

# Agenda Item IMD11

## INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REFERENCE IMD: IMD 2020/11

<b>TITLE</b>	Appointment of Wokingham Representative to the Citizens Advice Bureau
<b>DECISION TO BE MADE BY</b>	.Leader of the Council - John Halsall
<b>DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME</b>	11 September 2020 Virtually at 1pm
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER</b>	Deputy Chief Executive - Graham Ebers

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)**

To appoint a Wokingham Borough Council (WBC) representative to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

That the Leader of the Council appoints a representative on behalf of WBC to the Citizens Advice Bureau for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year, from the nominations as set out in Appendix A to the report.

### **SUMMARY OF REPORT**

The report outlines the need for WBC to appoint a representative to the CAB, and the benefits of doing so.

## Background

After appointment at the Annual Council meeting on 16 June 2020, WBC's appointed representative, Jenny Cheng, had to resign the role due to other responsibilities and commitments. Subsequently, it was deemed vital to appoint a new WBC Member representative to the CAB for the remainder of the 2020/21 municipal year.

Citizens Advice Wokingham provides free, confidential and impartial advice for all members of the community regardless of race, gender, age, sexuality or disability. They help people resolve their problems including support with welfare benefits, debt, consumer issues, employment, housing, legal, relationship, tax, utilities, community care, education, health and immigration.

The CAB's aim is to ensure that individuals do not suffer through lack of knowledge of their rights and responsibilities or of the services available to them, or through an inability to express their needs effectively, and equally to exercise a responsible influence on the development of social policies and services both locally and nationally.

## Business Case (including Analysis of Issues)

It is deemed vital that WBC has a Member voice from within the CAB, to ensure that the Council's priorities are met via a strong relationship with our partners. WBC has a long and established history of maintaining strong partner working relationships, and it is imperative that the strong relationship with CAB is maintained. This is especially vital given the Covid-19 pandemic, which has required an ever closer relationship between WBC and its partners. Moving forwards, strong partnerships will be vital in ensuring continued service delivery for our customers, especially those most in need of support.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces severe funding pressures, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 crisis. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0	Yes	R
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0	Yes	R
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0	Yes	R

## Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

None

## Cross-Council Implications

WBC works with the CAB on a range of issues, which effect a variety of Council services. Ensuring that WBC has a Member voice on the CAB is vital in efficient service delivery and strong partner working.

<b>Public Sector Equality Duty</b>
Due regard has been given to WBC's duties under the Equalities Act 2010

<b>SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES</b>	
<b>Director – Corporate Services</b>	No comments received
<b>Monitoring Officer</b>	No comments
<b>Leader of the Council</b>	N/A (Making decision)

<b>Reasons for considering the report in Part 2</b>
N/A

<b>List of Background Papers</b>
None

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