the most deprived and vulnerable people in our city.

Glasgow City Council has responded by working co-operatively across departments and statutory agencies to deliver local support to the community.

Located with Govanhill Housing Association, The Govanhill HUB is a multi-disciplinary team

consisting of officers from DRS, Land and Environmental Services and a team of 7 Social Workers dedicated to supporting Roma children and families. Day to day working within the HUB is more than just co-location. GCC service departments work together, alongside Govanhill Housing Association and Police Scotland to pool resources when required but also at a strategic level to help shape the direction of the plans for the local areas.

One such example was the award winning Roma Net project. Roma Net was a collaboration of 10 EU cities with the aim of improving the inclusion of Roma migrants. In Glasgow, over 15 organisations came together to develop a Local Action Plan which is now embedded within the Govanhill Action Plan and also some of the key health and social care strategies being developed for the city.

Roma Net was clear evidence that a co-operative approach works and we are now taking this approach further with the CDU assisting some local enterprises develop and



Representatives from the Roma Community at Romanet Conference at the City Chambers

become more sustainable. Co-operative working is deeply embedded within the Govanhill HUB, however with recent SIMD figures showing that Govanhill is still one of the most deprived areas in the country, there is clearly some way to go. While other areas have benefited from economic growth across the city, Govanhill has lagged behind.

As a result, we are now looking at ways to make co-operative working much more beneficial for the

community themselves and are developing a series of programmes and initiatives to help the community be part of the solution.

Especially those who have been marginalised for some time. Hopefully with the right package of funding and support, we will see some real progress in Govanhill over the coming years with co-operative working at the core.

As Team Leader within the Social Work Roma Children and Families and Unaccompanied Minor Asylum Seeker Team, it has been extremely beneficial to work co-operatively with other service departments and partner organisations to deliver better outcomes for Govanhill. The cross departmental working has opened many opportunities for Social Work and has forged long-term relationships as well as improved procedures and co-operation.

KEITH MOORE-MILNE

THE CO-OPERATIVE GLASGOW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT FUND

Contact Details

The Co-operative Glasgow Business Development Fund is now open for grant applications or awards of up to £25,000.

Please see website for further details:

www.glasgow.gov.uk/co-operativeglasgow

If you are interested in securing a Business Development Grant or if you work within the Council Family and are interested in promoting co-operative work we may be able to help you finance development activities.

Please contact the Co-operative Development Unit on **0141 287 5776** or e-mail the team at:

Co-operativeBusinessDevelopmentFund@glasgow.gov.uk

OUR NEWS

Congratulations to Eddie Percy and Lesley Thomson who have recently left the CDU Team. Eddie has taken up a post in Invest Glasgow and Lesley has moved to the Corporate Procurement Unit. Many thanks for your hard work and support over the years. We wish them all the best in their new posts.



Eddie Percy



Lesley Thomson

Glasgow Living Wage

To date a total of 485 employers have signed up to the Glasgow Living Wage covering over 89000 employees. It was announced in November that the Glasgow Living Wage will increase to £8.45 for 2017.

For further information on the Glasgow Living Wage and, if you wish to register your company as a Glasgow Living Wage employer, please click on the link www.glasgowlivingwage.co.uk

Glasgow
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