

ITEM NO: 12

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET COUNCIL			
SUBJECT:	2008/09 ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS PLAN			
DATE OF DECISION:	30 th JUNE 2008 16 th JULY 2008			
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLS			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not Applicable

SUMMARY

The 2008/09 draft Adult Learning and Skills Plan has been developed in consultation with a wide range of partner organisations.

The Plan identifies the rationale, funding and description of activity in support of funding of adult learning activity funded in 2008/09 by:

- the city council
- the Learning and Skills council and other funders

The Plan sets out the strategic direction and priorities for Adult Learning and Skills which will be incorporated into the Learning and Skills Council's Three Year development Plan 2008/09 – 2010/11 and identifies how the target of 6580 learners will be achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

CABINET

- (i) To recommend the 2008/09 Adult Learning and Skills Plan to Council for approval and;
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning (following consultation with the Cabinet member for Young People and Skills) to continue to revise the Plan between Cabinet approval and the Plan going to Council for approval.

COUNCIL

- (i) To approve the 2008/09 Adult Learning Plan.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The Adult Learning and Skills Plan sets out the City's priorities and delivery outcomes for adult learning and skill development in 2008/09 and informs the Learning and Skills Council's three year development Plan 2008/09 – 10/11.
2. The Plan needs to be approved by Cabinet and Full Council before the Learning and Skills Council will authorise the Plan and, with that authorisation, fund the City's main Adult Learning Programme.
3. The process for working towards Full Council approval of the Plan on the 16 July 2008 is in line with the decision-making process for a policy framework plan.

CONSULTATION

4. The development of this Plan has resulted from a series of meetings and consultations listed below:-
 - The Children's Services and Learning Management Team were briefed on the outline shape of the 2008/09 Plan on the 5 March and the Learning and Skills Council were also present at that meeting.
 - The Cabinet Member was briefed on the Plan on 10 March 2007.
 - The Chief Officers Management Team was briefed on the Plan on 11 March 2008.
 - The Scrutiny Panel considered the Plan on the 1 April 2008.
 - The priorities within the Plan were discussed with partner organisations on 29 April 2008.
 - The Cabinet Member for Young People and Skills was briefed on the Plan on 12 May 2008.
 - The Plan was signed off by the Cabinet Member on 3 June 2008.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. The Learning and Skills Act 2000 allows the Learning and Skills Council to direct local authorities to secure adult and community learning provision in their area. Therefore the option not to produce an Adult Learning and Skills Plan is not available.
6. The city council could reject the Plan but, in doing so, would jeopardise the grant funding for Adult and Community Learning anticipated at about half a million pounds annually. This would directly impact upon learning opportunities for 5000 residents who live within the city or the local area.

DETAIL

7. The Draft Plan identifies:
 - The context of the plan.
 - Key successes since the last Plan 2007/08.
 - The key challenges in 2008/09.
 - How the Plan will be financed.

8. In September 2007 the Adult and Community Learning and Training and Employment Initiatives sections were amalgamated to form the Adult Learning and Skills section. This coincided with a renewed emphasis within the city council upon economic development and supporting city residents to gain skills for work and employment. This agenda has resulted in a far greater priority being placed upon addressing issues of skills training and development particularly for residents within priority neighbourhoods or those who have a qualification level below level 2 (5 GCSE grades at C or above).
9. The service now plans to provide a wider range of learning opportunities that support residents to gain qualifications, find work or raise their self esteem and confidence. The service has also taken on a key role within Section 106 planning agreements for enhancing training and employment provision and opportunities. This is particularly appropriate for the larger capital developments within the city.
10. The learning provision offered by the city council includes targeted learning programmes in priority neighbourhoods; a range of non-vocational day and evening programmes; and specific programmes to meet the learning needs of specific groups of city residents such as senior citizens and adults with learning difficulties.
11. Much of the learning offered provides a foundation for adults to progress into work or onto higher level programmes in colleges. Within a city learning context, the service provides those “first step” learning opportunities that may raise a resident’s confidence and self-esteem, or help someone to gain numeracy and literacy skills to support their children. The service also funds a range of learning programmes for fitness, leisure and pleasure and the enjoyment that learning gives.
12. **Progress achieved since the last Plan**

The service continues its record of achievement and some of the successes in the 2007/08 year are:

- The main Adult and Community Learning programme exceeded the 5000 learning target in 2006/07. This figure means that 5384 different learners undertook a learning programme funded by the Learning and Skills Council.
- Southampton’s programme to support ex-offenders into learning and work has resulted in ministerial and national government recognition and is regarded as an outstanding model of delivery.
- The section has successfully secured major Learning and Skills Council contracts for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and the PUSH region including a Skills for Jobs contract.
- The drive for curriculum excellence has resulted in working with partners to deliver innovative delivery models. For example, Solent

Mind has developed interactive compact disks to support minority ethnic communities to recognise mental health conditions.

