

THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING

OF THE EXECUTIVE

HELD ON TUESDAY 24 MAY 2005

Present: Councillor A Napier (Chair)
Councillors R Crute, Mrs J Freak,
S Huntington, G Patterson, C Reynolds
and F Shaw

Apologies: Councillors J Goodwin, D Myers
and R J Todd

1 **THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** held on 26 April 2005, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, were confirmed.

2 **FUNDING – EASINGTON AND DISTRICT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Consideration was given to the report of the Executive Member for Community and Culture which sought confirmation of the Council's level of funding for the Easington and District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for the 2005/2006 financial year, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member.

Members were advised that the authority had previously given a commitment to fund CAB for a period of four years to March 2008, ie for the term of the Council. This commitment had historically been based on the previous years allocation plus an inflationary increase. However, due to budgetary constraints it was agreed to increase the core grant by 5% in 2004/2005 and 4% each year thereafter. This commitment allowed the organisation to plan ahead and gave security and stability to their operations.

The Council had previously provided substantial financial support towards the running of the CAB in the district and the current level of funding was £100,641. The cost of providing the entire CAB service for 2005/2006 was estimated in excess of £200,000.

Funding from the Community Fund was secured to March 2005 to provide twelve outreach sessions throughout the district and this was supported with contributions from the Town and Parish Councils. Additional funding was also being sought from the Lottery and the Northern Rock Foundation. A further contribution of £73,000 from the PCT was being used to support debt services until March 2006.

Members were advised that during 2004 the Bureau handled 9,248 client contact and managed 15,333 issues on their behalf. As a result of generalist and tribunal work, the Bureau had generated £906,000 in additional benefit income for clients and managed a further £2.16M in client debt related issues.

Councillor Mrs J Freak suggested that an item be placed in Infopoint advising that the CAB had re-located.

In addition it was suggested that the CAB be advised of a Communications Tactics Course, which was an accredited training course ran by the East Durham Deafened and Hearing Impaired Support (EDDHIS). The course was suitable for frontline staff that dealt with deaf and hearing impaired clients.

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Councillor S Huntington suggested that details of contributions from Town/Parish Councils should be included in future reports.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) approval be granted for a funding contribution of £104,667 to the Easington and District Citizens Advice Bureau for 2005/2006;
- (ii) an item be placed in Infopoint advising that the CAB had re-located;
- (iii) the CAB be advised of the EDDHIS training course;
- (iv) future reports relating to the CAB include details of contributions from Town/Parish Councils.

CERTIFIED TRUE RECORD

CHAIR

DATE

JW/MA/com.exe./050501
23 May 2005