

EQIA-07488

Action being taken

EQIA Directorate

EQIA Service

EQIA Team

Details of person undertaking assessment

Your name

Ruth Walters

Your job title

Service Manager - Integration & Cohesion

Your directorate

Strategy and Partnerships Directorate

Your service

Communities Service

Your team

Household Advice and Support Team

Proposal being assessed

Income Maximisation Grant

Business plan proposal number

Proposal details

What is the name and description of the policy being assessed?

Income Maximisation Grant key decision proposal, seeking to fund support to Cambridgeshire residents facing financial hardship.

The report requests the committee to approve proposals to issue a grant of £800,000 to the Citizens Advice Bureau to deliver income maximisation support to Cambridgeshire residents facing financial hardship. This grant covers the period April 2025 to March 2027.

The Citizens Advice Bureau provides income maximisation support to those in immediate and presenting need, through a dedicated team of trained staff. The Income Maximisation offer includes:

- Tailored advice, including support with budgeting.
- Practical income maximisation, including benefit checks and advising on other opportunities for increasing income and/or reducing expenditure, either by making an application on clients' behalf or providing resources for the client to do it themselves.

To date, the Income Maximisation work has evidenced significant positive results for Cambridgeshire residents. The recommendation of a further two-year grant will ensure that the service can continue to deliver this much needed support.

What type of policy is this?

Minor change

Is this EqIA supporting a committee paper/business case?

Yes

Identifying impact on affected groups

Is it foreseeable that people from any protected characteristic group(s) or people experiencing socio-economic inequalities will be impacted by the implementation of this proposal (including during the change management process)?

Yes

If no, provide an explanation as to why this proposal will not have an impact on each of the following characteristic/group of people

Affected groups and impact

Age

Neutral impact

Disability

Neutral impact

Gender reassignment

Neutral impact

Marriage/Civil Partnership

Neutral impact

Pregnancy and maternity

Neutral impact

Race

Neutral impact

Religion/Belief

Neutral impact

Sex

Neutral impact

Sexual orientation

Neutral impact

Care experience

Neutral impact

Other identified groups

Positive impact

You identified positive/negative impacts – please explain each one and supporting evidence

Income Maximisation support positively impacts those from low socioeconomic backgrounds and those facing financial hardship.

This work across Cambridgeshire has delivered significant positive outcomes for residents and is a key element of the council's approach to reducing poverty and addressing income inequality. Since the Income Maximisation work began in 2023, the CABs report that 5,455 Cambridgeshire residents have accessed the service, resulting in an income gain of £3,887,844. These figures include the first six months of this financial year (April – September 2024) where the CABs have supported 1,994 people, against a half year target of 1,500. To date this has resulted in an additional total income gain of £1,334,666.

Evidence and analysis

State if any mitigating actions are required to alleviate negative impacts. If positive equality impacts have been identified, consider what actions you can take to enhance them. If you have decided to justify and continue with the policy despite negative equality impacts, provide your justification. If you are to stop the policy, explain why. Briefly describe the actions then please insert actions to be taken on to the given action plan

Action plan

Identified Impact Protected Characteristic or non-legislative factor

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Action

Agreement of a further grant to the Citizens Advice Bureau will enable the Income Maximisation work to continue and will enhance the positive impact that has already been seen on Cambridgeshire residents facing financial hardship.

Expected outcomes

Officer

Ruth Walters

Completion date

2024-11-22

Did you engage with an EqlA super-user when developing your EqlA?

No

Approval details

Head of service

Jill Buckingham

Head of service email

Jill.Buckingham@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Status

Approved