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Please ask for Amanda Clayton Direct Line: 01246 34 5273

Email democratic.services@chesterfield.gov.uk

The Chair and Members of Joint Board

21 March 2022

Dear Councillor,

Please attend a meeting of the JOINT BOARD to be held on TUESDAY, 29 MARCH 2022 at 2.30 pm in North East Derbyshire District Council Offices, 2013 Mill Lane, Wingerworth, Chesterfield S42 6NG, the agenda for which is set out below.

#### **AGENDA**

#### Part 1(Public Information)

- Declarations of Members' and Officers' Interests relating to items on the Agenda
- 2. Apologies for Absence
- 3. Minutes (Pages 3 10)
  - · Record of Decisions of the Joint Board held on 8 October, 2021
  - · Minutes of the Joint Board held on 8 October, 2021
- 4. Update on the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union Business Plan (Pages 11 30)
- 5. Internal Audit Consortium Progress Report 2021/2022 and Draft Business Plan 2022/2023 (Pages 31 44)
- 6. Date and Time of the Next Meeting

Chesterfield Borough Council, Town Hall, Rose Hill, Chesterfield S40 1LP Telephone: 01246 345 345, Text: 07960 910 264, Email: info@chesterfield.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

Head of Regulatory Law and Monitoring Officer

# Agenda Item 3

	RECORD OF EXEC	<u>UTIVE</u>	DEC	:ISI	<u>IONS – .</u>	<u>JOII</u>	NT WORK	<u>(ING</u>	
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Contact Officer: Amanda Clayton, Chesterfield Borough Council, Tel: (01246) 345273									

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	Page 5								

#### **Notes to Record of Decisions (Joint Working):**

#### **CBC - CALL-IN REQUESTS**

The implementation of certain decisions is suspended until the call-in period has expired without a call-in being validly invoked. Any Member of the Council shall be entitled to call for a decision to be suspended by giving notice to the Monitoring Officer either by telephone, fax, email or in writing not later than 5.00 pm on the day following the date of the Joint Board meeting. Any decisions so suspended shall not be capable of implementation for a period of five calendar days from the date of the Joint Board meeting. During the call-in period a request may be made in respect of any decision so suspended by not less than one quarter of the total membership of the Overview and Performance Scrutiny Committee. To do this you will need to notify the Monitoring Officer in writing, by fax or by email by 5.00 pm on the date being five days following the day of the Joint Board meeting.

#### **BDC - CALL-IN REQUESTS**

All Key Decisions come into effect <u>five working days</u> after the meeting unless three members give notice in writing to the Governance Manager requesting to call in the decision. The call-in request should be on a **completed 'call-in' request form and include the names and signatures of the three signatories**, the decision making principles it is believed have been breached and also the reasons for this. Non Key Decisions may not be called in.

#### **NEDDC - CALL-IN REQUESTS**

The implementation of key decisions is suspended until the call-in period has expired without a call-in being validly invoked. The call-in period is <u>five working days</u> after the publication of this decision. During the call-in period the <u>Chair or Vice Chair together</u> with three other members of any Overview and Scrutiny committee may object to a key decision and call it in. Non-Key decisions cannot be called in at North East Derbyshire District Council.

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#### **JOINT BOARD**

#### Friday, 8th October, 2021

Present:-

Councillor (Chair)

Councillors Dale Councillors P Gilby

#### 1 <u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' INTERESTS</u> RELATING TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

No declarations of interest were received.

#### 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Steve Fritchley (BDC), Cllr Duncan McGregor (BDC), Cllr Amanda Serjeant (CBC) and Gill Callingham (NEDDC).

#### 3 MINUTES

The notes and the Record of Decisions of the Joint Board meeting held on 23 March, 2021 were noted.

#### 4 EXTERNAL REVIEW OF INTERNAL AUDIT

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager advised the committee of the results of the external review of internal audit that had taken place in May 2021. An external assessment of internal audit is a requirement of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) which were introduced in 2013. The assessments must take place every five years and the last external review took place in 2016.

The assessor who undertook the review was CIPFA qualified with over 40 years internal audit experience. The assessment took place throughout May 2021 and was conducted remotely due to Covid-19. The Consortium's documentation, working practices, committee reports and

<sup>\*</sup>Matters dealt with under the Delegation Scheme

working paper files were reviewed and the audit committee chairs and senior managers were invited to complete a questionnaire.

The report, attached at Appendix 1 of the officer's report, concluded that the Internal Audit Consortium were delivering internal audit services to a standard that generally conforms with the PSIAS and there were no areas that did not comply with the standards. The review report benchmarked against other provision in both the sector and the wider industry and showed that that team compared favourably in comparison with its peers and other sectors. The report also made a number of recommendations aimed at highlighting where further development could be made to enhance the value of the service being provided.

#### **RESOLVED -**

That the results of the external review of internal audit be noted.

#### 5 INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager submitted a report to inform the Joint Board of the Consortium's performance during 2020/21.

The report gave a summary of the progress made with regard to:

- The preparation of Internal Audit Plans for the three Councils
- Changes made to Working Procedures / Improvement Plans
- The Consortium's financial performance
- Staffing, training and development

It was noted that the progress of the plans had been impacted by the pandemic, however, enough of the internal audit plans was completed to be able to give an unlimited audit opinion and any areas that were incomplete would be rolled forward to the following year. Plans would be prioritised according to risk and focus would be given to areas of concern.

Discussion took place around the difficulties encountered when recruiting to audit positions and it was acknowledged that this was a problem across the region and financial sector.

The Risk Register had been updated and this was attached to the report as Appendix 2.

The team was thanked for their hard work and flexibility throughout the pandemic.

#### **AGREED:**

That the annual report of the Internal Audit Consortium be approved.

#### 6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

#### AGREED -

That under Regulation 21 (1)(b) of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2000, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Paragraphs 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972' on the grounds that it contains information on consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

# 7 VERBAL UPDATE ON THE DERBYSHIRE WIDE BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP

The Service Director – Economic Growth, Chesterfield Borough Council gave a verbal update on the progress made by the Derbyshire Wide Building Control Partnership over the last 12 months.

The impact of the pandemic was noted, particularly in relation to the income levels over the summer period however there were indications of a strong recovery despite the challenges and significant changes over the previous 12 months. Work from High Peak and Staffordshire Moorlands was being undertaken by the partnership and there had been a 15% increase in planning activity.

A new Growth Plan had been implemented with a focus on; investing in staff, potential changes to regulatory obligations, investment in the Partnership's core market and continued exploration of areas outside the core operations.

A new Service Level Agreement had been agreed and the ISO 9001 Quality Management accreditation had been retained.

The administration team had returned to the office and were proactively building relationships with customers. Opportunities had been identified to continue developing staff members and provide them with the skills and resilience they need.

