

This Report will be made public on 23 March 2021.



Report Number **C/20/88**

To: Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities
Date: 23rd March 2021
Status: Non Key Decision
Responsible Officer: Ewan Green, Director of Place
Jyotsna Leney, Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships
Senior Specialist
Cabinet Member: Cllr Jennifer Hollingsbee, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities

SUBJECT: EXTENSION OF GRANT FUNDING IN 2021-22 FOR CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU AND CREATIVE FOLKESTONE QUARTERHOUSE

SUMMARY:

The Council has historically provided grant funding to Citizens Advice Bureau and Creative Folkestone Quarter House. These are subject of formal three year Grant Agreements which expire on 31st March 2021.

Generally these funding agreements would be reviewed in detail to assess further requests for support. However, given the resourcing pressures that the Council and both organisations have faced in relation to COVID 19, this has not been possible in time to consider grant support for 2021-22.

It is proposed therefore to extend current grant agreements with Citizens Advice Bureau and Creative Folkestone Quarterhouse for the year 2021-22.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

This will ensure that services provided by both organisations can be sustained for the coming financial in advance of a detailed review of these funding agreements being carried in 2021 to inform corporate budget development for future years.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Cabinet Member for Communities is asked to:

- 1. Receive and note report C/20/88.**
- 2. Agree to an extension of current annual grant agreements with Citizens Advice Bureau and Creative Folkestone Quarterhouse for the year 2021-22.**

- 3. Note that a detailed review of funding for both organisations will be carried out in 2021 in order to inform future corporate budget development.**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Council awards grants to key organisations (outside of ward grants and other community grants) in which deliver services to support corporate objectives, particularly those focussed on supporting disadvantaged residents.
- 1.2 Two such organisations are Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) and Creative Folkestone Quarterhouse (QH), both of which currently are in receipt of 3 year grant agreements (GA's) which expire on 31st March 2021 (ref: Cabinet Reports: C/17/98 and C/17/84 respectively)

Both organisations have asked requested that funding be continued.

- 1.3 Generally these funding agreements would be reviewed in detail to assess further requests for support. However, given the resourcing pressures that the Council and both organisations have faced in relation to COVID 19, this has not been possible in time to consider grant support for 2021-22.
- 1.4 CAB and QH provide services which are playing a key role to support communities. CAB provide critical services to vulnerable people including debt advice, and other consumer advice. The Quarter house provides a unique cultural venue and carry out many community engagement and theatrical and arts based events throughout the year including cultural festivals. Both organisations have adapted their services to address COVID-19 impacts including online services and telephone support.
- 1.5 Copies of annual reports from both organisations are attached as appendices to this report and provide an overview of the activities undertaken in the year.
- 1.6 It is therefore proposed to extend the current grant agreements for the year 2021-22.

2. Proposed Funding for 2021-22

- 2.1 For the financial year 21/22, an extension of the current GAs for one year is proposed. The allocations detailed are allocated in the Council agreed budgets for 21/22:

Citizens Advice	£67,800 (£57,000 General Fund, £10,800 HRA)
Quarterhouse	£25,000

- 2.2 The outcomes expected to be delivered are consistent with the existing grant agreements.
- 2.3 A detailed review of the funding agreements will be carried out in 2021 to inform corporate budget development for future years.

3. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

3.1

Perceived risk	Seriousness	Likelihood	Preventative action
Organisations receiving grant support do not achieve outcomes	Medium	Low	Updates on progress are reported to the Council in order that this can be monitored and issues identified.

4. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

4.1 Legal Officer's Comments

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report

4.2 Finance Officer's Comments

The funding for Citizens Advice of £67,800 (£57,000 General Fund (FH18), £10,800 HRA (MB10)) and The Quarterhouse £25,000 (FH18) have been agreed and are in the budget for 21/22.

4.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications

CAB and QH work to deliver inclusive services to all residents. This takes into account differing needs of people, including those with different protected characteristics.

5.0 CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Jyotsna Leney, Health, Wellbeing & Partnerships Senior Specialist

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Citizens Advice Bureau Annual Report 20-21

Appendix 2 Creative Folkestone Annual Report 20-21