

# Review of Jigsaw Community Hub

Councillor Ashley Yeates, Cabinet Member for Regulatory Services, Housing & Wellbeing

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Contact Officer: Gareth Davies /Susan Bamford

Tel Number: 01543 308741/ 01543 308170

Email: [Gareth.davies@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:Gareth.davies@lichfielddc.gov.uk)  
[Susan.bamford@lichfielddc.gov.uk](mailto:Susan.bamford@lichfielddc.gov.uk)

Key Decision? YES

Local Ward Curborough

Members

## 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines the details of the review required in respect of the funding agreement for Jigsaw which expires 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. It gives the scope of the review for the consideration of members and identifies some factors for consideration.

## 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members consider and comment on the scope of the Jigsaw review.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Jigsaw opened in 2007 to 'offer local organisations the opportunity to work closely together and the chance for local people to find out what is going on in their area and become involved'. Located in a formerly derelict shop unit on Dimbles Lane, Lichfield, at the time it was North Lichfield Initiative's flagship project. Since then it has operated as a community hub. The property is owned by Midland Heart on a freehold basis.
- 3.2 When the council disbanded the community development team back in 2013, options were explored for its 3 community hubs to continue and the running of Jigsaw was taken over by Fusion Credit union, operating under a grant funding agreement. The first funding agreement was put in place from 1 January 2014 for an annual amount of £9,463 in 2014/15 and £9663 in subsequent years. The overall purpose of the agreement was to ensure that the community premises known as 'Jigsaw' continue to provide meeting space, information, signposting and support to local residents and offers appropriate services. A subsequent agreement was agreed by Cabinet in 2016 and this agreement now ends in April 2019 so a review needs to be undertaken.
- 3.3 Since the agreement was originally put in place there have been a number of contextual factors that need to be taken into consideration:
- The growing trend to people carrying out on line transactions and accessing information via the internet
  - The transfer of the Old Mining College to Burntwood Town Council in 2015 and the closure of Mill Lane Link in 2016
  - The closure of the North Lichfield Initiative in 2016
  - The introduction of an annual rent of £7,500 for the premises in 2017

- The fact that the council is under increasing financial pressure with a funding gap forecasted in 2020/21 of £1,572,010.

3.4 The proposed scope of the review is attached as Appendix A for member comment and consideration. Given the timescales, preliminary work has begun on the review, in terms of looking at visitor numbers and surveying users. The review findings will then be presented back to the O&S meeting in March. On this basis an extension to the current agreement is being proposed to the end of June 2019.

Alternative Options	<p><b>The agreement is ended without a review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To simply end the agreement without a review would not enable us to assess the impact Jigsaw is making in the local community and consider whether there are any alternative options</li> </ul> <p><b>A new funding agreement is entered into without a review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In providing funding to any organisation the council needs to have assurance that funding is still required for the intended purpose and no other options are available.</li> </ul>
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Users and local ward members will be consulted with as part of the review.</li> </ul>
Financial Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The current funding has been agreed at £9663, this is over and above the £200k that the council is also making available to help fund voluntary and community sector projects.</li> </ul>
Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The review will take account of the contribution that Jigsaw makes to the delivery of the Strategic Plan.</li> </ul>
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The review will take account of these implications and an Equality Impact assessment will be undertaken.</li> </ul>
Crime & Safety Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The review will take account of these issues.</li> </ul>
GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The review will not request any personal data.</li> </ul>
Health & Wellbeing Implications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The review will consider health and wellbeing implications.</li> </ul>

	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RYG)
A	The review is unable to evidence the impact Jigsaw is making.	The review will seek to identify all available evidence and seek to plug any information gaps.	Yellow

Background documents; Review Scope and funding agreements