

Report of the Director

**PRESENTATION BY CENTRAL AND EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CITIZENS
ADVICE BUREAU**

1 Purpose of report

- 1.1 To introduce the presentation by Central and East Northamptonshire Citizens Advice Bureau (CENCAB).
- 1.2 The presentation relates to the work CENCAB carries out in support of the council's priorities.

2 Executive summary

None.

3 Appendices

None.

4 Proposed action:

- 4.1 The committee is invited to RESOLVE to note the presentation, and;**
- 4.2 The committee is invited to discuss issues relating to the work of CENCAB and identify any matters it RECOMMENDS be reported to relevant policy committees for their attention.**

5 Background

This presentation forms part of the general programme for the Partnerships and Performance Committee, reviewing the work of partners.

6 Discussion

- 6.1 The committee receives presentations from organisations who are either funded by the council, or who play an important part in the life of the borough.
- 6.2 Each presentation gives members an opportunity to learn more about the organisation and its impact on the borough. After the presentation there is a chance to ask questions of the presenter.
- 6.3 If any items of significance arise, members may wish to request a further report from a relevant officer or make a recommendation for action by a policy committee.
- 6.4 As part of the current voluntary sector funding arrangements, the council gives support for a money management and debt advice service. The council has a contract with CENCAB to fulfil this brief.

- 6.5 The main contract specification is based upon the following requirements:
- To provide a free, impartial, independent and confidential information and advice service for personal budgeting and money management to help to alleviate personal financial distress.
 - To positively promote resources helping people to become more financially secure, reducing debt and maximising income, including over the longer term eg return to work schemes, digital inclusion opportunities.
 - To work with the council's housing options team to assist people prevented from holding tenancies due to uncontrolled indebtedness.
 - To offer assistance with budgeting and benefit claims to those threatened with homelessness and those who are struggling to maintain their tenancies.
 - Maintain a public presence within the borough.

6.6 The current contract has a value of £40,365 per annum and runs until 31 March 2020.

7 Legal powers

The Local Authorities (Alternative Arrangements) (England) Regulations 2001 empower the council to establish one or more overview and scrutiny committees. Whilst the council no longer has a designated overview and scrutiny committee, the Partnerships and Performance Committee has been given the role of reviewing and monitoring the performance of council services and services provided on behalf of the council by external bodies. A local authority may invite persons other than members or officers of the authority to attend meetings of such a committee.

8 Financial and value for money implications

The provision of contracts with the voluntary and community sector help the council to meet its strategic needs, such as the reduction in numbers of homeless, helping people back into work and the reduction of benefit claims.

9 Risk analysis

There is a risk that if contracts are not delivered as intended, outputs will not be met. This is mitigated by regular reviews, and presentations to committee.

10 Implications for resources, stronger and safer communities, and equalities

Strategic contracts with the voluntary and community sector contribute towards the council's priorities, offering support in the community to help individuals and communities to help themselves.

11 Author and contact officer

Gill Chapman, Principal Community Support Manager.

12 Consultees

None.

13 Background papers

There are no background papers to this report.