

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE			
PORTFOLIO AREA:			
Date of Meeting:	30th September 2002		
Public			
Key Decision:	Yes	Recorded in Forward Plan:	Yes
Inside Policy Framework			

Title: ADVICE AGENCIES BUDGETS

Report of: Director of Leisure & Community Development

Report reference: LCD 28/02

Summary:

To present a ‘holding’ report in respect of the delayed progress of the review of spending on Advice Services.

Recommendations:

To note the information in the report.

Contact Officer: Rob Burns **Ext:** 7352

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

1. HOLDING REPORT

1.1 A report was due to come to this Committee outlining potential areas of saving from Advice Services.

2. Unfortunately, due to the complex nature of the Advice Agencies funding and the desire to try to preserve the level of services as much as possible, whilst still making the significant savings required from the Council's financial contribution, it has not been possible to meet this deadline.
3. The situation currently is that Officers are taking a holistic look at the services provided by the Law Centre, the Citizens Advice Bureau and the Benefits Advice Centre.
4. Each agency has been requested to respond to a series of questions including information about their financial situation, their accommodation and their ability to extend their areas of service.
5. These have recently been received but not fully analysed.
6. In particular, Officers are reviewing the services of the Benefits Advice Centre and investigating other sources of funding which might be available to them.
7. There is particular optimism that a liaison with Carlisle Housing Association and the Supporting People Initiative could be a potential source, but meeting their criteria may require a re-focusing of some of the Centre's current work.
8. As this is a relatively new Initiative, it is taking time to assess the possibilities and indeed it is likely that if there was to be a way forward, the achievement of the full saving requirement may only be achieved incrementally.
9. It is anticipated that a detailed report will be available for the next meeting of this Committee.

2. CONSULTATION

1. Consultation to Date.
2. Consultation proposed.

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

4. CITY TREASURER'S COMMENTS

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

6. CORPORATE COMMENTS

7. RISK MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

8. EQUALITY ISSUES

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

11. RECOMMENDATIONS

To note the function in the report.

12. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To provide a holding report for Member information, pending the presentation of a more detailed report.

Director of Leisure & Community Development

24th September 2002