

# JIGSAW FUNDING AGREEMENT

Enter title of relevant Cabinet Member

Date: 27 June 2019

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Key Decision? **YES NO (delete as appropriate)**

Local Ward Members Cllr Ball & Cllr Robertson, Curborough. Cllr Ray & Cllr Grange, Chadsmead.



## COMMUNITY, HOUSING & HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Jigsaw Centre based on Dimbles Lane, has been managed by Fusion Credit Union since January 2014. The current funding agreement ends in June 2019 and a review has been carried out to consider the effectiveness of and need for the funding provided to this project.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the council does not seek to enter into a further funding agreement for Jigsaw.
- 2.2 That members acknowledge the commitment by Fusion Credit Union to maintain a signposting service and continue to make the room at Dimbles Lane available for hire.

### 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 which is open 6 days per week (Monday to Saturday) for a total of 35 hours. 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 £9,663 in subsequent years.
- 3.3 The overall purpose of the agreement was to ensure that the community premises known as 'Jigsaw' continued to provide meeting space, information, signposting and support to local residents and offered appropriate services.
- 3.4 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.

3.5 At the meeting of 10 January 2019 this committee agreed a review should be carried out to consider the effectiveness of the project in delivering the original intended outcomes. A three month extension to the funding agreement was agreed in April 2019 to allow the review to be finalised and discussions held with Jigsaw. This final funding agreement ends on 30 June 2019. The scope of the review is attached as Appendix A.

3.6 To progress the review the following actions have been undertaken:

- An analysis of face to face contacts at Jigsaw
- A survey of Jigsaw users
- The identification of alternative local facilities
- A review of performance against the agreed measures

3.7 A summary of the findings is set out in Appendix B.

3.8 From the actions undertaken to assess the standalone impact of Jigsaw, it has been difficult to identify its impact irrespective of Fusion. The premise provides office accommodation and a drop in facility for Fusion and is staffed by Fusion Volunteers. An analysis of visitors to the centre showed that most of those accessing the centre wished to use the services of the credit union. There were a small number of enquiries which resulted in people being signposted to other services but these types of enquiry constituted less than 6% of all enquiries.

3.9 During the course of this review the council has been advised that Fusion no longer require grant funding to continue to operate in the premises but have committed to continue to provide a signposting service and make the room available for hire. Once Fusion confirmed this position the review work was put on hold.

3.10 This will represent a continuation of the signposting service and room hire as it currently runs but with a cost saving for the council.

Alternative Options	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To invite expressions of interest for the running of Jigsaw. However this may not be possible at the current premises due to the fact that Fusion Credit Union have entered into a rental agreement with Midland Heart.</li> <li>2. To continue to fund Fusion Credit Union to run the Jigsaw Centre, however, this does not represent best value for money as Fusion have indicated they do not need the funding to continue and the Jigsaw Centre is currently operating largely as a base for the Fusion Credit Union.</li> </ol>
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Consultation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A review was undertaken of drop in users to the Centre over three separate dates. In addition a written survey was completed by the groups using the room at the centre and a survey was distributed to volunteers.</li> <li>2. The ward councillors from Curborough have been consulted and are in support of the report recommendations. The ward councillors from the adjacent ward, Chadsmead have also been consulted. Cllrs Ray and Grange are in agreement with the recommendation.</li> </ol>
Financial Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not entering into a further funding agreement for the operation of the Jigsaw Centre represents a saving of £9663 per annum.</li> </ol>
Contribution to the Delivery of the Strategic Plan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The centre will continue to operate as the base for Fusion Credit Union and offer a local signposting service where appropriate and a room available for hire by local groups. These activities will contribute to the 'vibrant and prosperous economy' and 'healthy and safe communities' strands of the delivery plan.</li> </ol>
Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There will not be any adverse impacts on equality, diversity or human rights as the centre will continue to operate as it currently does.</li> </ol>
Crime & Safety Issues	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There will not be any adverse impacts on crime and safety as the centre will continue to operate as it currently does.</li> </ol>
GDPR/Privacy Impact Assessment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fusion Credit Union will continue to comply with GDPR legislation in their activities.</li> </ol>

	Risk Description	How We Manage It	Severity of Risk (RYG)
A	Fusion cease to operate from the premises.	If that were to occur a needs assessment could be undertaken & options identified.	Green
B	Fusion no longer agreement to signpost callers & find alternative use for the meeting room	Alternative signposting options & meeting rooms could be identified	Green
C			
D			
E			

<p>Background documents</p> <p>Appendix A - Review scope</p> <p>Appendix B – Review summary</p>
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<p>Relevant web links</p>
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