Four key ambitions were outlined and the Service Director emphasised that the long term aim was to continue to deliver a growing successful business providing an exemplar Commercial Public Sector owned operation.

RESOLVED -

That the update be noted.

# CHESTERFIELD AND NORTH EAST DERBYSHIRE CREDIT UNION REPORT ON BUSINESS PLAN 2021 – 2024 INTRODUCTION

As part of good corporate governance and the need to comply with the regulator (Financial Conduct Authority – FCA) the board of the Credit Union prepare and approve a three year plan each autumn. The plan shows continued support for members through loans and savings and growth of the popular Family Loan Scheme (FLS) introduced in 2012. Following on from the success of this product we introduced the FLS + in February 2018, with help from the three local authorities.

Our Credit Union has been able to maintain its core products throughout the pandemic, whilst introducing our new personal loan to support further. The exception of not being able to go into the schools and promote or take savings from the children, as part of the Junior Savers programme.

#### **OUTLINE OF THE PLAN**

The following table shows the historical growth of the main activities of the Credit Union.

Year Ended	Members	Shares Value	Loans Balance		Junior	Savers
September	No	£	No	£	No	£
2014	1,870	335,134	800	490,959	209	6795
2015	2,417	396,632	969	564,256	394	15.902
2016	2,738	506,731	1,446	608,129	647	31,126
2017	3,695	640,310	1,128	598,050	922	43,252
2018	3,994	591,363	1,189	616,314	1,086	57,741
2019	4,160	603,440	1,226	607,250	1,215	64,772
2020	4634	692,362	1186	528,085	1092	66,254
2021	4748	684,753	1221	528,858	1092	59,501

It is acknowledged that growth in new members, share value and members loans has slowed down which was expected however the board and myself continue to look at other options to continue our growth in the future.

The Junior Savers Scheme remains one of the largest in the country and is supported by one local authority grant. The board consider that the lessons learnt by the savers and in some cases their parents is worthy of continued support although in the short term this will put the Credit Union into deficit. This action could not have been taken a few years ago, but with audited reserves of over £187,000 it is a low risk whilst other income streams are developed.

The main areas of development are listed below:

**Products & Services** 

Our current list of products and services is listed below along with those which are currently in development and due to commence shortly.

Savings (currently paying a dividend on the average of the annual balance held)

Standard: Our accounts for savers aged 16+

- Junior Savers Scheme (JSS): A regular savings account operated in infant and junior schools for those 11 and under, which also helps to instil good financial and budgeting habits in the next generation.
- Corporate and Charitable Savings: Accounts for ethical investors seeking to help local community by allowing their secured deposits be loaned to credit union members.
- Christmas Club: A saving account that only allows members to make 2 withdrawals per year in the summer months and at Christmas.
- Loans (interest rates are dependent upon the product)
- Standard Loans: Loans to members which have established a regular savings pattern and made within 5 working days of an eligible application being received (usually 2/3 days in practice). Variable interest between 2-3% per month, dependent upon member payment history and savings over £1,000.
- Family Loan Scheme: A very popular instant loan of up to £500 charging 3% interest per month, paid to families or individuals in receipt of Child Benefit (which is paid directly to CNEDCU). The whole child benefit can be used to make the repayments, but a lesser amount is usually agreed with the member following a robust budgeting interview. The 'surplus' amount can then either be left in as savings, withdrawn weekly/monthly or split between savings and withdrawal. Over 90% of those who participate in this, now make regular savings and we have noticed a marked change in financial planning and behaviour
- Family Loan Scheme +: Now running where £650 can be offered to members with good repayment record and ongoing income stream to enable repayments at higher levels. They must have repaid there previous FLS in full before being considered
- Variable interest between 2-3% per month, dependent upon member payment history and savings over £1,000.
- Council Community Loans: Managed in a similar way to the FLS, these funds have been dedicated by Parish Councils who advise whether the loan is either for residents from their Parish or from the

- local District. The loans are for a maximum of £100 or £200 depending upon Parish.
- Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Repossession Prevention Funds: Administered through referral from one of the respective LA Housing Teams, an instant loan to specifically cover rent in advance or a bond.
- Ease of Accessibility to Funds and Services
- Engage card: a prepaid visa card for benefits/salaries to be loaded onto to assist with budgeting.
- Payroll Deduction Scheme: Available to all members working through participating employers to direct savings to CNEDCU at time of wage/salary payment.
- On-line member applications
- On-line loan applications



# Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union Limited (CNEDCU)

Your Local Community Bank run by local people to serve the financial needs of communities in Derbyshire

**Business Plan** 

October 2021 – September 2024



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- 1. History of CNEDCU
- 2. Our Current Position
- 3. Our Mission and Values
- 4. The Market: Local Need
- 5. Performance Indicators
- 6. Delivering the Business Plan
- a) Products & Services
- b) Resources
- 7. Risks, Mitigation & Contingency Plans
- Appendix 1 SWOT Analysis
- Appendix 2 Risk Analysis
- Appendix 3 Organisational Structure
- Appendix 4 Three Year Finance Plan.

#### 1. History of CNEDCU

Chesterfield & North-East Derbyshire Credit Union is a not-for-profit financial co-operative which provides a safe and responsible place for Members to save and borrow money. The aim of all Credit Unions is to encourage and support people to manage their money wisely and negate the need for usage of high interest loan providers, moneylenders, and loan sharks. Every Credit Union operates within a determined geographical area (Common Bond) and are standalone organisations. We are affiliated to Abcul (Association of British Credit Unions Limited) an organisation that represents most credit unions in the United Kingdom and provides valuable guidance and lobbying strengths.

The Bank of England published its annual United Kingdom statistical report (30/07/2021) for the year ended 30/09/2020 and highlighted the following reflecting the strength of the credit union sector.

Number of credit unions

Number of active members

Assets held.

Loans to Members.

240

1,355,630

£3.85 billion

£1.58 billion

CNEDCU was formed in 1998 and is well established in the local community.

As with high street banks and building societies CNEDCU is regulated and authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Member savings are protected under the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

CNEDCU's Common Bond (the licence from the FCA which identifies where CNEDCU can operate) was extended in June 2015 to enable it to accept anyone who lives or works in the county of Derbyshire as a Member. CNEDCU's FCA Reference Number is 213954 and our company number is IP00537C. Your Local Community Bank was also accepted by the Regulator as a tag line. Derbyshire County Council is promoting the "Community Banks" in their information sheets and their website.

#### 2. Current Position

Our Business Plan sets out the various targets and actions we are taking so we continue to be a sustainable organisation. Close liaison and working together with existing and future partners will be critical to this success. We believe that our targets and actions are realistic and achievable, but we also recognise that they are challenging given the current economic climate during and following the Covid-19 pandemic. Whilst within the period of this plan CNEDCU acknowledges that we shall continue to require financial support from Partners the Board of Directors are committed to CNEDCU being a successful, respected and financially sustainable credit union.

