

12 HOSPITAL FUND AND JOHNSTON BEQUEST (AN15-2020)

Further to the previous decision (Item XIII, Policy and Resources Committee 24 April 2017 refers), to provide 3-year funding until 31 March 2020 to support a 0.7 FTE post in Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau's Older People Advice Service (OPAS) at a cost of £25,000 per annum, it is recommended that this funding be extended for a further twelve months to 31 March 2021 to continue to provide a targeted welfare benefit advice service for older people in the city.

In July 2020 a statistical review was undertaken of the work of OPAS by Council Advice Services and it was deemed satisfactory and of sufficient quality in terms of the original specification of the service. Between 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2020 the project assisted 426 Dundee citizens and raised £471,476 in client financial gain. A fuller in-depth review of the service will be undertaken in the coming months.

In order to further the co-ordination of advice work across the city, recommendations have been discussed with the CAB director to further enhance the service, align provision with other advice agencies, tailor support in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and agree advice pathways with Council Advice Services and NHS Public Health.