

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE	7 MARCH 2023	9
CITIZENS ADVICE FYLDE			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Members will be aware that a key partnership exists between the Council and Citizens' Advice Fylde. The Council provides funding to Citizens' Advice to support several programmes which aim to provide free, confidential and impartial advice to Fylde Borough residents. The partnership is predominantly managed through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which is renewed every 3 years.

Fylde CAB is seeking a substantial uplift in its grant provision. In 2022/23 the level of support to Citizens Advice Fylde totalled £102,082, and this figure is built into the council's base budget.

For 2023/24 the grant to CAB will continue in line with the base budget, and it is recommended that a one-year Service Level Agreement be entered into for 2023/24. This will then provide the opportunity for a deeper consideration of the funding position of the CAB to take place, and its financing challenges, that have led to its request for an increase in grant provision.

Citizens Advice Fylde has funding within its reserves to meet any shortfall as a one-off in 2023/24 whilst this piece of analysis takes place.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (i) That a one-year Service Level Agreement be entered into with Citizens Advice Fylde for 2023/24
- (ii) That a further report be brought back to members in due course on the findings, and recommendations, of the Use of Resources review from MIAA, the council's internal audit service on the level of funding recommended for the three-year period running from 2024/25.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Annual report to the committee on the work of Citizens Advice Fylde

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Economy – To create a vibrant and healthy economy	√
Environment – To deliver services customers expect	
Efficiency – By spending money in the most efficient way	√
Tourism – To create a great place to live and visit	

REPORT

1. Members will be aware that a key partnership exists between the Council and Citizens' Advice Fylde. The Council provides funding to Citizens' Advice to support several programmes which aim to provide free, confidential and impartial advice to Fylde Borough residents. The partnership is predominantly managed through a Service Level Agreement (SLA) which is renewed every 3 years.
2. Fylde CAB is seeking a substantial uplift in its grant provision. In 2022/23 the level of support to Citizens Advice Fylde totalled £102,082, and this figure is built into the council's base budget.
3. For 2023/24 the grant to CAB will continue in line with the base budget, and it is recommended that a one-year Service Level Agreement be entered into for 2023/24. This will then provide the opportunity for a deeper consideration of the funding position of the CAB to take place, and its financing challenges, that have led to its request for an increase in grant provision. Citizens Advice Fylde has funding within its reserves to meet any shortfall as a one-off in 2023/24 whilst this piece of analysis takes place. It has also agreed to work in partnership with the council to complete this work.
4. The analysis will be undertaken by MIAA, the council's internal audit service during the first quarter of 2023/24 in order that the outcome can be considered as a part of the 2024/25 budget setting round.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.
Legal	There are no legal implications
Community Safety	There are no community safety implications
Human Rights and Equalities	There are no human rights or equalities implications
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	There are no sustainability or environmental implications
Health & Safety and Risk Management	There are no health & safety or risk management implications

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Environment, Health and Housing Committee	Various dates / most meetings	www.fylde.gov.uk