The Board, staff, and volunteers of CNEDCU work tirelessly in promoting our organisation ably supported by National and Local Government all of which highlights the requirement for CNEDCU services. CNEDCU is recognised by members and service providers as a key vehicle to assist with the social constraints facing the people of Chesterfield and North-East Derbyshire and following the extension of our Common Bond allows flexibility to operate throughout Derbyshire.

The financial and professional support from partner agencies (Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, North-East Derbyshire District Council and Rykneld Homes) has been fundamental in providing a local community bank for the benefit of Members. These foundations equate to an organisation which is well placed to expand its current present financial landscape. Increases in the number of paid staff, the move to high street premises, the establishment of the Junior Savers Scheme and the continuing popularity of our Family Loan Scheme are evidence of CNEDCU's achievements.

Our Junior Savers Scheme is well supported by local schools with the joint aim of teaching children from an early age the value of money and how to budget. Close working relationships with both Co-op and Tesco have aided this growth and whose support we are very grateful for. Grant funding is used in supporting the Scheme and again we are grateful for this Partner support. Covid restrictions in the education sector have meant that our involvement has been diluted but as we move out of restrictions recontact with schools is taking place and has been met positively by the schools.

A tabled summary of our progress is highlighted below which evidences the growth of our Credit Union and equally supports the requirement in the local community for our services.

Year Ended September	Member Numbers	Members Shares Held	Loans Balance			Savers nces
	No	£	No	£	£	
2017	3477	597376	1128	598050	43252	
2018	3944	591363	1189	616314	57471	
2019	4447	602800	1223	572629	64772	
2020	4634	692362	1186	528085	66254	
2021	4748	684753	1221	528858	59501	
Performance over Period %	36	14	6	(12)	37	

As a policy the Board in 2019 reduced our maximum loan from £6.000 to £4,000 due to increasing provisions being raised on loans above £4000. This combined with a reduction in loan requests due to the pandemic contributed to a fall in loan balances. This position has now stabilised and with a gap identified in our lending portfolio a new product was launched to Member's midway through 2021 – the Personal Loan. The Board are actively seeking to increase the loan book but recognising the balance between Member needs and the sustainability of the Credit Union.

Overall, this has placed CNEDCU in a position where we can continue to grow to achieve our Mission, address our Vision and meet our Aims and Objectives, whilst maintaining our Values. Being financially sustainable will enable us to establish CNEDCU as a trusted, recognised brand within our local communities which provides a range of accessible financial products and services and supports the financial education of our members.

A full copy of our accounts is available to Members and Partners upon request.

#### 3. Our Mission and Values

**Mission Statement:** To be a responsive financially sustainable organisation dedicated to improving the financial wellbeing of our Local Community.

To achieve our mission CNEDCU is committed to providing a broad range of financial products to the benefit of Members supported by volunteers and professional staff. Products will be administered in accordance with sound management practices to maintain the financial strength of the Credit Union.

The Board of Directors, Management, Staff and Volunteers of the Credit Union will always be consistently and professionally dedicated to the accomplishment of this mission.

We are committed to the belief that everyone has the right to access affordable loans and savings opportunities which reward financial prudence. We will also help people to understand how to most effectively manage their finances to avoid financial hardship, thus ensuring more secure and sustainable households and communities. This commitment is underpinned in our core Values:

#### Values:

- Accessibility we will ensure that our written materials will be clear and easy to understand and that our Members
  can access our services in the most appropriate way, whether through our office, our Website, App, or collection
  points hosted by our partners.
- Confidentiality we will act with discretion to protect our Members' privacy.
- Flexibility we will continually review and develop our products, services, and methods of delivery to ensure that we meet the ever-changing needs of our Members.
- **Honesty** we will be sincere and open in our support to Members, providing frank advice and clearly explaining our interest rates. We will regularly seek views from Members both on our service and product range.
- **Inclusivity** we will support all residents within Derbyshire who wish to use our services no-matter their personal circumstances and enable our members to have a say in how we operate.
- Impartiality we will provide fair and objective guidance and support to all our members
- Reliability we will provide a consistent and dependable service to our Members and partners
- Sustainability we will promote thrift and a savings culture to our members to help them maintain sustainable households, whilst we will ensure that we run on sound, ethical and financially sustainable principles through the use and control of Members' savings for their mutual benefit

The Office for National Statistics 2019 mid-term population estimates for Derbyshire (including Derby) are 1,053316, with 205,753 residing in CNEDCU's historic target area of Chesterfield Borough and North- East Derbyshire District. Data produced by the Office of National Statistics estimated that the population of Chesterfield Borough stood at 104,900 in 2019.

In July 2007 the Financial Inclusion Taskforce reported on the difference between the demand for, and supply of affordable credit in each Local Authority area in Great Britain; 25 local authorities, including Chesterfield, were placed into red alert showing a serious need for that area, with a further 56, including North -East Derbyshire, placed on Amber Alert, meaning a high but less urgent need to tackle the problem. Within our target population there remain numerous challenges for different age groups, including child and fuel poverty, unemployment, and reliance on household benefits.

Six neighbourhoods in Chesterfield (9% of total neighbourhoods) fall within the 10% most deprived in England. Figures from 2011 recorded Chesterfield as having 23% of residents in rented social accommodation. Derbyshire had 15% and England 18%. Owner occupied was on a par with England figures at 63% although below the Derbyshire figure of 71%. Chesterfield residents with higher qualifications was 21% compared to Derbyshire at 24% and England 27%. Those with no qualifications recorded 27% locally, Derbyshire 26% and England at 22%. These figures help to highlight the need for a local Community Bank with the aim to support those who may be financially vulnerable or unable to apply for high street banking services.

The Welfare Reform Act 2012 continues to drive the biggest changes in the support system since its introduction, with changes affecting all who are of working age and in receipt of state benefits.

Credit Unions are acknowledged as having the experience and services necessary to assist benefit claimants directly, through our core services of loans and savings, and working closely with those who deliver services such as District and County Council, Housing Associations, private landlords and community organisations. Our services and support will ensure continued financial inclusion and increase our ember numbers. As the full ramifications of Welfare Reform continue to evolve, we will continue to work with those organisations whose clients will be affected and will flex services and products as appropriate.

The Family Loan Scheme has been and continues to be extremely successful with CNEDCU seeing increased demand for on-line payments and access to savings accounts. Demand from new customer groups with their own needs, such as younger people, continues to drive further developments in products and services

These needs will guide our Aims and Objectives listed in section 5 and shape our service focus for 2021 to 2024.

