

Meeting of the Council

17 July 2019

Report of:	Deputy Chief Executive and Director for People and Communities
Cabinet Member	Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Access and Engagement

APPROVAL OF BUDGET TO SUPPORT CITIZENS ADVICE LEICESTERSHIRE 2019/20

1.0 Summary:

1.1 Following a decision to agree to future operations of Citizen's Advice Leicestershire (CAL), taken by the Portfolio Holder for Governance, Access and Engagement, this report seeks approval for an additional budget of £6,000 which will enable them to continue delivering the service from Parkside for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 March 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 **That Council allocate an additional £6,000 to fund the revised operational requirements of Citizens Advice Leicestershire to 31 March, 2020**

3.0 Report Detail

3.1 As part of the budget setting process, Council approved a reduction in grant to the CAL (previously referred to as the Citizens Advice Bureau) from £44k to £27k.

3.2 For 2019/20 the implementation of the budget reduction was deferred until 1st July 2019 to allow CAL to determine how they will deliver the service within the grant allocated.

3.3 Following negotiation with CAL and consultation with Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, Access and Engagement made a delegated decision to continue with the service and agreed terms on how it would be delivered. The decision was made on the basis that a recommendation to Council would be made which would seek to allocate £6,000 additional funding from July 1, 2019 until 31, March 2020.

3.4 The increased funding of £6,000 would be added to the existing £20,250 which is allocated to CAL for the remainder of 2019/20. Following rent payments to the Council, CAL would have a net budget of £15,000 to deliver the service from Parkside for the remaining three quarters.

- This additional funding of £6,000 is transitional for 2019/20. Funding for 2020/21 onwards will be considered through the new arrangements to be introduced following the Community Grants Review. This will require community and voluntary groups to demonstrate the impact they will have in

supporting the council's priority objectives and value for money. An officer and member panel will evaluate the most appropriate organisations to fund and make recommendations for approval as part of the budget setting process.

4.0 Consultation and Feedback

4.1 Consultation took place with CAL and members of both Cabinet and Scrutiny Committee prior to the delegated decision being made.

5.0 Next Steps

5.1 If agreed the additional funding will be allocated to CAL.

6.0 Financial Implications

6.1 The additional costs will be funded from savings elsewhere within the budget.

7.0 Legal and Governance Implications:

7.1 On 13th February 2019, Council approved a reduction in budget to Citizens Advice Leicestershire. Council are now requested to allocate an additional amount and this is a Council function.

8.0 Equality and Safeguarding Implications:

8.1 An initial Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was done prior to the budget setting process in February. A further EIA will be conducted but as part of the wider community grants review on the proposed process following consultation.

9.0 Community Safety Implications:

9.1 None identified

10.0 Other Implications

10.1 None identified

11.0 Risk & Mitigation:

11.1 If the budget is not approved, alternative options will not involve delivery of service from Parkside resulting in loss of income, face to face services and reputational impact as the revised arrangements have been agreed in principle by both organisations following extensive consultation and negotiation.

Implementation of a revised funding allocation process following a review of the Community Grants should mitigate against the Council being in a similar position going forward.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices

None

Report Timeline:

Equalities Check & Challenge N/A

SLT Sign off

Previously Considered by Cabinet

Not applicable

Director Approval

Chief Finance Officer Sign Off

Monitoring Officer Sign Off

08/07/2019

Report Author and Job Title

Aysha Rahman – People Manager

☎: 07890 534836