

PEOPLE COMMITTEE

19 MARCH 2019

REPORT OF DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update members regarding the future relationship between Melton Borough Council and the Melton branch of the Citizens Advice Bureau in light of the recent reduction to the annual MBC contribution through the Community Grants Budget

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That members note the current position regarding the Melton Citizens Advice Bureau.**

3.0 KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Melton Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) operated from the MBC Parkside office for 3 days per week, utilising between 18 and 20 volunteers to support residents with advice and guidance on a range of issues, including employment advice, homelessness and housing advice and money management.
- 3.2 The CAB also operates a money advice service which is funded centrally through Leicestershire County Council, yet provides specific money advice on a referral basis to residents in the Melton Borough.
- 3.3 Members have recently authorised a £17k reduction in CAB funding for the 2019/20 financial year, taking the annual contribution from £44k to £27k.
- 3.4 Subsequent discussions with the CAB have covered aspects of service delivery, in the context of the £17k reduction in funding. Although we are yet to receive any formal notification or model of how the service will operate from 1 April 2019, discussions have covered the following issues:
- A reduction in the overall desk space available to the CAB at Parkside
 - A subsequent reduction in the overall CAB offer in Melton
 - Potential use of Children's Centres and Community Centres through the delivery of a more 'outreach' based offer
- 3.5 The Council acknowledges that with any reduction in the service offered by the CAB comes a reduction in the rental income derived from their presence in Parkside.
- 3.6 To allow the CAB additional time to formulate and present their alternative delivery plans, the Council has agreed to sustain the current payment levels for Q1 2019/20. The CAB has been offered support from officers to formulate a mutually beneficial service, including the long term retention of the 20 CAB volunteers and sustainment of the valued advice provided by the Melton CAB.

3.7 The CAB has committed to presenting officers with a future plan by the end of April 2019.

4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The attached policies link into the following Corporate Priority:

- Helping people fulfil their potential and achieve their ambitions.
- Work with our partners to address vulnerability and tackle the root causes of social problems, building safe, happy and healthy communities.
- Focussing on our priority neighbourhoods, support people to overcome disadvantage and live well independently

5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The financial implications of the proposed changes to Melton CAB service provision are outlined in the report

6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS

6.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the report but it is envisaged that legal support will be required to deal with ongoing provisions in relation to leases/licences.

7.0 COMMUNITY SAFETY

7.1 No implications are expected

8.0 EQUALITIES

8.1 An equalities Impact Assessment has been completed for the initial removal of the £17k funding from the CAB. An updated EIA will be provided when the full impact of the proposal has been determined through the receipt of a future plans document from the CAB.

9.0 RISKS

9.1

L I K E L I H O O D	A	Very High				
	B	High				
	C	Significant		1, 2		
	D	Low				
	E	Very Low				
	F	Almost Impossible				
			Negligible 1	Marginal 2	Critical 3	Catastrophic 4

IMPACT

Risk No	Risk Description
1	Negative media coverage as a result of the proposed changes
2	Impact upon local residents should the CAB reduce their presence at Parkside
3	

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE

10.1 None

11.0 CONSULTATION

11.1 No consultation with the public has been undertaken as a result of the proposed changes, however consultation with the CAB continues.

12.0 WARDS AFFECTED

12.1 All wards affected.

Contact Officer Albert Wilson

Date: 7 March 2019

Appendices : *None*

Background Papers: None

Reference : X : Committees\?

