

Results of Public and Stakeholder Consultation – Budget Options on Grant to North Dorset CAB and Community Development Budget

Portfolio Holders

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Statutory Authority

The Localism Act, 2011

Purpose of Report

1. To report on the outcomes of consultation on two budget options relating to North Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and the council's Community Development Budget and to make recommendations to Council.

Officer Recommendations

- 2 To recommend to Cabinet that the preferred option in relation to council funding for North Dorset CAB is £48,698 per annum, which supports the funding proposed by the CAB's Option 2, but that should at any time North Dorset District Council cease to exist as a sovereign Council, then this annual funding to cease.
- 3 To recommend to Cabinet that the preferred option for the council's community development budget is Option B3, to reduce the Community Development Services budget for 2017-18 by £100,000, leaving a budget of £22,000; and provide a time limited project completion fund of £10,000 for 2017-18.

Reason for Decision

- 4 To enable North Dorset District Council to make decisions on two discretionary budgets in order to reach a balanced budget for the financial year 2017-18. The preferred option for the grant to the North Dorset CAB also takes account of an alternative options proposed by the CAB.

Background and Reason Decision Needed

- 5 The council's annual grant of £73,920 to North Dorset CAB under a Service Level Agreement. For this grant the CAB provides 66 service hours a week, 30 at its main office in Gillingham and 36 hours outreach work at locations in Blandford, Shaftesbury, Stalbridge and Sturminster Newton. The budget options relating to this grant are:
- Option A1 – cease payment of the £74,000 annual grant to the Citizens' Advice Bureau from 1 April 2017, resulting in no district council funding.
 - Option A2 - reduce the annual grant to the Citizens' Advice Bureau by £39,000 to provide £35,000 funding from 1 April 2017 for the financial year 2017-18 only (and cease funding from 31 March 2018). This grant would cover work during any notice period if a decision to reduce and cease the grant is taken.
 - Option A3 – reduce the annual grant to the Citizen's Advice Bureau by £59,000 to provide £15,000 funding from 1 April 2017 for the financial year 2017-18 only (and cease funding from 31 March 2018). This grant would cover any notice period if a decision to reduce and cease the grant is taken.
- 6 North Dorset CAB has also submitted two alternative options to those above: Option 1 for funding of £62,832 (15% reduction) and Option 2 for £48,698 (35% reduction) for the financial years 2017-18 to 2019-20 inclusive. These are included at Appendix 4 to this report.
- 7 The community Development Services budget of £122,000 which funds community planning in the market towns of Blandford, Shaftesbury, Sturminster Newton and Stalbridge and staffing for this function in all but the latter town. The budget options relating to this budget are:
- Option B1 – cease the £122,000 district council funding for the Community Development Service from 1 April 2017, resulting in no district council funding
 - Option B2 – cease the £122,000 funding for the Community Development Service from 1 April 2017 resulting in no district council funding, and provide a time limited project completion fund of £10,000
 - Option B3 – remove £100,000 from the Community Development Service budget leaving a remaining budget of £22,000 for 2017-18, and provide a time limited project completion fund of £10,000.
- 8 Both are tabled as budget options for Member approval and are identified as having potential equalities impacts requiring public and stakeholder consultation. The Equalities Impact Assessments for both options were presented as appendices to the report considered by 6 February 2017 meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The public and stakeholder consultation took place between 3 October and 28 November 2016.
- 9 The consultation was conducted online and paper copies were also made available for those without computer access. A total number of 568 responses were received. 474 responses were received online and 53

complete paper copies were received. 41 additional paper copies came from North Dorset CAB. These were CAB photocopies of the original paper copies and had some pages missing. Due to the missing pages, these 41 submissions have been analysed and reported separately as incomplete responses as like for like analysis was not possible.

- 10 This report provides a summary of the consultation results because the full appendices run to 130 pages. The full results can be provided on request and copies are available to view at this meeting. The appendices to this report provide the headline consultation responses (Appendix 1), the consultation responses for each option consulted upon (Appendix 2 & 3) and include two alternative options proposed by the CAB, (Appendix 4).

Implications

Corporate Plan

- 12 Priorities covered by this report are: Empower Thriving & Inclusive Communities Build a Stronger Local Economy, Improve Quality of Life Develop Successful Partnerships

Financial

- 13 This report covers:
- The annual grant of £74,000 to North Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau
 - The community development budget of £122,000 for community planning partnerships and community resource workers

Equalities

- 14 Separate equalities impact assessments have been prepared for each of these budget options and will be further developed using relevant information received through the consultation process. A copy of each respective Equalities Impact Assessment is attached at Appendices 4 and 5 and include implications identified through the consultation.

Risk Management (including Health & Safety)

- 17 The budget options out for consultation present a potential reputational risk to council.

Human Resources

- 18 The options for community partnership have a staffing impact and discussions have been ongoing with Community Resource Workers about this. Formal consultation will take place with unions and staff in accordance with the DCP's usual procedures and legal requirements.

Consultation and Engagement

- 19 The following consultation and engagement has been undertaken to date:
- Meetings with community resource workers

- Portfolio Holder meeting with chairs of community planning partnerships.
- Meetings held with trustees, Chair and Manager of North Dorset CAB, one including the Chair of Dorchester and Sherborne CAB.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Headline results of consultation

Appendix 2: Summary of consultation results, options relating to NDDC Grant to North Dorset CAB

Appendix 3: Summary of consultation results, options relating to the Community Development Budget

Appendix 4: Options provided by North Dorset CAB

Background Papers

Cabinet Update Report on Budget, 19 September 2016

Consultation reports on Budget Options relating to North Dorset CAB and Community Development Budget

Footnote

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

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