#### 5. Performance Indicators

In order "to be a responsive financially sustainable organisation dedicated to improving the financial wellbeing of our local community" the Board of Directors monitor several performance indicators ensuring we are on track in achieving our mission. Meeting most of the year monthly the Board are flexible both to investigate and put plans in place should these indicators fall outside of set parameters.

The Board have set the following performance indicators with purpose and benefits as follows. Performance Is reported within the Board minutes which are sighted by our Auditors.

Performance Indicator	Purpose	Benefit
Operational income to be greater than 90% of total income.  Measured annually through Audited Annual Accounts.	To help achieve our aim of being self-sufficient.	We do not have to rely on support from Partners or Benefactors.
Level of debt provisioning to be less than sector average.  Measured quarterly through Bank of England released reports.	Comparison against sector especially given increased arrears due to economic and pandemic pressures.	Highlight an area that can impact greatly on financial performance.
How is our Service and Product offering?  Measured by planned annual questionnaire issued to Membership	Barometer of customer service and gives Members an opportunity to suggest improvements and new services.	Basis of any changes to our processes together with potential new product development.
Completed loan applications once agreed by the Credit Committee and signed by the Member will be paid into the Members bank account the next working day.  Measured manually on loan application form and reported monthly in Managers Report.	Improves customer service which may negate some Members seeking alternative providers.	Member receives loan funds earlier allowing utilisation of funds and CU starts to earn income at an earlier stage.

#### 6. Delivering the Business Plan

#### a) Products & Services

Our current list of products and services are listed below.

#### Savings

- Standard: Our accounts for savers aged 16+
- Junior Savers Scheme (JSS): A regular savings account operated in infant, junior and secondary schools for those 16 and under, which helps to instil good financial and budgeting habits in the next generation. We are currently investigating a pre-paid card for junior savers in partnership with Engage. Funds will be held on the card and allow junior savers to use the facility in shops etc. The product will not allow a junior to go overdrawn.
- Corporate and Charitable Savings: Accounts for ethical investors seeking to help local community by allowing their secured deposits to be loaned to credit union members.
- Christmas club: A saving account that only allows members to make 2 withdrawals per year in the summer months and at Christmas.

#### Loans (interest rates vary with product)

- Loyalty Loan: Loans to members who have established a regular savings pattern and made within 5 working days of an eligible application being received (usually 2/3 days in practice). Variable interest rate 2% per month, dependent upon member payment history and savings. Minimum Amount £1000 and maximum £4000.
- Family Loan Scheme: A very popular instant loan of up to £500 charging 3% interest per month, paid to families or individuals in receipt of Child Benefit (which is paid directly to CNEDCU). The whole child benefit can be used to make the repayments, but a lesser amount is usually agreed with the member following a robust budgeting interview. The 'surplus' amount can then either be left in as savings, withdrawn weekly/monthly or split between savings and withdrawal.
- Family Loan Scheme +: Again, linked to receipt of Child Benefit a loan up to £600 for Members with good repayment record and ongoing income stream to enable repayments at higher levels. Current interest rate 3% per month.
- o **Payroll:** Lending to payroll deductions members. Full details upon request.

- Personal Loan: For new and existing Members who are no longer in receipt of Child Benefit but can support a loan through other income including other benefits. Maximum loan £1000. Savings history not a requirement at application.
- Council Community Loans: Managed funds which have been provided by Parish Councils who
  advise whether the loan is for residents from their Parish or from the local District. The loans are for a
  maximum of £200 depending upon Parish policy.
- Chesterfield & North-East Derbyshire Repossession Prevention Funds: Administered through referral from one of the respective LA Housing Teams, an instant loan to specifically cover rent in advance or a bond.
- o Wheels to Work Scheme: Details on application.

#### Ease of Accessibility to Funds and Services

- Budget accounts to help members manage funds and budget for bills/expenses more effectively.
- Engage card: a prepaid debit card for benefits/salaries to be loaded onto to assist with budgeting.
- Payroll Deduction Scheme: Available to all members working through participating employers to direct savings to CNEDCU at time of wage/salary payment.
- On-line member applications
- On-line loan applications
- App available to all Members enables communication and applications for our services.

#### • Service Development: Partnership Working and Customer Engagement

We will seek to expand our product portfolio where appropriate and to the benefit of the business and Members. CNEDCU has been called "one of the area's best kept secrets". Plans to spread this good news will be by;

- Building upon the success for our "out-reach" facility at Holme Hall aimed at "Stop the Loan Shark" scheme. Staveley and Matlock have been identified as communities we plan to increase our presence.
- Working with potential partners in promoting credit union services through their own networks (such as the NEDDC reception screen or dedicated DCC credit union signposting webpage)
- Fostering mutually beneficial relations with the existing banking sector
- Adopting best practice from the 2015 Derbyshire County Council Scrutiny Review of Credit Unions.

#### b) Resources

#### Human Resources

There are three core elements to CNEDCU's workforce: The Volunteers, Paid Staff, and the Board; Appendix 1 shows the current organisation structure of the business. We recognise the added value which many of our members and partners bring, whether it is helping to publicise and promote our services through word of mouth, giving customer feedback which helps us to improve our delivery and efficiency or identifying other opportunities which we can harness.

#### Board of Directors

The CNEDCU Board meets monthly and focuses on the strategic planning of businesses. The Board consists of currently seven directors (all are Members) who bring a wealth of experience from the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. Their backgrounds include finance, local councillor with Chesterfield Borough Council, housing, associations, the volunteer sector, insurance, and business ownership. Several Board Members have undertaken training on issues specific to the sector and specifically regulatory requirements e.g., money laundering to ensure that CNEDCU fulfils its duties in accordance with statutory expectations. Board Members have a responsibility for at least one of the following areas.

Financial Performance Reporting
Whistle Blowing
Money Laundering Regulations
Code of Conduct
Management Mapping
Regulatory Reporting, FCA and PRA as examples.

Having "portfolio" responsibilities enables workload to be more appropriately managed and specific focus to be directed to ensure that the following duties and approaches to working are undertaken:

Executive skills	• Implementation of Board strategy	Training
Strategic focus skills	Customer issues, including complaints and satisfaction	Financial management
Entrepreneurship	<ul> <li>Logistics and management issues</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Management of Consortia and Partnership arrangements</li> </ul>
Community based representation	Service points	Establishing policies and procedures
Customer representative — preferably somebody who has experience of taking out the kind of loans that the Credit Union offers to be co-opted onto the Board	Product development and implementation	

Should the current Board identify weaknesses in any of these areas training will be provided or if appropriate new Board Members sought who possess the appropriate skills and experience.

The Board are open to applications from prospective Directors.

#### Staff & Volunteers

The Manager and Assistant Manager are full time employees of CNEDCU with the remaining six members of staff working flexible part time hours. In addition, we are lucky to have volunteers who give their time freely to aid the operation of the credit union and provide services to Members. Volunteers operate on a flexible part time basis with hours varying. We are fortunate to have an experienced workforce with some volunteers being with CNEDCU since formation.

