

OFFICER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

KEY DECISION : NO

DIRECTORATE: ADULT CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL WARDS

SUBJECT: INFORMATION AND ADVICE SERVICE

1.0 DECISION:

The Director of Public Health has decided to vary the Information and Advice Contract, Ask Us Wirral, for the period 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 to increase capacity of the service so that more residents in need can be supported.

2.0 REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Ask Us Wirral Information and Advice Service plays a pivotal role in supporting residents in Wirral with a wide range of issues including benefits advice, debts, employment, housing, relationships, and families, legal, consumer, immigration and asylum, utilities, phones, travel, transport, holidays, tax, education and discrimination. Demand on this service has increased due to the increases in living costs being experienced by residents across the Borough. Maintaining additional investment in this service for the 2023/24 financial year is required to ensure we are mitigating the impacts of the rising cost of living on local residents. The service will be recommissioned from April 2024 and the recommissioning process will consider the required contract value from this point onwards to deliver service requirements.

3.0 STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been completed. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None

Signed: Dave Bradburn

Officer: Director of Public Health

Date: 3rd March 2023

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Nikki Jones nicolajones@wirral.gov.uk

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