

CITIZENS ADVICE - CONFIRMED FINANCIAL SPLIT

Cabinet - 17 March 2022

Report of: Sarah Robson, Deputy Chief Exec and Chief Officer People & Places

Status: For Agreement

Also considered by: People & Places Advisory Committee - 1 March 2022

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: To provide an update on the changes made by Citizens Advice on the financial split for the two offices over the next 3 years. This is following the financial agreement in March 2021 by Advisory and Cabinet, but that Citizens Advice decided they wanted to change it after their initial submission.

This reports support the Key Aim of: Community Plan

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Lesley Dyball

Contact Officer(s): Kelly Webb, Ext. 7474

Recommendation to People and Places Advisory Committee:

That it be recommended to Cabinet that the new financial split is approved.

Recommendation to Cabinet:

That the new financial split is approved.

Reason for recommendation: So that the two Citizen Advices Offices can go forward with the signed SLA

Introduction and Background

- 1 The CA had an SLA for 2021-2024, which had been agreed by SDC and the two CAs.
- 2 The financial split is always done by the two CAs and not SDC. The two managers had agreed the financial split, which had given Edenbridge & Westerham a slightly higher amount than previous years. This was agreed with them and went through the P&PAC Advisory Committee on 2 March 2021 and Cabinet on 18 March 2021 with full approval.

- 3 After we wrote to the CAs to inform them that everything had been agreed, Edenbridge & Westerham CA came back to say that they were unhappy about the financial split and would not sign the SLA.
- 4 The CAs could not agree on the financials and decided on a mediator to work with them both to come to an agreement. This has been in place since April 2021.
- 5 On 7th December we have received the outcome of their decision, with the new financial split and has been signed by both Chairman's and Chief Officers.
- 6 As the financials were agreed by going through the Advisory and Committee process, we will now be going through the same process to make sure PAPC and Cabinet are in agreement with the new arrangements.

Other options Considered and/or rejected

None

Key Implications

Financial

- 7 There are no financial implications as it is the same allocation, it is just the split that has been in question.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 8 There are no legal issues for the Council arising from this decision.

Equality Assessment

[Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups, and (iii) foster good relations between people from different groups. The decisions recommended through this paper directly impact on end users. The impact has been analysed and varies between groups of people

Conclusions

That the new financial split is approved

Appendices

Appendix A - Letter received from Citizens Advice dated 7 December 2021 and received on 20 December 2021.

Background Papers

None

Sarah Robson

Deputy Chief Exec & Chief Officer for People & Places