Staff are motivated with an excellent professional attitude and understanding of the credit union business. The relationship with management is open, honest and staff feel that they can have a say in the way they carry out their day-to-day duties and that they can have influence over the success of the business.

Many of the paid staff and volunteers work on areas of specialism including debt advice, relationships in the education sector and regulatory requirements within the sector. This has enabled CNEDCU to provide the support required by families in our area.

We continue to train staff looking at cover in all roles for absence or retirement. Succession planning is important given the relatively small number of staff compared to the tasks being undertaken. An annual appraisal of staff roles and job cover is undertaken by the Manager and where required additional training or additional staff, or volunteers are sort. Opportunity is given to existing staff and volunteers when new roles become available.

The Manager and Assistant Manager will always welcome role applications from volunteers. All paid rolls are advertised

We have at all times followed guidelines on working from home during the pandemic with staff and volunteer welfare paramount in our flexible approach. Members have been understanding in our approach with service levels continuing at the highest standard possible. We also have close working ties with several adjoining Credit Unions.

**The Supervisory Committee** is an independent committee who review processes and regulations within the Credit Union. We are actively seeking participants to this Committee which has ben depleted during the pandemic.

#### c) Physical Resources & Assets

In recent years we have significantly invested in our physical resources and assets. Although mindful of cost, we have implemented the following to ensure that we are a progressive and responsive organisation:

- IT Infrastructure: In 2015 we upgraded to a fully networked office IT system and continue to develop
  provision for our Website. We work closely with our software provider to ensure that our services are
  efficient for internal operations to enable us to provide an effective service to our members. We continually
  investigate IT solutions to improve our day-to-day operating systems and have recently upgraded to fibre
  optic wi-fi improving response times for Members.
- During Q2 of 2021 we commenced implementation of an App service for members through Viva. This is a proven service with Viva working with several other credit unions locally. Several App providers were interviewed with consideration given to the level of service from the provider, costing exercise which included initial and ongoing costs, future development potential. With Viva's experience in the credit union sector including our own originated feedback from current credit union users of the service they have been appointed to take this important service forward. The App is a significant step forward for CNEDCU and will allow Members to apply for loans, download requested information, apply to withdraw savings etc as well as providing several additional services which we are working closely with Viva in developing. The App development follows valuable feedback from Members provided in 2018/19 where the service was high on their list of delivery requests. During the period when our office has been closed due to the pandemic most loan applications have been completed via technology which has been greeted favourably by Members. The Viva App will take this further forward reducing the time currently taken both to credit savings into Member accounts but also in the crediting of loans to accounts.
- Office Infrastructure: We moved into our new office on Soresby Street, Chesterfield in May 2014 to increase our high street presence and accessibility. In mid-2015 we agreed to extend our back-room facility to improve office efficiency by enabling as many volunteers willing to support delivery to attend, therefore helping to develop and expand new services such as the Junior Savers Scheme. Due to continued growth we also now rent additional adjoining office space (02/2019) which is utilised for storage and additional interviewing space if required. Some internal work was also undertaken during 2019 to increase interviewing facilities during busy periods.
- Communication & Marketing: In addition to our Website, we produce leaflets, posters and written information on our services tailored to the audience, whether it is members of the public, service providers, delivery partners or our funders. To raise and maintain the profile of CNEDCU we attend and engage in several meetings and events, whether it is formal presentations to Councillors, having a stall at community events or networking with other agencies in networks to address financial exclusion. Our manager attends the quarterly East Midland's Credit Union Forum and is now a member of the forum leadership. The Manager, staff and volunteers also engage with other more localised networks; it is to the credit of those involved that good working relationships have been established, enabling us to identify and harness new opportunities. Attendance of ABCUL webinars keeps staff and directors up to date on the sector.

#### d) Financial Resources

The Three-Year Financial Plan for the business is detailed in Appendix 4 and identifies the financial trajectory which the business is following.

In recent times we have done much to build the financial foundations which have enabled us to move to and expand high street premises, upgrade our IT infrastructure and invest in an app.

We recognise that we have limited resources, so every capital decision is thoroughly investigated, and resultant spends proven to be of benefit to the Membership of CNEDCU.

The Board consider that he full extent of Covid-19 has not yet fully impacted on the Credit Union with the area of Member debt failure yet to fully feed through. In the financial years 2019/20 and 2020/21 we have seen the combination of income and cost pressures but with close monitoring and actions taken where required CNEDCU has reported surpluses in both years. The three-year financial plan projects a continuation of similar surpluses.

CNEDCU are required to report to the Bank of England on a quarterly basis with regards our capital and liquidity positions. Set ratios are applied within the Credit Union sector and we can report that CNEDCU have adequately met these requirements and projections indicate that we shall continue to do so.

#### 7. Risks, Mitigation & Contingency Plans

Within the past year we have made enhancements in the following key areas:

- 1. Our flexibility in providing excellent customer service combining office and home working.
- 2. Job rotation and cover during periods of illness and resignation.
- 3. Availability of membership contact through social media and app.
- 4. Structured approach and contact with members who are in financial difficulty.

We are therefore confident that if we achieve our targets, we can become more financially sustainable and be able to provide a range of competitive and quality products and services which are tailored to meeting the needs of our members. We accept that the targets are challenging but with the support of partners, membership and the commitment of the Board, staff, and volunteers we are confident that they can be met.

Appendix 1 details our SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis undertaken.

By considering the Threats from the SWOT analysis we have identified the key risks to the business, which are identified in Appendix 2. We consider that we have the appropriate infrastructure in place to reduce these risks and ensure the successful development of CNEDCU through the delivery of this Business Plan.

We will continually monitor and evaluate our performance but if we reach a point where we don't believe we can continue with our business model our next steps would be as follows:

- 1. Review the services provided to establish whether refocus is required, cutting non-core or loss-making services as appropriate
- 2. Explore whether we can revert to a volunteer-based business
- 3. Inform & discuss with the Regulators
- 4. Talk to other Credit Unions about possible merger
- 5. Talk to interested parties who may be prepared to take over the credit union responsibilities
- 6. Start administration proceedings for the business to cease to trade

With the current management infrastructure in place and based on our balance sheet strength we believe that we would only have to go as far as stage 1 on this list to ensure that the business would remain solvent and delivering core services.

The CNEDCU Business Plan will be reviewed in Q3 2022 to ensure the focus and priorities for the October 2021 to September 2024 period remain appropriate. We shall during our annual "Staff Day" involve staff and volunteers in the 2022 Business Plan process.

#### **Board of Directors**

Chesterfield and North-East Derbyshire Credit Union Limited.

