



Subject:	Request from Advice Space for Council Sponsorship of their 60 th Anniversary Event and Conference
Date:	10 th September 2024
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information relating to any individual2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To make Members aware of the request received from Advice Space to sponsor their 60 th anniversary and conference.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	To consider the request from Advice Space from Advice Space to sponsor their 60 th anniversary and conference and if approved, to agree the level of sponsorship.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Advice Space, formerly Citizen Advice is celebrating its 60th year of operation and advice service provision in 2024.</p> <p>Citizen Advice opened its doors in Belfast in August 1964, with a £100 grant provided by the Council. In 2018 Citizen Advice in the city was rebranded to Advice Space.</p> <p>Advice space is one of the leading providers of generalist advice provision operating from six offices: Suffolk/Andersonstown, Springfield Road, The Arches, Shankill Road, Duncairn and City Centre. They also provide extensive outreach in venues such as the RVH and City Hospital.</p> <p>Their 2023 Annual Report stated that last year they provided services to around 30,000 citizens, dealing with 90,000 issues and helped people reclaim £9,838,730 back in benefit entitlements.</p> <p>Council provides advice services through five area based consortia in North, South, East and West and central Belfast. Advice Space is a delivery partner on all the Advice Consortia funded by Council and leads on both the Central and East Consortium.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Request</u></p> <p>To mark the 60th Anniversary, Advice Space is hosting a conference on Thursday 28th November in Riddel Hall, Stranmillis. The main theme is looking at the development of the welfare state since its inception and examining if it is fit for purpose today and for the future.</p> <p>It is expected that over 80 delegates will participate in the event. The keynote speech will be delivered by Les Allamby, current Discretionary Support Commissioner, former Chief Commissioner at the Human Rights Commission and Director of the Law Centre NI. Linda McAuley former BBC Radio Ulster Presenter will be the compere. Advice Space has invited the Minister and are at this point waiting on a reply.</p> <p>Advice Space are asking Council to be the Conference Sponsor. This is a non-recurrent request. As sponsor, Council will get 3 free tickets, logo displayed on all promotional material, acknowledgement in the opening and closing addresses, offer to avail of a promotional space to promote Council during the day. Council will also be referenced in all publicity material and press releases.</p>

3.3	<p>In order to cover costs, Advice Space will be charging for the event. £50 for VCSE Sector and £80 for Statutory/Public Sector. Any surplus monies will be used for direct service provision.</p> <p><u>Financial Implications</u> Advice Space have presented Council with 3 levels of Sponsorship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1,000 • £1,500 • £2,000 <p>There is currently no budget set aside for sponsorship of events within the relevant portfolio.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u> The Director of Finance has advised that there is no council policy in relation to sponsorship of events and that this would have to be considered by committee. This could lead to further requests for sponsorship for events, but this is difficult to gauge.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	N/A