

Burgh Cooncil o' the Airds Newton an' Blathewick

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Ashley Boreland, LLB (Hons) FCIS Chief Executive

Your Ref.

Date

CG 1368 Ptll

Mr Peter McNaney
Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Donegal Square
City Hall
Belfast

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November 2010

Dear Mr McNaney,

BT1 5GS

At a recent meeting of the Council's External Affairs & Planning Committee, members considered the current financial and workload related challenges facing the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) generally and the Newtownards office in particular.

It was highlighted that the demand for the high quality advice and advocacy services provided by the CAB had never been higher and was likely to increase further given the current economic climate in Northern Ireland. Members acknowledged that the CAB's well trained, knowledgeable and dedicated staff, many of whom were voluntary, were equipped to deal with a wide range of issues and that every effort was made to use resources as creatively and effectively as possible.

The Committee resolved to write to the Minister for Social Development asking him to review and increase his Department's contribution to the Citizens' Advice Bureau in light of the present socio-economic climate and the Bureau's continually increasing workload.





It was further resolved to draw this resolution to the attention of all other Councils in Northern Ireland and to ask them also to write to the Minister in support of it.

I would be grateful if you could raise this matter with your elected members and look forward to any comments your Council might have on this issue.

Yours sincerely

Juanda Matu

Amanda Martin Principal Administrative Officer