#### **Appendix 1 - SWOT Analysis**

#### **STRENGTHS**

- we are known for our strong ethical approach, founded on community and social enterprise.
- we are established in Chesterfield and North-East Derbyshire and can operate across all of Derbyshire
- we have strong partnerships with County, Borough and District Councils, Housing Associations potential clients who deliver community-based objectives
- there is an overall need for the products we offer
- we have experienced people with passion and energy throughout the organisation
- our Family Loan Scheme products are well established and provide strong income for the business
- members of Abcul who provide excellent support and advice
- we have strong capital and liquidity ratios.

#### **WEAKNESSES**

- we have limited asset resources
- we do not offer competitive loans products compared to the High Street banks primarily due to our different market positions.
- we have not yet realised the full potential of partnership working with the housing associations etc.
- our offering to "payroll" deduction members requires investment
- board membership does not reflect the sex and ethnicity of our members
- our Marketing activity is weak
- response times to member requests i.e., saving withdrawals, require automation
- need to increase staffing we can call on in case of need.
- Information for new Members requires streamlining.

#### **OPPORTUNITIES**

- potential support from Housing Associations, Local Government and Utilities for products and services that will help their customers better manage their money and protect their own income stream
- high level of demand for borrowing as demonstrated by the success of pay day, door to door, illegal lenders etc. Investigate other geographical areas within our Bond to reduce this demand.
- potential demand and synergies from the introduction of universal credit, particularly relating to the needs of Housing Associations and other landlords
- roll out of the Viva app to members.
- partnerships with banks and other institutions particularly those tasked with helping the financially excluded
- possible future apprenticeship to be considered
- development of new products to bridge gaps in our current offering.

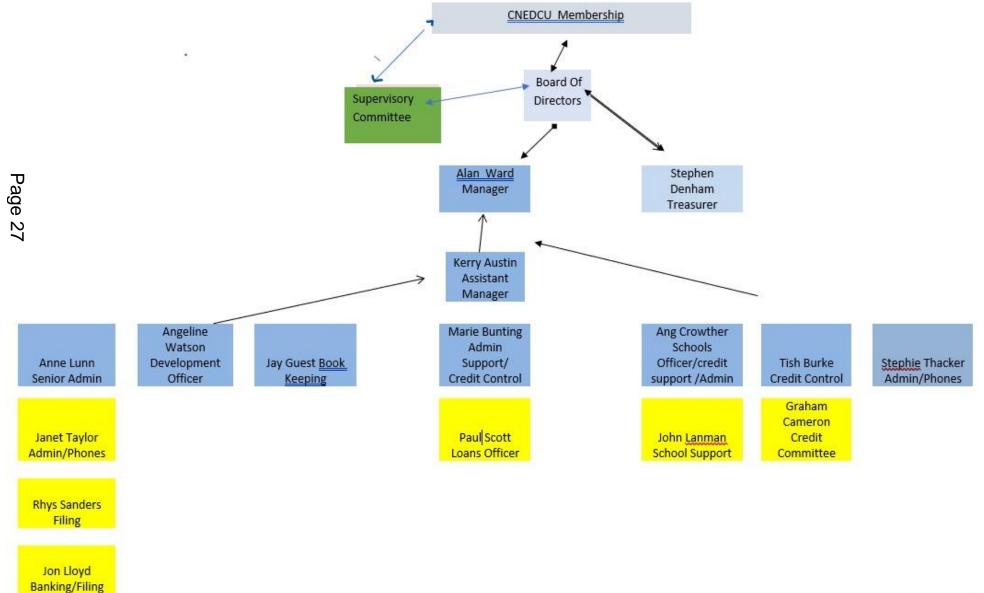
#### **THREATS**

- competition from organisations providing same day loan facilities
- due diligence issues governance and constitutional issues require regular updating with failure to adhere subject to fines
- loss of key member(s) of staff.
- impact of covid on local economy in turn impacting on loan defaults/bad debts/income.
- Majority of income from the Family Loan Scheme product
- majority of Members on low income or benefits so increase in cost of living has significant impact on ability to service debt.

#### Appendix 2 - Risk Analysis

What is the Bick?	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation /Action(s)
What is the Risk?  Business Plan targets are not met	Medium	High	Continual monitoring of all targets, identifying where there may be a shortfall and addressing in a timely manner
We are unable to meet capital and liquidity ratios set be the FCA	Low	High	Monitoring of monthly management accounts by the Board with reporting of ratios. Notification to the FCA if ratios not met.
Due diligence issues: governance & constitutional issues	Medium	High	Will be reviewed by the Board and Supervisory Committee on an ongoing basis to ensure that all policies and procedures are fit for purpose
Competition from other Credit Unions/Community Banks	Medium	Medium	Ongoing publicity to raise awareness and development of accessible attractive products delivered efficiently
Lack of awareness of CNEDCU from potential members	Medium	Medium	Publicity and promotion will be undertaken through press releases, website, leaflets and attendance at events as well as through harnessing the communications facilities of partner agencies
Key staff/volunteers leave	Medium	Medium	Succession plan and training to be identified for internal recruitment. Advertise posts as appropriate if external recruitment necessary
Board members leave	Medium	Medium	Succession plan and training to be identified; appropriate individuals sought through external advertising/networking if necessary to fill skills gaps
Internal resources not able to meet the challenges	Low	High	Good communication, ongoing support and commitment from Board, management, and members. Recognition & acceptance that this is the only way for us to achieve sustainability
Loan Interest Rates are unattractive, and Loan Book reduces	Medium	High	Communicate the alternative rates being charged to unsecured borrowers of less than £1,000
CURTAINS Software no Longer supported	Low	High	Research other software providers. Impact would be short term
Competition from housing associations and large employers setting up their own Credit Union/schemes	Low	Medium	The efforts needed to establish credit unions and community banks, as well as flexible capital make this unlikely; CNEDCU will week to work in partnership with these organisations to provide the service on their behalf
Lack of support from Local Authorities etc.	Medium	Medium	Good communication, involvement and engaging their client base. Becoming integral to their Welfare Reform response and tackling financial exclusion
Competition from high interest lenders.	Low	Low	National negative publicity of payday lenders is often now accompanied by signposting to credit unions, helping to raise awareness and enquiries

#### **Appendix 3. Staffing Structure**



#### **APPENDIX 4**

#### Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union Ltd

INCOME	Projected Position 2020/2	Position 2021 £	Year 2021/2022 £	Year 2022/2023 £	Year 2023/2024 £
Entrance/Service					
Fees		900	1000	1050	1100
Interest on Loans:					
L1 Loans		3750	3600	4000	4000
L2 Loans		28000	29000	30000	31000
FLS		69000	71000	73000	75000
FLS+		89000	91500	94000	96000
Personal Loans		500	1700	1500	2000
Grants: CBC DCC NEDDC Housing Options Other		13000	15000	7500	6000
Uther  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O  O		500	700	500	500
N Bad Debts					
Recovered		7500	6000	7500	7500
Donations					
Sundry Income		850			
Total Income		213000	219500	219050	223100

