

Our reference

25th April 2014

Letter to City Advice Agencies

CONSULTATION ON THE IMPACT OF FINANCIAL SAVINGS REQUIREMENTS ON THE NEIGHBOURHOOD ADVICE AND INFORMATION SERVICES RUN BY BIRMINGHAM **CITY COUNCIL**

Birmingham City Council has been undertaking a review of our Neighbourhood Advice and Information services over the past 12 months and wrote to agencies last year when the Council was identifying options for meeting a 28% reduction in the service budget. The Council, unfortunately, continues to face significant budget pressures and Districts have to find £7.3m savings in 2014/15 increasing to £10.1m in 2015/16. District Committees, that oversee the service, have met to consider changes need to services to meet these pressures. The outcome of the review is that overall the Neighbourhood Advice and Information Service is required to find savings target of £1.898m this year increasing to £2.158m in 2015/16.

A range of internal consultation has already started which is helping to shape the proposals for the future service provision. However, we want to ensure that we provide the opportunity for Advice Agencies to consider any impact the proposals may have on service users. A summary document is enclosed to this end and we would be grateful if you could inform us of any adverse impact the proposed new model for the Neighbourhood Advice and Information service may have on service users.

Please send any comments or feedback you have by 23 May 2014. Your response can be sent either by email to pete.hobbs@birmingham.gov.uk or by post to the address given at the bottom of this letter. If you would prefer to discuss the issues in person or would like to provide feedback but need additional time please contact us on 0121 675 9000 and arrangements can be made to this end. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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Pete Hobbs **District Head – Hall Green**

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