

**Dumbarton Common Good Fund  
for consideration at Corporate Services Committee on 9 September 2020  
(20/21)**

**Additional information on Alternatives Reserves position**

As reported in Appendix A the level of reserves held by Alternatives is £647,539 as at 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020. The OSCR recommended level of reserves for Alternatives is £315,000.

Alternatives Board of Directors has identified in its adopted Strategy 2020-25 three areas of sub-division:

- £200k allocation as c. 40% match funding towards the development of the wider social enterprise project, of which the Knowetop proposals form part – a £530k project across 3 years for work across West Dunbartonshire;
- £315k allocation as the OSCR recommended true reserve to safeguard the charity, representing 3 months' gross operating expenditure.
- An intention to employ the remaining £132.5k to develop/extend the very successful safe house scheme into the northern part of the patch, with a substantial portion of match funding from the reserve.

Alternatives have advised that their £315k reserve is under pressure this year due to Covid-19, as it is subsidising a trading loss on the safe house/scatter flat scheme. To date the value of the trading loss being subsidised is £95k.

**Other funding activity being pursued by Alternatives in relation to this project**

Other Funding requested:

Source Organisation	Amount Requested	Outcome
Garfield Weston Foundation	50,000	No award
Henry Smith Foundation	60,000	No award
Wolfson Foundation	50,000	No award
BBC Children in Need	10,000	No award
Glasgow Airport Flightpath Fund	5,000	No award
Volant Charitable Trust	10,000	Active application
Universal Credit Transition Fund	67,000	Active-Fund reclassified was £100k
Dumbarton Common Good	50,425	Active application
Bannister Trust	45,000	Active application
Central Scotland Green Network	12,500	awarded – Communities Growing Food Together Fund

In total Alternatives have applied for £393k in funding of which only £12.5k has been awarded so far, £208k has been refused and four active applications remain worth £172.5k (including DCG £50.5k).

Alternatives have reported that nearly all funding sources are diverting their attention to Covid recovery projects which is making it increasingly difficult to secure any funding.