



**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL
OFFICER (EXECUTIVE) DECISION NOTICE AND RECORD**

1. DECISION TAKEN				
To provide Crosby Community Association with additional funding of £22,000 to allow them to continue to employ a worker for its Welfare Advice Service from the 1 st of April 2015 to March 31 st 2016 managed by incorporating the additional funding into their existing Service Level Agreement with the Council.				
IS THIS A 'KEY DECISION' ?	Yes	No		
DOES THIS DECISION RELATE TO EXEMPT INFORMATION?	Yes	No		
EXEMPT PARAGRAPH REFERENCE (NOT TO BE PUBLISHED)	N/A			
2. OFFICER DECISION TAKER	NAME: Mike Wedgewood POSITION/POST: Director of Policy and Resources SIGNATURE:  DATE: 18/2/15			
3. DECISION TAKEN IN CONSULTATION WITH MEMBER	COUNCILLOR: Cllr Neil Poole POSITION: Cabinet Member – Policy & Resources SIGNATURE:  DATE: 19.2.15			
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width: 50%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table>	Yes	No		
Yes	No			
4. REASONS FOR THE DECISION (Please ref to any report/background documents attached)	As stated at 4.2 of the attached report the continuation of the post will ensure that BME Communities and those who need to be seen in their own homes will continue to receive a much needed service.			
5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED (BY DECISION TAKER(S))	As stated at 3.1 and 4.1 of the attached report the option of not providing funding was also considered but rejected.			
6. ANY CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARED BY ANY EXECUTIVE (CABINET) MEMBER (S) CONSULTED, WHICH RELATES TO THE DECISION	None			
7. WITH REFERENCE TO 6. ABOVE - HAS ANY DISPENSATION BEEN GRANTED TO THE EXECUTIVE (CABINET) MEMBER?	None			

PLEASE REMEMBER TO ATTACH ANY ACCOMPANYING REPORT.
RETURN TO HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, CIVIC CENTRE, SCUNTHORPE

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

DIRECTOR OF POLICY & RESOURCES

CROSBY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – ADDITIONAL FUNDING

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an assessment of the request for additional funding from Crosby Community Association (CCA) to support existing provision.
- CCA receives £30000 per annum from the Council to deliver advice and guidance to local residents.
 - CCA have requested a further £22000 to wholly fund an Advice Worker post for 1 year from April 2015.
 - The National Lottery funded the post previously but turned down the request for continuation funding despite meeting all targets.
 - The post mainly assists members of the BME community and people who are unable to get to their offices through incapacity.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Council provides CCA with £30,000 per year to provide advice and guidance to local residents. CCA use the funding to part fund an Advice Worker, a Frontline Advisor and a Centre Manager. This funding has also been used to attract further funding from a charitable trust and the National Lottery. CCA supplement the grants they receive through charitable activities and renting out part of their building.
- 2.2 The National Lottery funds an Advice Worker. This funding ends in April 2015 and an application for continuation funding has been turned down as the work no longer fits in with the Lotteries criteria.
- 2.3 In addition the Advice North Lincs project funds a Debt Advice worker; this funding ends in October and will not be renewed. A further Advice Worker is funded through a charitable trust; this funding ends in June 2016 but will be reapplied for.
- 2.4 CCA are accredited with Advice UK as an advice and guidance provider. They have made great strides over the last two years in developing their relationship with the Council.
- 2.5 CCA are asking for £22000 to continue the Advice worker post previously funded by the National Lottery for one year. It is extremely unlikely that they would be able to access funds from external sources by the end of March 2015.
- 2.6 Due to the current postholders links with the Eastern European communities there has been an increase in the number of people from BME communities accessing CCA's services from virtually 0% of their client base to 8% since he came into post. The postholder also has

responsibility for visiting residents, who cannot get to the office due to incapacity, in their homes.

- 2.7 The Council also provides funding to Scunthorpe & District CAB and Crosby Employment Bureau for Advice and Guidance work. An Officer group is working to bring all funding for advice and guidance under one commissioning exercise in time for the next round of funding in 2016.
- 2.8 The SLAs the Council holds with advice and guidance agencies have proved successful in allowing the Council to ensure that the service is delivered correctly and that groups achieve their targets.
- 2.9 The Council is currently negotiating the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between itself and CCA for 2015-16.
- 2.10 If funding was made available the SLA could be amended to include specific targets for this post to allow the funding to be managed through the existing process.
- 2.11 Decisions on this budget are made by the Director of Policy & Resources advised by recommendations from the Stronger Communities Funded Group. The group discussed the request on the 21st of January 2015 and the Chair of that group, Cllr Poole, based on that discussion and a subsequent Cabinet Member briefing and further paper, has recommended that the funding should be provided.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 No funding is provided to CCA.
- 3.2 Funding is provided and managed through an amended version of the proposed SLA between the Council and CCA.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 **Option 1** - Not providing the additional funding would have a significant impact on the ability of residents to access advice and guidance services. It would most affect residents from BME communities and those who need to be seen in their own home or locality.

The reduction in their ability to carry out face to face work with clients could also have an impact on their viability as an advice and guidance provider and the reduction in contributions to office costs could impact on their viability as an organisation in the long term.

However, the funding is for an existing post, and although the work targets residents who do not normally access standard services funding the post would merely maintain existing capacity.

- 4.2 **Option 2** - The continuation of the post will ensure that BME Communities and those who need to be seen in their own homes receive a much needed service.

It will also ensure that CCA is still providing advice and guidance services in the build up to the commissioning of advice and guidance

services starting in 2016 giving the Council more options in the commissioning exercise.

By managing the funding through an amended SLA we can also set targets which will evidence how the post will increase existing capacity.

The funding would be limited to one year as a new advice and guidance service will be commissioned from April 2016.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Financial – Funding exists through the Stronger Communities Team core budget.
- 5.2 Staffing – There are no staffing issues as CCA employ their own staff.
- 5.3 Property – There are no Property issues as CCA operate from their own building.
- 5.4 IT – There are no IT issues as CCA operate their own IT system.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

- 6.1 An integrated impact assessment has been completed and shows that the approval of the request for additional funds will have a positive impact on residents within the protected characteristics.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST DECLARED

- 7.1 The request was discussed at January's Stronger Communities Funded Group and the CAB asked that it be minuted that they supported the request. The group as a whole supported the request.
- 7.2 The Chair of the above group, Cllr Poole, received a briefing on the 4th of February 2015 and a further paper on the matter; he has recommended that the Director approve the request for further funding as outlined in this report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Director approves the request for additional funding to CCA as outlined at Option 2 and instructs Officers to incorporate this into the existing SLA with CCA.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: LEGAL & DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Civic Centre, Ashby Road,
SCUNTHORPE,
North Lincolnshire, DN16 1AB

Author: Dave Hey

Date: Wednesday, 18 February 2015

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report -

Community Grant Application for submitted by CCA to support their request.