

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy**Citizens Advice Broxtowe – Grant Aid 2024-2027****1. Purpose of Report**

To consider a request for grant aid in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Grant Aid Policy.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to CONSIDER the request from Citizens Advice Broxtowe and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

In July 2021, the Finance and Resources Committee approved grant aid of £73,750 to Citizens Advice Broxtowe (CAB), which included £10,000 towards the annual rental of accommodation in the Council Offices. The resolution included a commitment to award grant aid at this level in both 2022/23 and 2023/24, subject to a suitable Service Level Agreement being in place. This three-year funding settlement was seen to provide some much-needed stability for Citizens Advice Broxtowe and give it a platform to lever in additional funds from other sources. This agreement has now successfully concluded.

A new grant aid application has been received from CAB and is detailed in **Appendix 1** and **Appendix 2** for consideration. CAB has again requested that the Council considers awarding the annual grant with an additional commitment to repeat the award in both 2025/26 and 2026/27. Although the Grant Aid Policy states that the Council would normally only commit to funding an organisation for a single year, in exceptional circumstances funding can be granted for longer periods.

The overall budget for grants to voluntary organisations in 2024/25 is £168,800. An amount of £73,750 has been provisionally earmarked from the overall grant aid budget towards CAB. Any grant awarded in respect of the rental obligation (£10,000) would have no effect on the Council's overall budget, with the award being matched by allowances within the premises income budget.

Members are reminded that they will need to suitably constrain grant awards if the budget is not to be exceeded. Any additional sums awarded to CAB over and above the amount provisionally earmarked would require either an additional allocation from Revenue Contingencies or for grants to be limited in other areas.

4. Key Decision

This report is not a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

The overall budget for grants to voluntary organisations in 2024/25 includes an amount of £73,750 which has been provisionally earmarked for this anticipated request from Citizens Advice Broxtowe. This includes £10,000 towards the rental obligation for the office accommodation at the Council Offices in Beeston.

Any additional sums awarded to CAB over and above the amount provisionally earmarked would require an additional allocation from Revenue Contingencies and/or for grants to be limited in other areas.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council is empowered to make grants to voluntary organisations by virtue of Section 48 Local Government Act 1985 (as well as other legislation). Having an approved process in line the legislation and the Council's Grant Aid Policy will ensure the Council's compliance with its legal duties.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

No climate change implications have been identified in relation to this report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

As this is not a change to policy an equality impact assessment is not required.

13. Background Papers

Nil.