

Report to Scrutiny

Item Number: 5

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information

No

Subject of Report: Credit Unions – Presentations by Various Organisations

Meeting: Scrutiny Review Panel 3 – 2015/2016:
Co-operative Enterprises
1 October 2015

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Cabinet Responsibility: Councillor Julian Bell (Leader and Policy Overview Portfolio)
Councillor Ranjit Dheer (Deputy Leader, Safety, Culture and Community Services)

Councillor Steve Hynes (Prosperity, Skills and Employment)

Councillor Hitesh Tailor (Health and Adults Services)

Councillor Jasbir Anand (Housing)

Director Responsibility: Helen Harris, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
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Brief: To consider the presentations on credit unions from the representatives of the various organisations that have been invited to the meeting.

Recommendations: The Panel is asked to:

- consider and comment on the presentations made on credit unions;
- request any further information where necessary; and
- make recommendations accordingly.

1. Credit Unions – Presentations by Various Organisations

1.1 As agreed at the last meeting, representatives of the following organisations have been invited to the Panel meeting and asked to do short presentations on the questions that have been put to them by the Chair (Cllr David Rodgers).

1.2 Mr Graham Tomlin, Chief Executive Officer, Credit Union Solutions (Credit Union of Brent & Ealing – CUBE)

- What, in CUBE's view, are the impediments to the development and growth of CUBE?
- What CUBE considers Ealing Council might do to support and assist the development of CUBE?
- What challenges and changes will CUBE face in expanding its service offer and membership to a greater number of saver and borrower members, and what changes will CUBE need to make in its governance and management arrangements to cope with growth of its business?
- Whether CUBE provides financial services that are Sharia Law compliant, and what plans has it to ensure that the services it offers are accessible to all Ealing residents?
- Whether CUBE has considered merging with other credit unions in order to achieve the benefits of scale?

1.3 Mr David Barclay, Senior Network Co-ordinator Mr Tom Newbold, CCCN Co-ordinator – London (Church Credit Champions Network)

- What support and assistance Church Credit Champions can give to enable the Credit Union of Brent and Ealing (CUBE) to develop and expand?
- Whether members of church and other faith groups can assist in providing equity capital and would be willing to become members and savers to help expand the capacity of CUBE?
- Your views on the scale of operation of credit unions and whether or not you consider better scale might be achieved by the merger of smaller credit unions like CUBE?
- Whether you have experience of working with other faith groups in promoting credits, particularly Islamic faith groups and credit unions that offer Sharia Law compliant financial services?

1.4 Mr Edward Mayo, Secretary General (Co-operatives UK)

- The work of Co-operatives UK in promoting and supporting the development of co-operatives and co-operative enterprises.
- What support and assistance, if any, Co-operatives UK may give to existing and new co-operative enterprises in the London Borough of Ealing?
- What other sources of support and assistance, if any, may be available to existing and new co-operative enterprises in the London Borough of Ealing, including support from government and government agencies?
- Any other evidence you may wish to give to the Scrutiny Review Panel about the start-up, development and risks associated with the

establishment and development of co-operative enterprises that you consider relevant to the panels deliberations.

1.5 The presentations from Credit Union of Brent & Ealing and Co-operatives UK are appended to this report. Representatives of the Church Credit Champions network will provide a verbal briefing at the meeting.

1.6 The Panel is asked to:

- consider and comment on the presentations;
- request any further information where necessary; and
- make recommendations accordingly.

2. Legal Implications

2.1 The general scrutiny functions and powers are set out in the Council Constitution.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Support to the Scrutiny Panel is contained within the allocated budget. Value for money will come from having appropriate agenda items on the Work Programme that will help the Panel to achieve the key expected outcomes.

4. Other Implications

4.1 There are no other implications arising.

5. Background Papers

5.1 Ealing Council's Constitution is available at [Council Constitution](#)

Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Agendas, Minutes and Reports, available at [Overview and Scrutiny Committee](#)

Scrutiny Review Panel 3 – 2015/2016: Co-operative Enterprises – Agendas, Minutes and Reports, available at [Scrutiny Review Panel 3 - 2015/2016: Co-operative Enterprises](#)

Credit Union of Brent and Ealing (CUBE): <http://cubecreditunion.org/> and <http://www.ealingcreditunion.org/>

Church Credit Champions Network: <http://www.theology-centre.org.uk/projects/economic-justice/church-credit-champions-network/>

Co-operatives UK: <http://www.uk.coop/>

For information about Scrutiny in Ealing, including meeting dates and work programmes, go to:

http://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/200892/decision_making/344/scrutiny

Current agendas and reports are available at <http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Home.aspx>

Report Consultation

<i>Name of Consultee</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Date Sent to Consultee</i>	<i>Date Response Received from Consultee</i>	<i>Comments Appear in Report Para</i>
<i>Internal</i>				
Keith Fraser	Head of Scrutiny and Committees	21.09.15		
Helen Harris	Director of Legal and Democratic Services	N/A		
Mike Stringer	Head of Finance Transformation	N/A		
Cllr David Rodgers	Panel Chair	21.09.15		
Cllr Gary Malcolm	Panel Vice Chair	21.09.15		
<i>External</i>				
None				

Report History

<i>Decision Type:</i>		<i>Urgency item?</i>	
Non-key Decision		No	
<i>Authorised by Cabinet Member:</i>	<i>Date Report Drafted:</i>	<i>Report Deadline:</i>	<i>Date Report Sent:</i>
N/A	21.07.15	22.09.15	21.09.15
<i>Report No.:</i>	<i>Report Author and Contact for Queries:</i>		
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