

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	CABINET COUNCIL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	2009/12 ADULT LEARNING AND SKILLS PLAN (Formerly 2009/10)		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	28 SEPTEMBER 2009 18 NOVEMBER 2009		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	CABINET MEMBER FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND SKILLS		
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**STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

Not applicable

**SUMMARY**

The 2009/12 draft Adult Learning and Skills Plan has been developed in consultation with partners. The Plan identifies the rationale and description of activity funded through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) and how the target of 5,000 Southampton learners will be achieved in 2009/10.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**CABINET

- (i) To recommend the 2009/12 Adult Learning and Skills Plan to Council for approval.

COUNCIL

- (i) To approve the 2009/12 Adult Learning and Skills Plan.
- (ii) To delegate authority for 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 in response to Learning and Skills Council and City Council priorities.

**REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Adult Learning and Skills Plan sets the City's priorities and delivery outcomes for 2009-12 and informs the Learning and Skills Council's three year development plan 2008-2011.
2. The Plan needs to be approved by Cabinet and Full Council before the Learning and Skills Council will authorise and fund the City's main Adult and Community Learning programme.
3. The process for working towards Full Council approval is in line with decision-making for a policy framework plan.

## **CONSULTATION**

4. The development of this Plan has resulted from a series of meetings and consultations listed below:
  - Children's Services and Learning Management Team.
  - Cabinet Member briefing.
  - Overview and Scrutiny.
  - Partner and delivery organisations.
  - Learning and Skills Council.

## **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 of Adult and Community Learning anticipated at £408,000 this year. This would directly impact upon learning opportunities for 5,000 residents.

## **DETAIL**

7. The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Bill transfers responsibility for commissioning learning for 16-18 year olds from the Learning and Skills Council to local authorities from 2010 and establishes the Skills Funding Agency to commission post 19 learning and skills. The future planning requirements for adult and community learning are under development. Therefore, whilst the strategic content of the Plan covers the three year period to 2012, the Action Plan covers 2009-2010 whilst the new adult learning funding and planning landscape and guidance emerges.
8. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has recently produced a White Paper "The Learning Revolution" which reinforces a continuing role for local authorities in planning and delivering informal adult learning opportunities for their local residents to enable social, economic and health benefits.
9. The Learning and Skills Council procures learning from Southampton City Council for 5,000 adults per year through Adult and Community Learning funding streams, including Family Learning, Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities and Personal and Community Development Learning. The majority of this is sub contracted by the Council to over 20 organisations, who deliver a range of accredited and non accredited short courses in community settings to engage, motivate and enable adults to progress to further learning, skills and employment. For greater efficiency and effectiveness, the Plan identifies action to move towards procuring learning and skills through three local organisations in three localities in the City from 2010. The Council-led European Social funded programmes to support adults into employment are additional to the Adult and Community Learning funded provision and the Learning and Skills Council does not require them to be included in the Plan.

10. The vision for the Plan is:  
 “ To reduce the number of city residents with low level skills, narrow the skills gap of Southampton residents against their counterparts, and increase residents’ employability”.
11. The Plan has two priorities, each of which is accompanied by an action plan:  
**Priority 1:** Jointly commission adult learning and skills provision through main providers, and ensure all provision:
  - narrows the gap in skill levels including literacy and numeracy; and
  - addresses employers’ needs, is delivered in local communities, and is linked to 0-19 education provision in the city.**Priority 2:** Continuously improve the quality of teaching, training and learning.
12. The Plan’s direction has been set by the City Council priorities of promoting economic prosperity, raising attainment and improving the wellbeing of all its residents, especially those vulnerable. This year, the Plan places greater emphasis on skills training to gain and progress in employment, particularly for those in priority neighbourhoods or those who have qualifications below level 2 (5 GCSE grades A\*-C). It also seeks to use Learning and Skills Council funds to deliver Section 106 Employment and Training Plans to maximise job opportunities for local people through major developments.
13. The Adult Learning and Skills Plan sets the following percentage targets for the total 5,000 learners profiled for 2009-2010:

<b>Learners</b>	<b>Percentage of 5,000 total learners</b>	<b>Number</b>
Black and minority ethnic communities	10%	500
Priority neighbourhood	50%	2,500
Learning difficulty/disability	10%	500
Gender	58% F, 42% m	2,900 F, 2,100 M
Age	19-24: 30%	1,500
	25-39: 30%	1,500
	40-59: 20%	1,000
	60+: 20%	1,000
Accredited provision	30%	1,500
Achievement/retention	85%	4,250
Progression to further learning/employment (evidenced)	25%	1,250

- 14 The service was subject to inspection by Ofsted in June 2009 and graded Satisfactory overall, with teaching and learning and quality of provision being graded as Good. The Plan includes actions to maintain and build on the identified strengths, and address areas for improvement.

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

15. None.

### **Revenue**

16. Implementation of the Adult Learning and Skills Plan will be funded from the Young People and Skills portfolio budget. In addition, other external funding has been secured to help implement the plan as shown below:

<b>Funding source</b>	<b>2009/10</b>
Learning and Skills Council:	
Personal and Community Development Learning	£178,000
Wider Family Learning	£59,000
Family Learning Literacy and Numeracy	£126,200
Neighbourhood Learning in Deprived Communities	£45,000
Adults into work (PUSH)	£540,000
Jobcentre Plus – Reach Out (priority neighbourhoods)	£260,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,208,200</b>

### **Property**

17. No property implications have been identified in the proposals in this report. Should property implication arise in the development and implementation of the plan they will be subject to consultation as required by council procedures.

### **Other**

18. None

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

19. 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.
20. 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 learning functions contained within primary legislation.

**Other Legal Implications:**

21. 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**

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

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Non-confidential appendices are in the Members' Rooms and can be accessed on-line**

**Appendices**

1.	Draft Adult Learning and Skills Plan 2009/12
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**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None.
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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)

1.	None	
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**Background documents available for inspection at:** N/A

**FORWARD PLAN No:** YP03518      **KEY DECISION?** YES

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	ALL
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