



<b>Subject:</b>	<i>DfC Letter of Variance - Front Line Advice Services</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>Tuesday 10th January 2016</i>
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	<i>Nigel Grimshaw (Director of City &amp; Neighbourhood Services)</i>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<i>Cate Taggart (Community Development Manager) Clare Mullen (Community Resources Manager)</i>

<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<b>Purpose of Report:</b> The purpose of this report is to invite members to note the correspondence received from The Department for Communities (DfC) on the 16 <sup>th</sup> December with regard to further additional funding for Frontline Advice Services (See appendix 1) and to ask members to agreed to accept the subsequent offer of additional funds.
<b>1.2</b>	<b>Summary of main issues:</b> For members to agree to accept the offer of additional in-year funding of £54,320.00 from DfC. Officers recommend that the additional funding will be allocated to each of the 5 generalist advice consortia based on council's agreed existing allocation model. To support the allocation, each consortium will be required to submit programme proposals in line with the programme objectives for assessment and approval by officers.
<b>1.3</b>	In light of the request for continued financial support from the Belfast Advice Group, officers contacted DfC officials to determine if this additional in-year funding could be used to extend the Citywide Tribunal Service contract. Officials have responded noting this is not permissible, rather the additional offer is conditional on funds being spent on support functions and should be allocated across frontline advice providers in the Belfast area to allow them to purchase support type functions as outlined in Annex A. (See Appendix 1)

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>												
<b>2.1</b>	<p>Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. accept the offer of additional in-year funding under the Community Support Programme (CSP) from the DfC detailed the Letter of Variance (Appendix 1).</li> <li>ii. consider and agree a mechanism to distribute this additional grant across the five advice consortia based on the agreed allocation model and in line with contract conditions.</li> </ul>												
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>												
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b><u>Letter of Offer</u></b></p> <p>Correspondence was received on 16 December from the Department for Communities offering further additional in-year funding under the Community Support Programme for Frontline Advice Services. The letter advises that the Voluntary &amp; Community Unit has secured regional funding of £160k with Belfast’s allocation being £54,320 which is conditional on spend in advance of 31 March 2017.</p>												
<b>3.2</b>	<p>The funding is ring-fenced for the delivery of any or all of the objectives outlined in Annex A as part of the LOO. This funding is to enable frontline advice organisations to secure support functions. The funding is in-year and does not require any match funding from BCC.</p>												
<b>3.3</b>	<p><b><u>Proposed Model of Funding</u></b></p> <p>Given the time-frame for spend, and the established precedent for front line generalist advice support, officers recommend that this funding is administered using the same model applied in relation to the additional funding received for the Welfare Reform Readiness Programme agreed by committee in October.</p> <p>The table below details the current 2016/17 grant award for each consortium, the previous agreed uplift and this proposed additional grant uplift based on Council’s existing allocation model. The marginal percentage anomaly has been equally spread across neighbourhood consortia to maximise the available budget.</p>												
<b>3.4</b>	<table border="1" data-bbox="279 1704 1441 1973"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="279 1704 432 1899" rowspan="2"><b>Area</b></th> <th data-bbox="432 1704 585 1899" rowspan="2">Area Alloc. %</th> <th data-bbox="585 1704 831 1899" rowspan="2">2016/17 Generalist Advice grant award</th> <th colspan="2" data-bbox="831 1704 1441 1753"><b>Letter of Variance</b></th> </tr> <tr> <th data-bbox="831 1753 1134 1899">Additional allocation: Welfare Reform Readiness &amp; Training</th> <th data-bbox="1134 1753 1441 1899"><b>Additional allocation: Frontline Advice Services</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1899 432 1973"><b>Central</b></td> <td data-bbox="432 1899 585 1973">10.00</td> <td data-bbox="585 1899 831 1973">£ 82,588.50</td> <td data-bbox="831 1899 1134 1973">£26,983.07</td> <td data-bbox="1134 1899 1441 1973"><b>£5,447.21</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Area</b>	Area Alloc. %	2016/17 Generalist Advice grant award	<b>Letter of Variance</b>		Additional allocation: Welfare Reform Readiness & Training	<b>Additional allocation: Frontline Advice Services</b>	<b>Central</b>	10.00	£ 82,588.50	£26,983.07	<b>£5,447.21</b>
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<b>East</b>	14.41	£134,593.53	£38,849.37	<b>£7,842.72</b>
<b>North</b>	24.71	£241,153.43	£66,564.33	<b>£13,437.68.</b>
<b>South</b>	15.37	£143,538.48	£41,432.51	<b>£8,364.19</b>
<b>West</b>	35.37	£329,891.59	£95,247.97	<b>£19,228.19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>99.86</b>	<b>£931,765.53</b>	<b>£269,077.26</b>	<b>£54,320.00</b>

**3.5**

If this approach is agreeable, each consortium will be required to submit proposals outlining how they intend to meet the programme objectives.

**3.6**

Following Committee decision, officers will initiate pre-contract discussions with organisations to discuss the proposed 2016/17 grant revision and to outline any specific conditions attached to the funding offer. Officers will assess and approve individual submissions. Further conditions may be attached to letters of offer as deemed necessary.

Members should note that all funding agreements will continue to be subject to receipt of satisfactory monitoring reports.

**4.0**

**4.1. Financial & Resource Implications**

Financial:

Any additional funding contracts issued will be wholly dependent upon additional income from the Department for Community. There is no requirement for BCC match funds.

**4.2**

Human Resources

Officer assistance and support

**4.3**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

*None*

**5.0**

**Appendices**

Appendix 1: DfC Letter of Variance Cover Letter

Appendix 2: DfC Letter of Variance