



## **County Council Report for Walsham-le-Willows Parish Council**

**December 2018**

By County Councillor Jessica Fleming, Hartismere Division, Suffolk

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### **Consultation on the proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) grant funding**

Suffolk County Council is carrying out a consultation to understand the equality impacts there may be as a result of proposed changes to the local Citizens Advice (CAB) grant funding which the authority currently provides.

At the Council's Scrutiny meeting on 22 November 2018, the committee considered details of proposed savings totalling £11.2m that will enable the council to balance its budget. Amongst these savings was the proposal to remove the funding grant that the county council gives Suffolk's CABs.

Committee members recommended changing the proposal to a phased reduction – a recommendation that was later agreed by Cabinet. It is now proposed that the grant will reduce by half to £184,000 in 2019/20 before ending in 2020/21.

A consultation regarding this decision started at 12 noon on Monday 17 December and will run until 5pm on Wednesday 23 January. The consultation will give residents the opportunity to say how they currently use the CAB service and how they may be impacted, specifically from an equality perspective, by any potential changes to funding.

Comments made through the consultation will be used to help inform the final decision on the council budget, which is due to be made by full council on 14 February 2019.

Further information and a link to the survey can be found here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/local-citizens-advice-cab-consultation/>

Paper copies of the survey are available at Libraries and local Citizens Advice offices.

Thank you and Happy New Year to all.