

**REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY GROUP MANAGER SAFER AND ENGAGED
COMMUNITIES****RESPONSE TO PETITION OPPOSING THE REMOVAL OF THE CITIZEN'S
ADVICE BUREAU IN NEWARK****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the response to the petition opposing the removal of Newark Citizen's Advice Bureau presented to the Chairman of the County Council at the Council meeting on 5th July 2012.

Information and Advice

2. An 873 signature petition was presented to the 5th July meeting of the County Council by Councillor Keith Girling opposing the closure of Newark Citizen's Advice Bureau
3. Nottinghamshire Citizen's Advice Bureaux receive Grant Aid Funding from the County Council as a consortium with Broxtowe CAB taking on the role of lead organisation. This enables the Bureaux to decide where the funding is best allocated. A Nottinghamshire strategy is currently under development with each Bureau leading on an area of strength seeking to build capacity and make more efficient use of resources and staff time.
4. the County Council through its Grant Aid Strategy, is committed to supporting collaborative working and consortia in the voluntary sector. The Strategy aims to foster a mature relationship which acknowledges that organisations such as Citizen's Advice Bureaux are themselves best placed to decide how their grant aid funding is allocated to meet their joint priorities.
5. The County Council, whilst not seeking to determine how the grant aid funding is distributed, is working with the consortium to ensure that an advice service will be provided in the Newark area.
6. County Council Grant Aid funding has been committed to the CAB network for the next 3 years to help give greater stability which means that they will receive £200,000 for 2012/13 and 2013/14. In line with all other groups on 3 year agreements they will receive a reduced award of £178,480 for 2014/15.

Other Options Considered

7. As part of the County Council's Grant Aid Strategy as outlined above it is not appropriate to consider other options at this stage.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To provide information to Members on the County Council's response to the petition opposing the closure of Newark CAB.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

10. To note the report

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Constitutional Comments (NAB 29.8.12)

11. The grant aid sub-committee has authority to approve the recommendations set out in this report.

Financial Comments

Background Papers

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Petition opposing the closure of Newark CAB

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected - ALL