#### **EXPENDITURE**

Sta	44	ra	-4	-	
эtа		Lυ	31		-

Stair Costs:				
Staff costs including NI, Pensions and other related Insurances.	130000	133000	135000	137000
Premises Costs				
Rents, rates, utilities, insurances and equipment.	37000	36000	36000	36000
Audit & Professional Fees	0000 C 0000000000000000000000000000000			
Accountant, Fidelity Bond, Insurance etc	11000	5000	6000	6000
ABCUL	2300	2500	2500	2750
Printing and Postage	1500	1500	1500	1500
Viva	6000	7500	7500	8000
and Doubtful Debts	17000	24000	24000	24000
©egal and				
Professional	1500	2450	1000	1000
epreciation	600	550	500	500
Bank charges	4600	5000	4000	4000
Other Expenses	1000	1000	1000	1000
TOTAL				
EXPENDITURE	212500	218500	219000	221750
Surplus/(Deficit)	500	1000	50	1350
Dividend to				
Members	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) After Dividend	500	1000	50	1350

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#### For publication

# Internal Audit Consortium Progress Report 2021/22 and Draft Business Plan 2022/23

Meeting:	Joint Board
Date:	29th March 2022
Cabinet portfolio:	Governance
Directorate:	Finance

#### 1.0 Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To update the Joint Board on the progress made by the Internal Audit Consortium during the financial year 2021/22.
- 1.2 To provide an update on the business plan (budget) for the Consortium for 2021/22 and to seek approval for the revised 2021/22 business plan and draft business plan for 2022/23.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the progress made by the Internal Audit Consortium be noted.
- 2.2 That the revised business plan (budget) for 2021/22 and the draft Internal Audit Consortium Business Plan (and associated charges) for 2022/23, based on Appendix 1, be approved.
- 2.3 That an annual report on the outcome of the operation of the Internal Audit Consortium for 2021/22 be submitted to the Joint Board following the year-end.

#### 3.0 Reasons for recommendations

3.1 The approval of the 2022/23 business plan will mean that the Consortium can continue to deliver a quality service that can provide independent assurance on governance, risk management and control

processes.

3.2 To enable the Joint Board to consider and approve the revised business plan for 2021/22 and the draft business plan for 2022/23.

#### 4.0 Report details

#### **Staff and Training Issues**

- 4.1 The Consortium is currently fully staffed however the recently appointed Senior Auditor at NEDDC has obtained a Principal Auditor post at Derbyshire County Council and will be leaving mid- April. A recruitment exercise is currently underway.
- The Senior Auditor at BDC has also notified me of their intention to retire in December 2022.
- 4.3 One member of staff has started an Apprenticeship in respect of the Institute of Internal Auditors. This is a three- year course.
- 4.4 All staff keep up to date via ad hoc courses / webinars, team meetings and reading appropriate professional magazines etc. The Consortium has signed up to a series of "bite size" training webinars that cover a range of audit topics such as social media, procurement, business continuity, risk- based audit, ethics and culture and value for money audits.
- The Consortium are members of the Midlands Audit Group and Nottinghamshire Audit Group where best practice, emerging risks, concerns etc. are shared and discussed.
- All mandatory training has been completed.

#### **Working Procedures**

- 4.7 Due to COVID-19 Internal audit staff have continued to predominantly work from home during 2021/22.
- 4.8 Internal audit procedures continue to be reviewed and improved where possible. The recommendations arising from the external review of internal audit in May 2021 are in the process of being implemented. A full update will be provided as part of the 2021/22
- 4.9 annual report.
  - Regular team meetings and 1:1 's take place with all staff. All PDR's and

Mid-year PDR's have been completed during the year.

#### **Internal Audit Plans**

- 4.10
  Internal audit plans for 2021/22 were agreed with each client officer in March / April 2021
- 4.11 Regular progress reports showing a summary of internal audit reports issued and progress against the 2021/22 plans have been submitted to each Council's Audit Committee. Reasonable progress has been made on the plans although they will not be completed in their entirety. Areas not completed will be considered for inclusion in the 2022/23 internal audit plan.
- 4.12 Mid- year review meetings were held with each client officer to discuss progress and consider budget issues, as required under the Consortium Legal Agreement.
- An annual report was submitted to each Audit Committee at the end of 2020/21 summarising the audit work undertaken and giving an opinion on the control environment.

#### **Derbyshire Dales District Council**

4.14 The Head of the Internal Audit Consortium continues to offer a management service to Derbyshire Dales District Council at a charge of £10,300 per annum.

#### **Business Plan 2021/22 and Draft 2022/23**

- 4.15 The original business plan for 2021/22 received approval in March 2021. The original business plan projected a break- even position for the year (Appendix 1).
- 4.16 The revised business plan based on the latest budget estimates now predicts a small surplus will be achieved in 2021/22.

#### **Business Plan 2022/23 (Draft)**

- 4.17 A draft business plan for the Consortium has been prepared for 2022/23 and the following two years (see Appendix 1). This business plan is based on the FTE of 8.7 posts.
- 4.18 For information, a summary of the charges made by the Consortium covering the period 2018/19 2022/23 (estimate) is shown in Appendix 2.

#### **Risk Register**

4.19 The Internal Audit Consortium risk register has been updated and is

shown as Appendix 3. The greatest risk facing the Consortium is in relation to potential recruitment difficulties which could ultimately impact on our ability to complete the audit plans.

#### 5.0 Alternative options

5.1 Not applicable.

#### 6.0 Implications for consideration – Council Plan

6.1 Internal audit helps to ensure that the council's resources and priorities are focused on achieving the objectives within the council plan.

#### 7.0 Implications for consideration – Financial and value for money

7.1 The provision of an effective Internal Audit service helps to ensure that the organisations internal controls, risk management and governance arrangements are appropriately assessed in terms of their adequacy and effectiveness.

#### 8.0 Implications for consideration - Legal

8.1 The core work of internal audit is derived from the statutory responsibility under the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 which requires the Council to "undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes, taking in to account public sector internal auditing standards or guidance".

#### 9.0 Implications for Consideration - Human Resources

9.1 None

#### 10.0 Implications for consideration - Risk management

10.1 Having an appropriately resourced internal audit service provides Members and Officers with the assurance that there is proper governance, risk management and control processes in place.

#### 11.0 Implications for Consideration - Community Wellbeing

11.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct community and wellbeing impacts in relation to this report, sound internal control, governance and risk management arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

#### 12.0 Implications for Consideration – Economy and Skills

12.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct economy and skills impacts in relation to this report, sound internal control, governance and risk management arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

#### 13.0 Implications for Consideration - Climate Change

13.1 Whilst there are not considered to be any direct climate change impacts in relation to this report, sound internal control, governance and risk management arrangements will support the achievement of the Council's objectives.