- The completion of the capital programme at the Warren Centre has taken place on budget and on time. This is an example of joined up partnership working across the city council and particularly with the Regeneration Team.
- Section 106 for employment and training is now a key area and the service has implemented systems for negotiating employment and training agreements with developers.
- The setting up of internet linked computers in residential settings for older city residents has resulted in them using the technology to e-mail, shop online and use the internet to find out information.
- The English for Speakers of Other Languages programme has developed innovative models for working with Sector Skills Councils and employers to provide targeted work specific English language support.
- The section is the point of contact for pre-employment training for the Department for Work and Pensions under their Local Employer Partnerships Initiatives.
- The section has successfully secured neighbourhood capital funding for the community centres at Freemantle and St Denys.

13. **Key Challenges for 2008/09**

To manage static revenue funding budget from the Learning and Skills Council for the adult learning part of the provision (this is the fourth consecutive year). Student numbers to be maintained at 5000 individual students.

14. Continue to support the Learning and Skills Council's requirement to form a Personal and Community Development Learning (PCDL) Partnership.
15. Offer more support for parenting by working with other parts of the directorate and voluntary sector organisations working to support parents facing multiple barriers and/or where the parents have low levels of essential skills.
16. Develop closer partnership working with Portsmouth City Council to look to share good practice particularly in the areas of teaching and learning, quality and preparing for inspection.
17. Continue to maintain a service which is proactive in securing funding opportunities for learning for all city residents. Work with partners and within the context of the role of the Skills and Employability Board and SITES to ensure that the opportunities for local residents are maximised and delivered in a co-ordinated way.
18. Refresh the Learning4All website. The site was developed three years ago by the then Learning Partnership.

19. Review the future and direction for the Neighbourhood Learning Centres run by the city council in partnership with other organisations.
20. To realise still further the potential of Section 106 employment and training agreements for the benefit of city residents by providing employer responsive training solutions.
21. To work collaboratively to maximise the potential of Train To Gain, for the council as an employer, as a training provide and as a broker of services for employers.
22. Supporting front line services across the city council to enable them to guide and signpost workless adults on the availability of training and new work opportunities particularly those relating to new major capital developments.

FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital

23. The city council has a capital bid with the Learning and Skills Council as part of the re-development of the Freemantle Community Centre. If the bid is successful then Cabinet approval would be sought separately from this Adult Learning and Skills Plan.

Revenue

24. The funding to implement the Adult Learning and Skills Plan is summarised below:

Funding	2008/09 £
<u>City Council</u>	
Adult Learning	141,500
Training and Employment Initiatives	94,300
Neighbourhood learning Centres	49,900
<u>Learning & Skills Council</u>	
Adult and Community Learning main allocation	178,700
Wider Family Learning	59,600
Family Language, Literacy and Numeracy	126,200
Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities	45,000
Total	£695,200

The grants from the Learning and Skills Council for Adult Learning have not yet been confirmed for 2008/09, although the grant is likely to be at the same level as 2007/08.

25. Other external funding has been secured to help implement the plan, and is shown in the table below.

Programme	£	Timescale
Learning & Skills Council - Skills for Jobs	250,500	2007/08
Learning & Skills Council - Ex Offenders projects	600,000	2007/08
European Social Fund – NEETS	1,225,000	2007/10
European Social Fund - Adult targeted Programme	540,000	2007/10
Department of Work & Pensions – Community outreach	260,000	2007/10

Property

26. No property implications have been identified in the proposals in this report.

Other

27. None.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

28. The Adult Learning and Skills Plan forms part of the Policy Framework pursuant to the Local Government Act 2000 and secondary legislation. The content of the Plan delivers the council's statutory lifelong learning functions contained within primary legislation.

Other Legal Implications:

29. The Plan is required to be produced in accordance with, and in a manner consistent with, the council's duties under the Human Rights Act 1998, Equalities legislation and the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

30. The Adult Learning and Skills Plan is one of the plans that comprise the City Council's Policy Framework.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	None
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	Draft Adult Learning and Skills Plan 2008/09.
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Background Documents

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
None	

FORWARD PLAN No: LY02876 **KEY DECISION?** YES

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	ALL
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