

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	West Berkshire Community Learning and Skills Plan
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	23 rd April 2014
Forward Plan Ref:	ID2783

Purpose of Report: The purpose of the report is to set the strategic direction and targets for delivery for Community Learning in West Berkshire for 2014/15 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: To approve the targets and 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 and the actions that need to be taken to ensure the continuing realignment of the provision to meet the requirements of the Council, The Skills Funding Agency, 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 (2014) Funding Rules 2014/15 – Version 1
BIS (March 2014) 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
SFA (February 2014) Skills Funding Statement 2013 -16

Portfolio Member Details	
Name & Telephone No.:	Councillor Irene Neill - Tel (0118) 971 2671
E-mail Address:	ineill@westberks.gov.uk
Contact Officer Details	
Name:	Janet Scott
Job Title:	Service Manager
Tel. No.:	01635 519063
E-mail Address:	jscott@westberks.gov.uk

Implications

Policy:	NONE
Financial:	The Council has received confirmation of its allocation for Community Learning and Skills in its Skills Funding Agency Final Funding Statement 2014/15. For Adult Skills it will receive £49,233 from August 2014 to March 2015 and £32,064 from April 15 to July 2015 (Total £81,297). This represents a cut of 15% compared to 2013/14. For Community Learning it will receive £267, 545 from August 2014 to March 2015 and £133,772 from April 2015 to July 2015 (Total £401,317) STILL TO RECEIVE THIS IN WRITING.
Personnel:	NONE
Legal/Procurement:	NONE
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 No response to date.
Overview & Scrutiny Management Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell No Response to date.
Ward Members:	N/A
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor David Allen- No Response to date.
Local Stakeholders:	Members of the West Berkshire Community Learning

Partnership:

Fadia Clarke, Newbury College –Chair
Tammera Easterling, WBTC – Vice Chair
Ann Long, Berkshire Autistic Society
Jean Battle, Thatcham Lifelong Learning Forum
Tim Parry, Community Council for Berkshire (CCB)
Tahira Kulsoom, Sovereign Housing
Rabena Sharif, WEA
Martin Towers, Skills Funding Agency
Sarah Hughes, Newbury College

Officers Consulted:

Janet Scott – Service Manager, Sara Hanson – Principal
Community Learning Officer- Sarah Webb – Accounts
Officer.

Trade Union:

N/A

Is this item subject to call-in?	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission or associated Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Report is to note only	<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. Introduction

- 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.
- 3.2 A consultation took place at the 4th March Community Learning Partnership meeting to increase the numbers of groups in the list of priority groups – these additional groups are people with low levels of IT skills, people who are underemployed and those that need to retrain.

Appendices

Appendix A – West Berkshire Community Learning Partnership Strategy Plan 2014/15

Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment 2014/15

Appendix C – West Berkshire Partnership Diagram

Appendix D - Community Learning Plan 1

Appendix E - Community Learning Plan 2

Appendix F – West Berkshire Council Fee Policy on Adult & Community Learning Provision 2014 - 15