

Receipt of Leeds Adult Education Budget (AEB) Funding 2021-22 and authority to undertake a mini competition

Date: 19 May 2021

Report of: Head of Employment and Skills

Report to: Chief Officer Culture & Economy

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and Council's ambitions

- The report seeks authorisation to accept funding from West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) and the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) for Adult Education Budget (AEB) Funding. The report also seeks authorisation to undertake a mini competition through the Employment and Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to subcontract delivery partners to deliver the adult learning programme in the city for the academic year 2021/22.
- The proposals set out in this report contribute to the Best Council Plan 2020 to 2025 priorities around supporting economic growth and access to economic opportunities, providing skills programmes and employment support to residents and building a Child Friendly City by helping families to improve the progression and achievement of children at school.

Recommendations

The Chief Officer Culture & Economy is asked to;

- a) Accept the Leeds AEB funding and associated terms and conditions for the academic year 2021/22 from WYCA to support learners in the devolved area;
- b) Accept the Leeds AEB funding and associated terms and conditions for the academic year 2021/22 from ESFA to support learners accessing provision from outside the region;
- c) Authorise a mini competition through the Employment & Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to subcontract delivery partners

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Each year Leeds City Council is awarded funding to deliver the adult learning programme in Leeds. Historically the fund holder has been the ESFA but due to devolution arrangements in West Yorkshire the fund holder will now be WYCA for this year and moving forward. A small amount of funding has also been allocated by the ESFA for out of region learners. The programme engages with up to 7,000 learners per year. The funding enables the Council to deliver a broad and balanced programme of Adult Learning across Leeds, targeting priority learner groups, primarily from disadvantaged areas and with provision delivered by a range of public, third sector and specialist organisations.
- 2 The proposals set out in this report contribute to the Best Council Plan 2020 to 2025 priorities around supporting economic growth and access to economic opportunities, providing skills programmes and employment support and building a Child Friendly City by helping families to improve the progression and achievement of children at school.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards affected: All

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 3 Leeds City Council is the fund holder of the local AEB grant, delivering a broad and balanced programme of adult learning each year in Leeds to approximately 7,000 residents, managed by the Council Employment and Skills Service. Adult learning re-engages adults 19 years plus in activities to acquire new skills and interests for the benefit of the individual and their wider family networks. This offer supports learners to develop their skills and confidence particularly in relation to progressing into further training or employment supporting the city's inclusive growth strategy. The programme delivery is particularly targeted in disadvantaged areas where there is an evidenced need to provide this type of provision and support.
- 4 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) has been carried out in line with the Council's legal responsibilities. This can be found in Appendix 1.
- 5 Social value is built into the procurement process to identify the social value which will be delivered by adult skills delivery partners targeting priority deprived areas and priority groups in the city.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 6 In line with best practice consultation and engagement has taken place with service users, employment and skills stakeholders and subcontracted delivery partners. These activities focused on programme content, access and the quality of delivery. This has informed the programme for 2021/22 and will continue to inform the programme during the academic year as continuous consultation and engagement is built in.

What are the resource implications?

- 7 The funding allocation brings income to the Council enabling the programme to be managed by the Council. Due to the annual, recurring nature of this adult education funding grant the required Employment and Skills programme managers, quality officers, tutors, administrative and commissioning resources are already in post for delivery in the academic year 2021/22 that will start on 1 August 2021 and end on 31 July 2022.

- 8 The majority of the AEB grant, circa £1.6M, will be used to procure learning provision from contracted providers with a further 10% allocated to develop and deliver internal provision by the Employment and Skills Service and up to 20% of the grant to cover management of providers, compliance infrastructure, staff CPD, administration and quality assurance services to meet Ofsted and compliance with funding body mandatory returns

What are the legal implications?

- 9 Due to the value of funding a key decision is required to;
- Accept the funding for £2,223,421.29 from WYCA and £13,036.00 from ESFA.
 - Undertake a mini competition using the Employment and Skills DPS. A Significant Operational Decision (SOD) will be taken to award the contracts flowing as a direct consequence from the key decision.

The notice of this key decision was published on 16/04/2021 [link to forward notice](#).

The decision is subject to call in.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 10 The key risk to the programme is delivery and engagement of residents. There has been a measureable impact of Covid-19 on programme delivery for 2020/21. Mitigating provisions such as online learning, blended learning, digital support and additional subcontracted partner support have been put in place and this will continue into 2021/22 delivery to ensure residents in Leeds are able to access high quality learning opportunities. Not accepting the grant funding would result in the loss of learning provision for circa 7,000 residents in the city.
- 11 A Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been completed and no risks have been identified. The DPIA is attached as Appendix 2.

Does this proposal support the Council's three Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 12 The proposals set out in this report contribute to the Best Council Plan 2020 to 2025 priorities around supporting economic growth and access to economic opportunities, providing skills programmes and employment support to residents and building a Child Friendly City by helping families to improve the progression and achievement of children at school. The online learning provided as part of the programme enables residents to learn without the need to travel to training venues which can include bus and car travel supporting the climate emergency in the city.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 13 There are no alternative options to accepting the annual recurring AEB grant. With regard to alternatives to commission adult learning provision delivery through subcontracted partners the Council does not have sufficient capacity or qualified teacher resources for 100% internal delivery and the specialist subcontracted partners are best placed to reach and engage deprived communities and priority target groups.

How will success be measured?

- 14 As part of the funding rules the Council is mandated to provide data returns demonstrating the impact of the programme. This includes but is not limited to the number of learners, number of

learners from disadvantaged communities and priority groups, number of learners progressing into further learning of work and learner feedback.

The Adult Learning programme contributes towards:

- Employment and Skills service targets with progress against those service targets measured and published quarterly.
- Best Council Plan 2020 to 2025 priorities around supporting economic growth and access to economic opportunities, providing skills programmes and employment support to residents and building a Child Friendly City by helping families to improve the progression and achievement of children at school

What is the timetable for implementation?

15 Timetable:

- a) Both the devolved WYCA and the ESFA grant funding amounts were confirmed to the Council by 14 May 2021.
- b) Subject to this decision, procurement for multiple learning delivery organisations will take place in June with partners contract awards expected in July for learning delivery in the academic year from 1 August 2021 until 31 July 2022.

Appendices

16 Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

17 Appendix 2 – Data Privacy Impact Assessment (DPIA)

Background papers

18 None