

Meeting	Decision Session - Executive Member for Finance and Performance
Date	9 March 2020
Present	Councillors Ayre (Executive Member for Finance and Performance) and Craghill (Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods) for agenda item 4 Citizen's Advice York Service Level Agreement Renewal

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## **5. Declarations of Interest**

The Executive Members were invited to declare, at this point in the meeting, any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests that they might have in the business on the agenda. None were declared.

## **6. Minutes**

Resolved: That the minutes of the previous meeting of the Decision Session held on 14 February 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **7. Public Participation**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

## **8. Citizen's Advice York Service Level Agreement Renewal**

This item was considered in consultation with Cllr Craghill (Executive Member for Housing and Safer Neighbourhoods).

The Executive Members considered a report that sought their approval for a four year funding agreement to March 2024 with Citizens Advice York (CAY) as set out in Annex B to the report.

The Assistant Director, Customer and Digital Services outlined the background to existing period of funding and proposed funding agreement, which included financial inclusion funding. She highlighted an error in the SLA paragraph 4 of Citizen's Advice York Service Level Agreement (SLA)

Annex B at page 18 of the agenda pack noting that debt was covered by core services and the words 'particularly debt' should be removed from that paragraph.

In response to a question regarding Appendix 2 of the SLA regarding the Statistical information to be provided to City of York Council by CAY on a quarterly basis, the Assistant Director, Customer and Digital Services noted that the profile of clients were based on strands that had financial inclusion aspects and she noted that sexual orientation could be added to this if it was felt necessary.

The Executive Members welcomed the Service Level Agreement and it was:

Resolved: That the Citizen's Advice York Service Level Agreement (as set out at Annex B to the report be approved), including the following:

- (a) the 4 year period of funding;
- (b) the financial decision to reflect:
  - (i) the increase in funding to cover a contribution towards the staffing costs associated with providing a debt advice service, which is additional to the core service provided; and
  - (ii) the absorption by CYC of future accommodation charge increases.

Reasons:

- 1) To demonstrate the delivery of expected outputs of and accountability for public expenditure.
- 2) To meet Council priorities around financial inclusion activities.

## **9. Business Rates – Retail Discount scheme amendment and Pub Relief 2020/21**

The Executive Member considered a report that set out the details of York's proposed new retail discount scheme 2020 – 21 including pub relief and approve the category of retail properties that will benefit (the scheme). These discounts will provide a reduction in business rates for qualifying businesses helping to sustain employment and encourage growth of the York economy.

The Head of Customer & Exchequer Services outlined the report and recommendations to the Executive Member explaining how retail discount scheme and pub relief would be operated in practice. The Executive Member welcomed the scheme and pub relief in supporting businesses in the city.

Resolved: That the following items be approved:

- a) City of York Council's scheme for applying the retail discount and pub relief in line with central government guidance (as set out at Annex A of the report);
- b) that properties not listed in the Government's guidance (and at Annex A of the report) that may meet the qualifying criteria be considered on a case by case basis and awards made if deemed to meet the qualifying criteria by the Business Rates Team (as set out at Paragraph 9 of the report);
- c) that properties not listed in the Government's guidance and at Annex A and are considered not to meet the stated qualifying criteria can be considered on a case by case basis and be declined by the Business Rates Team (as set out in Paragraphs 10 & 11 of the report); and
- d) that the council automatically awards this discount to all the businesses it identifies as meeting the qualifying criteria (as set out at Para 19 of the report).

Reason: To support local business in York protect employment and grow the local economy.

Cllr N Ayre, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 3.00 pm and finished at 3.15 pm].