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| <b>Subject:</b>           | Social Supermarket Fund 26/28   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2026  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Jim Girvan - Director of Neighbourhood Services   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Nicola Lane - Neighbourhood Services Manager<br>Margaret Higgins - Lead Officer Community Provision |

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| <b>Is this report restricted?</b>   |                          |
| <p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p><b>Insert number</b> <input type="text"/></p> <p>1. Information relating to any individual<br/>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual<br/>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)<br/>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter<br/>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained<br/>6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction<br/>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</p> |                          |
| <b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>  |                          |
| <b>After Committee Decision</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>After Council Decision</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Sometime in the future</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>Never</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| <b>Is this report eligible for call in?</b>            |   |
| <b>1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b> |   |
| 1.1  | To advise members that the assessment of applications received through the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 has now concluded and that a full report on the outcome will be brought to February SP&R for consideration and agreement on allocation of funds. |

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| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>   |
| 2.1        | It is recommended that Committee note the contents of the report.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>  |
| 3.1        | <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In response to recommendations in the Welfare Reform Mitigations report, the Department for Communities (DfC) has operated a Social Supermarket Pilot programme since October 2017. Following positive evaluation of the Programme, funding has been made available through the CSP since 20/21 to all council areas.</p>   |
| 3.2        | <p>The aim of a social supermarket is to offer a sustainable response to food insecurity by seeking to help address the root causes of poverty rather than simply provide food. This is achieved by providing, in addition to food support, a referral network for wraparound support.</p>  |
| 3.3        | <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that funding for Social Supermarkets is primarily drawn from the DfC Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer, through a 100% DfC resourced funding stream for this work. Council has not yet received a Letter of Offer for 26/27, and Council does not have any budget to support activity that is 100% funded through the CSP.</p> <p>In recent years, CSP Letters of Offer have not been received until July. Given that applications to the Social Supermarket Fund 26/28 will support activity from 01 April 2026 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028, the outcome of the assessments is being presented to SP&amp;R so that they can consider funding options in the absence of a DfC LoO.</p> |
| 4.1        | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The budget received from DfC in 25/26 was £777,811 which has been used to support 19 projects. In November 2025, Council made an additional allocation of £100,000 to support social supermarkets.</p>  |
| <b>5.0</b> |   |
| 5.1        | <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The 26/28 Social Supermarket Fund open call is being screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications</p>   |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b><u>Appendices - Documents Attached or None</u></b>   |
|            | None  |