



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL CABINET
17 APRIL 2007

ITEM 11a

Cabinet Member for Corporate Policy

Contract and Financial Procedure Matters Report - Addendum

SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report deals with the following late item that requires reporting to and approval by Council Cabinet under contract and financial procedure rules:
- funding for project support to identify the feasibility of setting up a Community Legal Advice Centre in Derby.
- 1.2 Subject to any issues raised at the meeting, I support the following recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve the use of corporate reserves of up to £46,000 to fund project support for the Community Legal Advice Centre project.



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SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.1 The Legal Services Research and Centre's national civil law and social justice survey found that around one-third of all adults will experience legal problems in their lives and of these only about a half will seek advice. The research estimated that nationally there are around 1 million unsolved legal problems. It also highlighted that:

- civil justice problems lead to further problems
- those experiencing problems were likely to be socially excluded
- 1 in 7 people who try to get advice fail to do so, mainly because the adviser couldn't help, and
- the more times a person gets referred on, the less likely they are to continue seeking advice.

The research demonstrates the importance of providing a range of legal advice services which people know about and which minimises multiple referrals.

1.2 The Legal Services Commission's strategy for the Community Legal Service 'Making Legal Rights a Reality' published in March 2006, advocates a new approach to the way civil legal advice services are funded, purchased and delivered. Community Legal Advice Centres, CLACs, are being set up in urban areas to better respond to people's problems and the way in which people seek advice. The Centres will be jointly funded by the Legal Services Commission and by local authorities to maximise the value of the resources by pooling funds where they share common objectives.

1.3 A Project Board of officers from the City Council and the Legal Services Commission has been established together with a project co-ordinator temporary post, to identify the feasibility of a CLAC in Derby. The Board will make a recommendation about the Council's involvement in the initiative to Cabinet in June.

1.4 The revenue one-off costs for delivery of the project from September 2006 to September 2007 are estimated up to a value of £46,000. These figures are based on the costs for four days a week project development support for Phase 1 from September 2006 to April 2007 and two days to March 2008 as summarised in the table below. It is proposed to meet these costs from corporate revenue reserves subject to Cabinet approval.

Estimated project costs	2006/7 £000	2007/8 £000	Total £000
Project Co-ordinator	16	14	30
Project administration support	3	3	6
Supplies and services	2	4	6
Advertisement of tender	0	2	2
Legal costs	0	2	2
Total	21	25	46

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. As detailed in this report.

Legal

2. None.

Personnel

3. The Project Co-ordinator is based in Derby City Partnership.

Equalities impact

4. None

Corporate priorities

5. These recommendations, where relevant, are in line with approved budgets which accord with the Council's corporate priorities.