

Receipt of Adult Education Budget (AEB) Grant Funding for Adult Learning Provision

Date: 26/04/22

Report of: Head of Employment and Skills

Report to: Chief Officer Culture and 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) for Adult Education Budget (AEB) Funding on a notional three year basis starting 2022/23 through to 2024/25 to deliver adult learning across the city. The report also seeks authorisation to undertake procurements through the Employment and Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to subcontract delivery partners to support delivery of our adult learning programme in the city.
- The adult learning programme engages approximately 6,000 residents per year supporting adults 19+ to reengage with learning, acquire new skills and develop confidence for the individual and their wider family network contributing to the Best City Ambitions pillars 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 and Economy is asked to:

- a) Accept the three-year notional AEB funding agreement from WYCA
- b) Accept skills funding agreements from Government over the next three years
- c) Authorise spend of the funding as set out in the report
- d) Authorise procurements up to twice per year through the Employment & Skills Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to subcontract delivery to key partners supporting adult skills in the city

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 Each year Leeds City Council is awarded funding to deliver the adult learning programme in Leeds. For the academic year 2021/22 due to devolution arrangements the fund holder transferred from the ESFA to WYCA. In light of this for 2022/23, a new three year notional funding agreement has been put in place replacing the previous annual academic year funding approach. This will enable a longer term view to funding, allowing a more sustainable and innovative approach to the council's provision. The notional funding is to be awarded on the understanding the Council continues to provide a diverse range of programmes that meet a wide range of learner needs, develop delivery plans and contribute to forward planning. Alongside this the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) provides a small amount of funding for learners residing outside of WYCA's geography.
- 2 The proposals set out in this report contribute to the Best City Ambition pillars by 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:

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's 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.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 4 In line with best practice consultation and engagement has taken place with WYCA, 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 approach and consultation and engagement activities will continue to be regularly undertaken to ensure the provision meets the needs of all stakeholders.
- 5 The Deputy Leader and Executive member for Economy, Culture and Education has been consulted.

What are the resource implications?

- 6 The funding for the academic year 2022/23 through to 2024/25 brings income to the Council enabling an adult learning programme to be delivered across the city. Due to the annual, recurring nature of this funding, the required Employment and Skills programme managers, quality officers, tutors and administrative resources are already in post in post for delivery for the subsequent academic years.
- 7 The funding is allocated across the following areas;
 - a) Subcontracted provision – working with key partners across the city to deliver adult training provision

- b) Provision developed and delivered internally by the Employment and Skills Service
- c) Administrative – costs associated with managing the programme such as provider management, quality assurance and compliance activities to meet Ofsted and funder requirements

What are the legal implications?

- 8 Due to the value of funding a key decision is required to;
 - a) Accept funding from WYCA.
 - b) Accept funding from ESFA
 - c) Undertake procurements using the Employment and Skills DPS. A Significant Operational Decision will be taken to award contracts flowing as a direct consequence from the key decision.
- 9 The decision was added to the list of forthcoming key decisions on 10th March 2022. [Link to forward notice](#)
- 10 The decision is subject to call in
- 11 The proposal sets out to accept funding at the indicative levels set out within this report. To note any significant amendments to the funding amounts will be clarified through a Significant Operational Decision together with confirmation the grant agreement has been approved by legal procurement.
- 12 The information contained in the confidential Appendix is confidential as it refers to the business affairs of the Council and a third party. It is considered that it is not in the public interest to disclose this information at this stage. It is therefore considered that the Appendix is treated as exempt under Access to Information Rule 10.4(3).

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

- 13 A key risk to the programme is the delivery and engagement of residents. Covid-19 has impacted the number of learners typically expected throughout the year. Mitigating actions have been put in place such as online learning, blended learning and digital support for learners and will continue to be used. Subcontracted partners have also been impacted by the impact of Covid-19 too with resources allocated to support providers.

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

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 14 The proposals set out in this report contribute to the Best City Ambition Pillars by 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?

- 15 There are no alternative options to accepting the AEB grant. Regarding 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?

16 Under AEB 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 City Ambition priorities by 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?

17 Timetable

- a) The notional funding amounts for 2022-23 through to 2024-25 were confirmed to the council on 20th April 2022
- b) Initial procurement will take place in May 2022 with subsequent procurements taking place up to two times throughout the year.
- c) Delivery of programme to commence 1st August 2022.

Appendices

18 – Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

19 – Appendix 2 – Data Privacy Impact Assessment

20 – Confidential Appendix 3 – Notional funding values

Background papers

21 None