

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	West Berkshire Council Community Learning and Skills Plan
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	23 May 2013
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2661

Purpose of Report: The purpose of the report is to set the strategic direction for Community Learning in West Berkshire for 2013/14 academic year, to confirm its links to other local plans and to confirm the Council's role in commissioning, co-ordinating and supporting members of the West Berkshire Community Learning Partnership to deliver formal and nonformal learning in West Berkshire.

Recommended Action: Approval of the plan.

Reason for decision to be taken: This is a non statutory plan. The Community Learning Team seek approval for the plan so that organisations who will apply to become subcontractors can be informed about the aims of the service, the actions that need to be taken to ensure the realignment of the provision to meet the requirements of the Council, The Skills Funding Agency and the Ofsted Inspectorate and the priority groups of learners that need to be attracted to the provision.

Other options considered: None

Key background documentation: BIS (2011) New Challenges , New Chances FE and Skills System Reform Plan: Building a world class system
LSIS (2012) A guide to making the most of the Adult Skills Budget
SFA (2013) Funding Rules 2013/14 – Version 2
BIS (April 2013) Rigour and Responsiveness in Skills
SFA (March 2013) A New Streamlined Funding System for Adult Skills
SFA (February 2013) Community Learning 2013/14 Information for Community Learning Providers
NIACE (Dec 2012) Community Learning in Rural Areas

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Irene Neill - Tel (0118) 971 2671
E-mail Address:	ineill@westberks.gov.uk

Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Sara Hanson
Job Title:	Principal Adult and Community Learning Officer
Tel. No.:	01635 519792
E-mail Address:	shanson@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	None
Financial:	None. The Council has received confirmation of its allocation for Community Learning and Skills in its Skills Funding Agency Final Funding Statement 2013/14 . For Adult Skills it will receive £57,660 from August 2013 to March 2014 and £37,551 from April 14 to July 2014 (Total £95, 211) For Community Learning it will receive £267,545 from August 2013 to March 2014 and £133,772 from April 2014 to July 2014 (Total £401,317)
Personnel:	None
Legal/Procurement:	Discussions are ongoing with legal and procurement to finalise arrangements for using the Council's procurement portal to promote the opportunities to bid for funding to deliver the provision
Property:	None
Risk Management:	None

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes	
	Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:		
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome (Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality)		
Relevant to equality - Complete an EIA available at www.westberks.gov.uk/eia		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Not relevant to equality		<input type="checkbox"/>

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Gordon Lundie contacted No comment received
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell contacted No comment received
Ward Members:	
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Alan Macro contacted No comment received

Local Stakeholders: West Berkshire Community Learning Partnership approved an outline of the plan at their meeting on 21st March 2013

Officers Consulted: Rachael Wardell, Ian Pearson, Janet Scott, Mair Atkins, Alison Prudden, Pauline Mant, Ann Miemczyk

Trade Union: Not consulted

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
---	--	------------------------------

Supporting Information

1. Background

- 1.1 This Plan is one part of the family of plans which set the priorities for services in West Berkshire.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The plan informs stakeholders of the requirements of the Skills Funding Agency (SFA) which provides the external funding for the Community Learning and Skills Service delivered by the Council. It identifies the key national and local plans and priorities that the plan can contribute to and sets out the aims, actions and outcomes for Community Learning and Skills in West Berkshire during the academic year 2013/14. The plan also lists the strategic challenges faced by the service.

3. Equalities Impact Assessment Outcomes

- 3.1 An equalities impact assessment is attached.

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft West Berkshire Council Community Learning and Skills Plan

Appendix B – Skills Funding Agency Final Funding Statement 2013/14

Appendix C – Equalities Impact Assessment.