

REPORT TO: POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 7 DECEMBER 2009
REPORT ON: DUNDEE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU - FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE 2009/2010
REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
REPORT NO: 567-2009

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of financial support to Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau for 2009/2010.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approves a revenue grant for Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau of £110,000 for the financial year 2009/2010.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Financial assistance of £110,000 towards the running costs of Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau can be met from specific provision within the Miscellaneous Services Revenue Budget 2009/2010.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau received grant assistance for many years from the previous local authorities Tayside Regional Council and the City of Dundee District Council.
- 4.2 Since local government reorganisation in 1996, Dundee City Council has continued to support Dundee Citizens Advice Bureau and has been requested to renew support for 2009/2010.
- 4.3 The City Council is one of the main sources of funding for the Bureau. The Director of Finance has discussed the 2009/2010 budget with the Bureau and would recommend grant assistance of £110,000 for the financial year 2009/2010. The proposed budget is detailed in the attached Appendix 1.
- 4.4 The City Council entered into a formal Funding Agreement with the Bureau. This agreement which is governed by the Code of Guidance on Funding External Bodies and Following the Public Pound will be monitored during 2009/2010.
- 4.5 The principal activity of the organisation, which is a limited company, is to provide information, advice and such practical assistance as is requested by individuals who consult the Bureau.
- 4.6 The Bureau is a general advice agency that provides tribunal representation at Employment, Social Security and Disability Appeals. The Bureau also actively participates in the Money Advice Partnership and works alongside Money Advice Support Team and the Social Work Department, Welfare Rights Service, to provide additional money advice and debt counselling services across the city.

- 4.7 The Bureau relies on the services of volunteers and during the year provided basic, advanced and specialist training to these volunteers.
- 4.8 In the 12 months to 31 March 2009 the Bureau has dealt with 14,362 new/repeat issues and financial awards obtained on behalf of clients amounted to £919,117. Whilst the number of new/report issues has remained constant, the level of financial awards has fallen. This is because some of the additional projects funded in previous years were specific to this kind of work. However this figure is still a 70% increase on the figure prior to these projects being operated.
- 4.9 During the financial year to 31 March 2009 the Bureau received funding from a wide variety of bodies, namely:-

Dundee City Council
Scottish Government
Scottish Legal Aid Board
Citizens Advice Scotland
NHS Tayside

5 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact and Risk Assessment. There are no major issues.

6 **CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive and Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) have been consulted on the contents of this report.

7 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None.

MARJORY M STEWART
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

01 DECEMBER 2009

DUNDEE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU BUDGET – 2009/2010

	<u>Budget 2008/09</u>	<u>Budget 2009/2010</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		£
Staff Costs	101,371	106,340
Property Costs	11,300	10,800
Administration Costs	<u>26,300</u>	<u>23,300</u>
	<u>138,971</u>	<u>140,440</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Other Income	21,218	11,538
Grant – Dundee City Council	110,000	110,000
Transfer from Reserve	<u>7,753</u>	<u>18,902</u>
	<u>138,971</u>	<u>140,440</u>