

Scrutiny Topic Registration

Name of person proposing topic:	Date: 29th June 2006
Clls Webster/ Flynn/ Franklin	
Contact:	
Suggested title of topic:	
The Citizens Advice Bureau.	
What is the issue that scrutiny needs to address?	
<p>The CAB has expanded to include half of Gloucestershire and created a new organisation to manage this. The Council is its biggest funder and contributes substantially more than surrounding District Council's. The Council owned lease to its Cheltenham property expires in 2008.</p> <p>Issues that need to be looked at are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) how does the CAB operate in this new structure; what are the sources of its funding; should other Council's contribute more; does Cheltenham get value for money from the CAB (ii) what is its performance like; how are its records compiled; how effective has it been in providing a service for Cheltenham people. (iii) how can its operations be improved; could other organisations provide this better; (iv) where can the CAB be based; can they work in partnership with other bodies to deliver advice; what is their relationship to other Voluntary Sector Bodies. (v) What is the capacity of the CAB and their record at managing projects and other organisations. 	
What do you feel could be achieved by a scrutiny review?	
Clarity of the role of the CAB and of its funding, and its relationship to other organisations and the Council.	

Priority and urgency

Is the topic urgent?	fairly
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If so, please consider which of the following might apply:

Is there a strict time constraint?	End of financial year
Is there currently high media coverage?	Has been
Is there high public pressure to respond?	no
Does it involve a high risk to the council?	yes
Any other reasons:	
The CAB needs to be sure about its medium term existence and from where it operates.	

Issues

Please consider whether the following might apply:

Is the topic important to the people of Cheltenham?	yes
Does the topic involve a poorly performing service or high public dissatisfaction with a service?	There is public concern
Is it related to the Council's corporate objectives?	yes
Is it directly related to an item on the council workplan?	yes
Has there been media interest in the topic?	yes
Can scrutiny help in the development of council policy?	yes
Any other issues or details:	

Officer Implications (for office use)

Please give your comments on this proposed topic, for example is there any other similar review planned or in progress, are there any potential resource constraints etc

The annual review (2006-2007) of the CAB as part of its conditional offer of grant funding is planned to be undertaken in September/ October. This will be followed by a report on the performance of the voluntary and community organisations funded by the council that will be brought before Cabinet and the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2007

A major review of the future of the council's conditional offers of grant will commence next year prior to the current round of agreements ending in March 2008. The terms of reference for this review will be agreed by a review group established by Cabinet and the Social and Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The review will look at the status of these agreements, and at what the council is achieving through its funding, as well as looking at possible steps to help improve the management and co-ordination of these grants.

If this proposed review is agreed as an additional review then resource implications will include officer support time from the community services division

There may be possible implications in response to the adoption of the Gloucestershire Compact which is due to be adopted by the Cabinet in September 2006

The government's plans to implement full-cost recovery with the voluntary and community sector may also have a potential impact on the council's funding relationship with the CAB

<p>Links to Business Plan and Corporate Objectives or Risk Register</p>	<p>Priority 5 – we will re-dress the imbalances in our communities and build strong healthy geographical communities and communities of interest</p> <p>Risks identified in the Community Service division's risk register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Uncertainty about the impact of cuts in revenue budgets and external funding on vulnerable groups.</i> • <i>Unable to proactively manage partnerships with voluntary groups, and optimise outcomes due to lack of internal dedicated resources.</i> • <i>The Council being unable to meet the key obligations of the Gloucestershire Compact with the voluntary and community sectors which could result in claims of conflict</i> • <i>On going budgetary cuts affecting funding opportunities for the voluntary and community sector</i>
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Completed by : Geoff Sloman, Community Development Manager

Date 31st July 2006