#### 14.0 Implications for Consideration – Equality and Diversity

14.1 None

#### **Decision information**

Key decision number	
Wards affected	

#### **Document information**

#### **Report author**

Jenny Williams

Head of the Internal Audit Consortium

**Finance** 

#### **Background documents**

These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent

when the report was prepared.				
Appendices to the report				
Appendix 1	Business Plan			
Appendix 2	Consortium Charges			
Appendix 3	Risk Register			

#### INTERNAL AUDIT CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 TO 2024/25

	202	21/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	Original	Revised	Estimate	Estimate	Estimate
	£	£	£	£	£
Expenditure:					
Employees	395,150	378,920	392,460	403,430	412,900
Transport	3,000	900	3,000	3,000	3,000
Supplies	17,390	10,930	7,410	7,430	7,450
Support Services	52,990	59,860	70,540	72,050	74,330
Total Expenditure	468,530	450,610	473,410	485,910	497,680
Income:					
Charges to CBC	166,650	166,650	169,300	173,830	178,110
Charges to NEDDC	144,800	144,800	147,090	151,040	154,750
Charges to BDC	143,880	143,880	146,170	150,090	153,770
Charges to Derbyshire Dales DC	12,800	11,160	10,400	10,500	10,600
Charges – other	400	450	450	450	450
Total Income	468,530	466,940	473,410	485,910	497,680
Net surplus/(deficit) in year	0	16,330	0	0	0
Net surplus/(deficit) b/fwd	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Net surplus/(deficit) c/fwd	20,000	36,870	20,000	20,000	20,000
Less distribution of surplus	0	16,330	0	0	0
Surplus balance carried forward	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,.000



Appendix 2 Internal Audit Consortium Charges 2018/19 – 2022/23

Charges to:	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22 (Rev)	2022/23 (Est)
	£			(IXEV)	(LSI)
Chesterfield BC	156,800	155,860	160,690	166,650	169,300
North East Derbyshire DC	136,240	135,430	139,620	144,800	147,090
Bolsover DC	135,380	134,570	138,740	143,880	146,170
Derbyshire Dales DC	10,000	10,100	10,200	11,160	10,400
Additional income		825			
IIICOIIIE	400	400	400	450	450
Charges – Other Transfer from reserves Bad debt provision	100	100	100	100	190
Total	438,820	437,185	449,650	466,940	473,410
Refund of Accumulated Surplus: Chesterfield BC	17,081	7,491	5,509	5,977	0
North East Derbyshire DC	14,841	6,509	4,787	5,193	0
Bolsover DC	14,748	6,468	4,757	5,160	0
Total Refund	46,670	20,468	15,053	16,330	0
<b>Total Cost</b>	392,150	416,717	434,597	450,610	473,410



**Appendix 3** 

### **Internal Audit Consortium Risk Register**

Total Risk Score: Likelihood x Impact. Rating Key:

0-4 Green	5-14 Amber	15+ Red

		(1)	LOW (Z)	Wediaiii (3)	111911 ( <del>1</del> )	(5)
_		Negligible	Low (2)	Medium (3)	High (4)	Very High
	Highly Unlikely (1)	1	2	3	4	5
	Unlikely (2)	2	4	6	8	10
	Possible (3)	3	6	9	12	15
4	Likely (4)	4	8	12	16	20
Page	Definite (5)	5	10	15	20	25

## **Internal Audit Consortium Risk Register**

CAUSE	EFFECT	ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TO MITIGATE THE RISK	CURRENT RISK RATING LIKELIHOOD /RISK IMPACT	FURTHER ACTION REQUIRED/DATE	TARGET RISK RATING LIKELIHOOD /RISK IMPACT/DATE	RISK LEAD
Failure to substantially complete the agreed audit plans.	The Head of the Internal Audit Consortium can't give an opinion on the controls in place which may lead to external audit undertaking more work or qualified accounts.  It may be necessary to give a Limited scope opinion that would need to be reflected in the Annual Governance Statement and could impact on compliance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards.	Concentration on high and medium risk areas where possible to ensure coverage of governance, risk and control processes. Regular reviews of progress and assessment of emerging risks. Regular updates to management and the Audit Committees.	Possible/High 3 x 4 = 12 Amber	None currently	Possible/High 3 x 4 = 12 Amber	Head of Internal Audit Consortium

Failure to identify emerging high risk areas for review.	High risk areas may remain undetected until it is too late.	Regular contact with the Section 151 officer, attendance at the risk management groups. Risks discussed at scoping meetings. Discussions with Notts and Midlands audit groups	Possible/High 3 x 4=12 Amber	Maintain regular dialogue with key officers and the risk management groups. Upcoming discussions re 2022/23 internal audit plans	Unlikely/High 2 x 4=8	Head of Internal Audit Consortium
To an	External audit and section 151 officers can't place reliance on work	Well established procedures and quality checks on work. External review of internal audit undertaken May 2021 concluded that the Consortium is compliant with the PSIAS. Internal self-assessment against PSIAS undertaken on an annual basis.	Unlikely/Medium 2 x 3 = 6 Amber	Implementation of the action plan arising from the external review of internal audit – this is in progress, Most actions completed with the remainder being implemented from the beginning 0f the 2022/23 financial year.	Highly Unlikely/Medium 1 x 3 = 3 Green	Head of Internal Audit Consortium
Insufficient financial resources to fund consortium	Cannot achieve plans and therefore provide an annual audit opinion. Managers and Members are not provided with the assurance that governance, risk and control processes are in place.	Joint Board approved the Consortiums budget March 21 for 2021/22	Possible/High 3 x 4 = 12 Amber	March 22 Joint Board to be asked to approve the 2022/23 budget	Unlikely/High 2 x 4 = 8 Amber	Head of Internal Audit Consortium

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Lack of appropriately qualified and experienced staff. Loss of senior auditors through promotion / retirement - recruitment difficulties	Unable to complete the plan, work not to the required standard.	Training and development of current staff. 1 member of staff is undertaking an apprenticeship for the Institute of Internal Auditors qualification. Annual performance development reviews.	Likely/High 4 x 4 = 16 Red	Discussions with 151 Officers. Consider using agency staff Consider current structure / review job descriptions	Possible/High 3 x 4 = 12 Amber	Head of Internal Audit Consortium / 151 Officer
Loss of data through IT failure	Loss of work	Data stored on each Councils network and subject to their back up and security procedures.	Unlikely/Medium 2 x 3 = 6 Amber	None	Unlikely/Medium 2 x 3 = 6 Amber	Internal Audit Consortium Manager