

**NOTIFICATION OF GRANT AID AWARDS FOR 2013-14 AND DETAILS OF
INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADVICE SERVICES (JAN – MARCH 2013)
(Report by Head of Environmental & Community Health Services)**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The main purpose of this report is to provide members with information about the decisions regarding the awards of Grant Aid budget; in relation to the bids received during October 2012. The report also provides Members with summary information relating to the interim arrangements for advice services (January to March 2013).

2 SUMMARY OF DECISION FOR 2013-14 GRANT AWARDS

- 2.1 Following full consideration of all the submissions received. Councillors Sanderson and Gray agreed that funding for three financial years commencing April 2013 be awarded to the following organisations:-

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|--|----------|
| • Rural Cambs Citizens' Advice Bureau | £115,000 |
| • Disability Information Service Huntingdonshire | £ 19,000 |
| • Hunts Forum for Voluntary Organisations | £ 43,000 |
| • Care Network | £ 10,000 |
| • Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre | £ 37,000 |
| • Huntingdon Shopmobility | £ 30,000 |

- 2.2 The letters making the offer of grant were dispatched to the successful organisations on 12 December 2012.

- 2.3 At the same meeting it was agreed that awards would not be made to the following organisations:-

- Ouse Valley Advice
- Bridge Money Advice / Counselling Service
- Life after Debt
- St Barnabas Community Learning Centre
- Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue

- 2.4 The letter advising those organisation who were unsuccessful in their bids were dispatched on 17 December 2012.

- 2.5 Members will be aware that the current 5-year arrangements for voluntary sector support including the arrangement with Huntingdonshire CAB was due to end in March 2012. In a development, separate from the natural end to the current 5-year arrangements, Huntingdonshire CAB decided to wind-up.

3. DETAILS OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADVICE SERVICES (Jan – Mar 2013)

3.1 Huntingdonshire CAB had been providing Citizens' Advice Services across the district under the 5-year arrangement. The decision of Huntingdonshire CAB and the scheduled timing of the council's grant-award process meant that there were two distinct, but inter-dependent issues being resolved.

3.2 The offer to Rural Cambs Citizens Advice Bureau was on the basis of the bid they submitted for providing advices, including specialist debt-advice services to the residents of Huntingdonshire, from 1 April 2013. As the successful bidder, for the 2013-14 grant, they were the first choice to approach regarding provision of an interim advice-service. To expect another provider to set up, operate and close down within an 11/12 week period while offering a comprehensive service throughout is not realistic; by approaching Rural Cambs. CAB the set-up phase is likely to be equally challenging but the benefits can be sustained into the period of the new arrangement.

3.3 Rural Cambs.CAB has indicated that it would be prepared to offer an advice service in both St Neots and Huntingdon from January 2013. The costs arising and the grant support that would be necessary to make this possible have been negotiated. The support required can be provided by HDC from the unspent grant budget for 2012-13; there are sufficient funds.

3.4 Rural Cambs. CAB acknowledges that it will not be able to provide the full service from day 1 (3 January 2013). During this period they will be actively recruiting volunteers and appointing supervisors; temporarily, where vacancies exist. (They envisage they will be using available staff/volunteers previously based in Huntingdonshire. Longer term they indicate they will need to advertise and interview for positions, in accordance with their standard recruitment process). They plan an active recruitment campaign for volunteers. They will also be looking at the training needs for existing volunteers and arranging training plans in particular in relation to Welfare Benefit Reform. However during **January** they will also be offering services to the public:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------|
| St Mary's School, St Neots : | Face to face appointments - | 2-days pw |
| Town Hall, Huntingdon | Face to face appointments - | 2-days pw |
| | Drop in debt-advice clinic – | 1 day pw |
| Telephone and email service | For at least | 3 days pw |

3.4 In **February**, in addition to the volunteer recruitment/development activities they intend to develop the service further. In addition to assessing the demand for appointments and client needs (so they can increase capacity, to meet those needs as far as possible within available resources); they intend to expand the service to:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| St Mary's School, St Neots : | Face to face appointments - | 2-days pw |
| Now also in St Neots : | <u>Drop in debt-advice clinic –</u> | <u>1 day pw</u> |
| Town Hall, Huntingdon | Face to face appointments - | 2-days pw |
| | Drop in debt-advice clinic – | 1 day pw |
| Telephone and email service | For at least | <u>4 days pw</u> |

3.5 By March Rural Cambs. CAB plan to have a permanent solution to the issue of an operating-base in St Neots town centre. They expect to have reviewed the service; completed the training and support for new telephone gateway assessors and be ready to deliver the full service from 1 April 2013.

4. ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADVICE SERVICES 2013-14

4.1 From 1 April 2013 the full Rural Cambs. CAB service is planned to be:

Face-to face:

St Neots (Venue TBC)- 3 days per week
(Mon, Tues and Weds) - 9:30 am to 4:00 pm
Huntingdon (Huntingdon Town Hall) - 4 days a week
(Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri)– 9:30 am to 4:00 pm

Outreach appointments initially for 3 hours per week rotating between:

St Ives Town Hall
Ramsey Community Information Centre and
Yaxley Community Information Centre

Supplementary access:

Telephone access: Mon-Fri 9:30 to 4:00 – telephone number TBC
E-mail access – (available 26 hrs pw) e-address TBC
24/7 on-line access www.ruralcambscab.org.uk (already available)

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The grant-budget for 2013-14 has now been allocated.
- 5.2 An interim arrangement has been made to sustain provision of advice to residents of Huntingdonshire until the beginning of the new financial year; to fill the gap left by the premature loss of service from Huntingdonshire CAB. There are sufficient funds in the 2012-13 'grant' budget for HDC to support Rural Cambs. Citizens' Advice Bureau.

6. RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 Members are requested to note the content of this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Grant Aid Submissions Received October 2012

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|---|
| Cabinet report, | 19 January 2012: | Voluntary Sector Review (Indicative Funding) |
| Cabinet report, | 19 July 2012: | Voluntary Sector Funding 2013/14 Onwards |
| Member report | 21 November 2012 | Consideration Of Grant Aid Applications - Those received for 2013 allocation |
| Decision Notice | 22 November 2012 | |

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